Psalter. Latin. XIIIth century

M 103 Psalter, preceded by a Kalendar for the Cluniac Abbey of Reading, Berkshire, and followed by Canticles, a Litany, Collects, the Psalterium salutationem B.V. Mariae, and in a later hand, the Office of the Dead for Sarum Use. Incomplete.

Manuscript on stiff cream vellum, written and illuminated at Reading, England in the first quarter of the thirteenth century.* The double invocation of S.Peter and All Saints in the Litany and obits of members of the De Clare family, Earls of Hertford, in the Kalendar show that the Psalter was for use in the Priory of Walsingham, where these conditions obtained.

20 Kalendar medallions, 5 large illuminated initials with panels of embellished lettering, many small decorative initials throughout.

168 leaves (9.1/4 x 6.1/2 inches) 20 lines.
14-1, 26-1, A10-2, B10-D10, E10-2, F10-G10, H10-2, I10-P10,
A8-1, R8 = 168


From the De Clare, Earls of Hertford, William Morris and Richard Bennett collections.

Contents: Incomplete.

f.1v Music for the opening of Magnificat and Benedictus in a XVth cent. hand.

f.2 Blank

f.3 [rubric] Augustinus de virtute psalmorum

f.3v Suscipere dignare domine deus... a prayer before reciting the Psalter in a later XIIIth cent. hand.

f.4-8v Kalendar for Reading Abbey (Cluniac) with the feast of the dedication in gold on Apr. 19 and the octave on Apr. 26. The leaf for May-June is missing and probably contained a provenance inscription.* The major feasts have the designation XII in rubrics, indicating twelve lessons, i.e. monastic use. Obits of members of the Fitz-Richard (Earls of Gloucester) and Mareschall (Earls of Pembroke) families are entered Apr. 5, July 2, 20, 24, Aug. 19, Sept. 11, Nov. 4.

f.9-128 Psalter, beginning with Psalm IV, 7: dedisti letitiam in corde meo

f.128-132 Te deum, Benedicte, Benedictus dominus deus israel, Magnificat, Nunc dimitis, Quicumque vult

f.132v-134 Litany, naming important Cluny saints; Peter and All Saints having double invocations after their entries; such were Rushton, Walsingham, Harby. Of these Walsingham answers the problems raised in M.103, since, according to Dugdale, VI, 71, the De Clare family was successively considerable benefactors of Walsingham, Priory of Augustine Canons in Norfolk. Furthermore, a convent of Grey Friars was founded there by Elizabeth de Burgh, Countess of Clare c.1346. Dugdale VI, 1523 (Her obit in M.103 f.8)

*Probably for William de Warenne Earl of Surrey, d. May 27, 1240.
Contents cont'd:

f.134-136 Collects, with Iohannis le Breton named on f.135v.

f.136v-160 Mente concipio laudes conscribere... Psalterium B.V.M.

According to M.R. James, but called Laudes B.V.car secundum

ordinem poeticam in Paris Lat. 13285 a Sarum Horae,
cited by Leroquais Livres d’Heures, II, 93; others in

U. Chevalier, Repertorium Hymnologicum, III, 1904 p.374

no.29602 questions the attribution to S.Augustine.

f.160v Prayers for "fundatores nostri" in a XIIIth cent. cursive

script.

f.161-167v Office of the Dead for Sarum in a XVth cent. hand

f.168v Delecti deo et hominibus sancti evangeliste, with music,
in a XVth cent. hand.

Text: The lacuna at the beginning and within the Psalter are due
to the removal of the important illuminations. Contractions and sus-
pensions are abundant. On f.26 line 5 the spelling chad for cedes is
unusual; correction on f.132 omits word resurrexit which is written on

line 7 instead, other similar errors of the corrector are noticeable
throughout.

Script: The Psalter text is written by one scribe in an elegant,

fluent light textus presciusus. Uncial and vertical ò and m are used

impartially. Descenders of letters on bottom line are given dashing
tails; verse and proficiency are shown in the terminal flourishes to

the last letter on a line. A tendency toward occasional crowding and

consequent unevenness of ductus detracts from the charm of some pages.

