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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 756

Brasow, Romania, 1531

Hours and Offices for a religious community

1. ff. 1r-29r Hours of the Compassion. *Incipiunt hore de compassione*. Sancti Spiritus assit nobis gracia. Amen. Sancta Dei genitrix, dulcis et decora, regem morte [*sic*] traditum pro nobis exora ... *Invitatorium*. Cum Maria virgine fervide ploremus , in sepulchro positum regem adoremus... ; f. 25v *Salve virgo virginum, stella matutina, sordidorum criminum vera medicina ... Maria eximia natum deprecare, ut quicumque hec omnia vellet recitare in tui memoriam et te collaudare, dignetur in gloria sua collocare in secula seculorum. Amen* [RH 18318].
2. ff. 29r-35r Prayers. Pater, Fili cum Flamine Sacro, regum rex, Domine, fac ut tuo munimine celesti fruar munere ...; f. 32r *Pro domino papa ...* [etc.]; f. 32v *De Sancta Trinitate ...; De Spiritu Sancto ...; Beate Marie ...; Oracio de angelis ...; De apostolis ...; De virginibus ...* [etc.].
3. ff. 35r-81v Hymns and prayers to the Virgin. *Ad Matutinas sapienter sobrie*. Domina mea, sancta Maria, virgo perpetua, mater summe benignitatis ...; *Laus*. Gaude Maria virgo, mater Christi, que per aurem concepisti ... [RH 27004]; f. 41v: *Ad Primam gaudenter pie*. Ave virgo virginum, spes desperatorum, rosa flos et lilium ... [RH 24025]; f. 45r *Ad Terciam instanter caste*. Ave desiderii flos et fons dulcoris ... [RH 1769]; Regina clemencie Maria vocata, diversis antiquitus modis presignata ... [RH 17165]; f. 49v *Ad VI humiliter devote*. Ave mundi spes, Maria, ave mitis ... [RH 1974]; Gaude mater luminis, quem [*sic*] divini numinis visitavit gracia ... [RH 6871]; f. 55v *Ad Nonam letanter honeste*. Ave, salve, gaude, vale, o Maria, non vernale ... [RH 2098]; Ave mater Altissimi, tu civitas refugii ad te confugientibus ... [RH 23639]; f. 64r *Ad Vesperas indesinenter assidue*. Sancta Maria virgo perpetua, celorum regina, angelorum domina ...; O sancta Maria, virgo virginum, que genuisti Dominum ...; *Oracio sancti Thome Canthuriensis* [*sic*]. Gaude flore virginali, que honore speciali ... [RH 6810]; f. 69v *Legitur quod, cum beatus Thomas archiepiscopus Cantanensis* [*sic*] *septem gaudia temporalia beate Marie virginis cum nimia cordis exultacione diceret, beata Maria virgo sibi apparuit eique dixit: Cur de gaudiis que preterierunt tantum gaudes et letaris, et de presentibus et perpetuis non gaudes? Gaude ergo et exulta mecum...* [f. 70v:] ... *cuius consuetudo virtuosa fuit omnibus diebus dicere flexis genibus XL vicibus "Ave maris stella". M^o XXXI scripta Brazovie*. Ave sydus lux dierum, ave gemma mulierum ... [RH 2115]; f. 72r *Ad Completorium vigilanter pudice*. Deprecor te, sancta Maria, virgo gloriosissima ...; Virgo templum Trinitatis, decus summe bonitatis ... [RH 21899]; f. 76v *Ad Matinas iubilanter iuste*. Domina mea, sancta Maria, in synum tue immense pietatis ...; Ave Maria, gracia plena, Dominus tecum, virgo serena ... [RH 1879]; Salve, mater Salvatoris, vas electum, vas honoris ... [RH 18050-18051]; f. 81r [erased and ending incomplete] Congaudent angelorum chori gloriosi virginis [*sic*], que sine viri commixcione genuit filium ... [RH 3783].

4. ff. 82r-122v Office of the Dead, with musical notation and liturgical instructions. *Incipiuntur vespere defunctorum. Pater noster. Antiphona. Placebo. Ewowa. Psalmus. Dilexi ...*; f. 119v *Pro femina defuncta oracio*; f. 120r *In anniversario oracio*; *Pro fratribus et benefactoribus oracio*; f. 120v *Pro parentibus oracio*; *In cymiteriis reconditis*; *Pro omnibus in fide defunctis oracio* ; f. 121r *Pro recommendatis et elemosinariis oracio*; *Pro omnibus fidelibus defunctis* ; f. 121v *Communis pro omnibus*; f. 122r *Communis*.

