The Peterborough Psalter and Bestiary

Psalterium. Chronicon Petroburgense. Bestiarium

Codicology: Vellum, mm 347 x 231, (13.7 x 9.3 in.), ff. 210 + 2, two volumes of cent. xiv, exquisitely written and ornamented.

Multivolume:
Volume II: In an exquisite hand, double columns of 42 lines. Cent. xiv early.

Collation: a1 1r-3v 2r-17v 18v || b1 19r 20v 21r (wants 11, 12).

Provenance: From Peterborough. On the flyleaf (ir) in a large hand slightly later than that of the book: “Psalterium fratris Hugonis de Stuecle; prioris”. The last word may be a later addition.

Research: Other noteworthy Peterborough Psalters are at Brussels, Bib. Roy. 9963 (s/b 9961-2) Fitzgerald, Fitzwilliam Museum, no. 12 [MCA102], Society of Antiquaries (Psalter of Rob. de Lindsey) [LSA059], St John's College, Glossed Psalter of Robert de Lindsey [CSJD06].

Foliation: ff. a-d+i+ii+i-2+4+3+5-210+e.

Language: Latin and Anglo-Norman.

Contents:

Volume I

1.

1r-180r Psalter and Office of the Dead

1r Kalendar in red and black

Decoration.

The Kalendar has two medallions with gold grounds (in lower margin except in January) illustrating the occupation and sign of each month

1r () January. Three-faced, at table, drinking with left face eating with right; boar's head on table

1r () Aquarius. Woman in blue seated full-face with two bottles

1v () February. Sits with face to L. by fire and hooks a piece of meat out of a pot. Piscis

2r () March. In hat prunes vine (tree): facing L. Aries

2v () April. Rides to L. hawk on hand. Taurus

3r () May. A girl with full face on grass holding flowers in each hand

3r () Gemini. Nude, linked by arm round each other's back: a blank shield in front of them

3v () June. In broad hat, mowing. Leo

4r () July. In broad hat, reaping. Cancer

4v () August. Threshes. Virgo holds palm

5r () September. Two figures, one with stick, and hotte on back: one treads grapes

5r () Libra. Held by a woman

5v () October. Sows from a wooden barrel-like vessel. Scorpio

6r () November. Beats oak, for a pig. Sagittarius. Centaur, hind-feet lion-like, shoots backward

6v () December. Strikes pig with back of axe. Capricorn half-goat, half cornu copiae.

In the Kalendar

1r () January

4. Eadwardi reg. C.[i]

19. Wistani Ep. C.[i]

1v () February

3. Werburge V.[ii] added early

28. Oswald archiep.[ii]

2r () March

1. Dauid[i]

6. Translacio kyneburge kyneswythe ac Tybbe[i], duplex in red

18. Eadwardi[i]

20. Cuthberti[i]

2v () April

3. Ricardi Ep. C.[i] in red

19. Aelphegh[i]

3r () May

19. Dunstani[i] in red

25. Aldelmi[i], in red

26. Augustini[i], in red

3v () June

3. Obitus Rogeri de Essesse[i] in red

23. Etheldrede[i]

4r () July
7. Translatio S. Thome M.\(^\text{f}\) in red erased and rewritten in cent. \textit{xvi}

4v 0  
August
5v 0  
5. Oswald\(^\text{d}\) added in red late

5r 0  
September
4. Cuthbert\(^\text{f}\) in red
15. Festiuitas reliquiarum Sarum
16. Edithe\(^\text{f}\)
24. Dedicaio ecclesie S. Trinitatis Norwici\(^\text{f}\) in red
27. In red in margin, original: Obitus d. Iohannis Comitis Warre\(^\text{m}\) a' gratie \textit{M\(^\text{f}\) CCC\(^\text{r}\) III\(^\text{f}\)}
28. Dedicaio ecclesie Burgi\(^\text{f}\) in red

