Hours of the Virgin. Rome - XV cent.

33 Hours of the Virgin for the use of Rome.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in French Flanders, (neighborhood of Cambrai), in the second half of the XVth century.

The illumination is entirely in grisaille and consists of 12 full-page miniatures surrounded by borders with flower and zoomorphic decoration in the Flemish style. There are 23 historiated initials in the text, which is in gothic script.

262 leaves (5 1/4 x 3 5/8 in.) 14 lines. 16°.


Owned 1663 by Boudens Van der Burch. Later in Theodore Irwin collection. (cat 1887 no 2111.)

MSS. Illum. Franco-Flemish. XV cent.
MSS. Illum. Grisaille -XV cent.
Provenance - Van der Burch, Boudens
Provenance - J. R. (Dutch 18th - 19th cent?)
Provenance - Irwin, Theodore
Iconography - Jesus Christ - Flight into Egypt. - Legend of the sower
Binding - Dutch - XVIIth cent. (Silver Clasp) see
MSS. Illum. Flemish - XV cent. M33
Binding - Clasps (silver) Dutch see.
MSS. Illum. Flemish - XV cent. M33
Flemish c. 1460-1470
262 ff. - 14 lines to a page - 16° - old red velvet with one silver clasp.
12 full-page miniatures surrounded by borders, 23 smaller miniatures as initials or (larger) occupying the space of an initial; 12 full-page borders around the pages of text opposite the full-page miniatures.

The entire decoration of the manuscript is in grisaille with liquid gold occasionally introduced. The miniatures are excellent examples of grisaille illumination, as executed by a Flemish artist of the XV century. The Kalendar and the headings of most of the different divisions are in French (the latter in red ink). It was owned in 1663 by Boudens Van der Burch as is evidenced by his signature on ff. 12b, 20, 72 and 261b.

From the Collection of Theodore Irwin of Oswego, New York; a note at the end of the volume states that he bought it from Ellis & White (London) Sept. 1881 (Irwin Catalogue no. 2111). His entire collection was purchased by Mr. Morgan in 1900.


No picture; the KL in lavender on brown gilt ground. *Saints Denis, Marcellus, Eloi, Louis* and *Giles of Paris, Donation of Nantes. Virgins Aldegundus, Gertrude and Opportuna.*

11. *Pater Noster* ff. 14-20

f. 14 The Trinity. This picture occupies the space of a large initial and has a gilt background. God, the Father, and the Son are seated (upon clouds?) enveloped in one mantle, holding the open book, the Dove hovers between them; a framework of clouds.

f. 20 In 17th century script, "Boudens van der Burch, 1663"

111. *Hours of the Cross* ff. 20-32

f. 20. The Crucifixion. Christ upon the Cross (with title). To the left Mary is held swooning in the arms of John and a female attendant; back of them another woman holds both arms up in the air; to the right three soldiers; buildings in the background; in the 3 borders of the picture are seen the Scourge, Chalice, Crown of thorns, 3 nails, spear and sponge, etc., etc., etc.

f. 21 Christ bearing the Cross. On a blue background within the initial D (gilt). In the 4 borders, the instruments and symbols of the Passion; pincers, sword, handkerchief of St. Veronica, Cook on the column, heads of Christ and Judas, the Cup, scourge, pieces of gold, lantern, hammer and dice.

IV. *Hours of the Holy Spirit,* ff. 33-45

f. 33 Pentecost. Descent of the Holy Spirit. The scene takes place within a vaulted room, the Virgin kneels, surrounded by the Apostles; Dove flies down from the left; without the door kneel 5 disciples; birds in the borders.

f. 43 Hymn to the Holy Spirit. The Dove occupies the space of an initial.

V. *Offices of the Virgin,* ff. 45-149

f. 45 Matins. The Nativity (usual) (See reproduction).

f. 72 Laudes. The Visitation. Joseph back of Mary who meets Elizabeth in front of a turreted building. A gilt scroll is introduced in the lower border (left).

f. 96 Prime. The Nativity. The Child lies within halo upon the ground, an open trough back of Him. The Virgin kneels before Him; back of Her Joseph holding a lantern. In upper left corner an angel; ox and ass.
Morgan MS. No.

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

£450 is an Annunciation—
not a Nativity.

