


# Early Medieval Art

400-526



 *Barbarian Migrations and Invasions. The early cross-border raids of neighboring peoples gave way to migrations of starving and terrified barbarian allies looking for safety in the Empire. By the fifth century, large-scale raids by the Huns and Vandals reached throughout the western Empire, resulting in permanent settlements.*

Fall of Roman Empire (5th century)


## **Early Medieval Europe**

This period of roughly 1,000 years is further divided into three phases

1. **Early Medieval** (ending in the 10-11th century)
2. **Romanesque** (11th-12th century)
3. **Gothic** (12th-15th century)

Fusion of Celtic-Germanic culture, Christianity, and the Greco-Roman heritage



 *The Barbarian Kingdoms, ca. 526. By the sixth century, the Western Roman Empire had been replaced by smaller kingdoms ruled by barbarian kings granting only nominal recognition to the Emperor.*

Brooch, first half of 5th century, Eastern Germanic Silver with gold sheet overlay, garnets





Pair of eagle fibulae, Visigothic, early 6thc., gold over bronze with gemstones, glass&meerschaum

**Merovingian looped fibula.  
Early medieval Europe. Mid-  
sixth century C.E. France.  
Silver gilt worked in filigree,  
with inlays of garnets and  
other stones.**



## EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN EUROPE



In 793 the pagan traders and pirates known as Vikings (named after the viks - coves or "trading places" - of the Norwegian shorelines) set sail from Scandinavia and landed in the British Isles.



## Oseberg ship burial



© 2011 Erin Erkun

it was constructed in 834 AD. Other skeletal remains found on the ship included 13 horses, 4 dogs and 2 oxen. It is likely that these represent animals that were sacrificed to accompany the female burials into the afterlife.





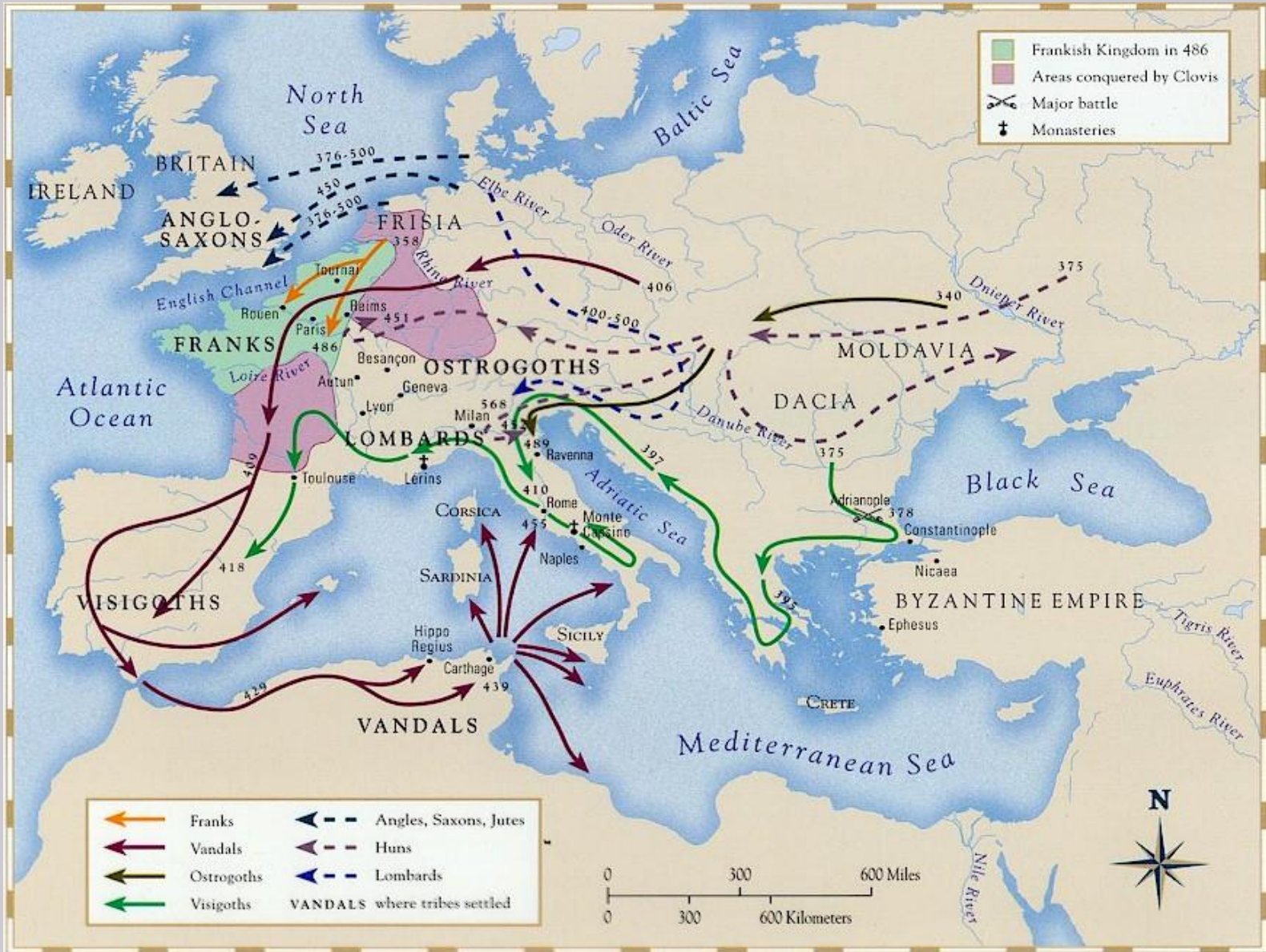
© 2011 Erin Erkun

ceremonial wagon is the only one of its kind in Norway that dates back to the Viking Age. It is estimated to have been made around 800 AD, well before it was placed in the grave.

Germanic Norse seafarers, speaking the Old Norse language, who raided and traded from their Scandinavian homelands across wide areas of northern and central Europe, as well as European Russia, during the late 8th to late 11th centuries

The Anglo-Saxon period denotes the period of British history between about 450 and 1066, after their initial settlement, and up until the Norman conquest

The early Anglo-Saxon period covers the history of medieval Britain that starts from the end of Roman rule. It is a period widely known in European history as the Migration Period, also the Völkerwanderung ("migration of peoples" in German), and was a period of intensified human migration in Europe from about 400 to 800. The migrants were Germanic tribes such as the Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Lombards, Suebi, Frisii and Franks; they were later pushed westwards by the Huns, Avars, Slavs, Bulgars and Alans.