Decoration: What remains of the decoration is of fine quality. The only

figural ornamental is in the Kalender medallions, which have suffered
cropping. Their neat, precise, lively style complements the writing

and testifies to a proficient atelier of illuminators. The labors of

the months and the zodiacal signs are depicted in the upper margin of

each leaf. They are painted on burnished gold backgrounds bordered

alternately blue and rose. The successful modelling of the pronounced

muscular development parallels the style and technique of the artist

of M.730. The French influence may be noted also in the depiction of

a baker for December; according to J.W. Webster, The labors of the

months (Princeton, 1938) p.162, the baker, instead of the usual scenes

(feast or pig slaughter) occurs only in the sculptures of Senlis

Cathedral and at Selles-sur-Cher.

Blue and rose are the principal colors used in the illumination. The large decorative initials are accompanied by em-

bellished gold lettering against rose or blue panels. Dragons, fan-
tastic birds, interlaced acanthus foliage and occasional droll human

heads are rendered with the utmost facility.

The principal decorative pages remaining are ff.26, 37v,

57v, 70, 94.

History: Written and illuminated in the Cluniac Abbey of Reading

c.1220-1240 for use in the Augustinian Friary of Walsingham, dedicated
to St.Peter and All Souls, both institutions being beneficiaries of the

Earls of Gloucester and Pembroke, members of whose families are noted

in the obituary entries of the Kalendar. The dedication of Reading

Abbey is in the Kalendar, with octave on f.5v. Monastic use is indi-
cated by the specification of twelve lessons after the important feasts.
History cont'd.

The principal Cluny saints and commemorations, viz. Odilonis, Hugo, Exceptio reliquiarum, etc. as well as many English saints comprise the Kalendar and Litany. In the latter, the feasts of S.Peter and All Souls have double invocations, testifying to the special veneration in which they were held by the monastery where the Litany was recited. This points to Walsingham Priory and is substantiated by the additional but contemporary texts attributed to S.Augustine on ff.3 and 136v-160.

William Fitzrichard, whose obit is inscribed on July 20, is mentioned as Wilhelm filii Ricardi in a charter of Henry III confirming various gifts to Walsingham Priory. Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum, II 1661 p.21.

The Psalter passed in the XIVth century to a John le Bretun who wrote his name in the text of the prayer on f.135v. Apparently it remained in the Clare family, descending to their relatives the Spencers (Eleanor de Clare, sister of Elizabeth de Burgh Dame de Clare, married Hugh Spencer). The obit of William Spencer dated 1494 is in the Kalendar on Oct.21. Inscribed in a XVIth century hand is (on f.167v) the name of Edwardus Apricus (Ap Rhys (Rice). Later owned, c.1860, by Thomas Bateman of Middleton-by-Yolgrave, sold by William Bateman, 1893, purchased c.1895 by William Morris, c.1898 by Richard Bennett of Manchester (their bookplates); from whom it was purchased by Mr.Morgan in 1902.

Binding: Bound in 4°. brown russia gilt tooled probably by Douglas Cockerell for William Morris, c.1895, in green mor. case lettered Clare-Pembroke Psalter, English c.1220 from Reading Abbey.


Additional cards.

i. MSS.-Illum.-English;Reading Abbey - XIII cent.

ii. Provenance - Walsingham Priory

* A possible owner of the Psalter is William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey who died 27th of May 1240 (the May leaf is missing from the Kalendar). His second wife was Maud, one of the daughters and coheirs of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, and her sister Isabel married Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford and was ancestress of Elizabeth the Lady of Clare. Furthermore, this Earl William is included in the list of Walsingham benefactors printed by Richard Taylor in his Index Monasticus for the diocese of Norwich.

Completed March,1954.
M. Harrsen.
Add cards:

   Use - Cluny
   Use - Sarum
   Music - Mediaeval. f.5 & 168v.
   [Langton, Stephen, d.1228]
   Psalterium salutationem B.V. Mariae. f.136v.
   [Peckham, John, d.1292]
   Psalterium salutationem B.V. Mariae. f.136v.

