Jesus Christ.

44 Thirty full-page pictures (9 5/8 x 6 5/8 in) without text, of events in the life of Christ; executed in France (possibly at Limoges) in the 12th-13th century.

They are painted upon 16 leaves of heavy vellum, with a heavy gold burnished background, and were doubtless, at the time of execution, prefixed to a Psalter or Gospel-book. In style the paintings are reminiscent of early 12th century painted (stained) glass and enamels.

They depict:
1. The Annunciation
2. The Nativity
3. Annunciation to the Shepherds
4. Flight into Egypt
5. Presentation
6. The Three Kings before Herod
7. Adoration of the Magi
8. Baptism
9. Temptation (with gold)
10. Entry into Jerusalem
11. Last Supper
12. Washing the feet of the Disciples
13. Betrayal
14. Crowning with thorns
15. Scourging
16. Bearing the Cross
17. Crucifixion (Green Cross) on body
18. Deposition
19. Entombment (the Body being anointed)
20. Angel and women at the tomb
21. Leading the Souls from Hell-mouth (Resurrection staff)
22. 'Noli me tangere' (apparition to Mary Magdalene)
23. Apparition to Thomas
24. Journey to Emmaus (a disciple on either side of Christ)
25. Supper at Emmaus
26. Ascension
27. Pentecost
28. Last Judgment. (Note: a large green cross is shown on the lower part of his body)
29. Christ as Judge of the World
30. Coronation of the Virgin

16 leaves (13 5/8 x 8 7/8 in)

Binding: Dark brown mor. blind tooled, with red mor. mosaic double, by Lortic with his ticket (French, 19th cent.)

History: Said to have come from the Collegiate Abbey of St. Martial at Limoges; Henri Martin of Paris (c.1880); Comte de Bastard-de’Estang; A. de Bastard; A. Firmin-Didot (sale 1879, no. 10); Richard Bennett, to Mr. J. P. Morgan.


For further description of this MS. see A. de Bastard, Histoire de Jésus-Christ
en figures... Par. 1878; L. Delisle. Les Collections de Bastard-d'estang...

MSS. Illum. French - XII cent.
MSS. Illum. Limoges (?)
Iconography - Jesus Christ - Life
Iconography - Cross
Provenance (all except Bennett)

Limoges Gospels; see MSS. Illum. French - XII cent

M
44
Mary the Virgin: Annunciation
Holy Ghost: Dove representing... at Annunciation
Jesus Christ: Nativity
Shepherds: Annunciation
Jesus Christ: Flight into Egypt - with censing angel
Utensil: censer
Jesus Christ: Presentation
Magi: Before Herod the Great
Magi: Adoration
Mary the Virgin: with crown
Jesus Christ: Baptism
Holy Ghost: Descent - at Baptism
Angel: holding garment at Baptism
Jesus Christ: Temptation I
Angel: with censer
Satan
Jesus Christ: Entry into Jerusalem
Jesus Christ: Last Supper
Jesus Christ: Washing of Feet
Jesus Christ: Betrayal
Apostle: Peter - cutting off ear of Malchus
Jesus Christ: Mocked
Jesus Christ: Flagellation
Jesus Christ: Bearing Cross
Jesus Christ: Crucifixion
Personification: Sun and Moon
Jesus Christ: Deposition
Jesus Christ: Entombment
Holy Women: at Sepulchre
Jesus Christ: Harrowing of Hell
Jesus Christ: with crown
Hell Mouth
Sinners in Hell
Jesus Christ: Noli Me Tangere
Jesus Christ: Appearing to apostles
Apostle: Thomas - incredulity
Jesus Christ: on road to Emmaus
Jesus Christ: Supper at Emmaus
Jesus Christ: Ascension
Pentecost
Holy Ghost: Dove representing
Jesus Christ: Last Judgment
Mary the Virgin: Intercessor
John Baptist: Intercessor
Jesus Christ: in Majesty
Angels: Seraph
Saint: unidentified - kneeling holding lance (?)
Saint: unidentified - kneeling, holding crown (?)
Mary the Virgin: Coronation

Christ: Communion
" Anointing of his Body
Cross: before Body of Christ at Last Judgment.
Eucharist see Communion.
101. LIFE OF CHRIST. Vellum, 13 x 8\(\text{\textfrac{3}{4}}\), ff. 16; cent. xii. In a fine blind-tooled binding by Lortic of Paris. Inside the cover are two crosses inlaid in coloured leather on a Grolieresque ground. In the centre of each is a figure of the Virgin in archaic style with a book; on the arms the Evangelistic beasts. From the collection of Mr. Richard Bennett, whose bookplate is in the volume. It was No. 10 in the Firmin-Didot sale of May, 1879. Facsimiles from it are given in Labitte's "L'Art."