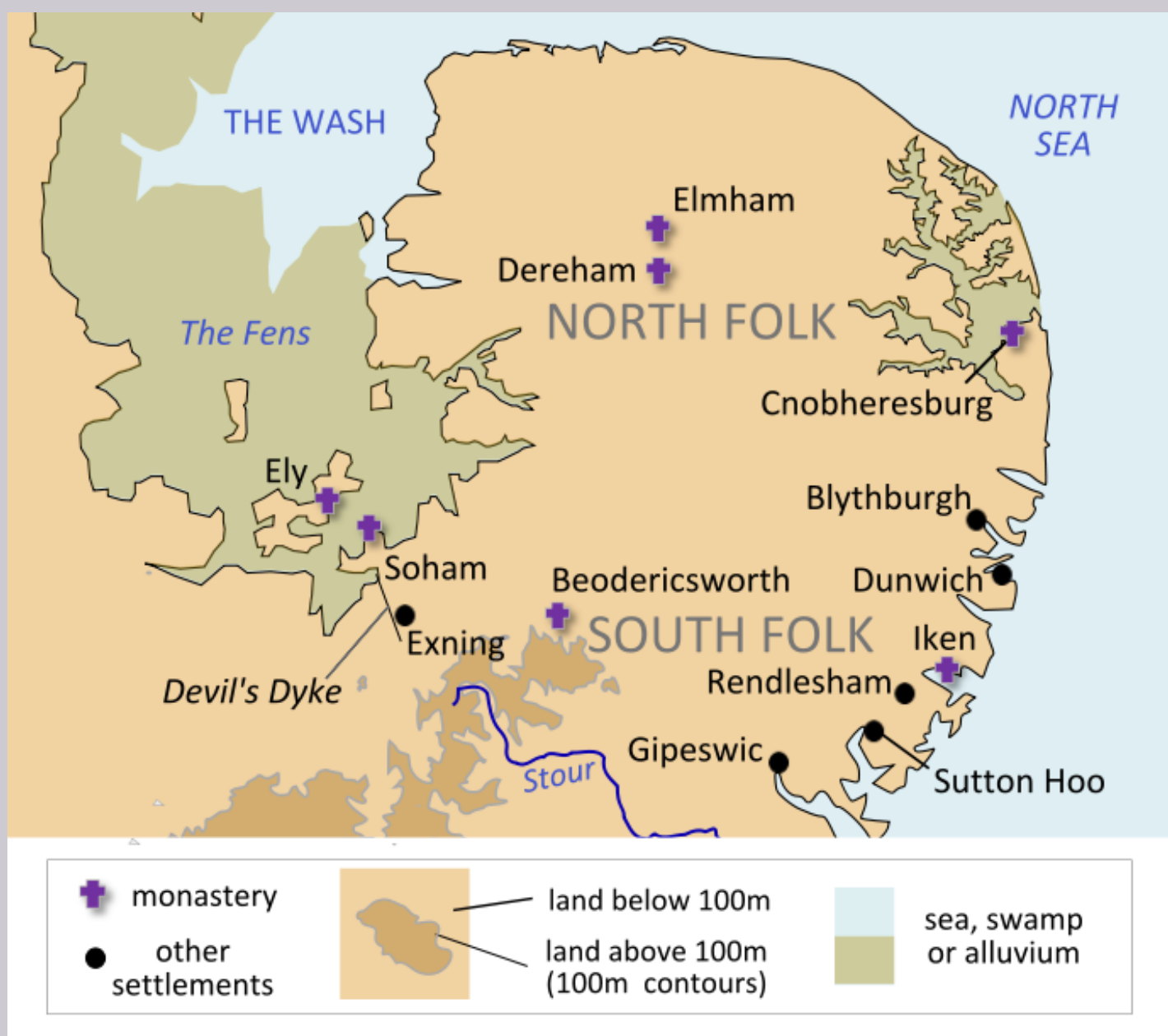


Clovis (c. 466 – c. 511) was the first king of the Franks to unite all of the Frankish tribes under one ruler, from a group of royal chieftains to rule by a single king and ensuring that the kingship was passed down to his heirs. He is considered to have been the founder of the Merovingian dynasty, which ruled the Frankish kingdom for the next two centuries.

# Oseberg ship burial

Animal-Head Post Oseberg, Norway  
ca. 825 wood approximately 5 in. high





The kingdom of East Anglia during the early Anglo/Angle-Saxon period, with Sutton Hoo in the south-eastern area near to the coast



Anglo- Saxon warrior king  
was found at Sutton Hoo, in  
Suffolk, England







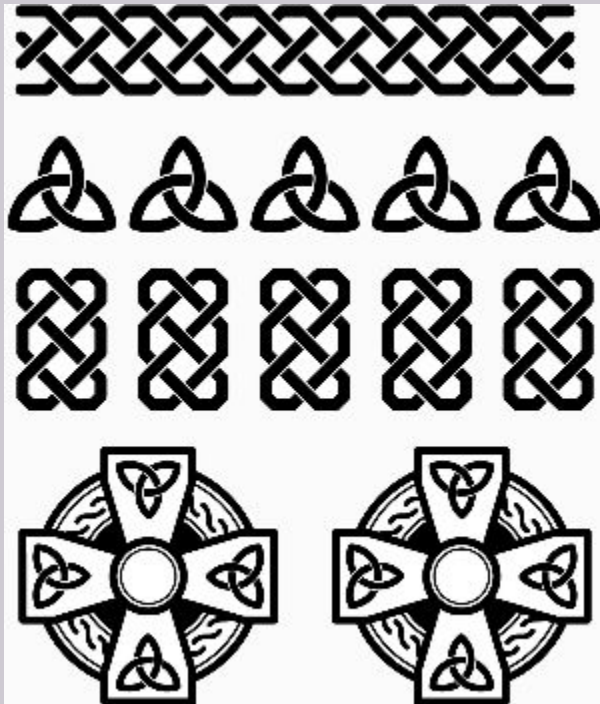
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Purse cover from the Sutton Hoo ship burial in Suffolk, England  
ca. 625 | gold, glass and enamel cloisonné with garnets and emeralds | 7 1/2 in. long

Celtic Knots: intricate patterns that recall the mathematical complexity of Islamic geometric patterns



Belt buckle, from the Sutton Hoo ship burial  
Anglo Saxon, early 7thc



Shoulder clasp from the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial



Shoulder clasp from the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial



# EARLY MEDIEVAL SITES IN EUROPE







Wooden Portal of the Stave Church at Urnes, 1050-1070 C.E, Hiberno Saxon, Norway. The Wooden Portal was found on the door of the Church at Urnes and is based on the Viking style.

# Great Monastic Centers of Learning

In 432 Saint Patrick established a church in Ireland and began the Christianization of the Celts on that remote island that had never known Roman rule.

In 563 St. Columba founded many monasteries that became centers of Learning



# Hiberno-Saxon Art

Hibernia was the ancient name of Ireland

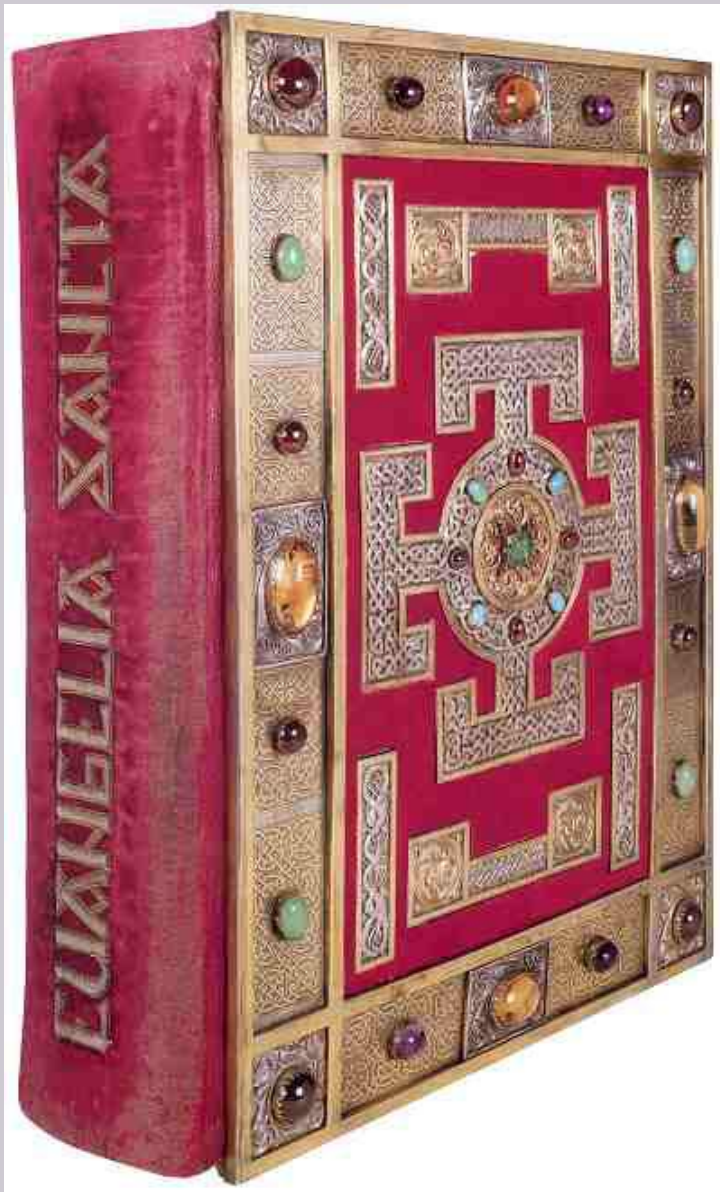
Irish monasteries became centers for the production of liturgical books

