

Three Responsaries

From the *Responsoria de historia Machabeorum* (s.XII/XIII), an Office liturgy usually used in October and from the Temporale of a Breviary (with some 1-line additions with music written above)
inc. fluxit exercitus suus et bellum perurgebat eum

expl. Dominus enim novit cogitatione hominum. (Congregati sunt)

Parchment, 123 x 158 mm (120 x 145 mm), two columns of 21 lines each; ruling in brown ink, lines 6 mm apart

Script Well-formed, small early gothic textura or proto-gothic, written in brown ink. Single-bowled late-caroline g, long s, et, ct and st ligatures, straight d, serifs on most ascenders and slight feet on the minims. Rustic capitals for the beginning letters of sentences. Y has a deep cleft-shaped form, mostly cleft rather than tail, and dotted; it is very distinctive.

Abbreviations Standard nomina sacra, \hat{t} for *tus* and n for *us*, \dot{q} for *qui*, $\dot{q}nto$ for *quanto* etc.

Punctuation Punctus on writing line for medial pause and punctus elevatus for the main pause

Decoration A 2½-line initial *E* in col. a in green with some line-fill decoration in red and green. Col. b, lines 1 and 13, a 3½-line capital *Y* in blue and red

Musical notation Music is for the third nocturn with Matins, with parts of the 6th, 7th and 8th lessons and parts of the 5th, 6th and 7th responsories. The notation is French *petites carrées* of s.XII. The practice of writing neums without staves (where elsewhere in the same book they would appear in staves) is common in French liturgical books of the period. The neums thus act as an *aide-mémoire* and accompany text incipits. The chant text is in a smaller hand. This is a practice developed before music appeared and acts as a warning that the text in question is to be sung.

Provenance Unknown; written in France