

Some Manuscripts in the British Library with Illustrations of Musical Instruments
and a few other sources that I have found
FoMRHIQ 2, January 1976, Comm. 8

- Arundel 83. Conflation of two English Psalters, East Anglia, c.1310. The second half is known as the *de Lisle Psalter*. Good source. Includes: long trumpets, harps, citole, bagpipe, bells, fiddle, portative, psaltery, duct flute, pipe & tabor.
- Cotton, Tib.C.vi. Psalter, mid 11th c. f.30 is well-known; the rest is the usual Boethius improbabilities of the period.
- Egerton 1139. *Queen Melissander's Psalter*, Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, c.1140. The only instrument is a good harp, available as a postcard. The ivory cover is well known: King David playing what might be a dulcimer.
- Harley 2804. German Bible, 1148. f.3 has a not very good David and musicians.
- Harley 4425. *La Roman de la Rose*, pre-1500. 2 folios with music parties.
- Royal 2.A.xvi. Psalter time of Henry VIII, with annotations by him. Harp, pipe & tabor, short trumpet, dulcimer. Interesting that Henry is one of the musicians (and his fool shuts his ears to avoid his playing).
- Royal 2.A.xxii. *The Westminster Psalter*, late 12th c. David with harp and bells (postcard available), another harp. Interesting in that Westminster Abbey has a very similar hemispherical bell in the Undercroft exhibition room.
- Royal 2.B.vii. *The Queen Mary Psalter*, English early 14th c. well known source with a lot of material, but none quite as good and clear as in other East Anglian psalters (e.g. Luttrell, Gorleston, Macclesfield). A few unusual instruments, e.g., harmonic flute, hawking bells.
- Royal 10.E.iv. *The Smithfield Decretals*, second quarter 14th c. Long trumpets, hawking bells, drum.
- Royal 13.B.viii. Giraldus Cambrensis, 13th c. Wolf with a bell round its neck, bells, good psaltery, horns.
- Royal 19.D.iii. French Bible, 1411. Good source. Harps, pellet bells, rebec, S-shaped trumpet, shawm, long trumpet, duct flute, nakers, fiddles, psalteries, lutes, horns, portative, short trumpets, wide trumpets. [The instruments here and elsewhere are listed in folio order of first appearance].
- Sloane 3983. Dutch astrological treatise, early 14th c. Excellent source which gives names for instruments in Latin. Harps, shawms, timbres, fiddles, gittern, hurdy-gurdy, 'lamina', psalteries, sistrum (?), cymbals, rebec, rebab, citole.
- Stowe 17. Dutch Book of Hours, 13th/14th c. Very small format and full of instruments. Oval fiddles, portatives, bagpipes with and without drone, harps, citoles with long neck and with turned back neck, long trumpets, pipes & tabors, animal bells, hunting horns, psalteries, triangle, short trumpets, positive organ, timbre, bell in a church tower, drum.
- Add. 11695. *Beatus Apocalypse*, Mozarabic Spain, c.1109. Good source for its time and place. Oval fiddles plucked and bowed, wide trumpets, shawm. Two postcards available.
- Add. 12228. Arthurian Romance, South Italian, mid-14th c. The miniatures differ in date and some are 15th c. Quite a good source. Horns, long trumpets, church bells, dogs with bells, bagpipe, psalteries, lutes, pipes & tabors.
- Add. 15426. Psalter, Tongerlo, Flanders, 1522. The miniatures are impressionistic.
- Add. 17868. Psalter, Paris (?), second half 13th c. Mostly too unclear to be useful.
- Add. 18850. *The Bedford Hours*, Anglo-French c.1425. Excellent source. Harps, long trumpets, church organ, positive organ, psalteries, fiddles, pellet bells, bagpipe, bell-chime, sinuous

trumpets, curved trumpets, portatives, shawms, horns, cymbals.

Add. 18851. *The Isabella Breviary*, Flemish, 15th/16th c. At least two artists. Good source.

Bagpipes, lutes, pipe & tabor, lira, triangles, harps, horns, oval fiddles, long trumpets, recorders, portatives, shawms, dulcimer, psalteries, cymbals, clappers.

Add. 19352. *The St Basil Psalter* (aka *Theodore Psalter*), Caesaria, 1066. Almost all the miniatures are captioned in scribbled Greek, many are badly rubbed, so it is not now as good a source as it once was. Harps of various shapes, horns, trumpets, side-blown trumpet, transverse flute, fiddle, drum.

Add. 22315. Johannes Gallici treatise on music, 15th c. f.15 shows a late drawing of the original clavichord, a monochord with wildly cranked tangents.

Add. 25696. French Book of Hours, late 15th c. Not reliable.

Add. 29433. Hours of Paris use, French, early 15th c. Very pretty manuscript, but some instruments are more pretty than reliable; there is a lot of them, though. Curved metal horns, pellet bells, bottle-bell shawm, psaltery, bagpipes, gitterns, long trumpets, handbells, harps, pipe & tabor, tabors alone, triangles, fiddles, hooked trumpets, shawms, lutes, hunting horns, cymbals, whistling, pestle & mortar, nakers, helical horns, portative, hurdy-gurdy.

Add. 30014. Italian Hymnarium, 1415. Not a wonderful source. Shawms, pipes & tabors, nakers, bagpipe, long trumpets, psalteries of different shapes, fiddles, double pipes, timbres, hurdy-gurdies, gittern.

Add. 30029. French Palter, late 13th c. A useful set of pictures but few are detailed enough to be publishable. Bagpipes with and without drone, harp, handbells, gittern, pellet bells, shawms, long trumpets, citole, waisted fiddle, bell-chime, tabor, pestle & mortar.

Add. 42130. *The Luttrell Psalter*, East Anglia, c.1340. Superb source. Harps, bagpipes, shawms, pipes & tabors, long trumpets, bells, animal bells, hunting horns, handbells, whistling arrow, positive organ, nakers, timbre, hurdy-gurdy, double pipes, psaltery, rebec, hawking drum, double shawm, portative, pestle & mortar.

Add. 49622. *The Gorleston Psalter*, East Anglia, c.1325. Even better source, and very entertaining with a lot of rabbit and ape musicians. Harps. Long trumpets, waisted fiddles, tabor, bagpipes with and without drone, duct flutes, short horns, shawms, whistling arrow, positive organs, short trumpets, pipes & tabors, psalteries, portatives, citole, timbres, handbells, shawm & tabor.

Add. 54180. French Bible Paraphrase, c.1275. Quite good but not many instruments. Curved metal horns, hunting horn, harp, leper's clappers.

Other sources

Westminster Abbey, *The Litlington Missal*, English, 1384. Quite a good source. Harps, nakers (some cross-snared), double trumpets, gitterns, fiddles, straight trumpets, bagpipes, shawm, plucked fiddle, bowed citole.

Added 2006: These were the manuscripts which I went through to find illustrations for my *The World of Medieval & Renaissance Musical Instruments* (David & Charles/Overlook, 1976), and many of them I used. I listed them as soon as I'd finished with them to help other people. I might now wish to change some instrument names – I know more now than I did 25 years ago. To these I would add *The Macclesfield Psalter*, East Anglia, 14th c., now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, who publish a CD-ROM of the whole manuscript for about £20. It is a wonderful source – see my forthcoming article on it in *Early Music*, probably May 2006.

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