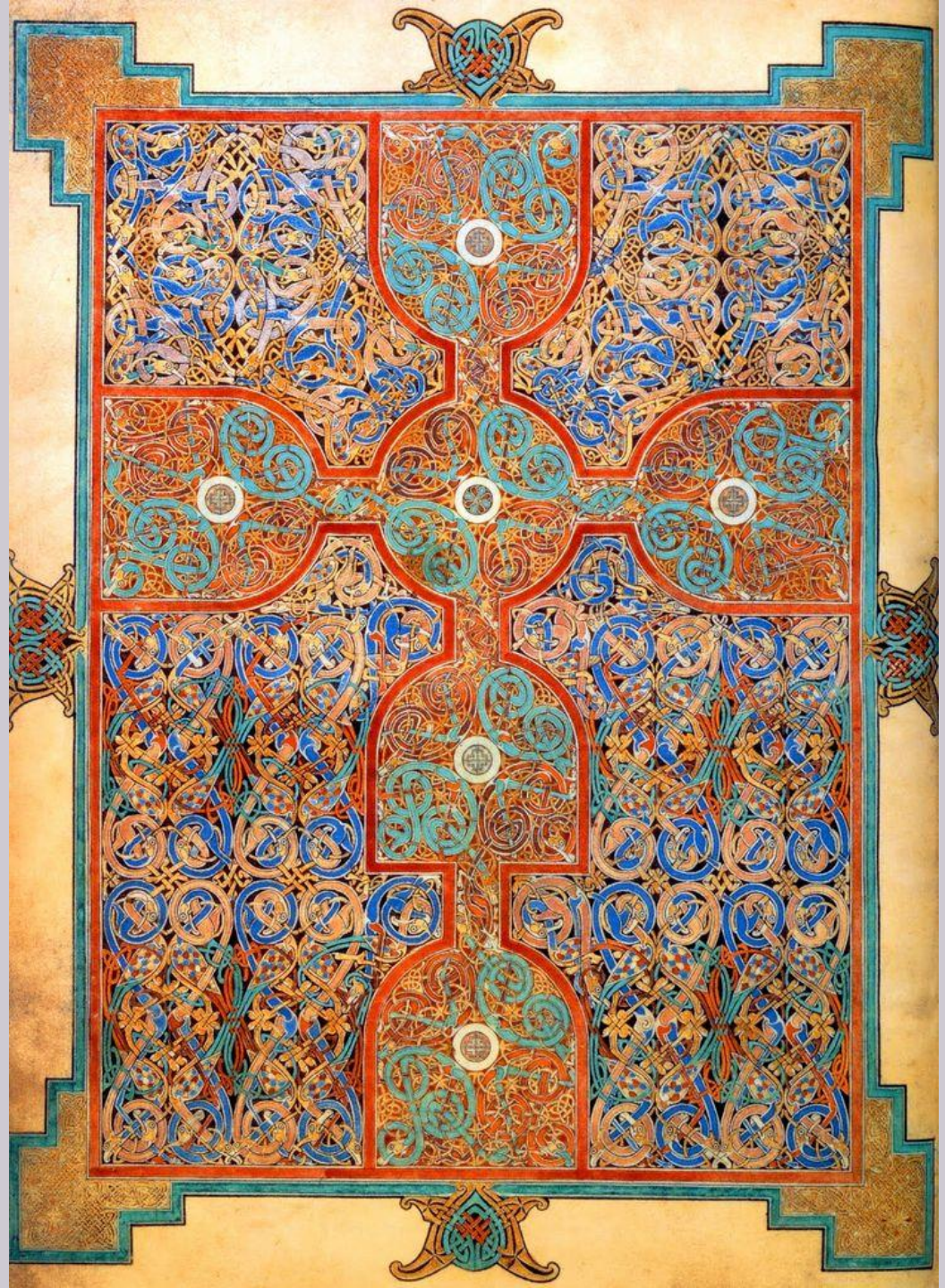


Books were made in workshops called scriptoria

Texts and pictures were copied by hand







Cross and carpet page, folio 26 verso of the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, from Northumbria, England, ca. 698–721. Tempera on vellum, 1'1½" X 9 ¼" . British Library, London.



Lindisfarne Gospels, Gospel of St Matthew the Evangelist, initial page, c. 698-721  
Tempera on vellum

Latin words: 'Liber generationis iesu christi',  
The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, presented in elaborate initials and display capitals.

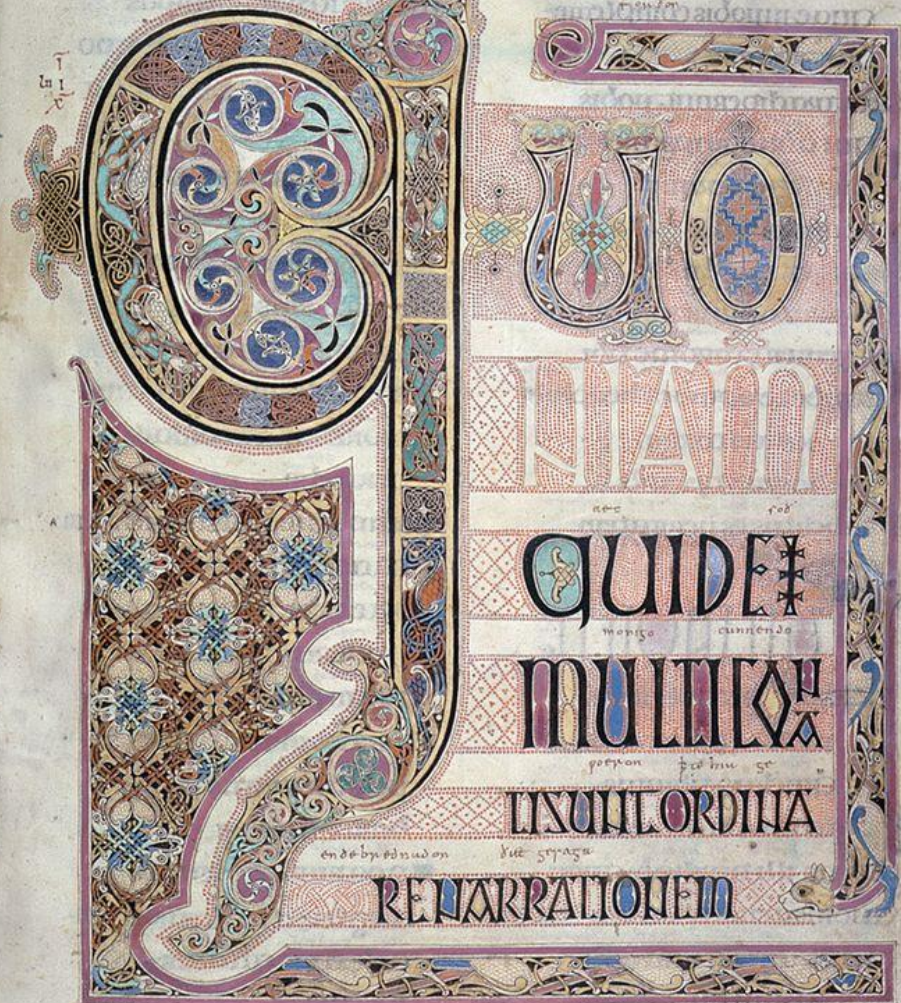
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† Lucas uirgilius 7

incipit euangelium

secundum lucam...



Lindisfarne Gospels. St. Matthew, cross-carpet page; St. Luke portrait page; St. Luke incipit page. Early medieval (Hiberno Saxon) Europe. c. 700 C.E.

