Psalter. Latin. XIV cent.

Psalter, in Latin, with Cantica, Litany, and part of the first Collect.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in Flanders' (vicinity of Tournei) in the 14th century for a member of the Colonster family of Liege.

Decoration: The style of illumination is an excellent example of the work associated with the Tournei illuminators by Henry Martin. (Cf. Gazette des Beaux-Arts, II, 1909.) Its chief characteristics are a gaiety of colour, a profusion of drolleries in the margins surrounding the text and cusped panels, enclosing figures on a gold ground, in the borders of many pages. Fol. 1 has, besides the usual depiction of David in the initial Beatus vir, a column containing standing figures of saints: (1) Christopher, (2) Catherine, (3) Regina, whose martyrdom is shown in the lower margin of ff. 14-21. There are 13 historiated initials to the divisions of the Psalter.

Text: The Litany (fol. 165V) contains several Flemish saints of whom Winoc, Eavo, Maxime and Amand are venerated at Tournei. There is no Kalender and the MS. is incomplete at the end. Cf. MS. 754.

168 leaves (6 1/4 x 4 3/8 inches) 19 lines.

160.

Binding: Flemish, 16th century stamped calf, with 2 clasps; in a red morocco case lettered: "Psalterium Davidis - Flemish MS. on vellum c. 1340."

History: Executed for a member of the Colonster family of Liege (their arms on fol. 75). Jean III, duc de Brabant, (d. 1355), had a natural daughter who married Badoux de Colonster, chevalier. (Anselme, vol. II.) They may be the persons depicted in the border of fol. 114V kneeling before the Coronation of the Virgin and The Trinity.

Later in the collection of Manuel John Johnson (sale, London, 1862, no.52); William Morris (book-plate and inscription) and Richard Bennett.
29. PSALTER. Vellum, 6½ x 4½, ff. 168 + 3; 19 lines to a page; cent. xiv (early); finely written. Bookplates of Mr. William Morris and Mr. Bennett. Binding: stamped leather of cent. xvi rebacked; lined with a leaf of a thirteenth-century MS. of the Organon; two clasps. Collation: 1 flyleaf, 112, 1412, 2 flyleaves.

CONTENTS

Psalter.
Cantica and Litany. Ending in the first collect. 149
Retributor omnium.

In the Litany:
   Martyrs: Quintin, Leger, Julian.
   Confessors: Severinus, Remigius, Amandus, Maximus, Folquinus, Winnoc, Judoc, Bavo.
   Virgins: Columba, Jenovefa, Brigida.
Folquin was Bishop of Terouanne; Winnoc, Abbot of Wormhout. These saints and the style of the book indicate Flanders as its source.

Every Psalm has a figured initial, representing usually a man or woman in prayer. In this the book resembles No. 27. Few of these figures are identifiable. Besides this, there are large historiated initials to the divisions of the Psalter, and a fair number of grotesques in the upper and lower margins. The borders are partial, and consist of curving bands of pink and blue, springing from patches of gold at the angles of the text. There are line-fillings consisting of dragons or bands of ornament.

On f. 75 is a shield in the lower margin: checky or lozenge of asse and argent, with a chief argent, 3 martlets gules.

The decorative work is fairly good, but the figure drawing is very rough and unskilful. I get the impression from the whole, that the book is a copy of a very good original.

1. Beatus vir. Initial. David on a red seat, crowned,
harping. Gold ground. On r, an architectural border containing three figures of saints, one above another, on gold ground. 1. At top, Christopher with staff, in water, the Child on his shoulders. 2. Katherine, crowned, holding sword and small wheel. 3. Agnes(? with palm and club(?); a lamb at her feet.

Below the text, dogs pursuing a deer.

2. Ps. 2. Initial. A saint, in blue over white, being beheaded. — festina. 


4. f. 136. Lower margin. Olybrius on horseback, facing r; hawk on hand.

f. 144. Lower margin. Margaret, with palm, standing among sheep.

5. f. 146. Lower margin. Man with club.

f. 150a. " " Margaret, as before.

6. f. 156. " " Man with club.

7. f. 164. " " Olybrius throned; man with club.

7. f. 176. " " Man with club leading Margaret.

8. f. 184. " " Olybrius as before.

9. f. 194. " " Man thrusts Margaret into door of tower.

9. f. 200, 210a. Similar to No. 7.


In the border, two saints in an architectural canopy. At top, a virgin with palm; below, Barbara, with palm and tower.

11. f. 37. Dixit custodium. Almost full-page initial. Above, the Flight into Egypt; Joseph leading the ass to r; sun and moon above.

On r, under a canopy, a virgin with palm. Below, two shepherds with dog and sheep; on r, under canopy, an angel with blank scroll; dog, cock, and rabbits in the lower margin.

12. f. 50. Quid gloriaris. Initial. Massacre of the Innocents. Herod, throned high up on l; three soldiers mangling children; two mothers struggling.

In canopy on r, above, the Virgin with palm holding the Hand of the Child in white. Below, a kneeling mother.

13. f. 51. Dixit insipiens. Large initial. Above, Christ on l on a church roof, with tower and weathercock. On r, on the ground a red devil with four white wings, facing l.

Below, Christ seated on grass slope on l on which lie round objects (? cakes or stones). The devil, as before, stands on r.

In canopy on r, above, George in mail, with surcoat and shield, bearing arg. a cross gules between four croslets of the second; spear with pennon of the same.

Below, a prophet with scroll pointing to l.

f. 52b. Lower margin, knight on horseback, with shield and surcoat, bearing arg. a cross engrailed sable; a dragon on the opposite page.

14. f. 64b. Salve me fac. Above, Christ, half-length with orb; below, in c, a nude man (? Jonah), with a thick black line about his outline, in water, praying; on r. and l. towers of stone, battlemented, on each of which is a crowd of people; perhaps meant for Nineveh.

In the margin a nimbed man with scroll.

15. f. 81b. Exultate. David sits playing with two hammers on bells hung on r.

In lower margin, a man stabbing another; in upper margin a hunting scene; another of a wild boar on the opposite page.

On 86b, 87a are a youth with a wreath and a woman with a fiddle; other grotesques also occur.

16. f. 97b. Cantate. Large initial. Above, a nimbed priest in chasuble, before an altar on r, on which is a chalice; on l. a beast, probably a wolf.

Below, a crowned king and queen kneel, facing. Prophet in the margin with scroll.

17. f. 100. Domine exaudi. Large initial. The Agony. Above, Christ, in dark robe, kneeling face to r; an angel's head on r.

Below, the three Apostles sleeping.

On f. 114a is a woman grotesque with scroll, salus aies.

18. f. 114b. Dixit dominus. Large initial. Above, the Virgin seated, crowned, on l; the Son with orb, seated on r, touches her crown.

Below, the Father, full face, beardless, throned, supports the crucified Son before Him, over whose head is the Dove.

In canopy on l above, a kneeling man holding a flower. Below, a praying woman.

19. f. 149. Confitebor. Initial. Noli me tangere. Magdalene kneels on l; Christ with tall green cross stands on r; tree on l.

On f. 158, in the margin, is Barbara with palm and tower.

On the lower margins of the next pages are two knights tilting.

On f. 164, in the margin, Agnes with palm and lamb.


no. 320, [fol. 1].
no. 321, [fol. 37].
no. 322, [fol. 81v].
no. 323, [fols. 86v-87, 150].
no. 324, [fol. 324].
no. 325, [fol. 159v].
Morgan MS. No. M.155

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, 277-78, no. 29, et passim, figs. 70, 91, 183.
