Hours of the Virgin. Rouen. XVI cent.

131

Hours of the Virgin for the use of Rouen, preceded by a Kalendar, Gospel sequences and Prayers to the Virgin, and followed by the Hours of the Cross, of the Holy Ghost, Seven Penitential Psalms, Litany and Prayers in French.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated at Rouen in the 16th century, for a man and wife whose portraits and obliterated arms are found on ff. 45 and III.

Decoration: There are 14 full-page illuminations, the first of which has the characteristic 4-panel picture of the Evangelists. The margins surrounding the miniatures contain smaller pictures of related subjects. Above the kneeling donors on fol. 45, are SS. John Baptist and Anne, their patron saints. The illumination is poor.

Text: The prayers Obsecro te and O interemerata are in the masculine recension. The saints in the Kalendar and Litany are predominantly Rouen.

119 leaves (7 x 4 7/8 inches) 18 lines. 8°.

Binding: French red morocco, ca. 1700.


For full description see Morgan Cat. MSS. 1906, no. 58.

Add. Cards.
MSS.-Illum.-French-XVI cent.
Use - Rouen
MSS.-Illum.-David in prayer (prophecy of God, II Sam. 24, 10-16)
MSS.-Illum.-God's prophecy to David
MSS.-Illum.-Octavian prophecy of Sybil to
MSS.-Illum.-Portraits
Bindings-French-XVIII cent.
58. HORAE (Rouen). Vellum, 7 × 4½, ff. 119; 18 lines to a page; cent. xv, xvi
(closely written). Binding: old red morocco with gold tooling. Bookplate of
Mr. Bennett.

31. Collation: 11¹⁶, 2⁸, 3⁴, 4⁸, 5⁸, 6¹⁰, 7⁸, 8⁸, 9⁸, 10⁸, 11⁸ (wants 8), 12⁸-15⁸.

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In the Kalendar:
       25. Eloy in gold.
July 3. Martial in gold.
Oct. 23. Romain in gold.

In the Litany:
Apostle: Martial.
Disciple: Ursin.
 Martyrs: Eutropius, Firmin.
Confessors: Mello, Gildard and Medard, Romanus, Audoen, Ausbert, Severus, Laudus,
Taurin, Fiacre.
Virgin: Austreberta.

There are two defaced shields in the border of No. 36.

The borders, which are on every page in the Kalendar, are full, elsewhere usually on one side
only. They are divided into geometrical fields, some having grounds of fluid gold or colour, others none.
They consist of white and coloured conventional (and
natural) foliage and flowers, and grotesques: animals
and butterflies also occur. The Kalendar has two
oblong pictures in the lower margin for each month.

1. Jan. Two men face each other at round table,
and drink.
2. Aquarius carries two flagons across a tile-paved
room.
3. Feb. Man sits before fire on r.; page with faggot
behind him.
4. Pisces in pool in landscape.
5. Mar. Two men prune vines; a white bag on the
ground.
6. Aries in landscape.
7. Ap. Youth and maid sit in garden; he plays a
harp, she holds a flower, and has flowers or gems on
a cloth in her lap.
8. Taurus in room.
9. May. Youth and maid en croupe on horse, riding
to r., hound in front.
10. Gemini, nude, embrace.
12. Cancer, a red crayfish.
13. July. One mows; another, on l., binds a sheaf.
14. Leo in room.
15. Aug. One threshes; one holds a sheaf.
17. Sept. One, nude, treads grapes; one enters with
load on l.
18. Libra, held by seated maid in a room; gold
weights (?) on a table on r.
20. Scorpius, snail-like, with horns as of an ox.
23. Dec. Man about to kill one of two pigs with the back of an axe; woman on l. holds a basin.

The four Evangelists writing, with their symbols beside them. John is on an island, the rest are in rooms.

26. In border, r. Abraham about to slay Isaac; angel above.
27. In border, below. Moses, horned, kneels; Christ in the burning bush on l.
29. In border. Joachim and Anne embrace; golden gate with four statues behind.
30. In border. Anne in bed; in front Joachim on l.; nurse with child (the Virgin) on r.
31. In border. Joachim and Anne on l.; the Virgin on the temple steps on r. received by the High Priest at top in doorway.
32. In border. Joseph married to the Virgin by bishop in mitre and cope; three suitors on l. with rods (Joseph’s rod is flowering); on r. a clerk and three women.
33. Lauds. The Visitation. The Virgin on l. attended by three angels; Elizabeth, followed by a maid; Joseph (or Zacharias) full face in c.; landscape.
34. In border, below. A black devil on l. with sceptre holds out a bond written in red, with seal; Theophilus on r. kneels to him; in the sky the Virgin and Child.
35. In border, on l. In a room the Virgin and Child; Theophilus on r. kneels to them.

The Memoriae in Lauds are oddly arranged; they are as follows: The Holy Ghost, SS. Michael, John Baptist, James, Sebastian, Nicholas, Romanus, Anne, John Baptist again (with miniature), Anne, blank page, Magdalene and Katherine.
36. Memoria. On l. John Baptist with lamb; on r. Anne seated with a book, the Virgin at her knee reading it.