The Evangelists are commonly represented by animals

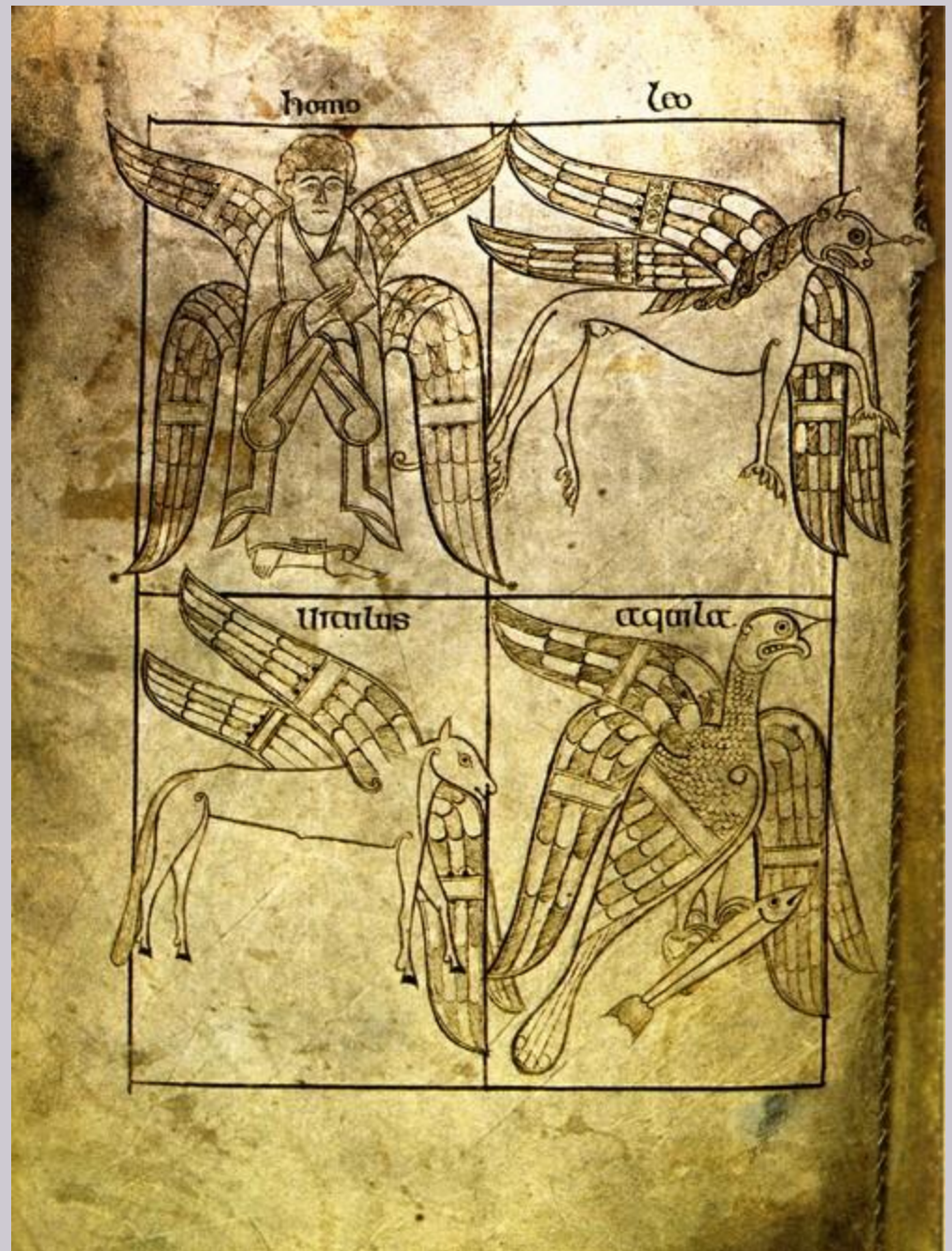
Matthew = Man

Mark = Lion

Luke = Ox

John = Eagle

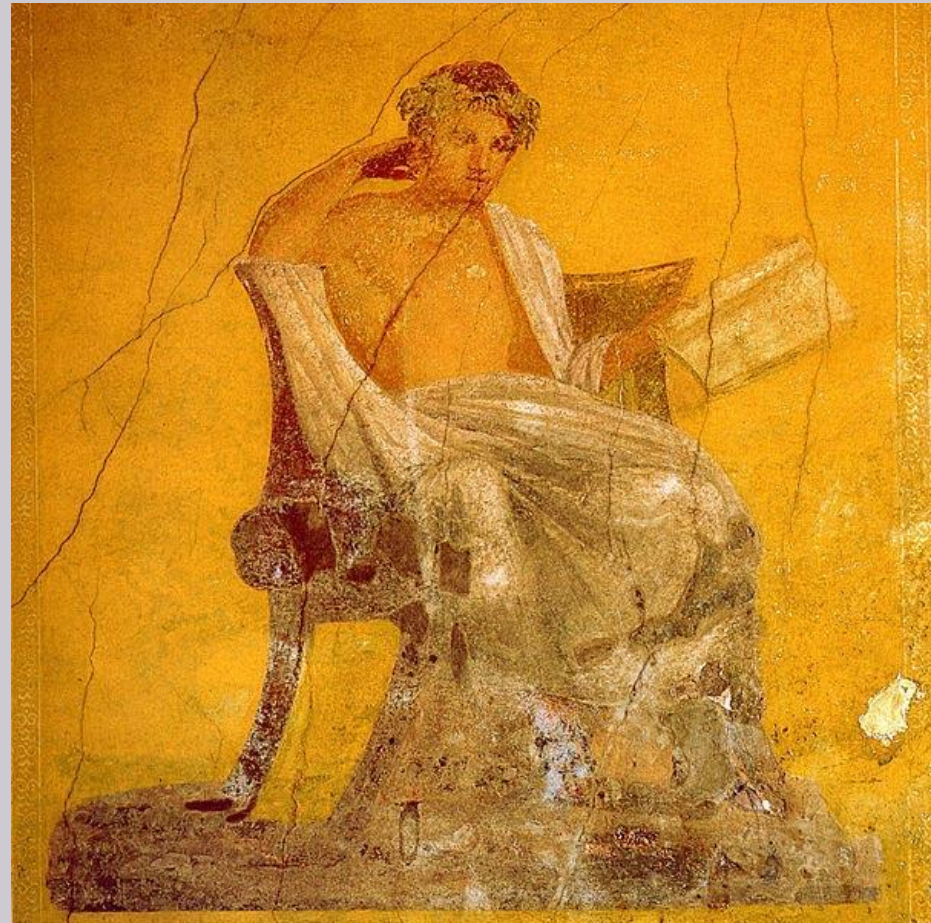
The Evangelist symbols are based on the vision of the prophet Ezekiel







Gospel of Mark  
Lindisfarne Gospels, c. 698-721



Roman fresco of the Greek dramatist  
Menander from Pompeii.



Author page introducing the Gospel of Luke  
Lindisfarne Gospels, c. 698-721



Author page introducing the Gospel of John  
Lindisfarne Gospels, c. 698-721



## Book of Kells.

Created by Celtic monks ca 800. In one decoration which occupies a square inch, there are 158 complex interlacements.

Incipit Page, Gospel of Matthew,  
Book of Kells

'The book of the generation of Jesus Christ'





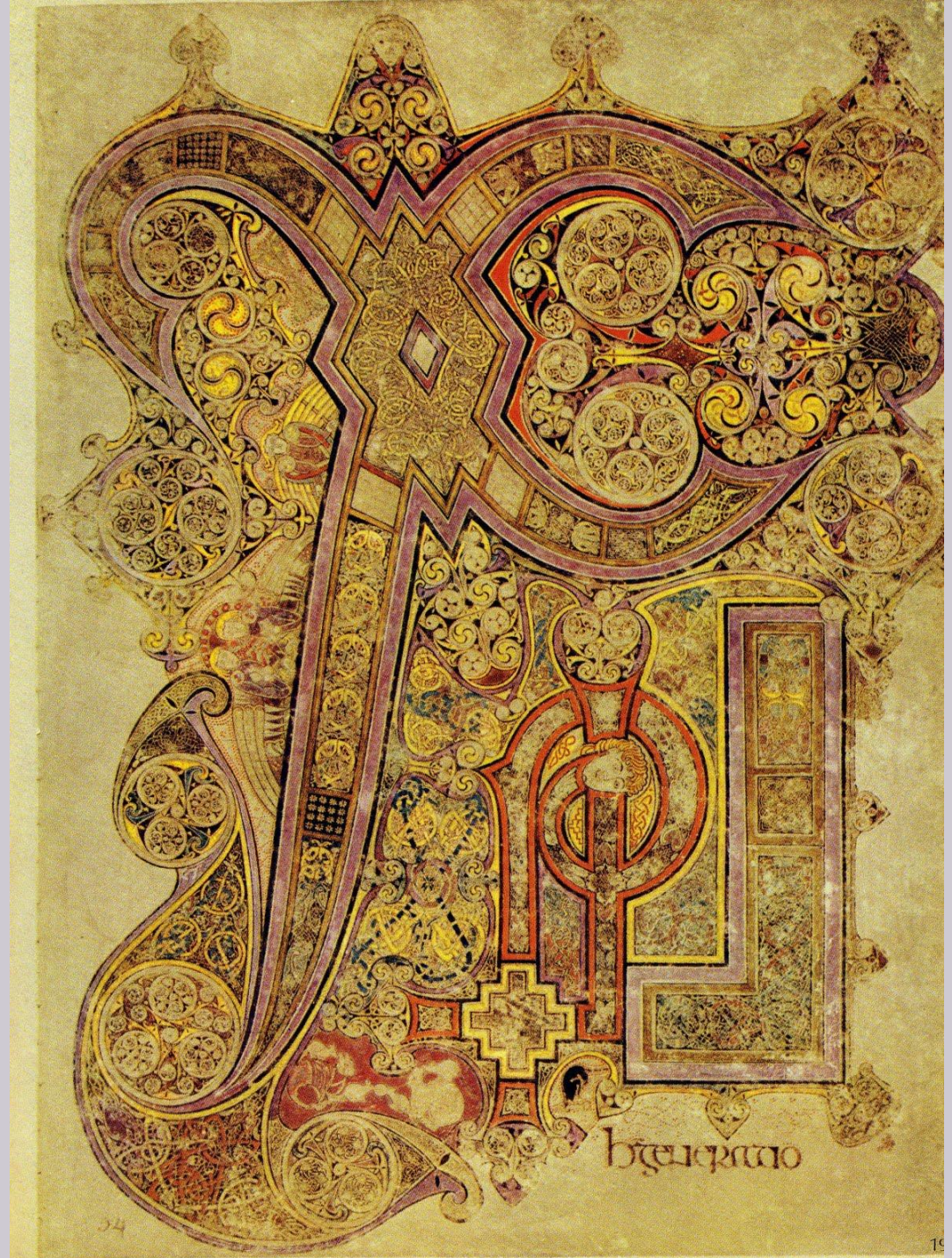
Page introducing the Gospel of Matthew, Book of Kells

Book of Kells



Like the Lindisfarne Gospels, there is a second incipit page, with the text: "XPI autem generatio...."  
*Now the generation of Christ was in this wise*

The chi-rho-iota (XPI) representing the first three letters of the word "Christos" fills the entire page



Book of Kells; Opening of Mark







**B**eati pauperes spiritu quoniam  
ipsorum est regnum caelorum.  
**B**eati mites quoniam ipsi possi-  
bunt hereditare terram. . . .  
**B**eati qui lugent hunc quoniam  
ipsi consolabuntur. . . .  
**B**eati qui essuriunt et sitiunt  
iustitiam quoniam ipsi sati-  
abuntur. . . .  
**B**eati misericordes quoniam  
ipsi misericordiam consequentur.  
**B**eati in mundo corde quoniam  
ipsi dominum videbunt. . . .  
**B**eati pauperes et plerumque  
vocabuntur. . . .  
**B**eati qui persecutionem patient  
propter iustitiam quoniam

Book of Kells;  
Beatitudes from Matthew



Book of Kells; Virgin & Child

**Book of Kells**

The book opens with a page representing all four of the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John



The animal symbols resemble the animals of the nomad's arts (metal work)

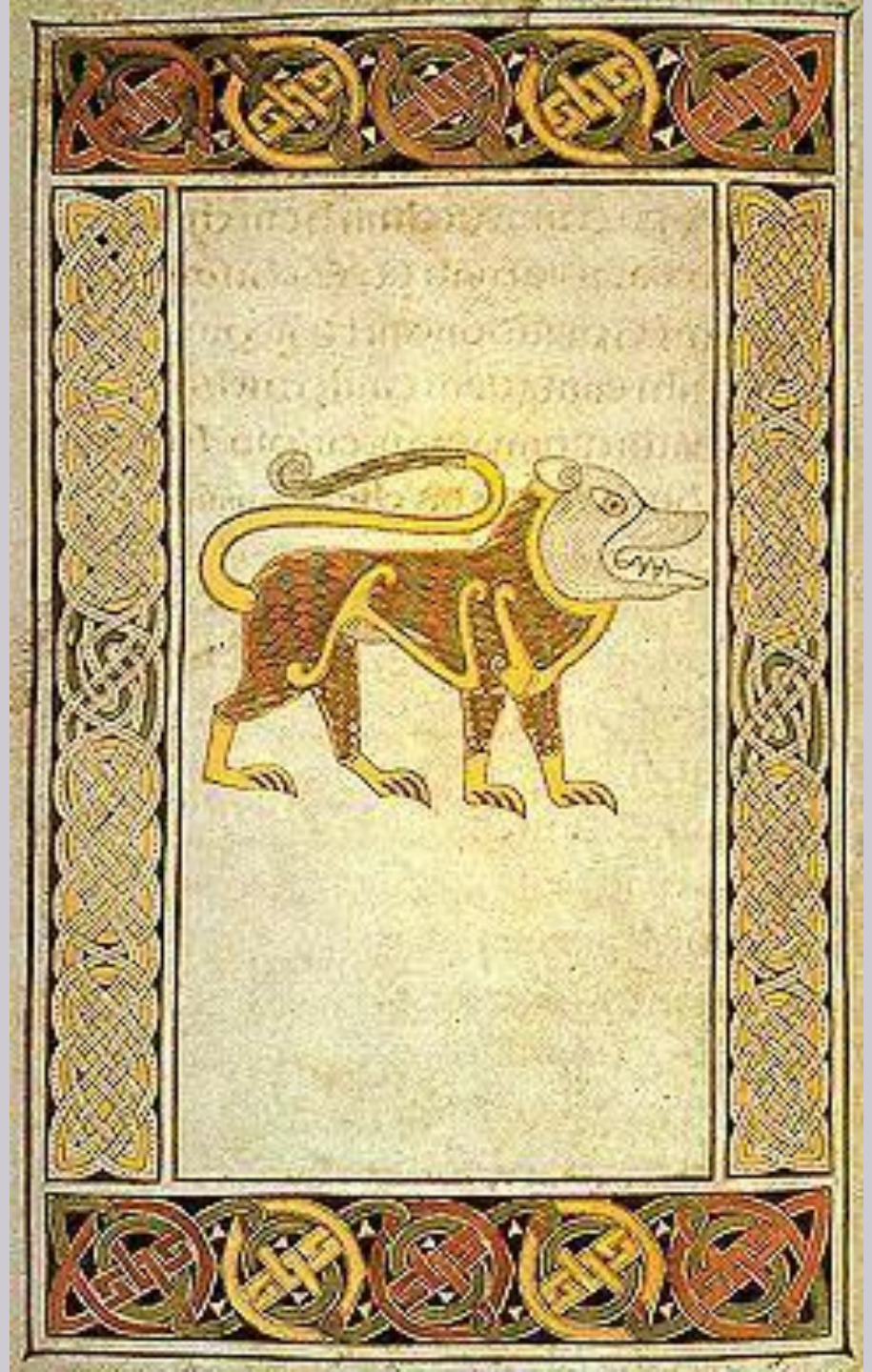


BOOK OF DURROW, Carpet Page, 680

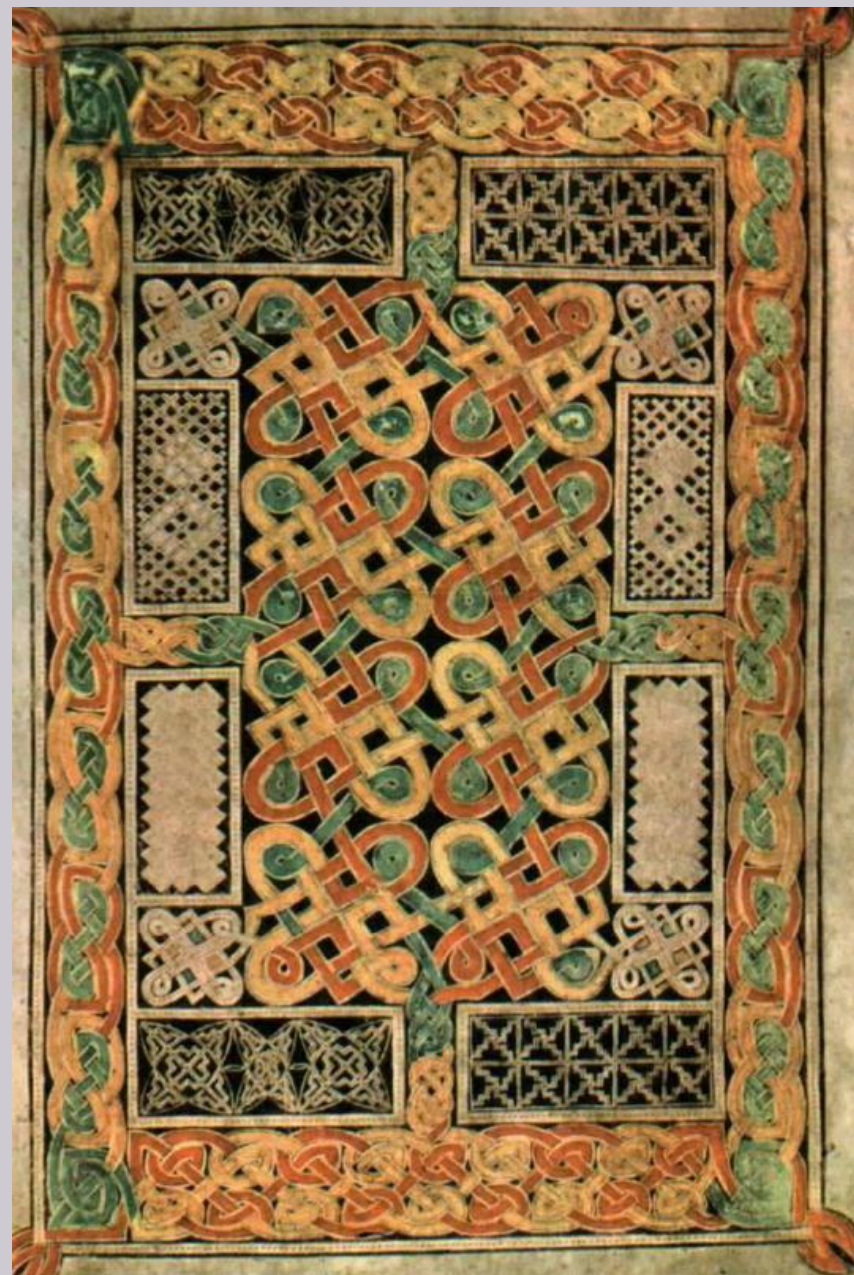
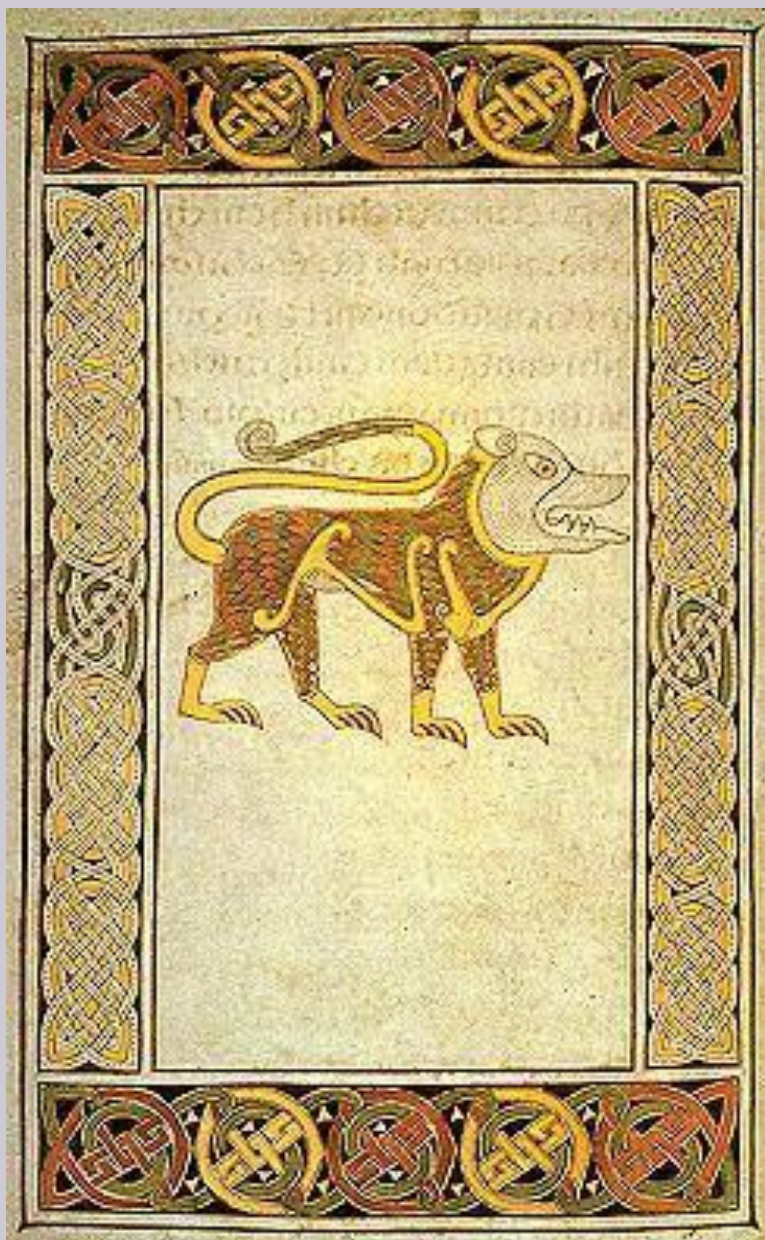




BOOK OF DURROW.  
the man, symbol of Matthew, C. 680.