5. f. 122v-137v Liturgy for the Burial. *Incipit conductus mortuorum. Non intras in iudicium ...; Hac oracione finita et responso a conventu "Amen", cantores incipiant cum nota responsorium "Subveniente" et prosequatur conventus; versum cantabunt ipsi vel alii duo fratres, quibus iniunctum fuerit a cantore. Sequitur responsorium. Subvenite sancti Dei ...* ; f. 125v ... *statimque egrediantur fratres ad locum sepulture hoc ordine: primo aqua benedicta precedat, deinde thuriferarius, postea ceroferarii et in medio eorum subdiaconus ferens crucem, deinde fratres sequantur eo ordine quo stant in choro precedentibus iunioribus, postea sequatur diaconus ferens libellum, post ipsum sacerdos, ultimo quatuor fratres qui corpus deferunt, quos fratres conversi subsequentes poterunt adiuvare. Dum autem corpus ad tumulum portatur pulsetur campana. Antiphona ... Aperite. Psalmus. Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus ...*; f. 128r *Cum ad tumulum pervenerint sacerdotes et ministri ordinent se ad caput fosse modo supradicto vel aliter secundum aptitudinem loci, prout commode poterint. Conventus vero ordinet se sicut loci et temporis oportunitas permiserit. Deinde sacerdos officium legat, ministris sibi respondentibus. Legendo dicat oraciones cum psalmis et antiphonis infrascriptis. Alii vero sacerdotes, qui libellos tenant, dicant eadem per se silenter. Ceteri autem fratres, qui libellos non habent, bini et bini dicant psalmos penitenciales, terminando quemlibet per "Requiem", et si necesse fuerit addant quindecim gradus omnes ...* ; f. 136r *Hac oratione finita cantor incipiat psalmum "Miserere mei, Deus" et fratres ipsum prosequendo revertantur in chorum eo ordine quo venerunt. Finito psalmo "Miserere" vel "De profundis", cum ipsum addere oportuerit, et terminando per "Requiem" conventus prosternat se super formas et sacerdos cum ceteris qui ibi sunt prosternent se super gradus presbiterii, et dicto "Requiem" sine "Kyrieleyson" dicant omnes in silencio "Pater noster". Quo finito sacerdos dicat "Et ne nos". Versus. A porta inferi ...* ; f. 136v *Absolutio in articulo mortis. Auctoritate Domini nostri Ihesu Christi et beatissimorum apostolorum Petri et Pauli ac auctoritate domini nostri N. pape et privilegiorum nostre societatis et ordini concessorum ego te absolvo ...*

Parchment, ff. 137, 160 x 115 mm. The outer side of the quires is flesh side. On some pages the ink is very faded (ff. 81v [here the text has certainly been erased], 103r top, 127v, etc.); an irregularly-shaped hole in f. 93, probably due to erasure, an original hole in the parchment in f. 97.

I-II¹⁰ (ff. 1-20), III¹² (-1, ff. 21-31, loss of text), IV-VIII¹⁰ (ff. 32-81), IX¹⁰ (-6, -7, ff. 82-89, loss of text), X-XIII¹⁰ (ff. 90-129), XIV⁸ (ff. 130-137). Horizontal catchwords at right, not visible after quire VII. Traces of quire marks (arabic numerals) on the first and/or last page of the quires. Traces of signatures (arabic numerals only).

Pricked and ruled with brown ink for one column of 18 lines below top line. Prickings visible in the outer and lower margins. Ruling type 13, 128 x 80 mm. The musical notation in artt. 4 and 5 is written on 4-line staves in red ink, width 11 mm., the second and the fourth line of which coincide with two consecutive horizontal traced lines for the handwriting. There are maximum 5 staves on one page.

Copied mainly by one hand writing Northern Textualis Formata in two sizes with Central European features. A second less formal hand copied ff. 29r, lines 11-18 and 30r-31v, i.e. the beginning of art. 2. Musical notation in Nota Quadrata.

Headings and rubrics in red; they are missing ff. 25v, 38v, 52r, 54v, 61v, 65v, 73v, 78r, 79v, 81r. Heightening of majuscules in red. 1-line red versals; 2-line plain initials (sometimes slightly decorated) in red. Intricate large flourished cadels in black filled with red in the texts accompanying musical notation. Art. 4 opens with a 6-line littera duplex in red and brownish red with red penwork. Guide letters for all initials. On f. 29v full-page picture of the crowned Virgin and Child, Mary presenting a flower to the Child, on a flowery pink background in a green and red rectangular frame.

Binding s. XVII (damaged): brownish pigskin over bevelled wooden boards, the covers blind-tooled with frames of fillets and rolls; the central rectangle on the front cover, otherwise free, is decorated with a large oval stamp, heavily worn but probably picturing the Virgin in the Sun. Spine with three raised bands. Remnants of two brass clasps attached to the rear cover. Marks of a chain attachment at the bottom of the rear cover. Red edges.

It was probably the intention of the maker that the picture of the Virgin and Child (f. 29v) should be immediately followed by art. 3; the insertion of art. 2, partly by a second hand, has isolated the picture from its context. According to the incomplete and unusual ("scripta") colophon on f. 70v the manuscript was copied in Braşow ("Brazovia", Kronstadt, Stephanopolis) in Siebenbürgen, Transylvania (now Romania) in either 1431 or more probably 1531. It was for the use of a convent inhabited by lay brothers as well as regular brothers (see art. 5). In the hymn "Pater, Fili cum Flamme Sacro" (ff. 29r- 31r, art. 2, by the second hand) the following saints are the only medieval ones to be mentioned and point to a Dominican convent: "Pius pater Dominicus, dux Predicatorum inclitus, nos celi iungat agmine sacro suo precamine. Thomas instructus celiectus, mundi doctor, et Petrus doctrinarum suis studiis celi locent in solis". In s. XVII it belonged to the priory of the Benedictine nuns of Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine), as appears from the ownership-inscription in the upper margin of f. 45r: "Conventus Leopoliensis". On the rear pastedown, in s. XVII handwriting: "Sicut pisces et aves capiuntur, ita homines *****". Purchased from Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley (MS 161 in his collection), on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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