CONTENTS

On the recto of f. 1, in a nineteenth century hand is written:
Vie de Jesus Christ. Henry Martin.

It consists of thirty full-page pictures of the Life of Christ, doubtless once prefixed to a liturgical manuscript, either a Psalter or a Gospel-book. Limoges has been suggested as the place of their origin.

The paintings are on gold grounds. Their frames are of very various patterns in colours, blue, red, orange, green, gray, within a plain gold border edged with black. The patterns employed are best described as Romanesque, i.e., with strong reminiscences of classical design. At the angles in many cases are small square compartments containing human heads. The style of the paintings is clumsy and unsightly: the eyes of the figures are usually too large, the attitudes stiff, the draperies close-clinging and heavy. One is strongly reminded, by the heaviness of the lines in the faces, of the technique of the earliest painted glass. Nor is the selection and treatment of the subjects (naturally enough) dissimilar from that in the windows.

1. The Annunciation. Gabriel stands on l. with green nimbus and raised hand. The Virgin, on r., full face, the Dove descending upon her head.

2. The Nativity. White curtains looped aside on
L and r.; hanging lamp (green) in c.: Joseph, in peaked cap, seated on L, head on hand; the Virgin reclining in bed, head to r., cheek on hand; the bed is supported on a row of tall green arches; in front of these, at the bottom, the Child, swaddled in blue, lies on white cloth on blue stone manger with red base; a small angel in air at His head (on r.); the ox’s head seen over His body, the ass at His feet.

3. Three shepherds: one on L sits and plays a curved pipe; an elder one in c. points up, one on r. looks up; these have curved sticks. Below, goats, sheep, and kine. Above, two angels, half length, descending from clouds.

4. Under trefoil arch, with turrets. The Virgin, seated sideways on the ass (pink), the Child (a boy) in her lap, pointing to r.; Joseph, with long staff, leads the ass to r. a youth follows with keg on stick, and scourge; two trees behind; in the head of the arch a small angel in cloud with censer.

5. Presentation. Trefoil arch and turrets above; on L a nimbed attendant with doves in basket; next, the Virgin, facing r., supports the Child on an altar with white cloth and green legs; Symeon, in blue, faces L.

6. Two round-headed arches with turrets above; on L. the three kings, nimbed, in mantles, tunics, spurs, and crowns, with staves, facing r.; on r. Herod crowned, with blue nimbus, sits cross-legged on green lion-headed chair and grasps his beard.

7. Two arches, turrets, star in c.; on L. two of the kings holding a dark bowl and a green vessel, the third bends forward in c., holding his crown and kissing the hand of the Child, who holds a golden ball and blesses him; the Child is on the lap of the Virgin, who is seated on r., crowned.

8. The Baptism. Christ stands full face in a heap of slate-coloured water. John, on L., in slate-coloured hairy robe over green, pours water from his hands; on c. the Dove descends head downwards upon Christ; on r. an angel stands full face, holding up a blue tunic.

9. The Temptation. The Devil, brown, hairy, with broad, somewhat lion-like, face and short cow’s horns, faces r., and drops three small stones. Three more are seen below; in c. a tree; on r. Christ, facing L., with book and raised finger. In upper corner a small angel with censer.

10. The Entry. On L. a row of five Apostles (one with palm); two, two and one. Two hold palms. In c. Christ, riding to r. on the ass, holding a palm and blessing; on r. the city, consisting of an arched gateway at top, and below it two lines of battlemented walls sloping to L.; over the gate are two people cutting branches off a tree; in the arch of the gate are three holding branches; below the first line of wall a kneeling man with branches; below the second, a kneeling man spreading his blue cloak. Branches lie on the ground.

11. The Last Supper. Trefoil arch above. In c. Christ stands with extended arms, holding wafer in r. hand and chalice in L.; in front, a curved table; Apostles on r. and L.; on L., five; in c. John, head on hand, elbow on table; on r. five more Apostles; their feet rest on a row of green arches. Judas (nimbed) kneels on the near side of the table, and holds up a gold dish.

