Hours of the Virgin. Amiens. XV cent.

Hours of the Virgin for Amiens use, preceded by a Kalender, Prayers and Gospel Sequences, and followed by Vigils of the Dead for the use of Rome.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in France (Amiens?), in the XVth century, for a member of the Ailly de Sains family of Picardy.

Decoration: On fol. 2 there is a full-page illumination of the arms of Ailly de Sains, surmounted by the motto "Changier ne veux". The name, though trimmed, is partially visible below. There are 34 additional miniatures, with a portrait of the owner kneeling before the Virgin on fol. 80. The illumination is of poor quality. The miniatures on fol. 27 (Annunciation), fol. 100 (Prayer to St. Michael), and fol. 118 (Mary Magdalene) are the best.

Text: The text is closely written in pale brown cursive script. The Kalender, rubrics and several added prayers are in French. Kalender, Hours and Litany conform to Amiens use; the Responses to the Vigils of the Dead are for Rome.

136 leaves (4 1/2 x 3 1/4 inches) 24 lines.

Binding: French XVIIIth century red morocco with gold tooling and 2 clasps; in case of same style.

History: Owned by a member of the Ailly de Sains family of Picardy, in the XVth century. (Cf. Rietstap - Sains; and Anselme VI.) Bought 18 May 1895 by Richard Bennett.

For full description see Morgan Cat. MS. 1906, no. 33.
Add. Carde (concluded)
Provenance: Ailly de Sains

Nottoles: Changier ne voulx.

Portraits: (fol. 40)
Binding: French - XVIII cent.

M. 198

MPH: 1033

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Hours of the Virgin: Amiens. XV cent.

B. N. 684143

Use: Amiens (see next page)

B. N. 684192 is a precise record of a sum confirmed
held in 1529 between the representatives of Charles V+

Amiens. II

Ames 841 are evidence of an agreement and decision de
Add. Charts (concluded)
Provenance - Ailly de Sains, 15th cent.
   - Mottoes: Changer ne veullx. (Ailly de Sains, 15th cent.)
MSS. Illum. Portraits - Owner (fol. 20)
Bindings - French - XVIII cent.

MPH: 1933

Ailly de Sains, 15th cent. - Coat of arms fol. 2
Use - Rome - Vigils of Dead

Buildings - Belgian (?) - XVIII cent.

Arms: Sains, Ailly de, f. 2
Jesus Christ: Circumcision, f. 11
Pentecost, f. 11
Mary the Virgin, mitron dith child, kneeling, f. 27
   Annunciation, f. 27
   Visitation, f. 33
Jesus Christ: Nativity, Adoration, f. 40
Shepherds: Annunciation, f. 43
Magi: Adoration, f. 46
Jesus Christ: Presentation, f. 49
   Flight into Egypt, f. 51
Mary the Virgin: Coronation-seated on God's right, f. 51
David: Communing with God, f. 59
Diturgical Scene: Funeral Mass, f. 71
Genoa: Communing with God, f. 100
Evangelist: John - bole, f. 102
Eusebius of Rome: martyrdom, f. 103
Aduan of Caesarea: martyrdom, f. 104
Stephen of Rome: martyrdom, f. 105
Christopher : Lydia : Bearing Child Child.
Brassus : f. 107
George of Antioch : f. 108
Achias : f. 108
Francesco di Barbo : resecuring stigmata : f. 110
Anthony the Great : temptation : f. 111
Nicholas of Cion : with three children : f. 112
Leonard : releasing captives : f. 112
Gregory the Great : Mass : f. 113
Martin J. Tours : having cloak : f. 114
Hugo of Cluny : releasing captives : f. 115
Barbara of Nicomedia : martyrdom : f. 116
Margaret of Antioch : f. 117
Mary Magdalene : with ointment : f. 118
Agatha of Catania : f. 119
Agatha of Catania : f. 120
Ann : with Child Mary : f. 121
Catherine, Alexandria : f. 121
Apollos : martyrdom : f. 122
HORAE. Vellum, 4½ x 3½; ff. 126; 24 lines to a page; cent. xv; in pale ink and rather current hand. Old red morocco binding (cent. xviii) with gold tooling and two clasps. In a case of the same style. Bookplate of Mr. Bennett.

Collation: 1³⁰, (+ 1*), 2⁴-1⁴ (wants 2), 1⁵³, 1⁶³, 1⁷³.

BINDINGS. CONTENTS

Full-page drawing of arms (later).
Kalendar in French, in red and black: the months not confined to one page or leaf.
Late prayers in French.
Hours of the Cross.
Hours of the Holy Ghost.
Obsecre te.
Sequences of the Gospels.
Hours of the Virgin (Use of Amiens).
Seven Psalms and Litany.
Office of the Dead.
Prayer to God and the three Archangels.
Deus propicius esto.
Memoriae.
Passio secundum Johannem.
Later prayers in French.

In the Kalendar:

Jan. 13. Fremin (Firmin) in red.
31. Ulphe.