1. Calendar, Cluniac. XIII cent.
2. Religious poetry - XIII cent.
   Months. - XIII cent. f. 4-8
   Provenance - Clare, Earls of. XIII cent.
   " Pembroke, Earls of. "
   " Bretun, John Le
   " Spencer, William -
   " Ap Rhys, Edward
   " Bateman
   " Morris, William
   " Bennett, Richard

Use - Sarum
I. Credo quod
II. Qui Laeziarium
III. Domine quando
IV. Reumicht
V. Ne recordeis
VI. Domine secundum
VII. Peccantemne
VIII. Requiem eternam
IX. Libera ne.

MPH:KEQ/ June 1936.
THE CLARE PSALTER

Reading Abbey, first quarter of the Thirteenth Century. Plates

Initial D[ominus] to Psalm xxvii, with a dragon in the upper left margin and three lines of embellished lettering. Also four similar initials and twenty circular Kalendar illustrations. Blue and rose are the principal colors used.

Lacuna at the beginning and within the Psalter are due to the removal of important illuminations. The remainder are of a high quality, carried out in a neat, precise style and reflect a strong French influence. This is also seen in the choice of the occupation for December, here represented by a baker at work before a tall, tower-like oven.

Written in a light, elegant, fluent textus precissius, with considerable proficiency and verve. Uncia and gothic d and m are used impartially; descendes of letters on the bottom line have dashing tails; neat terminal flourishises fill out line endings.

The Kalendar is Cluniac, with the feast of the dedication of Reading Abbey in gold on April 19, and the octave on April 26. The Litany on f.132v-134, specifies double invocations for Peter and All Saints, indicating that the Psalter was to be used in a church dedicated to them. This points to the Priory of Augustine Canons at Walsingham, a beneficiary, like Reading Abbey, of the De Clare family, Earls of Hertford. Obit of seven members of the De Clare family or their relatives the Marshals, Earls of Pembroke, are written in the Kalendar.*

168 ff. (9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches)


THE CLARE PSALTER. Page 2.

Bibliography: W. Morris, Laudae Beatae Mariae Virginis, (Hammersmith, 1896) [printed from this Psalter]; Catalogue of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books from the Libraries of William Morris, Richard Bennett...


* The missing leaf for May may have been inscribed with the obit of the original owner William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, who died on May 27, 1240. He is included in the list of benefactors of Walsingham printed by R. Taylor in his Index Monasticus for the diocese of Norwich.
17. PSALTER. Vellum, $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$, ff. 169; 20 lines to a page; cent. xiii (circa 1220).

It has the bookplates of William Morris and of Richard Bennett. In September, 1892, it was sold at Sotheby’s in the Bateman sale. On the first old leaf is the number 118 (early nineteenth century?). Binding: red Russia with gold tooling.

Collation: a⁴ (wants 4 blank), Kal.⁸ (wants 3), A¹⁰ (wants 1, 2), B¹⁰, C¹⁰, D¹⁰, E¹⁰ (wants 2), F¹⁰, G¹⁰, H¹⁰ (wants 7), I¹⁰, K¹⁰, L¹⁰, M¹⁰, N¹⁰, O¹⁰, P¹⁰, Q⁸ (wants 8), | R⁴.

CONTENTS

On f. 1⁰ is scribbled in a fifteenth-century hand music for the opening of Magnificat and Benedictus on a four-line stave.

F. ii is blank.

On f. iii⁰ in a good thirteenth-century hand:

\textit{Augustinus de virtute psalmorum.}

Canticum psalmorum animas decorat, etc. . . .

animam suam in celo mirificabit.

This extract, which is not by S. Augustine, is very commonly prefixed to the Psalter.

On f. iii⁰, in a later thirteenth-century hand, a prayer before reciting the Psalter:

\textit{Suscipere dignare domine deus omnipotens hos psalmos consecratos quos ego indignus peccator decantare cupio in honore nominis tui, etc.}


Kalendar (wanting the months of May and June) in black, red, blue, and gold.

iv

Psalter, wanting the first two leaves.

i

Begins imperfectly in Ps. iv, 7: dedisti letitiam in corde meo. Ends on f. 114a.
Cantica.
Viz: Canticum Isaiae, Ezcheliae, Annae, Moysi (1), Abacuc, Moysi (2), Te Deum, Benedictus, Magnificat, Nunc dimittis, Quicumque uult.
Litany.
Psalterium salutationem B. V. Mariae.

