

**Add. 8589(3)**

Late 14th cent.

**Psalterium (fragment)**

Latin

Parchment, 290 x 180 mm, 1 leaf. Single column, 20 lines to a page, lightly ruled in ink. The edges trimmed, but with no loss of text.

Written in textura quadrata.

On the recto, a large miniature in two registers, occupying the full width of the text-block.

Upper register: a man on horseback (a red horse), accompanied by two ?ladies, both on horseback (only one, a white horse, partly visible), approaching a castle; the scene on a lozenge-pattern backdrop, comprising alternate lines of burnished gold lozenges and of alternating pink and blue lozenges filled with white fleurs-de-lys. Lower register: a ?funeral procession, with a ?coffin covered in cloth of gold borne on a bier on the shoulders of four figures, all apparently women, with a fifth behind them at the threshold of a similar castle, apparently *orans*; the scene on a hatched-pattern backdrop, comprising alternating lines of alternating burnished gold and blue or alternating burnished gold and pink squares. There is a four-sided illuminated bar border in burnished gold, blue and pink with white filigree, with foliage sprays at the sides; at the top, vine loops enclosing leaves, supporting a dragon from whose mouth a further foliage spray emanates, extending across the margin; at the bottom, vine loops enclosing leaves and further sprays extending across the margin.

On the recto, a six-line initial E in pink on blue ground with white penwork, filled with gold with a human/animal hybrid grotesque in each of the interstices.

Versals of burnished gold on alternating grounds of blue or red, with the same colours used alternately in contrast as filler, both with white filigree decoration.

Decorated line fillers in the same colours on gold ground.

**Psalterium (fragment)**

*Exultate deo adiutori nostro ... et salvi erimus*

Ps. 79/80: 12-20

Round all four sides is a row of double pricking, but this does not align with the text and so cannot have been for writing (for ?sewing the leaf into place somewhere?). The bottom 30 mm of the leaf was previously folded under, for unknown purposes (but after the pricking

holes were made). The leaf may have been used as a decorative lining or cover for a box or book, or may have been framed.

Origin: written in France.

Provenance:

(1) ?St Osyth's, Essex: inscribed along the base of the recto, on the part formerly folded under, in blue ink and upside down in relation to the text: 'From St Osyth's Esse[x]' (18th/19th cent.). Also, in red ink, inscribed by a different hand, in same manner, 'In every particular the exact hand & illumination of the Aquitain (?)Carta 1362' (19th cent.). Also, in pencil, inscribed by another hand, in same manner, 'The gift of <...> of St Osyth'. A fourth hand has written in pencil, in the same orientation as the text, 'Latin Psalter'.

(2) F.J. Norton M.A. (1904-1986), Under-Librarian and sometime Deputy Librarian of Cambridge University Library, and Knight Grand Cross of Alfonso X the Wise. Acquired from Mr Norton's estate by Cambridge University Library, 30 May 1986.

JSR 26 January 2017

JAF revised and updated 10 August 2021