£21 pieces of silver not Au
f.95 Tiere. Angel and the Shepherd (see reproduction)
f.102- Sext. Adoration of the Magi. The Virgin is seated to right, holding naked Child in Her lap, before Him the eldest King kneels holding forth cup (?) back of Him two kings. In the border of the opposite page of text in lavender and gold a scroll introduced.
f.109- Nones. Presentation in the Temple. Priest (?) and attendant sit back of low, table-like altar to left; before them the Virgin holding the Child; back of Her, Joseph, to right of Him St. Anne (?) holding taper and basket with doves.
f.116- Vespers. Flight into Egypt (usual). In the left border the Miracle of the growing corn; back of the reaper the troop of Herod's horsemen appear.
f.128- Compline. Massacre of the Innocents. Herod is seated at the back upon a high throne-chair; sceptre in left hand; right hand raised; before him a man; woman, kneeling, holds out her hands toward infant and in supplication to a soldier who with sword upraised prepares to cut off its head. Gold scrolls are introduced in the borders of f.129 (text).
f.135- Prayers to the Virgin.
1. "Salve regina". Within the space of an initial, the Virgin stands (three-quarter size) holding the Infant Child. Her left breast is exposed; to the left, a saint.
f.138- "Obsequio te" Within the space of an initial, the Virgin, seated, holding Child who drinks at her breast.
f.143- "O intemerata". Within the space of an initial the Virgin stands upon a crescent holding Child in Her arms; the borders are of clouds.

VI. Seven Penitential Psalms and Litany. ff. 150 - 179
f.150- David in Prayer. He kneels with face and both arms upraised; on his right arm hangs a golden crown; golden sceptre falls at his feet; above a turreted building an angel appears with arrow; in the borders, groups of 3 arrows, red, black and white. In the border of f.151 (text) arrows, harp, sceptre and crown.

In the Litany, Saints Ludovic (martyr) - Waldetrudis, Aldegondis and Gertrude (Virgins).

VII. Offices of the Dead. ff. 180 -
f.180b- Raising of Lazarus. Scene within a courtyard of a church (?). Lazarus, with folded hands and shroud is stepping from the grave; Our Lord stands before him with left hand extended; back of Lazarus stand Peter and Mary Magdalene (?) and one of the Jews; two others are seen talking together in the background near a wall; in the border, a skull and two bones; a gilt scroll.
f.181 - Initial D. A skeleton brandishing an arrow in left hand.

VIII. Memorials of Saints. ff.248b-
f.248b- St. Martin. Space of a large initial. He sits upon a horse and, sword in right hand, cuts his cloak; a lame beggar with crutch stands to left.
f.249b- St. Nicholas. In Bishop's vestments he stands with left hand upraised, gilt crozier in right; before him (left) three naked boys, hands folded, rise from a tub (?)
f.250b- St. Anthony. He sits in hilly and wooded landscape, gilt crutch in right hand, open book in left on his lap; the pig at his right side.
f.251b- St. James. He stands, book in right hand, gilt staff in left.
f.252b- St. Christopher. Garments to his knees, he is crossing a stream with the Christ Child upon his shoulders, long stick held with both hands; on the opposite shore a hermit sits holding a lantern in his left hand.
f. 253b - St. Adrian. Open landscape. Closed book in his right hand, sword in left, lion at his feet (to right).

f. 255 - St. Julian. He stands, open book in left hand, sword in right, its point touching the ground; to left sits a man with staff.

f. 255b - St. Drogo. He stands with shepherd's staff in left hand; with right he holds a dog by a leash; four lambs and a dog around him.

f. 257 - St. Roche. He stands left face averted, right hand slightly raised; a dog at his feet; angel to the left addresses him.

f. 258 - St. Katharine stands with sword in right hand, open book in left; to left a man kneeling (?) upon the ground.

f. 259 - St. Margaret. She is emerging from the dragon, his head turned toward her, the end of her robe emerging from his open jaw; her hands are folded; a cross in her right arm.

f. 260 - St. Barbara. She sits before the tower (left), an open book in her lap, palm in her right hand.

At the end of the text of the manuscript in ink, Boudens Van der Burch, 1663.

M. 33  BOOK OF HOURS, in Latin and French, Rome use (Hours of the Virgin, Office of the Dead). Probably Cambrai or Mons, ca. 1490-1500.

262 leaves (133 x 96 mm.). 1⁶(1-6), 2⁷(7-13, f. 7 inserted), 3-9⁸ (14-69), 10⁹(70-78, f. 71 inserted), 11-33⁸(79-262). 1 column, 14 lines (79 x 47 mm.). Latin and French, in littera batarda. 12 large miniatures (87 x 47 mm.), 17 6-line miniatures, 1 5-line miniature (43v), 4 5-line historiated initials, 1 historiated border (116v). Binding: Old red velvet, with clasp with initials J.R. engraved on back.

