Psalter. Latin. XIII cent.

M 106 Psalter in Latin, preceded by a Kalendar and four leaves of Pictures, and followed by Cantica, Litany and Canticum Moisii.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in Flanders in the second half of the XIIIth century (c.1260) for the convent of the Poor Clares, founded by Sister Ermentrude of Cologne, at Bruges in 1260. This was the first foundation of that Order in Belgium. (cf. Gallia Christiana. Vol.5, p.302). The representation of St.Clar, before whom is kneeling a votary (Sister Ermentrude?) on folio 120, dates the manuscript after 1255. St.Francis (depicted on fol.105) received the stigmata in 1224 and was canonized in 1228. (Dominic not canonized until 1234, also shown)

Decoration: There are ten full-page and 21 smaller miniatures, executed on burnished gold backgrounds. The composition is reduced to the simplest elements. Emphasis is laid on the figures, which are sculptural in conception. They are painted in sobre colors and the absence of scenic details produces a severely monumental effect. The scene representing the Harrowing of Hell (f.45v) is in the conventional manner frequently seen in English work. From the same atelier are Paris Arsenal 6043, (cf. Martin & Lauer: Les.MSS....de la Bibl. de l'Arsenal, p.17) and a MS. in the Bib. Nacional at Madrid.

165 leaves (9½ x 6½ inches), 22 lines, large 8°.

Binding: Oak bds., white stamped pigsk. back by Dougals Cockerell, c.1895; in maroon mor. case lettered: "Psalterium Davidis - MS. on vellum.

History: Numerous XIV or XVth century entries in the Kalendar indicate that the book was at that period in a Cistercian monastery near Langres (Edmund, Sequane Barbra, etc.). In the XVIIIth century it was an a monastery dedicated to the Virgin (inscription on f.1 erased). Here the many erased marginal notes were probably added by two different hands, one Spanish, the other French in character. From the collections of Henry Gee Barnard (ex libris, 1817); W.Morris (2 Oct. 1895, ex libris) and R.Bennett.

For full description see Morgan Cat.MSS. 1906 no.26.

ADD CARDS:
   i. MSS. - Illum. - Flemish - XIII cent.
   ii. Clare, Saint.
   iii. Dominic, Saint.
   iv. Francis, Saint.
   v. Harrowing of Hell.
   vi. Provenance - Barnard, Henry Gee.
   x. Use - Order of Poor Clares, Bruges.
   xi. Order of the Poor Clares, Bruges.
   xii. Use - Franciscan.
   xiii. Psalter, Franciscan, XIII cent.
   xiv. Jesus Christ - Resurrection Judge.
   xv. " - Judgement, Last.
   xvi. Mary the Virgin - with long candle (note same as M.97)
The Cistercian monastery of Sionard is also in the diocese of Toulouse.

Monasterium Pica (?), Maria de Bordes.

Poteries de Bordes.

Pordes.

Pordes.

Porte de la manè, abbaye de Roux, diocèse d'Aire et Dax, Dépt des Landes.

Galle Christ, etc. est 1061.

The Cistercian monasteries of Pordes were dedicated to St. Bernard and St. Rupert mund. The Benedictine monastery of San Baptiste...
26. PSALTER. Vellum, 9½ × 6½, ff. 165; 22 lines to a page; cent. xii, late (near 1200); finely written, probably in Flanders. Binding: modern wooden boards with stamped vellum back, two clasps. The edges of the leaves are decorated with a pattern in lozenges. It contains the bookplates of Henry Gee Barnard (1817), Mr. William Morris, who seems to have acquired it on October 2, 1895, and Richard Bennett. On f. 1 is the seventeenth or eighteenth century inscription, "Monasterii B Marie," followed by an erased word.

Collation: 1⁵, 2⁴, 3⁸, 4⁸, 5⁸ (+4*), 6⁸, 7⁸ (+1*), 8⁸, 9⁸, 10⁸ (+2*), 11¹⁰, 12⁸ (+1*), 13⁸ (+7*), 14⁸, 15¹⁰ (+6*: 10 canc.?), 16⁸–20⁸, 21⁸ (two left).