In border, l., a youth with long hair at a prayer desk; a weasel r.; a maid at prayer desk; a squirrel; two defaced shields.
37. Prime. Divided by shaft. On l. the Virgin, two maids and the ox, kneeling; on r. Joseph, three angels, two shepherds, and the ass; the Child in c.
38. In border. Herod throned, with four councillors; two women kneel in front with (Herod’s) dead child between them.
39. In border. Group of five men (Egyptian priests) in a building. On r. an idol falls from a column.
40. In border. Two horsemen. On r. a soldier about to strike the husbandman who stands by his field of ripe corn.
41. In border. Two soldiers each about to slay a child in its mother’s arms.
42. Terce. Three shepherds (one with big pipe); a woman seated in c. with a lamb in her lap. Above, a small angel with scroll: Gloria in. Landscape.
43. In border, l. A shepherd and woman embrace.
44. In border, below. Shepherd on l.; tree in c.; woman on r. holding a linen cloth before her.
45. Sext. The Magi on l. The youngest is in tunic and boots reaching above the knee. The Virgin and Child on r.
46. In border. The Magi on horseback, with sceptres, facing r.
47. In border. The Emperor Octavian kneeling; imperial crown on a desk in front of him. Behind him, on r., the Sibyl stands and points him to the Virgin and Child (half length) in the sky.
48. None. Symeon nimbed, in cope, behind altar on r. The Virgin kneels with the Child. Behind her and beyond are two maids with doves and candle, Joseph, and two men.
49. In border, r. The Child Christ seated in c.; four doctors seated, two on each side.
50. In border, below. John Baptist behind a rail on l. preaches to five people seated.
51. Vespers. Joseph leads the ass to l.; three angels follow. In background an idol falls from a column.
52. In border, l. A man with a child, a woman with a child; two men, one with gold rod; a woman on a camel, going to l. Perhaps Moses returning to Egypt with Aaron and Zipporah.
53. In border, below. Gideon in tunic and plate armour kneels facing l.; the fleece (a sheep) on l.
54. Compline. Christ crowned and throned in c.; the Virgin kneels on l.; two angels bear her train, a third in air crowns her; on r. two angels with music, one seated with harp.
55. In border, below. The Virgin on a bed surrounded by eleven Apostles.
56. In border, on r. The Virgin borne up in air by five angels.
57. Hours of the Cross. Christ crucified with the thieves. The Virgin swoons on l.; centurion and Jews on r.
58. In border. On l. a prophet; on r. the Agony. The cup and host on a rock; Apostles sleep in front.
59. In border. The Betrayal. Malchus and Peter on l.
60. In border. On r. Pilate sits washing his hands; before him Christ with soldiers.
61. In border. Christ bears the Cross to l.; soldiers behind, one striking Him.
62. Hours of the Holy Ghost. The Virgin kneels in c. facing r.; the Dove above sheds flames; Apostles on r. and l.
63. In border, r. Two Apostles (Peter and another) under portico; outside, three men in long robes; flames descend. Perhaps Cornelius (Acts, x, xi).
64. In border, below. Two Apostles kneel; a man in white further back kneels; the Dove descends; in a portico on l. five more Apostles. Probably the ordination of Stephen.
65. Seven Psalms. David kneels under canopy on r. facing l.; Gad in pointed hat speaks to him and points up to an angel in air holding a scutum. The head of God seen above.
66. In border. Goliath on one knee; David slinging; a camp behind.
67. In border. Two maids sit in front; Bathsheba in a moat; David at window on r.
68. In border. Absalom hanging from a tree on r.; Joab on horse tilting at him; two horsemen on l.
69. In border. A knight in armour reclines by a fountain to which his horse is tied; an old man in
BOOKS OF HOURS

long robes with sceptre looks at him; on r. three nude females with long hair. Are these Fates or Fairies?
70. Fifteen Joys. Pieta. The Virgin in c. with the body; John, on l., supports the head; a young lady in pink, with black headdress, kneels on r.; four nimbed women, two on each side of the Virgin; the Cross in c.
71. In border, r. Four angels in a room kneel facing l.

72. In border, below. Magdalene kneels on l.; Christ on r. with scroll: Noli me tangere.

This is evidently a book done for a young couple whose names were Jean and Anne. This I deduce from the double Memoria (No. 36). It is of considerable interest from the point of view of the subjects of the pictures. The execution attests skill but is somewhat hasty and ordinary.
Morgan MS. No. m.131

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

New York, Research Center for Musical Iconography.

Inventory of Musical Iconography 3: The Pierpont
Morgan Library, New York, Medieval and Renaissance
Manuscripts, comps. Terence Ford and Andrew Green,
New York, 1988,

no. 925, [fol. 4].
no. 926, [fol. 52v].
no. 927, [fol. 63].
no. 928, [fol. 73].