May. 15. S. Honnoure (Honoratus) in red.

Sept. 1. S. Fremin, S. Leu in red.
25. Fremin in red.

Oct. 4. Francis in red.
Dec. 1. Ely in red.

In the Litany:


Virgins: Genevieve, Clara, Radegund, Gertrude, Elisabeth, Volenta, Avia, Ulphia.

Memoria: Adrian, Acharius, Francis, Hugh.

The Amiens saints are prominent here. Acharius may be meant for Acheul. I do not know S. Contentian; perhaps a mistake for Potentian.

A full-page painting of arms and crest, very skilfully drawn on slate-coloured ground, occupies the verso of f. 1. The shield is, quarterly I and 4 gules, bearing an inescutcheon gu., a cross or, a chief checky of arg. and az.; 2 and 3 gu. a bend dexter vaire of az. and arg. Crest a demi-hound (?), collared and langued gu., muzzled vert winged or. Motto, changier ne veuls.

Below, a name, partly cut off, in gold capitals:

A DE SAIRES (?) OR SALDS, OR SAIHS.

The following pictures occur in the body of the book:

1. Hours of the Cross. Christ on the Cross; on r. the Virgin, John, and two nimbed women; on l. the Centurion and three others.

2. Hours of the Holy Ghost. The Virgin throned in e., full face, the Dove over her head in front of a window; the Apostles kneel in two groups on r. and l.

3. Obsecre te. The Virgin and Child on l., under canopy, with red curtains tucked up into a ball; before them kneels the owner of the book, a young man in purple-red gown over green tunic; landscape seen through door.

4. Matins of the Virgin. The Annunciation. The Virgin, young, in blue over gold, kneels on r.; desk by her; lily-pot in e.; Gabriel on l., with sceptre and scroll (sce... Elena); above him, in the sky, a bust of the Father sending down the Dove.

5. Lauds. The Visitation. The Virgin on l.; Joseph further away, near a city gate; lake and buildings behind.

In the initial a black woman (a sibyl ?), half-length, with scroll: NA... ANVID.

6. Prime. The Virgin and Joseph adore the Child; stable in e., behind; a woman in the doorway; ox and ass on l.

7. Tiere. Two shepherds, one with bagpipe; blue angel in air, flying, with scroll.

8. Sext. Adoration of the Magi. The Virgin and Child in e.; Joseph on l.; two kings on r., one on l.

9. None. The Presentation. Altar in e.; Symeon
25. Nicholas as bishop, seated, full face, in a hall, blessing; three children in ciborium of his feet.

26. Leonard, in gold dalmatic, stands reading; he holds a chain attached to the wrists of a kneeling man in red shirt on r.; another, in blue shirt, kneeling on l., has a manacle (on straight bar) on his wrist and another hanging from it.

27. Gregory, in blue chasuble, at an altar on l., elevating the Host; on the altar is Christ as the man of sorrows standing in the tomb; above Gregory's head is a red tiara; behind kneel two servers in dalmatics, and behind these, two acolytes with candles.

28. Martin, on a white horse, riding to l., turns to divide his cloak with a beggar; portcullised gate on r.

29. Hugh (of Grenoble), as bishop, in cope, on l.; before him kneels a man; a woman with birch rod stands beyond, with joined hands. In front lies a pair of fetters on straight bar with lock at the end.

30. In the background on r., Dioscorus (Barbara's father), in crown, and blue, gold, and ermine robes, beheads Barbara. In front, on l., he and several others fall dead, struck by stones from heaven; a demon stands behind him.

31. Margaret, facing l., holding a gold cross, rises from the back of a green and yellow four-legged dragon; behind, in c., red and gold panel of arrows; on r., a window.

32. Half-length figure of Mary Magdalene, facing l., and holding a white casket and its cover in her hands; white headdress, red robe over blue; a city behind.

33. Agnes, standing in a stone hall on green pavement, holds a palm, and a gold string attached to the neck of a lamb leaping up on r.

34. Agatha, kneeling, face to l., before a stool with a book on it. Through a barred window is seen a half-length figure of God with orb.

35. Anne, seated, with open book on her knee; the Virgin stands at her knee on r.; a doorway on r. showing a landscape.

36. In c., a spiked wheel broken by hail from heaven. Katherine kneels on r.; a ruler in gold and ermine stands on l.

37. Apollonia, in blue, bound to a tree on r.; a man, girl with sword, with his r. leg raised, pulls out her teeth with pincers; beyond him, on l., stands a ruler.

Only the pictured pages have borders; these are of conventional foliage, framed, and contain geometrical panels of fluid gold, and insertions of birds and grotesques.

The pictures are distinctly interesting and skilful. Perhaps the best are the large half-length figures of Jerome and Mary Magdalene (Nos. 14 and 32). The number of saints figured is unusually large. S. Acharius of Noyon I have not found elsewhere, and S. Hugh is by no means common.
Morgan MS. No. M.198

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


no. 416, [fol. 43v].
no. 417, [fol. 59].
no. 418, [fol. 71].