CONTENTS

Kalendār in black.
Four leaves with pictures.
Psalter.
Cantica.
Litany.
Canticum Mosis (omitted in its proper place).

In the Kalendār I note:
Jan. 3. Genovefe V. Added in cent. xv. (Of Langres.)
Commemoracio episcoporum et abbatum ordinis: Collecta. Presta, added in cent. xv.

Jan. 17. Speusippus, Eleusippus, etc. . . . added in cent. xv. (Of Citeaux.)
Feb. 1. Brigide V. Added in cent. xv. (Of Cluny.)
5. Agatho V. (note the spelling). do.
Mar. 7. Thome de Aquino C., xii lect. do.

Hugonis C., added in cent. xv. (Of Tarentaise.)

May 8. Petri Ep. C., xii lector, added in cent. xv. (Of Tarentaise.)

19. Iuonis C., xii lect. do.

(Pro Langres.)

June 22. Albani M. Added cent. xv.
Added cent. xv.
25. Ludouici C., xii lect., added cent. xv.


Nov. 5. Malachie Ep., xii lect., added cent. xv. (Died at Clairvaux.)
19. Elizabeth vidua. do.

Very few of the entries in the Kalendar, it will be seen, are original.

In the Litany:

My conclusion from the above data is that the book was written in Flanders, and passed into the possession of a Cistercian monastery, probably in the east of France. From the occurrence of pictures of SS. Dominic, Francis, and Clare (?)—the latter with a female suppliant,—I should guess that it was originally written for a lady who was connected with one of the preaching orders, possibly as a Tertiary, or by letters of confraternity.

The writing is very good. Each verse of each Psalm has a small gold initial. Each Psalm has a gold initial on ground of blue and pink with tail carried into the margin.

The pictured decorations are as follows:

I. Twelve pictures in the Kalendar of this form, on pink or blue grounds with plain gold frames.

fam. A man sitting, face r., on stone seat with one foot raised, drinking. Outside the picture on l. is a barrel on a stand.
Feb. Draped female with long hair, holding a taper in allusion to Candidas, Feb. 2.
Mar. A man cutting at a tree which extends above the picture.

A. Youth in long robe holding two conventional branches.
May. Youth holding hawk on r. hand and red hawk's hood in l.
June. Man carrying three beams (Ind. interp.) bound together on his shoulder.
July. Man moving.
Aug. Man reaping.
Sept. Man sowing from bucket hung round his neck.
Oct. Man with basket cutting cluster of grapes from vine, which extends above the picture.
Nov. Man with stick under (oak) tree, extending above the picture; two hogs feeding below it.

2. Nativity. The Virgin sitting up in bed (head to l). The swaddled Child in her lap. Joseph, in peaked red hat, sits sleeping on r., leaning on his stick. Behind in c., manger with ox and ass seen over it. Curtains, looped aside, above.
3. Christ seated, in (red) mandorla, on the (red) rainbow; blessing and holding the globe divided into three parts. In the spandrels the four Evangelistic beasts.

III. Illustrations to the Nocturnes, consisting either of a full-page picture or an initial or both.
1. Beatus vir. Full-page b in blue on gold ground.

Christ stands full face, showing His wounds. Below His feet a row of male and female heads; on r. and l. two nude supplicant figures.

2. Dominus illuminatio. Full page. Christ stands in the tomb, holding a banner in His r. hand, and supporting the lid of the tomb in His l. In front, under a trefoil arch, two guards in mail with blue and red helmets and shields, sit sleeping back to back.

Initial. Seated, nimbed, beardless figure with blank scroll.

3. Dixi custodiam. Christ fully draped, with banner, takes the hand of Adam, who stands with a group of others in Hell-mouth. Battlemented walls below and above: the battlements are red.

Initial as above; the seated figure looks to l.

4. Quod gloriari. Initial, like the last: colour of draperies diversified.

5. Dixit insipiens. Initial similar. Bearded figure with scroll, looking to r.

4. Salutem me fac. Full page. Noli me tangere. Mary Magdalen kneels on one knee on l., under tree; Christ stands on r. with book, pointing up.

Initial. Seated beardless figure, nimbed, with scroll.

