

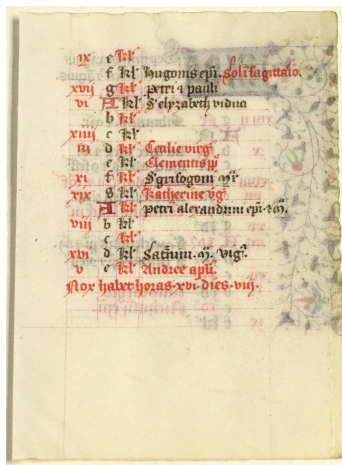
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Fragment, Book of Hours

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Calendar: showing the entries for 16 - 30 November to 1- 15 December.

The transcription tries to follow the arrangement of the four columns of 18 lines, as well as the use of alternating coloured inks (red ink denoting more significant saints or events in the calendar). Expanded scribal abbreviations are underlined.

R. Faunce, March 2020



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16	ix ¹	e ²	<u>Kalendas</u> ³	
17		f	<u>Kalendas</u>	Hugonis <u>episcopi</u> . ⁴ sol <u>in sagittario</u> . ⁵
18	xvii	g	<u>Kalendas</u>	Petri et Pauli ⁶
19	vi	A	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Sancte elyzabeth uidue</u> ⁷
20		b	<u>Kalendas</u>	
21	xiiii	c	<u>Kalendas</u>	
22	iii	d	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Cecilie uirginis</u> ⁸
23		e	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Clementis pape</u> ⁹
24	xi	f	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Sancti grisogoni martyris</u> ¹⁰
25	xix	g	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Katherine uirginis</u> ¹¹
26		A	<u>Kalendas</u>	Petri alexandrini <u>episcopi</u> . ¹²
27	viii	b	<u>Kalendas</u>	
28		c	<u>Kalendas</u>	
29	xvi	d	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Saturnini. martyris. uirginis</u> ¹³
30	v	e	<u>Kalendas</u>	<u>Andree apostoli</u> . ¹⁴

Nox habet horas . xvi. dies. viii.¹⁵

¹ This column shows the Golden Numbers, indicating the appearances of new moons and full moons throughout the year.

² This column shows the Dominical Letters (from *dies dominica*), representing the seven days of the week. The letter (A to G) assigned to a day depended on when the first Sunday of the year fell. If in a given year, 1 Jan is a Sunday, the dominical letter is A, and all As throughout the calendar will be Sundays, Bs would be Mondays and so on. But, if the first Sunday is Jan 2 the Dominical Letter would be B, Mondays C, Tuesdays D and so on. Sometimes termed Sunday letters because any one of them could, in turn, designate Sunday.

³ Each month has three fixed points: the first day of the month called Kalends, signifying the start of a new lunar phase; Nones which falls on the fifth day, and Ides on the thirteenth, except in March, May, July and October, when Nones falls on the seventh and Ides on the fifteenth. Ides came eight days after Nones. All the days in between were counted backward from these three fixed points.

⁴ Hugh of Avalon (1135-1140), bishop of Lincoln. Feast day, 16 November.

⁵ Reference to the sun appearing in the constellation Sagittarius, from 17 November. At the present time, in the northern hemisphere, the constellation is hidden behind the sun's glare from mid-November to mid-January, with improved visibility from around the winter solstice, December 21.

⁶ Dedication of the Basilicas of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Feast day, 18 November.

⁷ Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231), widow [and nun]. Feast day, 19 November.

⁸ Cecilia of Rome, virgin [and martyr], 3rd century. Feast Day, 22 November.

⁹ Clement I, bishop of Rome (pope) 88-99. Feast day, 23 November.

¹⁰ Grisogoni, also spelt Chrysogonus, martyr. Feast day, 24 November.

¹¹ Katherine of Alexandria (c. 287-305), virgin and [martyr]. Feast day, 25 November.

¹² Peter of Alexandria, bishop of Alexander, 3rd century. Feast day, 25 November.

¹³ Saturninus of Toulouse, martyr and ?virgin, 3rd century. Feast day, 29 November.

¹⁴ Andrew the Apostle, 1st century. Feast day, 30 November. The *Sanctorale* or Proper of Saints, often begins with the Feast of St Andrew (Nov 30) and ends with the feast of St Katherine of Alexandria (25 Nov).

¹⁵ Text reads: 'Night has 16 hours, the day 8'.

[verso]

<u>KALENDES</u>				Septimus exanguis uirosus denus ut <u>anguis</u> . ¹⁶ <u>December</u> . <u>Eligii episcopi</u> . ¹⁷
1		f		
2	xiii ii	g	<u>Nonas</u>	Bibiane. <u>uirginis. et martyris</u> . ¹⁸
3		A	<u>Nonas</u>	
4	x	b	<u>Nonas</u>	barbare <u>uirginis et martyris</u> ¹⁹
5		c	<u>Nonas</u>	Sa[b]be <u>abbatis et confessoris</u> ²⁰
6	xviii	d	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Nycholay episcopi et confessoris</u> ²¹
7	vii	e	<u>Idus</u>	Ambrosii <u>episcopi et confessoris</u> ²²
8		f	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Conceptio beate marie</u> ²³
9	xv	g	<u>Idus</u>	
10	iiii	A	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Sancti melchiadis pape. et martyris</u> . ²⁴
11		b	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Sancti damasi pape. et confessoris</u> ²⁵
12	xii	c	<u>Idus</u>	
13	i	d	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Lucie uirginis</u> ²⁶
14		e	<u>Idus</u>	<u>Nichasii episcopi</u> . ²⁷
15	ix	f	<u>Kalendas</u>	

¹⁶ Verse from an anonymous Roman poem which warns of the two days in each month of the year linked to bad luck (*dies Aegyptiaci*). In December, the seventh and the tenth day from the end of the month, 22 December, are singled out. "The seventh deprives the many of blood, the tenth is as a serpent". English translation from L. Jefferson, *The Medieval Account Books of the Mercers of London: An Edition and Translation* (Routledge, 2016), p. 8.

¹⁷ Eligii or Elgius (588-660), bishop of Noyon. Feast day, 1 December.

¹⁸ Bibiane, also spelt Vivian, virgin and martyr. Feast day, 2 December.

¹⁹ Barbara of Phoenicia (273-306), martyr. Feast day, 4 December.

²⁰ Sa[b]be, also spelt Saba of Palestrina (439-532), Abbot. Feast day, 5 December.

²¹ Nicholas (270-343), bishop of Myra. Feast day, 6 December.

²² Ambrose, bishop of Milan 374-397. Feast day, 7 December.

²³ Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, celebrated 8 December.

²⁴ Melchiades, also spelt Miltiades, bishop of Rome (pope) 311-314. Feast day, 10 December.

²⁵ Damasi or Damasus, bishop of Rome (pope) 366-384. Feast day, 11 December.

²⁶ Lucy of Syracuse (283-304), virgin. Feast day, 13 December.

²⁷ Nichasii or Nicasius, bishop of Reims. Feast day, 14 December. Another possibility is that the entry indicates the end of the eight-day (octave) celebration of Nycholay that begins with the feast of December 6 ending eight days later on December 14.