Hours of the Virgin. Rome. XV cent.

M. 227

Hours of the Virgin for Rome Use, preceded by a Kalender and followed by the Athanasian creed and prayers.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illuminated in Ferrara, Italy, for a member of the Faletti family, Counts of Ferrara.

Decoration: Four of the pages contain historiated initials and are surrounded by broad borders with figures. There are many other illuminated decorative borders. The style closely resembles that of Cod. 167 of the Biblioteca Comunale di Ferrara (illustrated in Tesori delle Biblioteche d'Italia: Emilia e Romagna, fig. 180.)

The edges are gauffered and painted.

Text: The localization of the manuscript in Ferrara is indicated by the occurrence of St. Maurerlius, Bishop of Ferrara, in the Kalender (May 7) and in the Litany (fol. 73 v). St. George, who preceded St. Maurerlius as patron saint of Ferrara, appears in red in the Kalender, as do the North Italian Saints Geminianus of Modena (Jan. 31), Liberale of Altino (Treviso) (April 27), and Nabor and Felix of Milan (July 4). St. Vincent Ferrer, who is noted on April 6, was canonized in 1455. Special emphasis is given to all feasts of St. John, whose name begins with a capital in the Litany and is introduced into the Dominus version "O intemera," p. 143.

148 leaves (5 3/8 x 4 inches), 18 lines.

Collation: 12 10 12 10 10 12 10 8 10

Binding: English, 19th cent. green morocco with stamp of Henry Gee Barnard on outside and printed inside front cover.

History: For the Faletti of Ferrara, whose arms with colours reversed: or 3 bezants gules, 2 and 1, in chief gules a lion passant or within a border of the second, are on fol. 13. Collections of Henry Gee Barnard and Richard Bennett, by whom it was bought on October 3, 1896.

Miniatures:

fol. 13: Initial D. The Virgin seated in a landscape holds on her lap the Infant Christ, Who sleeps on her knee with His cheek resting on His folded hands. (For a very similar composition, cf. the panel by Cosimo Tura in the Harold I Pratt Collection, illustrated in Venturi, Piture Italiane in America, Tav. CCLX). In the border, medallions of SS. Julia and Catherine, and the prophets Jonah and Isaiah. In the lower border, 2 putti with the Faletti arms.

fol. 75. Initial D. David kneeling in prayer before a niched altar; border with putti, vases, vines, etc.
fol. 92. Initial D. A Cross with double transverse standing in a landscape; border with putto and birds.

fol. 101. Initial D. A coffin covered with black drapery and surmounted by a skull. In the borders, a skull, a bird, and two monkeys.

Add. cards:

MSS. - Illum. - Italian-XV cent. 7 Check in mss.
- " " Emilian-XV cent. 3 mss. drawers
- " " Ferrarese-XV cent.

Provenance - Faletti of Ferrara, Counts (arms, fol. 13)
- Barnard, Henry Gee.

Creeds - Athanasian

Virgin and Child - The child sleeping

David in Prayer

St. Menasius of Ferrara

St. Geminiano of Modena

St. Liberale of Tregisco

Cross - in landscape.

135

Denography cards:

Mary the Virgin, and Christ Child - sleeping. f. 1.13
Arms: Faletti of Ferrara. f. 1.13
Card: communing with God. f. 1.75
Cross - patriarchal. f. 9.12
Death - emblems. f. 1.101
Monkeys f. 1.101
91. HORAE (Ferrara). Vellum, 5¾ x 4, ff. 148; 18 lines to a page; cent. xv (1470?); written in Italy. Binding: modern green morocco with "Grolier" tooling, and gaufred fore-edges. The arms and name of Henry Gee Barnard stamped outside, and inlaid inside. Has the bookplate of Mr. Richard Bennett.

Collation: Kal.¹², i¹⁰-⁵¹⁰, ⁶¹⁰, ⁷¹⁰, ⁸¹⁰, ⁹¹⁰, ³⁰¹⁰-¹²¹⁰, ¹³, ¹⁴¹⁰.

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In the Kalendar we have:

Apr. 27. S. Liberalis C.
May 7. S. Maurelii.
Aug. 8. S. Dominici C.
Oct. 4. S. Francisci.

In the Litany:

Martyrs: Maurelius, Peter Martyr.
Monks: Dominic, Francis, Ludovicus (of Toulouse).
Virgins: Heliasbeth, Ursula.
S. Maurelius is patron of Ferrara.

In the lower margin of the frontispiece to Matins is a shield: or three balls gu., two and one, in chief gu. a leopard passant or within a bordure of the second.

The decorative work is in excellent style. There are the following pictures:

1. Matins. f. 13. Border. Three sides have insertions of ornament on a plain white ground. At the base is a landscape, with parrots in trees, two rabbits, and two genii supporting the shield described above; on r. and l. are urns out of which the lateral ornament grows.

At top, in c, is the monogram XHS in gold in a glory on blue ground; on r. and l. two female busts in profile; on l. S. LVCIA; on r. S. KATELINA.

Below, two busts of prophets, on l. IONA Propheta; on r. ISAYAS.

In the initial. The Virgin seated between trees, turned to r.; on her lap the Child fully draped, with cross-nimbus, sits sleeping. This is a very charming picture.

2. f. 63. Seven Psalms. Border of conventional foliage, with genius on gold ground.

Initial. David, in blue, kneeling, face r., towards shallow acoye containing small altar.

3. f. 80. Hours of the Cross. Border, mostly plain white ground with gold rays; genius and two storks. At the bottom, two white doves on gold ground, surrounded by blue scroll with red musical notes.

Initial. Cross, with second cross-piece for title, in flat country landscape, with blue sky.

4. f. 89. Office of the Dead. Border of gold ornament on white ground with insertions, viz., at bottom, two medallions of chained apes crouching, blue sky behind; on r., medallion with flying green bird with red crest and short tail (woodpecker); at top, medal- lion with skull.

Initial. A coffin (?) covered with black pall with gold border and white crosses; on it a skull with rays; blue sky.

The subdivisions of the services have handsome decorative initials with partial borders in some cases.

For printed text or notices of this MS. see: