Breviary. Franciscan rite. XVI cent.

209-210 Breviary for Franciscan use, with a Kalendar for northern Italy, at the end of M.209.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in the duchy of Milan after 1503, when Niccolò Fieschi became a cardinal, his arms, surmounted by a cardinal's hat, appear on f.97 of M.209.

34 small illuminated initials, 6 illuminated borders.

Contents: Misbound.
Vol. I: f.1-164v Proper of Saints
   165-194v Common Saints
   194v-200 Office of the Virgin
   200-204v Office of the Dead
   205-210 Kalendar

Vol. II: f.1-96v Psalter and Ferial
97 Proper of time with rubric: In nomine domini Amen.
173-174v Litany
248-255v Corpus Christi
289-291v Rubrics

Text: Notwithstanding the rubric on f.97 to the effect that the Breviary is according to the Roman rite, other rubrics in the text (f.194v-5 and f.200) draw a distinction between the regular Roman Use and that followed in this Breviary. Emphasis on Franciscan saints in the Kalendar, Litany and Sanctoral, the Franciscan hymn Crucis arma fulgentia on f.96v show that the text is arranged according to that rite, this is also borne out by the fact that no more than nine lessons are read, no matter what the importance of the feast to be celebrated. On f.94v is the office for the feast of the Transfiguration, instituted in 1458.

The latest feast in the Kalendar is that of St. Anselm, Mar. 18, he was included by the Franciscans in 1495. Many informative and lengthy rubrics throughout the text.

Script: The writing is a small clear, vertical book-hand with many contractions.

Decoration: The historiated initials are of mediocre execution and their paint and gold have worn badly. Somewhat heavy, voluted foliage in green, red and blue, interspersed with gold balls and pen-work serves as border ornament.

Vol. I f.1 Saturninus
   99 100 Clara
   103 105 The Assumption of the Virgin
   f.112 vb Bishop
   Ludovic
f.105 v. Holy Cross
Vol. 2 f.1v David communing with God
   97 St. Paul. In lower border within a wreath, the arms or: 3 bends assume surmounted by a cardinal's hat.
   122 The Nativity-adoration type.
217 217 The Resurrection
Vol. 2 f. 233r The Ascension

249 The Holy Ghost

248 Ostensorium

History: Written and illuminated in the duchy of Milan for Niccolò Fieschi (Flisco) count of Lavagna, elected cardinal in 1503 died 1524. His arms on f. 97 of M. 209 differ from those of the Fieschi family in the tincture, i.e. the Fieschi have a shield argent three bends azure whereas M. 209 has a shield or, three bends azure.

Or is the indication of tincture in the Cardinal's arms reproduced in Ciaconius III, col. 204, therefore M. 209-10 may be assigned to Fieschi on the strength of that authority. (There is considerable confusion as to Cardinal Fieschi's arms among his biographers, Ughelli Ital. Sacra II, 390 has still another variant). Cardinal Fieschi was patron of the Dominicans.

While still bishop of Alba he was appointed by the Pope to act in the negotiations for the canonization of St. Francis de Paula, founder of the Order of Minims which took place in 1513. It is conceivable that the Morgan Breviary was a gift to the Cardinal for his information in regard to the rite that newly created branch of the Franciscan Order.

Other marks of ownership are on the fly-leaf of vol. 1 which has a small red circle surrounding the letters (cc†); f. 1 of vol. 2 has a red six-pointed star within which is a letter T. Purchased from Pearson in 1907 who ascribed it to Taddeo Crivilli, c. 1450.


Additional cards:

i. Breviary. Rome. XVI cent.
ii. MSS.-Illum.-Italian (Milan)- XVI cent.
iii. Provenance-Fieschi, Niccolò, cardinal, d. 1524.

1. Use - Franciscan

Iconography cards:

M. 209
Saturninus, f. 11
Clara of Assisi, f. 101
Mary the Virgin: Assumption, f. 105
All Saints, f. 152v
Apostle: Paul, f. 165

M. 210
David: communing with God, f. 1v
Apostle: Paul, f. 97
Aries: Fieschi, f. 97
Jesus Christ: Nativity-adoration type, f. 122
" " : Resurrection f. 217
" " : Ascension, f. 233v
Holy Ghost, f. 240
Host, f. 248

Met Harrsen / ar, May 8th, 1945
This Breviary in 2 thick octavo volumes shows in its style of penmanship and the antiquated character of its illumination the sort of MS executed in Bologna and the neighbouring cities, especially Ferrara, for private ecclesiastical use in the latter part of the 15th century. It is not fair to its contents to compare it with a printed or modern Breviary as of course it is much less complete and its details frequently differ though on the whole its contents are very much the same.

It begins with the Psalter of course and its apparatus of hymns and responses - the Beatus Vir beginning on the verso of fol. 1. with an illuminated B with heavy foliages and penwork in the archaic style of the older Ferrarese MSS of the time of the Marquis Niccolo III and continued under Duke Borso of Modena. This volume contains, 1st the Psalter disposed in Weekly portions according to the Canonical Hours. 2nd. The Breviary properly so called with the rubric. In nomine Domini Amen. Here begins the Order of the Breviary according to the custom of the Roman Curia. In the 1st Saturday of Advent at Vespers. The usual Capitulum-Fratres (scientes) hora est iam nos de somno surgere. &c. The list is in 2 columns in the well-known old Bolognese hand in
red and black and larger or smaller according to the subject.

This page is surrounded with a border of foliage ornament and penwork such as we see in the other MSS. executed by Taddeo Crivelli, and his coadjutors at the Court of the Dukes of Ferrara. It begins with the initial F in which is painted the figure half length of St. Paul the winged foliages extending upwards and downwards and meeting the fine pen-flourishes of the upper lower and outer margins. These are very fine in colour and finish although somewhat dulled by age and use. At the foot in a green laurel-wreath are emblazoned the arms of Cardinal da Pistoia, Archbishop of Genoa in 1439. Here then we have the Cardinal's private service-book. The rest of the volume which contains a number of handsome initial letters extends to, and ends with, the week of 4th Sunday in November at the word "destruam." of the 1st lesson of the Saturday,—in the 1st chapter of Malacchi.

This is practically about half the Bréviary.

The 2nd vol. begins with the Pro prium Sanctorum of the 29th of November and the Feast of St. Saturninus goes through the Proper and Common of the Saints for the year and ends with the Little Office or Officium Parvum of the Blessed Virgin Mary as usual excluding the other offices often added in later manuals.

The Kalendar usually placed in the 1st vol. before the Psalter is here put at the end of the second volume.
From this Kalendar we see that St. Anthony the Abbot is honoured with rubrication in January and St. Francis in October, thus shewing the monastic character of the volumes.

At the Beginning of the Commune Sanctorum forming the last large portion of the work is an initial P to Fratres with foliage border, while initials are also placed in several other headings of minor sections. The want of paging in the vol. which seems complete as to the quires, prevents a more exact localizing of the various portions but they are easily found and recognized.

The initials illuminated are:

**Vol. 1.**

P. foliage only.

B. figure of David inside and bracket age border (Psalter).

D. folia only.


D. Holy Dove and tongues of fire (Pentecost).

**Vol. 2.**

D. St. Saturninus & borders.

D. foliage only.

F. (Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary).

L. Gospel St. Matthew, fol. only.
vol. 2. contd.

D. (Exaltate of the Cross).

O. (all Saints).

F. (St. Paul) Commune Sanctorum

full border.

J.W. BRADLEY