Unlocking the Mysteries of a Medieval Chant Book with Multispectral Imaging

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Visible Imaging
Multispectral Imaging
Book Histories

codices
a digital studio for the optical, chemical, and computational analysis of manuscripts, texts, and early printed books

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provenance
Peñafiel & San Pedro Regalado La Aguilera
Dr. Kathleen Sewright, suggests the original decoration is indicative of Spanish Dominicans.
13 bifolia inserted at beginning

ff. 1-2 vespers antiphons for feast of St. Francis/Clare
ff. 3-4 antiphon for the Annunciation
f. 5r antiphon for all seasons
   (but Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost)
f. 5v antiphon before Mass for Easter
ff. 6-9 Credo
f. 10r tract for Virgin Mary
f. 10v Kyrie for Eastertide
missing leaf—index identifies “Missa egredimini”
ff. 11-13 Credo
Dr. Erika Supria Honisch notes that the Feast of St. Francis, f. 1r-v has been augmented with a lyric for St. Clare.

Salve sancte pater patriae lux forma minorum virtutis
speculum recti via regula
morum carnis ab exilio
duc nos ad regna polorum.

Salve sponsa dei virgo sa
cra planta minorum tu vas mun
ditiae tu praevia forma so
rorum Clara tuis precibus
duc nos ad regna polorum.
An eighteenth-century index lists the majority of the chants, including new ones written over scraped ones.
kyriale = main section of manuscript

- series of masses for major and minor feasts
  - Kyrie
  - Gloria
  - Sanctus
  - Agnus Dei

- parts of daily office for Passion week
repaired leaves
simplification of chant
excisions
correction & over correction
1. Dr. Erika Supria Honisch first noted the name 'e strozi'.

2. In consultation with Dr. Kathleen Sewright, the CODICES team found an agnus dei with the name Strozi appended.

3. The CODICES team then found the name in the index and on tabs, locating the four parts of a mass identified with the Strozi name scattered throughout.
ff. 82v-87v Strozzi Credo & superimposed new chant & lyric
ff. 37v-38v
scraped and new music for a kyrie
multispectral scanner & digitization stand
\[ \lambda = 720 \text{nm} \]
where did the red go?

Red print absorbs all wavelengths other than red (which gets reflected)

White color reflects all wavelengths

Black print absorbs all wavelengths (no reflections)

“White” light contains all wavelengths (all colors)

The red disappears because there is no longer any contrast between the red letter A and surrounding white paper (notice the black letters still have contrast—since they contain no red)

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f. 38v region of interest

1. evidence of compositionally different red ink used to reline the staves
2. invisible musical notes (dark) including two notes obscured by bleed through
3. musical notes bleeding through from the reverse (light)
4. extensive scraping of vellum
5. scraped letters (dark) & bleed through letters (light)
f. 38v one color of ink (red)
f. 38v scraped areas highlighted
f. 38v recto bleed through
f. 38v scraped chant

“Tu es Petre”

unfinished

ves regni ce
lorum tradidi
tibi Quo
cumque ligaveris super
terram erit ligatum et in ce
lis et quodcumque solveris su

f. 39-42 cut out
(per terram erit solutum et in coelis)
f. 38r scraped chant
"Tu es Petre"
overwritten with Kyrie

Symon P (antequam) de navi voca
rem te novi te
et super plebem me am principem te
constitui et cla
team members
Annie Liljegren, English
Jesse Lowe, Computing and Engineering
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