CALENDAR: In French, almost full, written in black with major feasts in red. The largest number of strictly local feasts are those of Amiens: Oulfe (I.31); Montai (=Montani?, III.26); Waleri (IV.1); Oufran (X.15, also celebrated in Meaux and England); Domisse (X.23); and Serapion (X.30). However, nearly the same number of feasts for Cambrai are included, and one is written in red: Henri empereur de rome (VII.13, also celebrated in Germany and by the Dominicans); Vas (VII.15); Gislain, in red (X.9); Amet (X.19); and Lievin (XI.12, also celebrated in Germany and Scotland). The calendar also lists four feasts for Paris: Honoree (II.27); Portunal (V.5); Landri (VI.10); and Clau (IX.7). There is also a scattering of feasts for a number of other, mostly northeastern French, dioceses, including Rouen (Aubert, II.9, also celebrated in Senlis), Senlis (Rieule, III.30), Noyon (Quintin, V.2), Soissons (Elaine, V.21), Tournai (Bertin, VII.16), Reims (Maience [=Maxentie?], XI.20), Metz (Felix, XII.22), Trier (Maxime, IX.12), Auxerre (Marcellin, V.13), Sens (Oufram, III.20), Bourges (Silvain, IX.22), Cahors (Ambrose, X.16), and Gap (Constantin, IV.12).


OFFICE OF THE DEAD: Rome (ibid.)

LITANIES: Among the virgins: Waldetrudis (d.ca.688), founder of the monastery of Ste.-Waudru at Mons, and Aldegund (d.634), abbess-foundress of Maubeuge in the Hainaut.

SUFFRAGES: Include Drogo (d.1186), recluse of Sebourg in the Hainaut.

TEXTS AND MINIATURES: Calendar, French, nearly full (1-12v). Pater
noster, other prayers (14-17v), Trinity (6-line, 14). Seven Prayers of St. Gregory (18-20), Mass of St. Gregory (6-line, 18). Hours of the Cross (21-32v): Crucifixion (20v); Christ Carrying the Cross, in D (5-line, 21). Hours of the Holy Spirit (34-43), Pentecost (33v). Veni creator (43v-45), Dove of the Holy Spirit (5-line, 43v). Hours of the Virgin (46-135): Annunciation (45v); Pregnant Virgin between David and Isaiah, in D (5-line, 46); Visitation (72v); Nativity (88v); Annunciation to the Shepherds (95v); Adoration of the Magi (102v); Presentation in the Temple (109v); Flight into Egypt (116v); Miracle of the Cornfield (outer margin, 116v); Massacre of the Innocents (128v). Salve regina, other prayers to the Virgin (135v-137v), Lactatio of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (6-line, 135v).

Obsecro te (138-143), Virgo Lactans and Child in Interior (6-line, 138). O intemerata (143v-149), Virgin and Child on Sickle Moon (6-line, 143v). Penitential Psalms, Litany (151-180), David in Prayer (150v); David Slaying Goliath, in D (5-line, 151). Office of the Dead (181-248): Raising of Lazarus (180v); Death Holding an Arrow and a Mirror, in D (5-line, 181). Suffrages (248v-261v): Martin Dividing Cloak (6-line, 248v); Nicholas and the Three Youths (6-line, 249v); Seated Anthony Reading in Wilderness (6-line, 250v); James Major Standing in Landscape (6-line, 251v); Christopher Carrying Christ Child (6-line, 252v); Adrian Standing in Landscape (6-line, 253v); Julian Standing in Landscape (6-line, 255v); Drogo Standing in Landscape (6-line, 255v); Roch Standing in Landscape (6-line, 257v); Catherine Standing in Landscape (6-line, 258); Margaret Emerging from Dragon (6-line, 259); Barbara Seated in Walled Enclosure (6-line, 260).

Although both the Hours of the Virgin and Office of the Dead in this manuscript are for the use of Rome, a number of features in the other variable texts suggest that the book was destined for a patron in the region of Cambrai or Mons. Thus, the calendar contains a large number of Cambrai feasts, including that of Gislenus in red on 9 October; the litanies include Waldetrudis, patroness of Mons, and Aldegund, abbess of nearby Maubeuge; and the suffrages include the unusual Drogo, a recluse at Sebourg, some 10 miles east of Valenciennes.

The grisaille miniatures which decorate the codex are the work of an artist whose hand has not yet been identified in other manuscripts. His figure style and landscapes presuppose a knowledge of Flemish panel
painting and illumination of the third quarter of the fifteenth century. Although his miniatures are not especially sophisticated, his forms are bold and certain of the fauna in his borders, such as the sheep on folio 95 verso, are remarkably naturalistic.

