



Large Mass Antiphonary Of 260 Pages, Dated 1736

18 000 EUR



Period : 18th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Vellum

Width : 59 cm

Height : 85 cm

Description

The antiphonary is a Catholic liturgical book. This collection of Gregorian chants was used for the office but also for mass. It is recognized in particular by its square neumatic notation characteristic of the Gregorian style. Its name is derived from "antienne" which is a song performed alternately by two choirs.

This present liturgical book is a mass antiphonary. It contains texts intended to be sung at mass. For each of them, the texts are broken down as follows:

The Introitus with which the mass begins

The Graduale and Reponsorium, response songs to the first reading

The Hallelujah The Offertorium during which the priest places the offering of bread and wine on the

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altar

The Communio during the communion of the

faithful

Each of these parts is separated by red

calligraphic letters in order to differentiate the

times: "Int", "Com", "Off"...

The celebrations begin at the start of Advent with the first Introitus "Ad te levavi", the first song of the first Sunday of Advent, attributed to Saint Gregory I. After the third Sunday of Advent, the Christmas mass is celebrated with in particular the "Puer natus est nobis": "A child is born to us".

We then find the masses of the four Epiphany

Sundays. Then follows the mass of

Quinquagesima Sunday (the fiftieth day before

Easter). To finish this impressive work we

discover the liturgy of Lent with the different

days after Ash Wednesday. During this period,

the "Alleluia" is replaced by the "Tractus", the

Gregorian trait, derived from the word Trahere,

because it drags and invites patience. The

Antiphonary ends on Sabatto post Cineres.

The pages have 5 staves of 5 lines. The vellum

sheets, numbering 130, are numbered at the top

right. One number corresponds to two pages, so

there are 260 pages. They are decorated with

interlacing, illuminations and initials. This

important work was carried out in the

scriptorium, the workshop annexed to the library

where the manuscripts were copied manually. We

notice on the lines and letters the traces of the

tool used: a cut reed called calame which was

dipped in ink. This dictated a particular type of

writing, called ductus, forming the letters of the

antiphonary.

The inside cover, the most richly illuminated

page, informs us about the origin of the sponsor

belonging to the "Roman estates" of this

important acquisition. It is indicated that this

antiphonary was made for the order of

Dominicans in the province of Aragon: "Hic liber

factus eft expensis R.P. prefentati Fr. Petri Santa
Romana Praediea toris Generalis et Filij Regalis
Conventus Praedicatorum Caefar auguftae, bis
illius Prioris. Terque Socij et Secretarij huius Pro
vinciae Aragoniae. » The inscription on the back
cover confirms this Dominican provenance.

The leather cover has a wrought iron clasp. The
second is missing. Important dimensions: a height
of 85 cm and a width of 59 cm. Dated 1736 on
the back cover. Wear on the cover. Some small
losses of vellum in the corner of certain pages, a
connection at the bottom of one of them.