Hours of the Virgin. Chalons-sur-Saône. XV cent.

Hours of the Virgin, for use at Chalons-sur-Saône, preceded by a Kalendar, Sequences of the Gospels and the Fifteen Joys of the Virgin (in French) and other prayers; and followed by the Hours of the Cross, the Seven Penitential Psalms, Litany and Offices of the Dead.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in Eastern France, at the end of the 15th century, for a man represented with his arms (unidentified) on fol. 119.

Decoration: There are 15 miniatures (3 x 4 1/4 inches) in the text, surrounded on 3 sides by wide, heavy borders. The work is of mediocre execution.

Text: The use omits antiphons at Prime and None, having instead the hymn "Veni Creator spiritus". The Kalendar is for Chalons-sur-Saône (Invention of St. Vincent, Sept. 23.)

150 leaves (8 7/8 x 6 1/4 inches) 16 lines.

Binding: Original stamped calf with centre panel of conventional roses.

History: Arms of first owner on fol. 119 (or an inverted chevron gules, with 3 groups of 3 dots gules). Owned (1884) by Louis Parizot (signatures on first and last leaves.) Richard Bennett collection.

For full description see Morgan Cat. MSS. 1906, no.35.

Add. Cards:

MSS.-Illum. - Herod's soldiers at the field of wheat
fol. 88

Use - Chalons-sur-Saône
MSS.-Illum.-French-XV cent.

Bindings - French. Stamped - XV cent.
Provenance, Armorial - Or an inverted chevron gules, with 3 groups of 3 dots gules

- Parizot, Louis. fl. 1884

MPH: 1933

Bindings. French. XV cent.
CONTENTS
Kalendar in French in red and black. 1
Sequences of the Gospels. 13
Obseco te domina. 20
Oraison du corps de dieu. 24
Aue ilhesu uray createur. Passio secundum Iohannem. 25b
Quinze Ioye nostre dame. 35
Hours of the Virgin. 41
Hours of the Cross and of the Holy Ghost. 95b
Seven Psalms and Litany. 103
Office of the Dead. 119
O salutaris hostia. 150

In the Kalendar we have:
27 Jan. S. Loup euesque de chalons in red.
  3 Feb. S. Blaise in red.
17 March. S. Agricole in red.
  9 May. La translation S. Nicolas in red.
 25 June. S. Eloy in red.
27 July. S. Anne.
  3 Aug. Linuention S. Estienne in red.
  4 Sept. S. Marcel in red.
 23 Linuention S. Vincent.

In the Litany:
Confessors: S. Mammes.
Virgins: S. Brigida.
Loup isof Chalons-sur-Marne; Agricole of Chalon-sur-Saône. This, with the Invention of S. Vincent, makes me attribute the book to Chalon-sur-Saône, whose cathedral is dedicated to S. Vincent.
The constitution in Lauds is Scimus fratres.
The decorative work is of good average execution.

Many pages have a partial border of line and leafwork, with flowers and leaves, on plain white ground.
The pictures are as follows:
In the Kalendar, a small square picture in the border for each month.
1. Jan. At table, back to fire; servant on r.
  2. Feb. Warming himself at fire.
  5. May. Riding with hawk on hand.
  12. Dec. About to kill a feeding pig with a mallet; sheaf on l.
      Full border, with centaur and cockatrice.
  14. Matthew in room, writing; angel in dalmatic

holds ink; canopied desk and arched wall; water carrier in border, and one drinking.

15. Luke writing under canopy; ox couches on r.
     Jester and woman in border.
     Soldier and muzzled hound in border.
17. f. 41. Matins. Annunciation. The Virgin on l; angel with scroll (Ave... tecum); Dove on ray approaches the head of the Virgin; a small bust of the Father seen over the door.
     Angels with musical instruments in border.
18. Lauds. Visitation. Virgin on l, attended by maid with basket of doves; behind Elizabeth are buildings.
19. Prime. The Virgin kneels, looking at the child on the ground; Joseph kneels and shades a candle; behind him, two shepherds approach; behind the Virgin, the ox and ass.
20. Tiere. Three shepherds (one in middle distance), with sheep and dog, in consternation; two small gold angels in sky with book between them.
     Camel in border.
22. None. Presentation. The Child stands on the altar, supported by Symeon in tall mitre, and faces the Virgin on l; an attendant (or Joseph) with wand takes doves from the maid at the further end of the altar.
23. Vespers. Flight into Egypt. Joseph leads the ass to r.; in background on l. the husbandman, about to reap his field of ripe corn, takes off his hat to Herod's soldiers; on r. of this an idol falls from a column.
24. Compline. Consecration of the Virgin. She kneels, between two small angels, to the Father, theronned, on r., in triple crown, with orb, who blesses her; above the arras behind is a ground of red angels.
25. Hours of the Cross. The Crucifixion, with the thieves. Title, crown of thorns, sun and moon in sky; the Virgin and other women stand below on l; soldiers at a distance on r.
26. Seven Psalms. David in turban and crown kneels at desk in a room, facing l; harp behind him; a bust of Christ seen in air on l.
     Minstrels in border.
     Two men lay the shrouded body in the grave; priest in cope, standing; full face, sprinkles holy water; acolyte with cross; mourners (two) on r.; behind, view of church porch (tilled in lozenge pattern), cloister, and other mourners.
     In border, a mourner and a bellman with two bells; on his chest is a shield or (a chevrion reversed) gu., and three groups of three dots gu.
Morgan MS. No. M.136

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, 1968,
no. 896, [fols. 41, 81v, 103].
no. 897, [fol. 81v].
no. 898, [fol. 119].