5v 0  
October
4. Francisci C. et doctoris\(^\text{f}\) in red
5. or 6. Added in margin in charter hand: “Obitus Hugonis de Stiuecle quondam Prioris Burg”

6r 0  
November 16. and 20. Both Edmund’s in red

6v 0  
December
3. Obitus dyonisie de Styrop\(^\text{f}\)
10. Obitus lecie matris domini oliueri de Wysete\(^\text{d}\)
15. Obitus d. Willelmi de Warem\(^\text{i}\)
29. Thomas\(^\text{f}\) erased and rewritten in red

7r 0  
Twelve leaves with pictures
The full-page pictures preceding the Psalter are thus arranged
a. A prophet and apostle under architectural canopy sometimes supported by central shaft, sometimes not; within frame. The apostle has a clause of the creed on a scroll; the prophet a corresponding prophecy. Names in red below the frame. Colours flat, pale green, blue, pink, brown etc. No grounds. Fine drawing
b. c. Gold grounds with incised pattern. Frame in colour. Architecture in spandrels, red silk guards. Fine drawing and colour: faces often have a dab of pink on the cheeks. The subjects are Life of Christ etc.
d. Prophet and apostle, as in a.

7v 0  
1. Jeremias\(^\text{f}\). Pointed cap. “Patrem uocabitis me dicit dominus”.
2. Petre\(^\text{f}\). “Credo etc. - terre”

8r 0  
3. Nativity under cinqfoiled arch. The usual scheme, with Joseph\(^\text{f}\) seated on R.
4. Andreas\(^\text{d}\). “Et in I. C. dom. nostrum”.
5. Dauid\(^\text{f}\) in cap. “Filius meus es tu hominige te”

9r 0  
5. Ysaias\(^\text{f}\). “Ecce urigo concipiet et pariet filium”.
6. Jacobus\(^\text{f}\). “Qui conceptus - virgine”

9v 0  
6. Resurrection under trefoiled arch. Three knights in mail. The one on L. has a yellow shield with six chevrons sable. An angel kneels on the end of the tomb facing R.

10r 0  
7. Ascension in plain frame, without arch. There is no hill. The Virgin has a book. The figures below number seven in all

10v 0  
8. Daniel\(^\text{f}\). “Post ebdomadas lxxi occiditur christus”.

11r 0  
9. Oseas\(^\text{d}\). “O mors ero mors tua morsus tuo eri inferne”.
10. Thomas\(^\text{f}\). “Descendit - mortuis”

11v 0  
10. Coronation of the Virgin. Plain frame. In the upper corners are two angels with censers and incense-boats

12r 0  
11. Betrayal under cinqfoil. Judas\(^\text{i}\) has a ring round his head not rilled in with colour as are most. Malchus’s, full face, is screaming. Peter’s sword is cutting off the top of his head: much blood is on his face

12v 0  
12. Amos\(^\text{f}\). “Qui edificat in celum ascensionem suam”.

13r 0  
13. Johe\(^\text{f}\). “In ualle Isaphath iudicabit omnes gentes”.
14. Philippas\(^\text{f}\). “Inde - mortuos”

13v 0  
14. The Scourging. Cinqfoil arch. Christ bound to the pillar, full face. The ordinary scheme, with two executioners

14r 0  
15. Bearing the Cross. Trefoil arch. Christ, covered with wounds. He walks to R. One executioner with his hand on His back draws Him on. The Virgin follows supporting the Cross. John’s behind, weeping

14v 0  
16. Aggeus\(^\text{f}\). “Spiritus meus erit in medio uestri” (this and the prophecy of Sophonias\(^\text{f}\), which are both unusual, occur in a Bible of cent. xiii belonging to Mr Pierpont Morgan\(^\text{f}\)).

Bartholomeus\(^\text{f}\). “Credo - sanctum”

15r 0  
17. Mattheus\(^\text{f}\). “Sanctam eccl. - communioenem”.
Sophonias\(^\text{f}\). “Hec est civitas gloriosa que dicit extra me non est”

15v 0  
18. Crucifixion with the Virgin and S. John’s. Cinqfoil arch. Christ’s side is wounded: three nails are used: no crown of thorns

16r 0  
19. Two trefoil arches: no shaft.
L. The Virgin and Child. She holds a flower, He a fruit.
R. Christopher\textsuperscript{41} leaning on an oar, in the midst of the stream. Christ with an orb on His shoulder. Fish in the water

16v () 20. Malachias\textsuperscript{1}. “Cum odio habueris dimitte”.
Symon\textsuperscript{1}. “Remissionem peccatorum”

17r () 21. Zacharias\textsuperscript{1}. “Susciabo filios uestros”.
Thadeus\textsuperscript{1} (beardless). “Carnis resurrectionem”

17v () 22. Christ seated full face, in lozenge; L. hand on orb. The Evangelical emblems in the angles, with names

18r () 23. Trefoil arch. L. Jacobus maior\textsuperscript{1}. Green wallet with escallop slung round him. Staff and book. R. John Baptist\textsuperscript{1}, hairy robe: he points to medallion of Agnus Dei in his L. hand

18v () 24. Abdius\textsuperscript{1}. “Et erit regnum domini. Amen”.

Mathias\textsuperscript{1}. “Vitam - amen”

19r () Psalter in double columns of 17 lines. In a very large, tall, upright hand
Then follows the Psalter

19r () Beatus vir. At bottom: L. David\textsuperscript{4} with sling-stones in his garment. Three sheep in front. R. Goliath\textsuperscript{4} mailed: shield with face on it: banneret and spear: red surcoat: stone in forehead

19r () R. margin. Jesse tree on gold ground. Jesse\textsuperscript{4} sleeping at bottom: then a. David\textsuperscript{4} with harp. b. Solomon\textsuperscript{4} with scroll. c. A bad king in surprised attitude. d. Virgin and child. e. Christ with orb blessing

19r () Initial. David\textsuperscript{4} playing the harp. A chaffinch above in the border

38v () Dominus illuminatus. David\textsuperscript{4} kneels face R. at altar, finger to his eye. Head of Christ above

52r () Dixi. Similar. He points to his protruded tongue

64r () Dixit. David\textsuperscript{4} throne on L. A bald fool in mantle only, eating a cake and holding a club

76v () Saluam. Christ above: Iona\textsuperscript{4} (? below in water, perhaps emerging from the mouth of the large fish

92v () Exultate. David\textsuperscript{4} plays on five bells. Note the very fine white ornament on the blue ground outside the letter. This is conspicuous in other places

106v () Cantate. Clerks, one in cope, two in albs. Book on desk on R.

122v () Dixit dominus. The Father and Son seated full face. Cruciform nimbi. The Father on R. with hand on globe, the Son blessing. The Dove between them

136r () Ad dominum (CXIX. CXX). Like Dominus illuminatus, but here David\textsuperscript{1} is bareheaded and beardless: in blue

153r () Confitbor (Cantica). Christ throneed full-face

153r Canitia and Litany
In the Litany
Apostles: Petre II\textsuperscript{1}
Martyrs: Osuualde (2nd)\textsuperscript{1}. Florentine\textsuperscript{2}. Albane\textsuperscript{1}, Edmunde\textsuperscript{1}, Elphege\textsuperscript{1}, Thoma\textsuperscript{2} erased
Confessors: Atheluuolde (5th)\textsuperscript{2}. ... Cuthberte\textsuperscript{1}, Guthlace\textsuperscript{1}, Uuillfride\textsuperscript{1}, Suithume\textsuperscript{1}, Dunstane\textsuperscript{4}, Johannes\textsuperscript{1}, Aidane\textsuperscript{4}, Botulphe\textsuperscript{1}, Egidi\textsuperscript{1}, Leonard\textsuperscript{2}, Iuliane\textsuperscript{1}, Uulstane\textsuperscript{1}, Hugo II\textsuperscript{1}, Edmunde\textsuperscript{1}, Virgins: Kyneburga\textsuperscript{4}, Kynesuuitha\textsuperscript{4}, Tibba\textsuperscript{2} ... Etheldritha\textsuperscript{1}, Sexburga\textsuperscript{1}, Werburga\textsuperscript{1}
Suffrage for the Pope erased

Collects

169r () Inceptit: Deus cui proprium est miseri\textsuperscript{er}

169v () Inceptit: Omnipotens sempiterne deus. qui facis mirabilia

169v () Inceptit: Pretende domine

169v () Inceptit: Ure igni

169v () Inceptit: Acciones nostras

170r () Inceptit: Adesto domine

170r () Inceptit: A domo tua quesumus domine repellantur

170r () Inceptit: Deus a quo sancta desideria

170r () Inceptit: Ecclesia teue quesumus

170v () Inceptit: Animabuse quesumus

170v () Inceptit: Deus qui es sancstorum

171r Comendacio animarum

174r () Inceptit: Placebo

174r () (Office of the Dead). A bier with blue pall and four candles

2.

180v-184v \textit{Livre de Reis de Britan\textsuperscript{i}ie}}
In a hand of cent. xiv early: double columns of 32 lines

180v () Chronicle of England\textsuperscript{1} in French to Edward I’s death

180v () Inceptit: Deuant la natiuite nostre seignur mil et cc. anz uint brutus\textsuperscript{1} le fiz silius\textsuperscript{1} en engletere\textsuperscript{1}

184r The first hand ends (on Edward I)\textsuperscript{1}

184r () Explicit:Cil regna .xxxiiij. anz et x. meis si morust e git a weymosten\textsuperscript{1}

184r () A hand of about 1400 continues

184r () Inceptit: Apres cesti Roi eduard\textsuperscript{1} vint sire eduard\textsuperscript{1} soui finz

184v Ending with the coronation of Henry IV\textsuperscript{1}

184v () Explicit:lan de grace mil. ccc. nouaun\textsuperscript{t}e et neofyme
189r-209v  
**Chronicle of Peterborough**

**Chronicle of Peterborough Abbey**

In the first hand of item 2

185r () *Incipit:* Anno ab incarnacione domini Dec° quinquagesimo ab aedentu S. Augustini iv° fudanta fuit ecclesia de medeshamstede\(^1\) que nunc Burg\(^2\) uociatur

186v () The first hand goes down to abbot Will. de Wodeford\(^2\)

186v () *Explicit* per iiiij annos ecclesiam bene rexit et mortua est

The second hand of item no. 2 continues

186v () *Incipit:* Godefridus de croiland\(^3\)

187r () And ends with Will. Genge\(^4\) (1396-1408)

187v *Explicit* soluend\(^5\) dicto abbatii infra duos annos prox' post annum creationis eiusdem

Referred to by Tanner\(^6\) etc., but seemingly not printed

f. 188r-188v is blank

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**Volume II**

4.

189r-209v  
**Bestiary**

**A Bestiary**

189r () *Incipit:* Bestiarum vocabulum proprie conuenit leonibus pardis cxii 217

189r () *Incipit:* Phisici dicunt leones tres principales naturas habere

The ornamentation of the Bestiary is very fine indeed

189r (the first leaf) has partial border (oak and ivy-leaf). On R. a splendid grotesque with bow and arrow.

Initial with seated Lion among ivy-leaves: most beautifully painted.

Miniature: five intersecting circles in a square: grounds gold, patterned red and patterned blue. The medallions show:

a. Hunters on L. Lion on R. obliterates his tracks with his tail.

b. He roars at his whelp to raise it.

c. He looks at or is attacked by a serpent (scorpion?),

d. He sniffs at a dead nude man (but will not attack him).

e. He eats a monkey, which cures him of sickness.

There is also an initial with human bust. These occur frequently

The pictures which follow are of various dimensions: frames in gold or colour with projecting leaves: grounds gold or patterned, blue or red divided into two, or quarterly. The subjects are

189v Tiger deceived by mirrors. Huntsman rides off with cub. Pard

190r Panther attracting beasts by his breath except the dragon which disappears into the ground

190v Antelope, horns caught in tree. Huntsman. Unicorn, head in maid's lap, pierced by hunter. Lynx. Gryphon on dead ox

191r Elephant with castle

191v Beavers pursued bite off their glands. Ibex stands on its horns. Hyena devours shrouded corpse

192r “Bonnacon” with curved horns, hunter on L. Monkeys carrying their young, hunters on L. Human-headed hairy-legged satyr. Deer eating serpent, swimming a river

192v (192r) White goats

193r Caprea, red. Monoceros. Two bears, licking a cub

193v Leucro(co)utta grinning. Crocodile devouring man. Mantica, humanheaded. Parandrus, antlered and clawed. Fox feigning death to attract birds

194r Eale, huge horns. Wolf biting his paw: sheepfold on R., dog barking

194v Group of dogs (L. part smeared). King (Garamantes\(^7\)) on L.: dogs attack his armed enemies

195r Dead man watched by dog which keeps off birds: on R. dog attacks his murderer

195v Adam\(^8\) robed, seated on L. by tree, naming beasts (lion, horse, ox, etc.) on R. Sheep. Ram


196v Dromedary. Ass. Wild ass mutilates its young. Two horses

197v Cat. Mice. Weasel

198r Mole. Hedgehogs with apples. Ants: corn on L.

198v A row of doves (?). Eagle on nest looking at the sun: R. plunging into the sea

199r Vulture: a man's foot in its beak. Cranes: one holds stone in claw, others bow to it

199v Parrot. Chaladrius (two) on sick man's bed. Storks: (a) on water, (b) eating snake

200r Swans. Ibis: gives snake's eggs to its young. Ostriches arranging eggs in the sand. Fulica

200v Halcyon, green. Phoenix: (a) in nest fired by sunbeam, (b) dead, a dragon flying away from it


201v Ship on L. Mermaid on R. holding two fish. Partridges. Pie


202v Doves. Dove covering its nest with squillae to keep off wolf which runs off on L.

203r Swallow. Quail. Peacock. Hoopoe
Cock and hen. Ducks. Bees: two straw hives on L.
Large dragon lies on its back open mouthed under tree: doves fly about. Three snakes. Blue and red dragon
Basilisk (cock with snake's tail) attacked by weasel, birds fly about it: serpents flee on R. Two fourlegged vipers eat each other
Asp (winged) stopping his ear: man (charmer) on R.
Syren, white snake, bites man's leg. Seps. Dipsae attack a man. Lacertus. Salamander in apple tree in C, licks the fruit: on R., a man who tastes it falls dead. On R. Salamander in fire. Saura emerges from hole in the wall (changing its skin) and looks at sun. Two stelliones
Four blue snakes, variously engaged, viz. changing skin: drinking at stream: attacking a clothed man on R.: fleeing from a nude man on R.
There are no more illustrations, nor are spaces left for them
The last section is on Rane
\textit{Incipit:} Rane a garulitate eo quod circa genitales strepunt paludes
ending
\textit{Explicit:} pelidorum. popillorum. solearum. lacertorum. ut luligo et huic similia

\section*{Poem on the Vanity of the World (\textit{Cur mundus militat})}

The poem

\textit{Incipit:} Cur mundus militat sub uana gloria
Cuius prosperitas est transitoria
...
Superna cogita cor sit in ethere
Felix qui poterit mundum contemnere

\textit{(Wright, Poems of W. Mapes, p. 147)}