This is in a hand hardly later than that of the rest of the book, but not the same. It is attributed variously to Stephen Langton and to John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury. It was printed from this MS. by Mr. William Morris at the Kelmscott Press. I find notices of four manuscripts of it at Cambridge, viz., University Library, Dd. 15. 21, Ff. 6. 14, Mm. 5. 37, and Sidney Sussex College, A. 2. 14 (No. 36 in my catalogue). No doubt many others exist. In the copy before us the prologue (not always found) is present, beginning:

Mente concipio laudes conscribere
Sacrate virgini que nos a carcere
Soluit post [v. 6 per] filium genus in genere
Miri mirificans effectus opere

Ending:
Necon et omnibus relaxes crimina
Pro quibus supplicans fundo precamina
Nostrumque pariter et horum nomina
Conscribi facias in utte pagina.

The text is constructed on this principle: the opening words of each Psalm are written in red, and then follows a quatrains, applying them to the Virgin, thus:

Beatus vir qui non abiti in consilio impiorum.
Aue urgo virginitatem absque pari
Sine urci semine digna fecundari.
Fac nos legem domini crebro meditari
Et in regni gloria beati exhiberi.

After Ps. cl the following Cantica are similarly treated:
Aue Maria, Magnificat, Nunc dimittis, Benedictus,
Te Deum.

Then follow five more quatrains without rubrics, ending:

Virgo sancta suscite mentis in conclau
Uerba quibus tocienus ueniam rogaui
Et audito sepius aue tam sauai
Fac me quoce liberum prorsus aue grauai.

A prayer in rhyme:

Summe summii tu patris unice
Mundi faber et rector fabricce
Piae pater.

The italicized words are in red. Ending, f. 153a:

Pia mater errantem visita
Pio corde de me recogita
Coram ihesu benigno clamaui
Ut meorum dimittat debita

Delictorum. Amen.

On f. 153b are scrawled some prayers in a bad hand. They are on behalf of the dead, especially fundatores nostri.

The next quire is in a tall narrow fifteenth-century hand, and contains the Office for the Dead:

Placebo Domino
At the bottom of this page in a good thirteenth-century hand is a note evidently containing the complaint of a Bishop claiming jurisdiction over a monastery, and the Papal answer.

Item dicit contra eodem quod non permittunt ipsum correccionis reformacionis et usitacionis in eodem exercere, etc.

Super alis ix (?) articulis continentis in predictis libellis ordinando componendo et laudando preclamam et mandamus quod Episcopus in omnibus superseadeat et quiescat et dimittat eos in pace sic ut fuerunt temporibus predecessorum suorum.


20. Edmundici Regis et M. in red.


Dec. 2. Obitum Rex Henricus in red. [Henry]


30. Translatio S. Jacobi in red.

In the Litany we have:

Apostles: S. Petri ii (a double invocation).

Disciples: S. Marcialis.

Martyres: Pancratius, Quintin, Appollinaris, Marinus... Mauricius cum socis, Hireneus cum soc... Dionisius cum soc... Ermulph, Leodegarius, Thomas... Alban, Edmund, Edward, Oswald...

Confessors: Taurinus, Aquilinus... Dunstan, Swithin, David, Cuthbert... Aldelm, Wistan, Julian, Benedict, Maurus, Phillibert, Columban, Egidius, Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugo, Gerald, Leonard.

Virgins: Cirilla, Scolastica, Radegundis, Walburgis, Florentia, Consortia, Daria, Columba, Fides, Katerina, Milburga, Margareta, Modwenna, Anastasia, Brigida.

Among the Collects after the Litany occurs this:

Deus cui proprium est misericeri semper et parcerre propiciare anime famuli tui Ioannisi le breton et omnia eius peccata dimittit, etc. 

The name Le Breton is written over an erasure.

On f. 160b at the bottom is written in a sixteenth or seventeenth-century hand:

Edwardus Apricus (i.e. Ap Rhys or Price) pro fidelibus orat.