Lion (symbol of St. Mark)  
Book of Durrow  
possibly from Iona, Scotland  
ca. 660-680  
ink and tempera on parchment  
9 5/8 x 6 1/8 in



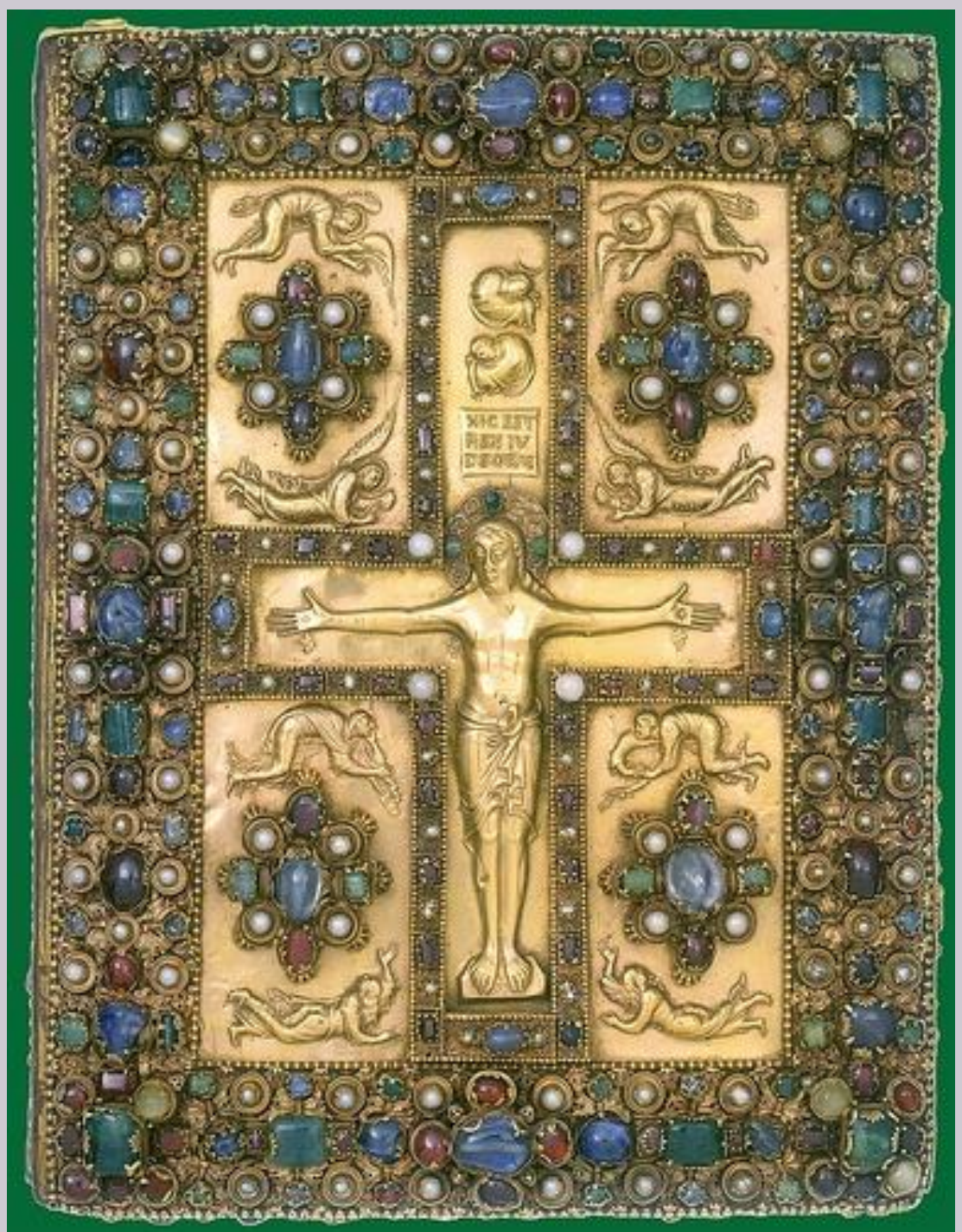
Lion (symbol of St. Mark) and Carpet Page  
Book of Durrow. possibly from Iona, Scotland  
ca. 660-680. ink and tempera on parchment. 9 5/8 x 6 1/8 in.



The scribe Ezra  
Codex Amiatinus  
Jarrow, England  
ca. 689-716  
tempera on vellum  
20 x 13 1/2 in.

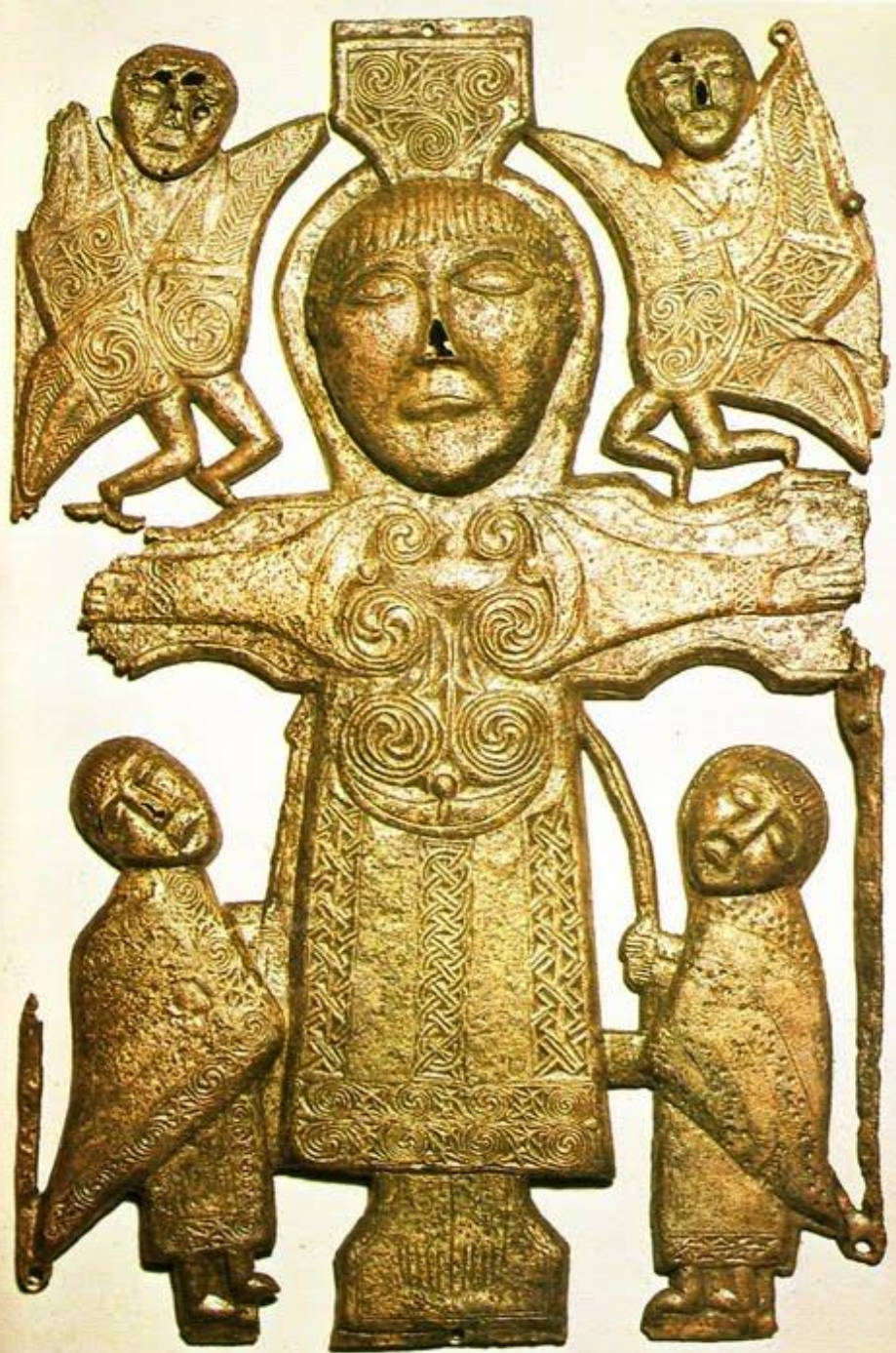


Lindau Gospel cover 1c hr –  
NYC Pierpont Morgan Library





Back cover of the Lindau Gospel.  
Carolingian, late 8th century. Silver  
gilt, garnet and enamel. From Attila  
to Charlemagne



HIBERNO-SAXON STYLE,  
Crucifixion, plaque from a book cover -  
8th century A.D.



