Breviary of Lille XV-XVI cent.

Collection of prayers for the annual feasts, for Franciscan use.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in Flanders, (diocese of Tournai, probably for use at Lille, from mention in text of the procession at Lille,) at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century.

Decoration: There are 9 large and 19 small miniatures by a Flemish artist, of which the first 8 depicting the Passion (ff. 9-15) are in grisaille. The last miniature (fol. 44v) in the book portrays a Franciscan monk ministering to a dying man. Bright, fresh colours; no borders.

Text: The textual contents is peculiar in arrangement, there being no complete Hours of the Virgin, and particular emphasis is laid on the prayers at Vespers and Compline. The saints in the Kalender are Franciscan. The text contains prayers to SS. Adelard, Chishain and Plati, who are of the Tournai diocese. The feast of the translation of St. Bernardin was instituted May 17, 1472, and is Franciscan. Rubrics in French.

359 leaves (6 1/2 x 4 7/8 inches) 21 lines. 160.

Binding: Flemish, 15th-16th century, brown morocco over boards stamped with panels of the Annunciation, twice repeated, surrounded by the legend: Ave gratia / plena dominus tecum / O mater / dei memento mni.


For full description see Morgan Cat. MSS. 1906, no. 39.

Add. Cards:

MSS. - Illus. - Flemish - XV-XVI cent.  
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Tournai - Saints (see next page)

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Tournai, 14th cent.  
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39. HORÆ, etc. (Lille?). Vellum, 6½ x 4¾, ff. 259+2; 21 lines to a page; cent. xv-xvi; in a rather current hand. Old binding: dark leather over wooden boards; on each cover is an oblong panel of the Annunciation, twice repeated, surrounded by the legend (in Gothic letter): Aue gracia | plena dominus tecum | O mater | dei memento mei. At the angles are stars or flowers of six points or petals. Bookplate of Mr. Bennett.

Collation: 2 flyleaves, i8, 28 (8 canc.), 38, 48-98, 106 (3 canc.), 118, 128, 1310 (10 canc.), 144, 158 (8 canc.), 168, 178 (8 canc.), 188-258, 264, 272, 288-308 (+1), 318, 328, 338, 3510 (10 canc.), 358, 368, 372.

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guis. |
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| Passio secundum Iohannem, with Collect. | Hours for each day of the week: |
| Stabat Mater. | Sunday. The Trinity. |
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| | Monday. The Dead. |
| | 205 |
| | Tuesday. The Holy Ghost. |
| | 225 |
| | Wednesday. All Saints. |
| | 245 |
| | Thursday. The Sacrament. |
| | 265 |
BOOKS OF HOURS

6. f. 14. Christ on the Cross, on r.; on L., the Virgin on the ground, swooning, John and the three holy women about her; Magdalene on r.
7. f. 14b. Christ on the Cross, in c.; one on L. pierces His side; the Virgin, John, and others on r.; woman and soldiers on L.
8. f. 15. Christ entombed by Joseph and Nicodemus. The Virgin and others stand behind.

The Hours are illustrated by a series of oblong, upright, coloured pictures in the text. A light, bright green is a characteristic colour.
9. f. 18. Hours of the Trinity. The Father, in tiara, on a dark brown throne, with the body of the Son on His knees; orb below; behind, the Dove and angels, on a yellow ground.
10. f. 20b. Hours of the Dead. In a coffin on a bier, in c., the widow’s son of Nain sits up; the mother kneels in front; Christ stands on r.; on r., behind Him, two Apostles; five spectators and buildings, on L.
11. f. 22b. Hours of the Holy Ghost. In front, two Apostles kneel facing each other; behind, in c., the Virgin, seated, with book; Apostles on r. and L.; the Dove above.
12. f. 24b. Hours of All Saints. A group of Saints; in front, on L., John Evangelist with cup and snake; Agnes, with lamb and book, on r.; Peter is recognizable.
13. f. 26b. Hours of the Sacrament. Two kneeling angels, in yellow, hold between them a monstrance with the Host in it.
14. f. 28b. Hours of the Cross. Christ on the Cross; the Virgin on L.; John on r.
15. f. 30b. Hours of the Virgin. The Virgin sits on the floor on r., with book, facing towards r.; the Dove above her; Gabriel, in yellow, with sceptre, flies in on l.

A series of initials, in colour, follow:
16. f. 35b. Obscuro te. The Virgin and Child, on red ground.
17. f. 37b. Memoriae. Michael, in yellow robe, with gold shield in air, facing r.; on r., below, a green devil.
18. Christopher with the Child on his shoulders.
19. Sebastian bound to stake on r.; archer on L.
20. Nicholas as bishop; children in tub on L.
21. Anthony, in skull cap and black robe, with crosier; a pig by him.
22. Barbara, seated, with book; tower on L.
23. Alard, in Benedictine habit, with crosier and bunch of grapes.
24. Katherine sits, reading; wheel on r.
25. Anne stands in prayer.
26. Prayers. Gregory, in chasuble, kneels before an altar; behind it, on L., are the column, the ladder, cross nails, reed and lance in saltire, and scourge; a cardinal and another on L.
27. f. 225. Office of the Dead. Upright oblong picture in text. In front, on r., Lazarus, seated on a coffin-lid; Mary kneels behind; Christ on L., with two Apostles; three men in the distance, one holding his nose; a church in the background.

The prominence of S. Alard (of Corbie), and the mention of the procession of Lille, lead me to assign the book to that district.

There are no borders in this book. The smaller initials are in fluid gold, usually on square grounds of blue or green. The figured work is all careful, and done by a practised hand.