The complexion of the Kalendar and Litany leads me to the conclusion that the book was written at a Cluniac house in the midlands which was a dependency of a French monastery. There are many Cluniac saints (e.g., Odilo, Maiolus, Hugo): there are French saints, Lucian, Maxian, Julian, Speussippus, etc., Philibert, Aquilinus, etc.: there are English midland saints, Modwenna of Burton-on-Trent, Milburga of Much Wenlock. The conditions would be suited by Lenton Priory, near Nottingham, founded by William Feverel, and a cell to the abbey of Cluny.

This attribution does not explain the occurrence of the names of Mareschalls in the Kalendar, nor that of John [Le Breton] at the end of the Litany. But the book, according to my notion, was not written for Lenton but for some private person in the neighbourhood, perhaps a Mareschall. The late Collects on f. 153b show that it did at some time come into the hands of a religious corporation, which it is not possible to identify.

Mr. William Morris called the book the Nottingham Psalter.

And in this connexion it is important to note that there is a double invocation of S. Peter in the Litany, and that the church of S. Peter at Nottingham (as well as those of S. Mary and S. Nicholas) belonged to Lenton Priory.

A large proportion of the decoration of the book has disappeared. What remains is chiefly confined to initials, and to the illustrations in the Kalendar. Taking the initials first, we notice that each month of the Kalendar has a hand, the initial KL of floriated work on gold ground in many colours. Each ordinary Psalm has a similar initial: some contain dragons.

Ps. xvi, Conserva me, has a hand in a blue sleeve.

The beginnings of the Nocturnes where they survive are more elaborate, thus: Ps. xxxvi (xxxvii), Dominus illuminatio mea et salus, has a large and fine initial D, and the words quoted are in three lines, of which the first and third are in gold capitals on pink ground, the second in white on blue, delicately florished. The initial to Ps. xxxviii (xxxix), Dixit custodiament, is similarly treated. Those of li (lii), guid, gloriaris (which begins the second quinquagenary of the Psalter), and lii (liliis), Dixit insipiens (which begins a nocturne), are lost. Both were on one leaf. That of lxvi (lxix), Saluam me fac, survives: so does that of lxxx (lxxxi), Exultate. That of cxxvi (cxxvii), Cantate, is gone. That of ci (cii), Domine exaudi, which begins the third quinquagenary, remains. It is only slightly larger than its neighbours. Lastly, the beginning of the last Nocturne, Ps. cix (cx), Dixit Dominus, has its initial, which is as good as anything in the book.

Ps. cxxvi (cxxxix), o. In quo corriget, has an immense bird.

V. 89, In eternum, a hand in a red sleeve.

Te deum has a much elongated dog.

These initials are of admirable execution. A characteristic colour is a bright orange red.

The Kalendar is illustrated by two small medallions on the upper margin of each page. Their edges are alternately pink and blue, and the ground is gold. That on the left represents the occupation of the month; the other the sign of the Zodiac. They are as follows:

Jan. a. A triple-faced man on a blue seat. His r. face drinks from a horn.

Feb. a. Man in red hooded gown and blue hose holding up one of his shoes (half-boots), and warming his l. foot at a fire on r.

b. Pisces. Two fish, blue and pink.

Mar. a. Man in broad hat, white drawers, and green hose, digging at the foot of a tree.

b. Aries, a ram; much rubbed.

Ap. a. A girl in green, seated on ornamental seat between trees.

b. Taurus, a bull.

July a. Man in broad hat, mowing with scythe.

b. Leo.

Aug. a. Man in broad hat, reaping with sickle.

b. Virgo in white.

Sept. a. Man, nude save for close blue cap, treads grapes in a press. Vines on r. and l.
|      |                            |                                                        |
| Nov. | a. Man in blue, with white apron, with raised club, about to kill two pigs feeding on r. | b. Sagittarius, a centaur shooting backwards to l. |
|      |                            | a. Man with loaf on bread-peel, putting it into a tower-shaped oven on r. |
|      |                            | b. Capricornus, half a goat, half a cornu copiae. |
M. 103. Bibliographical references not yet checked.  

W. Morris, Laudae Beatae Mariae Virginis, F  
(Hammersmith, 1896), [Printed from this Psalter];