

H.8

BOOK OF HOURS, in Latin and French. Rome use (Hours of Virgin, Office of Dead), numerous Franciscan elements in calendar and suffrages.

Tours, c. 1500.

Description

Vellum, 200 leaves (256 x 180 mm.). 1 col., 17 lines (156 x 95 mm.).

Script: bastarda. 55 miniatures, numerous illuminated initials.

Collation: I (1-6), II-III (7-22), IV (23-29), V-IX (30-69), X (70-75),  
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XI-XVII (76-131), XVIII (132-137), XIX-XXI (138-161), XXII (162-167),  
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XXIII-XXIV (168-183), XXV (184-193), XXVI (194-200). Binding: nineteenth-century(?) red velvet and silver clasps with later inserted royal English arms and monogram H[enricus] 8[octavus] R[ex].

1-6v Calendar.

- 1 January: Servant bringing in firewood from snowy courtyard. Lady warming by fireplace. Gentleman feasting by table.
- 1v February: Servant bringing drink toward table with food. Gentleman warming his back before fireplace.
- 2 March: Four men pruning vines and mending fence.
- 2v April: Maiden and youth with garland and bouquets in enclosed garden.
- 3 May: Young couple walking through woods, carrying branches of foliage.
- 3v June: Men and women making hay.
- 4 July: Men reaping wheat.
- 4v August: Man bringing in load of wheat on ox cart. Others threshing.
- 5 September: Men making wine. Group of women grape pickers in background.
- 5v October: Men sowing and plowing.
- 6 November: Men tending herd of hogs and knocking down acorns.
- 6v December: Hog slaughter.

--- In addition to these full-color occupation scenes (in rectangles across top of page), each calendar page has a border (surrounding text box on three sides) with representations of saints and feasts of the month in monochrome. Zodiacal signs in roundels at lower center of these borders.

7-12v	Gospel Sequences.
7	<u>St. John on Patmos, Writing. Eagle. Border:</u> <u>St. John Boiled in Oil.</u>
9	<u>St. Luke Writing. Ox. Border: Annunciation.</u>
10v	<u>St. Matthew Writing. Angel. Border: Three Magi's</u> <u>Journey.</u>
12	<u>St. Mark Writing. Lion. Border: Christ Preaching</u> <u>Mission of Apostles.</u>
13	<u>Christ Before Fallen Soldiers</u> (Peter, with sword, and apostles fleeing). [fp]
13v-21v	Passion acc. to St. John.
21v	<u>Holy Family</u> (Joseph with pear). Border: <u>Angels</u> <u>Making Music.</u>
21v-25	'Obsecro te...'. 26 <u>Lamentation</u> (with Sts. John and Mary Magdalene). Border: <u>Deposition.</u>
26-29v	'Stabat mater...' and other prayers.
30	Blank.
30v	<u>Annunciation.</u> [fp]
31-40	Hours of Virgin, Matins.
40v	<u>Visitation</u> (with Joseph). [fp]
41-50v	Hours of Virgin, Lauds.
51	Blank.
51v	<u>Nativity.</u> [fp]
52-55v	Hours of Virgin, Prime.
56	Blank.
56v	<u>Annunciation to Shepherds.</u> [fp]
57-60v	Hours of Virgin, Terce.
61	Blank.
61v	<u>Adoration of Magi.</u> [fp]
62-65	Hours of Virgin, Sext.
65v	<u>Presentation in Temple.</u> [fp]
66-69	Hours of Virgin, None.
69v	<u>Massacre of Innocents.</u> [fp]
70-78	Hours of Virgin, Vespers.
78v-93	Hours of Virgin, weekly and annual variations.
94	Blank, except for rubric.
94v	<u>Christ Carrying Cross.</u> [fp]
95-101	Short Hours of Cross.
101v	<u>Pentecost.</u> [fp]
102-106v	Short Hours of Holy Spirit.
107-108	Blank, except for rubric.
108v	<u>David Giving Letter to Uriah.</u> [fp]
109-127	Seven Penitential Psalms.
127v	<u>Job on Dunghill, with Three Friends.</u> [fp]
128-134	Office of Dead, Vespers.
134v	<u>Feast in House of Rich Man, with Lazarus at Door.</u> Border: <u>Lazarus in Heaven, Dives in Hell.</u>
134v-167v	Office of Dead, Matins.