Several of his compositions resemble in part the compositions in three more or less contemporary Books of Hours from the region of Cambrai or Mons. For example, the Visitation shares a number of points of similarity with the same subject in the Boussu Hours in Paris (Bibl. de l'Arsenal, ms. 1185, fol. 87v; see Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Trésors de la Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Paris, 1980, 61, no. 105). That manuscript contains a calendar and litany for Cambrai and was made for Isabelle de Lalaing, dame de Boussu, a small town some 12 kilometers west of Mons. The points of similarity shared by the Morgan and Boussu Visitations include the costumes and poses of the Virgin, Elizabeth, and Joseph; the picket fence directly behind the two women; and the turreted architectural structure in the right background.

The composition of the Morgan Nativity, on the other hand, resembles that of the Nativity in Morgan 1053 (fol. 61v). Although only the calendar in that book can be linked with Cambrai, many of its miniatures share points of similarity with those in the Boussu Hours. Common to the Morgan 33 and 1053 Visitations are the design and positioning of the sheds; the poses of the Virgin and Child; the design and location of the manger; and the curious poses and expressions of the ox and ass behind the Holy Family.

The setting of the Presentation in the Temple in Morgan 33 is similar to that of the same subject in a Book of Hours in Cambrai (Bibl. Mun., ms. 107, fol. 52v). Although the texts of that manuscript defy conclusive localization, the manuscript does contain a suffrage to Gislenus, and several of its compositions share points of similarity with those in Morgan 1053 and the Boussu Hours. Both the Morgan 33 and Cambrai 107 Visitations are set in the crossing of a rather austere Gothic church with slitlike windows. The choir is divided from the rest of the church by a wooden rood screen comprising a wainscoting surmounted by a colonnade of pillars. A green canopy hangs from the ceiling of the choir.

The artist of Morgan 33 was also at least indirectly familiar with the work of Rogier van der Weyden. More specifically, his painting of the
Virgo lactans on folio 138 seems eventually to derive from the left-hand half of Rogier’s diptych of Jean de Gros in Tournai (Musée des beaux-arts; Max J. Friedländer, Early Netherlandish Painting, 2, New York, 1967, no. 29, pl. 50).

The Boussu Hours has been dated on the basis of internal evidence to the last decade of the fifteenth century, and Morgan 1053 can be dated around the same time on the basis of stylistic evidence. A similar date for Morgan 33 is supported both by its general compositional connections with the Boussu Hours and Morgan 1053 and by its naturalistic borders, which recall those in so-called "Ghent-Bruges" manuscripts of the last two decades of the fifteenth century.

PROVENANCE: Boudens van der Bürch, 1663 (autograph on ff. 12v, 72, and 261v); Ellis & White, London, 1881; Theodore Irwin, Oswego, N.Y.


Purchase: 1900

Additional cards:

i. Book of Hours. Probably Cambrai or Mons. Ca. 1490-1500.

ii. Mss.-Illum.-French-XV c.

iii. Mss.-Illum.-French: Cambrai(?)-XV c.

iv. Mss.-Illum.-French: Mons(?)-XV c.

v. Prov.-van der Bürch, Boudens

vi. Prov.-Ellis & White, London

vii. Prov.-Irwin, Theodore

Trinity: two persons enthroned, with dove. f. 14

Gregory the Great: Mass. f. 18

Jesus Christ: Crucifixion. f. 20v

Pentecost. f. 33v
Holy Ghost: as a dove, in glory. f. 43v
Mary the Virgin: Annunciation. f. 45v
Mary the Virgin: pregnant, between David and Isaiah (?). f. 46v
Mary the Virgin: Visitation. f. 72v
Jesus Christ: Nativity. f. 88v
Shepherds: Annunciation. f. 95v
Magi: Adoration. f. 102v
Jesus Christ: Presentation. f. 109v
Jesus Christ: Flight. f. 116v
Jesus Christ: miracle of cornfield. f. 116v
Innocents: Massacre. f. 128v
Bernard of Clairvaux: Virgin appearing to him. f. 135v
Mary the Virgin: type suckling. f. 138
Mary the Virgin: on crescent, with child. f. 143v
David: communing with God. f. 150v
David and Goliath. f. 151
Jesus Christ: miracle of raising Lazarus. f. 180v
Personification: Death, holding arrow and mirror. f. 181
Martin of Tours: dividing cloak. f. 248v
Nicholas of Myra: bishop, with children. f. 249v
Anthony the Great. f. 250v
Apostle: James Major, standing. f. 251v
Christopher of Lycia: carrying Christ Child. f. 252v
Adrian of Caesarea: standing. f. 253v
Julian (the Hospitaller?). f. 255
Drogo: standing. f. 255v
Roch: standing. f. 257
Catherine of Alexandria. f. 258
Margaret of Antioch: on dragon. f. 259
Barbara of Nicodemia. f. 260

G.T.C.