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Psallat celum plaudit tellus
GB-Ob Rawl. D 1225 f.9r

Source and Contents

First three pieces are in hands of late s.xii; the rest are in s.xiii hands (a variety of similar scribes, some perhaps the same but writing at different times and with different pens). Described in more detail below.

Notation

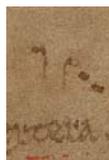
Notation hand is fluid, tending towards square. Stems of virgae protrude above heads, which are fairly narrow horizontal strokes, sometimes almost disconnected from stems. Puncta have pronounced winged shape, but are used rarely here (in fact, not many single notes in this piece at all). They are always lower than previous note (but not all lower notes are puncta), and are interchangeable with virgae in repeated phrases. Pes present. Clivis regularly has short tail to right of second note: this is evidently not a liquescent, as it occurs even at the ends of versicles (**1b preliO**).



Cephalicus has tail to left, sloping and tapered head leading to shorter tail to right. It also occurs in a LHL formation - this begins like a torculus, but with the 2nd and 3rd notes taking the cephalicus form - and following a virga at same pitch (**1a CELum**).



Porrectus. Climacus usually takes the 'extended clivis' form (and like the ordinary clivis, often has a short tail to right of last note), except a few times in the bottom half of the page where the 'English conjunctura' is used instead (**5a dexteRA**).

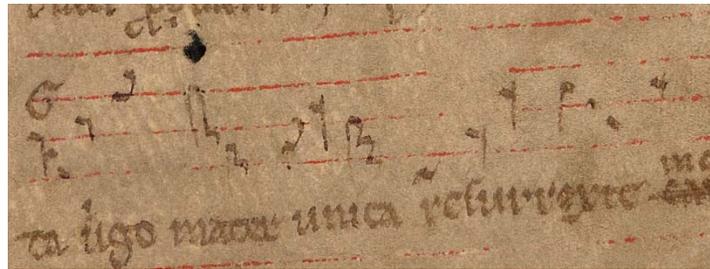




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In verse 4, all three different forms of the climacus (traditional, extended clivis and English conjunctura) are used in rapid succession for similar phrases (**4a exulTA virgo mater uniCA resurreXIT**).



Layout

Red ink staves with 4 or 5 lines, neatly ruled, G clefs, no other visible ruling, except single vertical of inner margin. Systems not equally spaced depending on whether 4 or 5 lines were used. Bottom half of page in particular, very badly faded and worn, with stave-lines sometimes invisible now, though notes and words generally still present. Some erasures in the notation and text.

References

Corbin, Solange : *Die Neumen* (Volk: 1977).

Frere, Walter Howard, ed. : *Biblioteca musico-liturgica: a descriptive handlist of the musical and Latin-liturgical MSS. of the Middle Ages preserved in the libraries of Great Britain and Ireland*. 2 vols. (London: Bernard Quaritch for the Plainsong and Medieval Music Society, 1901-1932; repr. 1967), p. 336.

Hartzell, Karl Drew : *Catalogue of Manuscripts Written or Owned in England up to 1200 Containing Music* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press in association with the Plainsong and Medieval Music Society, 2006), no.287, p.496: s.xii (last quarter).

[NB Hartzell lists only *Psallat celum*, *Flos excellens*, and *Flos convallis*, since the other musical additions are later, 'possibly all of s.xiii' and therefore outside his scope.]

Hiley, David : 'The Norman Chant Traditions', PRMA 107 (1980-1), 1-33.



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Kozachek, T : 'Tonal neumes in Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman pontificals', *PMM* 6 (1997), 119-41

RISM B IV, pp.573-574.

For further references on this source please see the DIAMM bibliography.

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