**High Cross of Muiredach**  
(east side) Monasterboice, Ireland  
ca. 923  
16 ft. high

High Cross of Muiredach  
(east side)  
Monasterboice, Ireland  
ca. 923  
16 ft. high



High Cross of Muiredach (east side) | Monasterboice, Ireland | ca. 923 | 16 ft. high



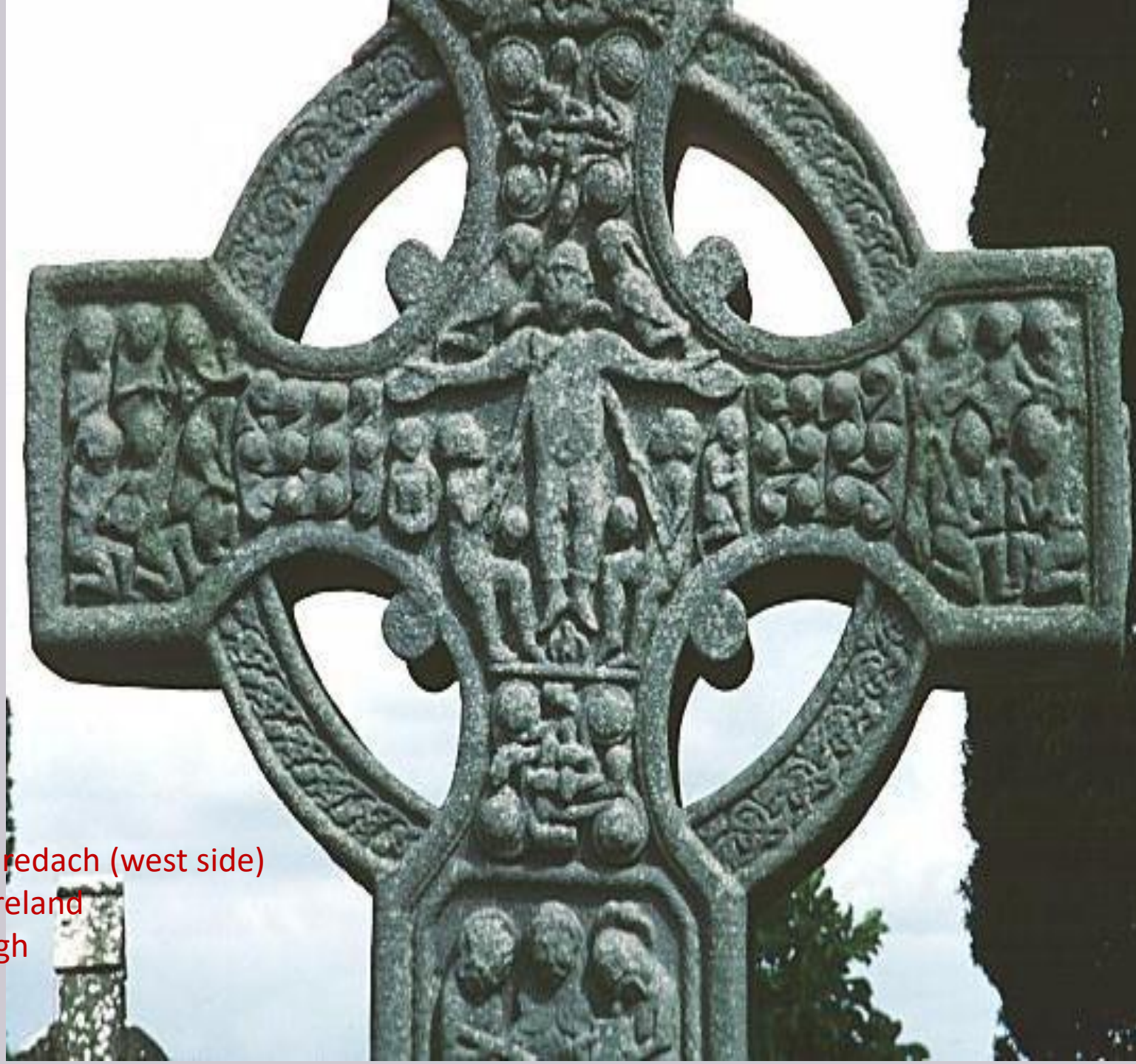


High Cross of Muiredach(east side) | Monasterboice, Ireland | ca. 923 | 16 ft. high



High Cross of Muiredach  
(west side)  
Monasterboice, Ireland  
ca. 923  
16 ft. high





**Crucifixion**

High Cross of Muiredach (west side)  
Monasterboice, Ireland  
ca. 923 | 16 ft. high

## Arrest of Christ

High Cross of Muiredach  
Monasterboice, Ireland  
ca. 923  
16 ft. high



On Christmas Day of the year 800 in Saint Peter's Pope Leo III (r. 795–816) crowned Charles the Great (Charlemagne), king of the Franks since 768, as emperor of Rome (r. 800–814).



## Carolingian Art



Equestrian Portrait of a Carolingian Emperor



Saint Matthew, folio 15 recto of the *Coronation Gospels* (*Gospel Book of Charlemagne*), from Aachen, Germany, ca. 800–810. Ink and tempera on vellum, 1'3/4"X10". Schatzkammer, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

produced in the scriptorium of the Palace School at Aachen sometime between 794 and 800. It was used by the Emperor Charlemagne at his coronation on Christmas Day 800 when he placed three fingers of his right hand on the first page of the Gospel of Saint John and took his oath.



Coronation gospels, St. John;  
carolingian illumination



Coronation Gospels; Portrait of Mark

A coronation gospel is traditionally, an illuminated manuscript present at every coronation of the Roman kings, on which the gospel oath was sworn



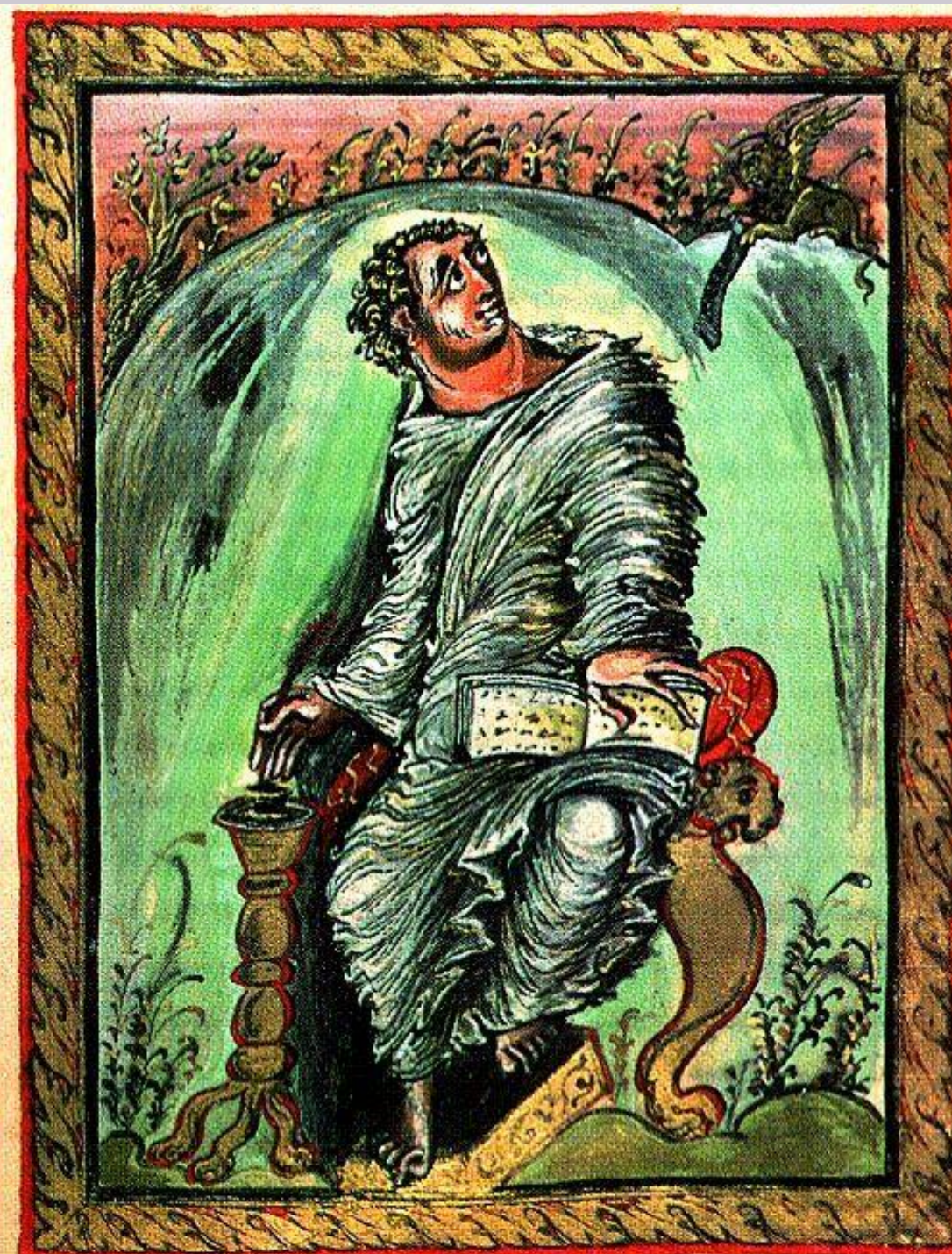
The Coronation Gospel Cover



Saint Matthew, folio 18 verso of the *Ebbo Gospels* (*Gospel Book of Archbishop Ebbo of Reims*), from Hautvillers (near Reims), France, ca. 816–835. Ink and tempera on vellum.  
Bibliothèque Municipale, Épernay.



