

YALE UNIVERSITY
BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 867

Northern Italy (Milan?), s. XV²

Offices of St. Martha, St. Monica and other saints

1. ff. 1r-9r *In nativitate sancte Marthe virginis ad Vesperas antiphona.* Letentur celi et exultent omnes gentes, et hiis sacris solempnis [*sic*] gloriose Marthe hospite Christi resonent nostre laudes ... *Ps.* Dixit Dominus. *A.* Hec est Marta gloriosa que regem celorum hospitata est ... *Ps.* Laudate, pueri. *A.* Felix Martha, illum qui suscitavit fratrem tuum, tuo amore pro nobis impetra ... *Ps.* Letatus sum. *A.* Laudabus [*sic*] dignis est extollenda gloriosa Martha ... *Ps.* Nisi Dominus. *A.* Ora pro nobis sedule supplicans ad Christum ... *Ps.* Lauda Yerusalem. *Capitulum.* Gratia super gratiam mulier sancta et pudorata... *R.* Deo gratias. *Hymnus.* Rutilat Marthe dies hospite Domini sororis Magdalene ... [RH 17605]. *V.* Ora pro nobis, beata Martha. *R.* Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi. [f. 2r:] *Ad Magnificat* *A.* O beata Martha, que a pio hospite tuo suscitari fratrem tuum a busto impetrasti ... *Oratio.* Omnipotens clementissime Deus, cuius filius in ede beate Marthe hospitari dignatus est ... [f. 9r:] *Ad Magnificat antiphona.* O Adonay Domine Iesu Christe, imperator celorum, humilime hospes beate Marthe ... *Oratio.* Omnipotens clementissime Deus, *ut supra.*

Office of St. Martha, with 9 Lessons (BHL 5545-5546) and the Homily by Haymo Halberstadiensis (Haimo of Halberstadt, d. 853, PL 118.767).

2. ff. 9v-16r *In sancte Monice in primis Vesperis* *A.* Exulta Ierusalem, quia rex Syon iubar salutare de Babilonis tenebra ... *Ps. de virginibus.* *A.* Matrem sterilem Deus letificat ... *A.* Letantur domum Domini, visitat puella ... *A.* Non in vanum hedificat, sponsum Deo deditat [*sic*] ... *A.* Lauda tu, Yerusalem, omnium salvatore [*sic*] ... *Capitulum.* Confitebor tibi, Domine rex ... *Hymnus.* Ave, dies letitie, dies superne gratie ... [RH 1774]. *Ad Magnificat* *A.* Gaude, chorus supernorum, cuius plaude turba devotorum ... *Oratio.* Fac nos, quesumus, Domine Deus noster, ad lucem pertingere veritatis ... [f. 15v:] *Commemoratio de sancta Monica.* *Ad Magnificat* *A.* O sacrasancta mater Monica, cuius spiritus exultet in gloria ... ut gregem protegat filii tui. Alleluia.

Office of St. Monica, with 9 Lessons (partly from Book 9 of Augustine's *Confessiones*).

3. f. 16r Letetur Syon filia ex alto fulsa munere ... Provido Patri, Genito Paraclitoque gloria sit Augustini merito, beata nobis gaudia. Amen.

Hymn in honour of St. Augustine. RH 10126; ed. *Analecta Hymnica*, v. 4, p. 94.

4. f. 16v *Commemoratio virginis Mar<i>e.* *Ad Vesperas ad Magnificat* *A.* Hec est regina celorum, que genuit regem velut rosa decora ... [CAO 3002]. *V.* Ora pro nobis ... *R.* Ut

digni efficiamur ... *Oratio*. Omnipotens sempiterne Deus, qui gloriose virginis matris Marie corpus et animam ...

5. ff. 16v-17r *De apostolis ad Magnificat A*. Petrus apostolus et Paulus doctor gentium ipsi nos docuerunt legem tuam, Domine [CAO 4284]. *V*. Constitues eos principes ... [CAO 7994]. *R*. Memores erunt nominis tui, Domine. *Ad Benedictus A*. Gloriosi principes terre, quomodo in vita sua dilexerunt se ... [CAO 2960]. *V*. In omnem terram exivit sonus eorum. *R*. Et in fines orbis terre verba eorum ... [CAO 8097]. *Oratio* ...
6. f. 17r-v *De sancto Augustino ad Magnificat A*. Presul sanctissime Augustine, via morum ... *V*. Ora pro nobis beate Augustine. *R*. Ut digni efficiamur ... *Ad Benedictus A*. Canon vite canonice, lucerna nostris pedibus ... *V*. Ora pro nobis. *Oratio* ...
7. f. 17v *De sancta Martha ad Magnificat A*.