- 168 Mass of St. Gregory. [fp]  
168v-169v Seven Prayers of St. Gregory.  
170-193 Suffrages of Saints.  
170 St. Jerome in Wilderness. [fp]  
171 Trinity. Border: Angels Adoring.  
172 St. Michael Piercing Demon. Border: Demons Tumbling in Hell.  
173 St. John Baptizing Christ. Border: Baptist Preaching in Wilderness.  
174 St. John Evangelist Descending into His Tomb (before altar; other apostles attending). Border: Seven-Headed Apocalyptic Dragon. St. John with Poison Cup.  
175 Sts. Peter and Paul Watching Simon Magus Falling. Border: St. Paul Beheaded. St. Peter Crucified.  
176 Hermogenes before St. James. Border: St. James Beheaded.  
177 St. Philip Exorcising Demon from Statue of Mars. Border: St. Philip Baptizing.  
178 St. Christopher at Wayside Cross. Border: St. Christopher Carrying Christ Child.  
179 St. Sebastian Pierced with Arrows. Border: Body of St. Sebastian Thrown into Cloaca Maxima.  
180v St. Claude Raising Dead Man. Border: People (lady foremost in group) Worshipping before Reliquary Shrine on Altar.  
181v St. Adrian Dismembered, While Seated on Anvil. Border: Jailer(?) before Prison with Saints.  
182v St. Nicholas Bestowing Dowries on Daughters of Poor Nobleman. Border: St. Nicholas Raising Three Youths.  
183v Temptation of St. Anthony (Anthony cooking; horned temptress). Border: St. Anthony and Pig with Bell in Wilderness.  
184v Stigmatization of St. Francis. Border: Friars' Vision of St. Francis Taken to Heaven in Fiery Chariot.  
185v St. Anthony and Ass Kneeling before Host. Border: St. Anthony Preaching.  
186v St. Anne Teaching Virgin to Read (three girls --three Marys?-- reading opposite). Border: Virgin Entering Temple.  
187v St. Mary Magdalene Wiping Christ's Feet. Border: Levitation of St. Mary Magdalene.  
188v St. Catherine by Destroyed Spiked Wheels. Border: St. Catherine Beheaded.  
189v St. Margaret Spinning and Tending Sheep, While Prefect Olibrius and His Retinue Pass on Horseback. Border: St. Margaret and Dragon.  
190v St. Barbara Beheaded. Border: St. Barbara by Tower with Group of Soldiers.  
191v St. Martha Taming the Tarasque. Border: St. Martha Preaching.

- 192v All Saints: Sts. Peter and Paul with Other Saints in Landscape. Border: Saints in Indoor Setting.
- 193v Blank.
- 194-199v Various prayers, to be said primarily in morning. Athanasian Creed.

Comments

The following is a summary of John Plummer's observations on H.8 in the 1978 Report to the Fellows.

The miniatures of this manuscript, known as the Hours of Henry VIII or the Cumberland Hours, have been attributed to Jean Bourdichon (in the 1923 monograph, by Raymond Limousin and others), to his workshop (by David Mac Gibbon), to Jean Perréal (by Count Paul Durrieu, according to a letter from Joseph Baer and Co. to Belle da Costa Greene, 23 October 1930), and to Jean Poyet (by François Avril in recent conversations and correspondence with John Plummer). Plummer favors the attribution to Jean Poyet as an attractive and probable hypothesis, although compelling evidence is still lacking. Documents show Poyet, the great rival of Bourdichon, to have been a miniature painter in Tours from at least 1483 to 1497.

Whatever name is given to this artist, a rather large number of manuscripts and perhaps panels by him and his shop can be assembled. To the Heineman Hours, which may be his single most important manuscript, and two other works previously associated with Poyet (M.50 in Morgan Library and single miniature in Louvre), Plummer adds several manuscripts and single leaves, thus for the first time establishing an oeuvre for this major painter:

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.50, Prayer Book of Anne de Bretagne. This manuscript appears to be wholly by the master. (B. Da Costa Greene and M.P. Harrsen, The Pierpont Morgan Library. Exhibition of Illuminated Manuscripts Held at the New York Public Library, New York, 1934, 55-56, no. 118, pl. 82).

Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 850, Missal for Tours use.

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.495, Missal for Tours use.  
Five main miniatures only.

Haarlem, Teylers Museum, No. 78, Book of Hours.

Lyons, Bibliothèque Municipale, Ms. 1558, Book of Hours.

London, British Library, Yates Thompson 5, Book of Hours known as Spitzer Hours.

Paris, Musée du Louvre, Single Miniature of Virgin and Child Enthroned (attributed to Poyet in C. Sterling and H. Adhémar, La Peinture au Musée du Louvre. Ecole française XVe - XVIe - XVIIe siècles, Paris, 1965, 10, no. 23, pl. 70).

Cleveland, Cleveland Museum of Art, 24.426, Single Miniature of Pentecost.

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, cod. icon. 414, Series of Miniatures of Prophets and Sibyls.

Leaf with Portrait of Charles VIII Kneeling Before Christ the Gardner and the Magdalene, inserted into contemporary, but mediocre Horae, New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.250.

Works By Shop:

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.388, Book of Hours.

Sotheby and Company, 10 December 1973, lot. 56, Book of Hours.

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M.9, Book of Hours.

Provenance

It was proposed by the 1923 monograph that H.8 was commissioned for Claude de France, daughter of Louis XII and Anne de Bretagne and first wife of Francis I, but the evidence in the manuscript is slight, at best. By the eighteenth century it was believed to have been owned by Henry VIII, but this belief is unsubstantiated by earlier evidence (see added monogrammed clasps).

Charles Benoit Desmanet of Mons (until 1723 or later); George Wade (who purchased it from Desmanet's estate; inscription in Wade's hand, f. 200); King George II of England(?); Royal Library of Hanover; Ernest Augustus William Adolphus George Frederick, Duke of Cumberland and Tiviotdale, Earl of Armagh and Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg (1922); Joseph Baer & Co., Frankfurt-am-Main (1930); Mrs. Dannie Heineman (purchased about 1933 by Mr. Heineman from Graupe of Hotel Carlisle, New York).

Bibliography

- P. Vitry, Bulletin de la Société Nationale des Antiquaires de France, 1910, 175-177.
- F. de Mély, Les Primitifs et leurs signatures. Les miniaturistes, Paris, 1913, 334-39, pls. XXI-XXV.
- Description of the Great Book of Hours of Henry the Eighth illuminated by Jean Bourdichon of Tours, privately printed, 1923.
- Joseph Baer & Co., Catalogue 750: 1000 fine and valuable books, manuscripts, drawings, prints and autographs, Frankfurt-am-Main, 1930.
- D. Mac Gibbon, Jean Bourdichon, Glasgow, 1933, 91-98.
- R. Limousin, Jean Bourdichon, Lyon, 1954, 79.
- Eighteenth Report to the Fellows of The Pierpont Morgan Library 1975-1977, New York, 1978, 46-48, 55-56, pl. 2 (essay and check list entry by J. Plummer).

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Morgan Library, The Last Flowering: French Painting in Manuscripts 1420-1530, comp. J. Plummer, New York, 1982, cat. 113.

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

T. Kren, ed., Renaissance Painting in Manuscripts: Treasures from the British Library, New York, 1983, pp. 175, 178-79, 180 n. 15, figs. 23b, 23g.

Baltimore, Walters Art Gallery, Time Sanctified: The Book of Hours in Medieval Art and Life, comp. Roger S. Wieck, Baltimore, 1988, 117, 203-4, cat. 70, fig. 96.

Janet Backhouse, "The Tilliot Hours: Comparisons and Relationships," British Library Journal, 13, 1987, 213 et passim., figs. 2-3.

Wilma Fitzgerald, "Ocelli Nominum: Names and Shelf Marks of Famous/Familiar Manuscripts(II)," Mediaeval Studies, XLVIII, 1986,

Henry VIII Hours, p. 406a