

**Turku, The Provincial Archives of Turku, Turku Archdiocese Cathedral Chapter,
Gummerus-collection, I:1. *Psalterium***

Saec. XIV, Sweden?

Contents

Psalterium (digital facsimile: <http://digi.narc.fi/digi/slistaus.ka?ay=33837>)

Fols. 1r–v, 2r–4rb, 4rb–13v, 14r–v, 15r–20v, *psalterium*. Ps. 9:[26?]32–10:6, 1–9:26, 10:6–37:20, 76:10–77:40, 85:14–103:22.

‘[Fol. 1r is badly worn, illegible; fol. 1va] ...Dixit enim in corde suo ... [fol. 1vb] ... In domino confido ... filios hominum. Dominus interrogat [Fol. 2r] [*invitatorium*] V[enite ex]ultem[us] domino iubilemus deo salutari nostro. Beatus uir qui non abiit ... [fol. 4rb] ... sunt viae illius in omni tempore. Dominus interrogat iustum et impium ... [fol. 13v] ... sunt super me et multipli| [fol. 14r, misericord]ias suas. Et dixi ... [fol. 14v] ... rediens. quotiens exacerbaverunt e| [fol. 15r] quaesierunt [animam] meam et ... [fol. 20v] ... congregati sunt et in cu|’.

On fol. 4r the scribe has copied psalm 9 until the first half of verse 26, and has then continued with verse 6 of psalm 10. The same scribe has copied the skipped verses on fol. 1v (while it is hard to ascertain, given the poor state of this folio, it seems that all of the missing verses have been copied).

Antiphons, etc. are often listed between psalms; see fol. 4r, 5r, 5v, 6v, 7r, 7v, 9v, 10r, 11v, 12v, 15r, 18v (for a closer listing, if needed, see Gummerus 1910, 84–85).

Corrections on fols. 8r, 10v, 16v in a saec. XV hand.

On the front pastedown there is an illegible text in saec. XV cursive.

Structure

$1^1 + VI^{13} + I((II-1)^{17} + I^{19})^{20}$ (i.e. fols. 14 and 20 form a *bifolium* which encloses fols. 15–19), parchment, 11,5x19 (9x13); text in two columns on 28 lines, no discernible signs of ruling. Modern foliation in pencil at the lower right hand corner of the *recto*-sides. Throughout dirty and worn, with the upper parts of folia especially towards the front and back of the book torn and frayed and in places reinforced in a modern restoration.

There are quires missing between fols. 13 and 14, and between 14 and 15.

Script

Gothic Textualis in one somewhat inexpert saec. XIV hand.

Decoration

Three sizes of lombards, alternating in red and blue: smallest for the initials of verses, medium-sized (blue ones flourished in red, the red ones left unflourished) marking the beginning of psalms, the highest-grade ones (bicoloured, flourished in red) marking psalms one (fol. 2r), 26 (f. 9r) and 95 (fol. 18v), which are all preceded by an invitatory hymn. The decoration, especially the flourishing

where the execution does not match the evident ambition, suggest a copy of a Continental book, produced perhaps somewhere in Sweden.

Provenance

No marks of provenance.

Binding

Original full leather binding on wooden boards with raised bands. The back cover is missing, and the leather covering has been badly eroded. The volume has been closed with clasps, the front halves of which are still extant.

History

A psalter produced in the fourteenth century in imitation of a Continental book, perhaps somewhere in Sweden, found its way to the Diocese of Turku, probably already in the middle ages (if it indeed was not originally produced there). At some point (or at several) substantial parts of the book have gone missing, including its back cover. Nothing is known of the provenance of the book before was found in the Turku Cathedral Chapter Archives in the early twentieth century. It may have arrived there as the result of the chapter's request, ca. 1826, that parishes send older materials for examination. The materials were at least in some cases returned to the parishes (this happened to the books from Tammela now in the Library of Åbo Akademi), but at least some remained and survived the great fire that destroyed much of the city in 1827 (Schalin 1946, 6 n. 2, cites the circulars of the chapter, no. 237 of November 5th 1828, and no. 264 of June 20th 1833, which indicate that several manuscripts that had been sent to Turku as requested had not been collected and had become disordered in the fire, and were now kept in the archbishop's household).

Jesse Keskiaho

Literature

J. Gummerus, 'Eräs kirjalöytö Turun tuomiokapitulin arkistosta', *Suomen kirkkohistoriallisen seuran pöytäkirjat* 10 (1910), 81–123, at 84–85.