Same text as in art. 1.

8. ff. 17v-18r *De sancto Nicolao [de Tolentino] ad Benedictus A*. Patris nostri Augustini canonis et morum Nicolaus Tolentini decus ... *V*. Ora pro nobis ... *Ad Magnificat A*. Nicolaus verus Christi pauper, virgo a Deo electus ... *V*. Ora pro nobis. *Oratio* ...
9. f. 18r-v *De sancta Monica ad Magnificat A*. Augustini mater devotissima, quem carne prius pepererat [?] mundo ... *V*. Ora pro nobis ... *R*. Ut digni efficiamur ... *Ad Benedictus A*. Oriens ex alto Dei Patris sapientia ... *Oratio* ...
10. ff. 18v-19r *De sancto Hieronymo ad Magnificat A*. Clarus doctor et lux fidelium, orbis decus ... *V*. Ora ... *R*. Ut digni efficiamur ... *Ad Benedictus A*. Hieronimi beati munia noster chorus promat cum gaudio ... [V.] Ora ... *R*. Ut digni. *Oratio* ...
11. f. 19r *De pace ad Beatus et Magnificat A*. Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris ... [CAO 2090]. *V*. Fiat pax in virtute tua. *R*. Et habundantia in turribus tuis. *Oratio* ...
12. f. 19r-v O vera Christi hospita, Martha, virgo sanctissima ... impetra nobis gaudia que obtines im [*sic*] patria per virtutem Iesu Christi, cuius hospita fuisti. f. 20 ruled but blank

Hymn in honour of St. Martha.

Parchment (goatskin), ff. II (paper) + 20 + II (paper), 190 x 140 mm.

I-II⁸ (ff. 1-16), III⁴ (ff. 17-20). Signatures in tiny script at right, immediately below the written area, from “a” to “c”, of the type “a aII aIII aIII” (last quire: “c cII”).

Rake ruling for one column of script, the vertical lines traced in lead, the horizontal ones in pale brown ink. Ruling type 11, 152 x 102-105 mm. Prickings for the bounding lines are seen in the lower margins. Double horizontal ruling for 21 lines of script (42 traced lines).

Copied by one hand in large but somewhat uneven Southern Gothica Textualis Formata (Rotunda) under Humanistic influence (Uncial and Half-Uncial *d*). The orthography is very defective.

Headings in red; alternately red and blue versals in the text and 2-line plain initials; 2-line flourished initials in liquid gold with red penwork on ff. 2r (art. 1), 16v (art. 3) and 19r (art. 11). A 7-line initial of the same type in blue, with red and black penwork and two damaged small flowery extensions at the beginning of the text.

Italian binding s. XVII (?); the quires are sewn without cords directly into the pasteboard cover, which itself is covered with blind-tooled goatskin. Marks of two pairs of ties.

Belonged to (and was made for) the convent of Augustinian nuns of St. Martha in Milan (s. XVII inscription on the front flyleaf: “Questo libro contiene l’ufficio per S. Marta e per S. Monaca, madre di S. Agostino; serviva per le monache di S. Marta di Milano Agostiniane”). The saints whose offices or hymns are found here are typical: Martha, patroness of the convent, Monica, mother of St. Augustine, St. Augustine himself, and Nicholas of Tolentino OESA (d. 1305). Was no. 1158 in an unidentified collection (inscription on f. Iiv). G.A. Leavitt & Co., Auctioneers, New York, no. 41 in an unidentified sale, 1880s (printed label on front pastedown, printed form and cutting from printed catalogue, in which the manuscript is titled “Monica’s office of the BVM. – A sixteenth-century text”). Collection of Byron Reed, acquired before 1892 (?). Purchased from the Mrs. Lathrop Colgate Harper Fund in Memory of Lathrop Colgate Harper Litt. D.

Bibliography:

R.G. Babcock, T.N. Thomas, D.M. Kibbey, E.P. Archibald, *A Book of Her Own. An Exhibition of Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Yale University Library that were Owned by Women before 1700* (New Haven, 2005), p. 66.

Albert Derolez