

From an Office book with music  
(s.XV/XVI)

One of the Great O Antiphons for the  
Magnificat at Vespers in the week before  
Christmas eve. The only text appearing is O  
ado(nay)

dux domus

Parchment, 140 x 184 mm (160 x 170  
mm); two 5-line staves and two lines of  
script, the script written in a space equal to  
just over that between the first and third line  
of the stave. Lines in red; lines of stave 13  
mm apart, lines of text 82 mm apart; format  
large and grand

*Script* A carefully formed gothic textura  
precissa written with a broad and slanting  
nib, so that the tops of the letters are wide  
rather than narrow, but pen angle is  
changed to produce a thick line for the  
downward strokes of the letters. Only letters  
*a* (2-compartment indicated rather than  
finished, with a top bow as well), *d* (fused  
with the following letter *o*, and round, with  
the shaft almost horizontal lying above the  
*d*), *u*, *x*, *m* represented

*Abbreviations* Only one:  $\supset$  for *-us*

*Musical notation* Square black notes on a  
5-line stave; the clef in the form of three  
diamonds

*Decoration* A large and handsome initial  
*O*, equal to one stave plus one line of script  
in height (i.e. nearly 60 mm including its  
frame) in red and decorated with  
calligraphic ornament in purple, as well as  
some leaf ornament in purple in the margin  
on left

*Provenance* Unknown. MRJ suggested  
that it was written in Spain. He did not give  
his reasons, but the clef form is distinctively  
Spanish.