12. Washing of Feet. Up each side is a row of six Apostles; in c. Christ, girdled with towel, knees facing r., with r. hand raised in blessing; and L hand holding the ankle of Peter, who touches his head; his feet rest on red brick work; before Christ is a green vessel.

13. Betrayal. In c. Judas (on L.) kisses Christ; he is nimbed; one of four soldiers, on L., in mailed shirts and peaked casques, lays his hand on Christ’s shoulder; one of four soldiers on r. seizes His arm; another holds up a lantern; on L., trespassing on the frame, is Peter cutting off Malchus’s ear.

14. Crowning with Thorns. In c. Christ, full face, in blue mantle with gold border over white robe with gold border; He holds a green reed; four men, two on r., two on L.; two of them place a gold crown, interwoven with green on His head; the others strike Him.

15. scourging. Christ, in c., behind a slender pillar round which His hands are bound; two men scourge Him; green arches below.

16. Bearing the Cross. Christ, in blue robe over red over white, carries a massive green Cross to r.; one man leads, one pushes Him, a third follows; on L. a man in peaked cap bears the hammer and three nails.

17. Christ on the Cross (green). Nailed with four nails; the Virgin on L., John on r.; in air the sun and moon; the sun on L.; a half-length figure projecting from cloud with jagged red nimbus; on moon a similar figure (female) holding crescent.

In both these pictures the extremities of the Cross are slightly broadened, and the base pointed.

18. The Departure. One man (on L.) supports the body; another kneeling on r., detaches the L. foot; the Virgin and John kiss the two hands; above, two angels with censers.

19. The Entombment. Trefoil arch with building above; two men in caps, at head and feet, lay the body in the tomb; a third, in c., pours ointment on it from a green vessel; the tomb is green; below is a gold band and a light yellow base supported on blue arches with green baluster shafts, yellow capitals and red bases.

20. The Angel and the Women. The angel sits on L., over tomb, with sceptre; the three women on r., two with gold caskets; in the tomb the grave-clothes; in front three guards in mail, with pointed casques, sleeping or amazed; one has kite-shaped shield; trefoil arch and buildings over it, at top.

21. Christ, in blue over white, crowned, with long cross-staff, stands on a black devil and pierces his mouth; with L. hand He takes the two hands of Adam, who stands in Hell-mouth, where nine other nude souls are seen; above, angel with censer in cloud.

22. Noli me tangere. Christ on L., not crowned, with cross-staff, blessing; Mary Magdalen kneels on r. by tree.

23. Christ, on L., with raised arm; Thomas, in c., faces L., kneels, touching His side; three Apostles on r.

24. Journey to Emmaus. Christ, full face in c.; a disciple on each side; the one on r. takes His hand; all have broad hats and staves with knobs at top; their legs are bandaged, their feet bare.

25. Supper at Emmaus. Trefoil arch with buildings above; the three at table. Christ, in c., holding in each hand the exact half of a circular cake of bread; the disciple on r. touches His elbow; both look at Him; all three have their hats on.

26. Ascension. Six Apostles on L., six on r., in two
rows, looking up; in c. the Virgin, full face; above, in cloud, the feet of Christ.

27. Pentecost. Six Apostles on each side in two rows, seated, looking up; in half of a red maddorla, in upper frame, the Dove descends head downwards; red lines proceed from the open beak to the heads of the Apostles.

28. Last Judgement. In c., Christ seated, full face, with extended arms showing His wounds; in front of the lower part of His body, vested in blue, is a green cross; below, on l., half length, the Virgin praying; on r., John Baptist; below His feet and above His head four angels (two and two) blow curved horns, which they hold upwards; on r. and l. nude suppliant figures, ten on l., eight on r.

29. Christ as Judge. Throned, full face, blessing and holding up an open gold book in His hand; on r. and l. are six winged seraphs with eyes in the wings; below, kneeling, on r. and l., two wingless angels; the one on l., with the gold and green crown of thorns; the other, with an indistinct black object, possibly the nails or a scourge.

30. In green maddorla, supported by four half-length angels in the spandrels; on l. the Virgin seated, in light brown over slate colour; her hands are joined. Rather above her, on r., Christ crowned, in blue over red, throned with book in l. hand, places a gold crown on her head.

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