5. Exultate. Full page. On l. an Apostle standing. In c., Thomas, beardless, kneels on one knee, with book, and touches with his r. hand the wound in the side of Christ, who stands with raised arm, in a brown mantle, on r.

Initial like that of Quod gloriari.

6. Cantate. Initial similar. The figure bends to r.

Full page. On l. Dominic, with book, in black over white; on r. Francis, in pale gray robe, showing the stigmata in hands, feet, and side.

7. Exaudi domine. Initial resembling the last.

8. Dixit dominus. Initial. The figure looks to l.

Full page. On l. by a building, a woman kneels, facing r., in brownish-red robe over white. On r. stands S. Clara (?) in white wimple and blue mantle, over green-gray habit, with rope at waist, holding a book, and with r. hand raised.
C.R. Morey: The illuminated manuscripts of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library, 1929, p.1


The Pierpont Morgan Library: Exhibition of Illuminated MSS., 1934, p.26, No.50.
The Pierpont Morgan Library: The Christmas Festival, 1935, illus,[p.11]

H. Swarzenski: ...Die lateinischen illuminierten handschriften des XIII. jahrhunderts in den ländern an Rhein, Main und Donau. 1936, p. 185.

S. Cockerell: "Psalters from St. Peter's at Ghent" [in letter to MH in folder]

COMPARATIVE MATERIAL:—

C.L. Louandre: Les arts somptuaires1537-1558/(discussion and reproduction of Arsenal MS.
J. Dominguez Bordona:Manuscritos con pinturas, Madrid, 1933, I, p. 405-407, fig. 346.
P. Durrieu: Manuscrits d'Espagne remarquables principalement par leurs peintures... Paris, 1898, p. 259 [Psalter Res. 6/16 (IV)]
Bodleian Library Catalogue (Nos.24331-31000) p. 854, No.30619, now Lit. 396.

Walters G.V.2 is a member of the same group. Has Virgin holding candle in February. In December it has SS. Trium Puerorum", i.e. Ananie, Azarie, etc, who are Utrecht, as well as several Utrecht saints. Called English because of a large number of somewhat later entries in the Calendar in that language.
M. M. Gillies: Religious Life in the High Middle Ages, 1946, p. 23, 29, 36, 92


E. Panofsky, Early Netherlandish Painting, 1953, p. 408, note 124-5


For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

Pierpont Morgan Library. Treasures from the Pierpont
Morgan Library, Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition 1957
(New York, 1957), p. 16, no. 17, pl. 15.

Lilian M. C. Randall, "Flemish Psalters in the
Apostolic Tradition" (in Gatherings in Honor
of Dorothy E. Miner, Baltimore 1974).
pp. 172, 173 (fig. 3), 182 (figs. 19, 20), 188.


K. Carlvant, Thirteenth-Century Illumination in Bruges and Ghent,

Robert, William. Painting in France in the Time
of Jean, Duc de Berry. New York, 1974

Psalter

p. 264 Includes a depiction of Christ as Man of Sorrows bearing a cross, found in a group of 13c. Flemish Psalters. In P.T. 106 the image illustrates the first Psalm; the two rising figures are presumably the Blessed, whereas the remaining immobile unerground are the "ungodly" whom, as the Psalm says, "shall not stand in judgement." (Fig. 260)

Vlaamse Kunst op Perkament. Handschriften
en Miniaturen te Brugge van de 12de tot
de 16de Eeuw, exhibition catalogue,

Kirsten Carlvant discusses the group of manuscripts related to M.106. Bruges, ca. 1255-60 for the Paris, Bibliotheque de la Arsenal, Ms. 604 example. (St. Clara was canonized in 1255.)

Kerstin Carlvant, "Trends in Bruges Illumination
Until 1260, Apropos a Psalter Connected with
Oostkerke," Archives et bibliothèques de Belgique,
56 (1985)
For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


J.H. Oliver, *Gothic Manuscript Illumination in the Diocese of Liège (c. 1250-c. 1330)* (Corpus of Illuminated Manuscripts from The Low Countries, 2-3), Louvain, 1988, 63 n.17, 72 n.77, 80, 145, fig. 154.