St. Mark, from the Gospel Book of  
Archbishop Ebbo of Reims - 816-35  
A.D.



John: Ebbo Gospels



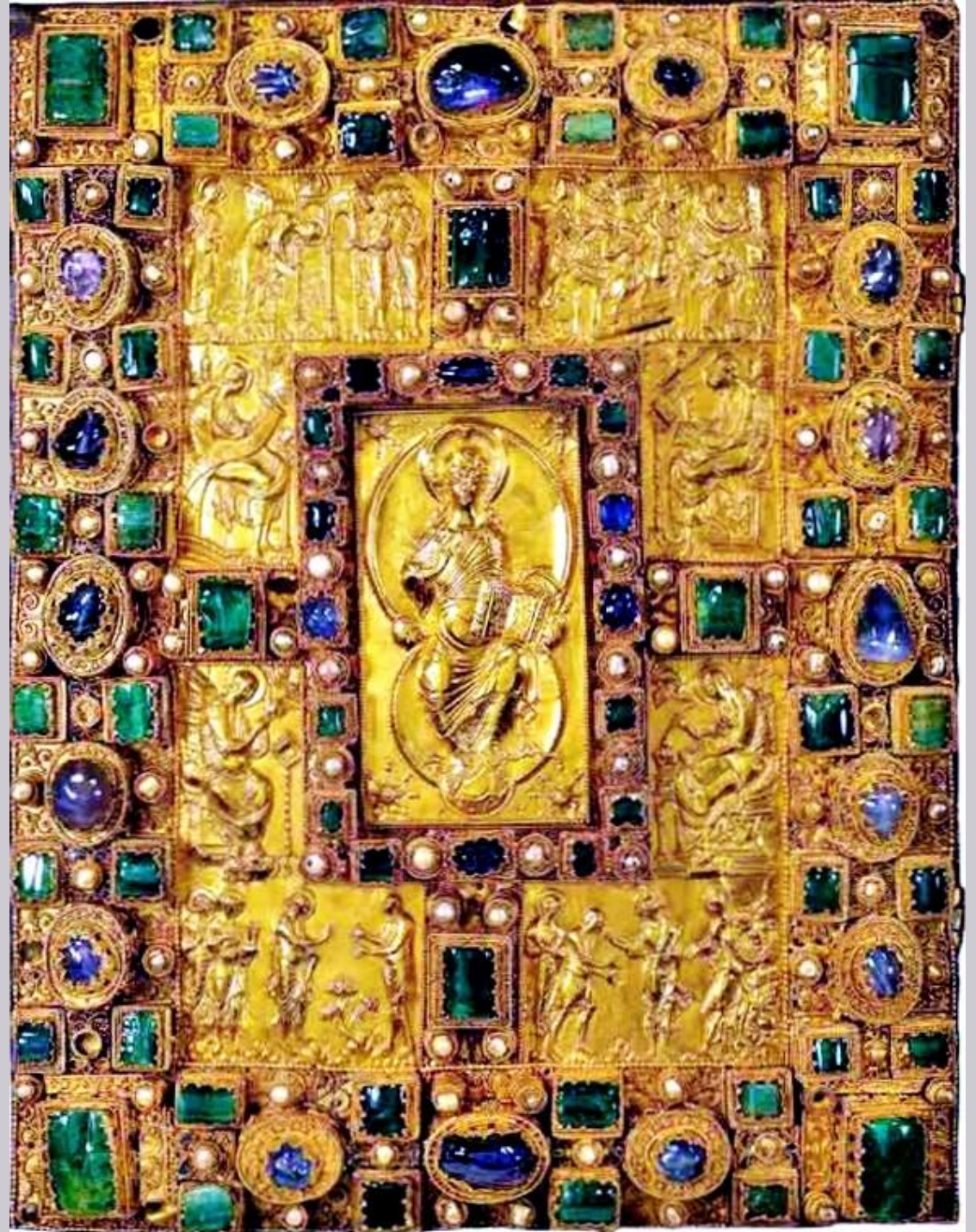
Luke: Ebbo Gospels



**INCIPIT**  
**EVANGELIUM**  
**SECUNDUM**  
**MATTHEVM**  
**LIBER**  
**GENERATIONIS**  
**IESU**  
**CHRISTI**  
**FILII**  
**ABRAHAM**



Ebo Gospel; Beginning of Matthew



The CODEX AUREUS of ST. EMMERAM. 9th century illuminated Gospel Book.

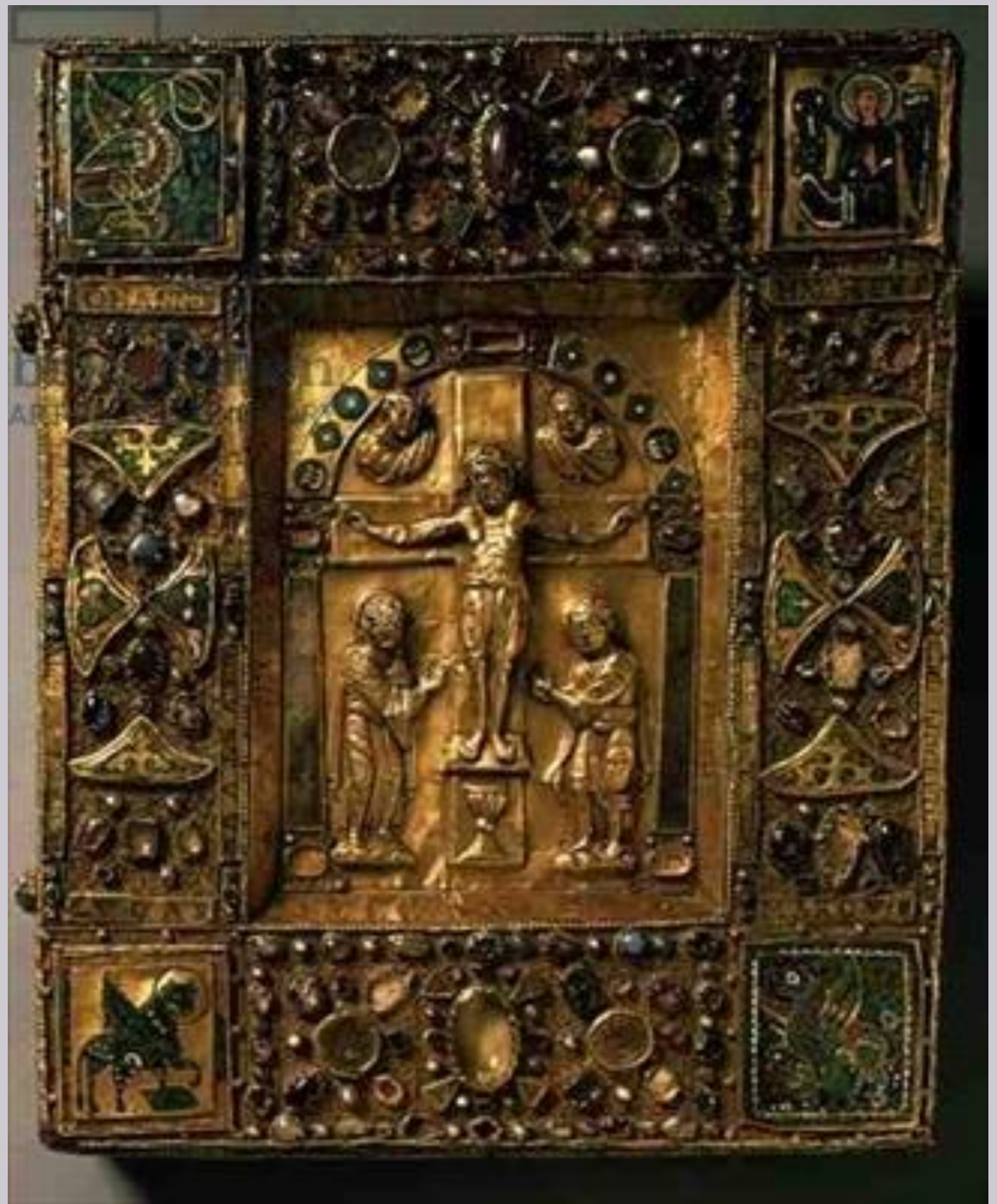
Page with portrait of Abbot  
Adalpertus



The adoration of the Lamb from the Codex Aureus of St. Emmeram.

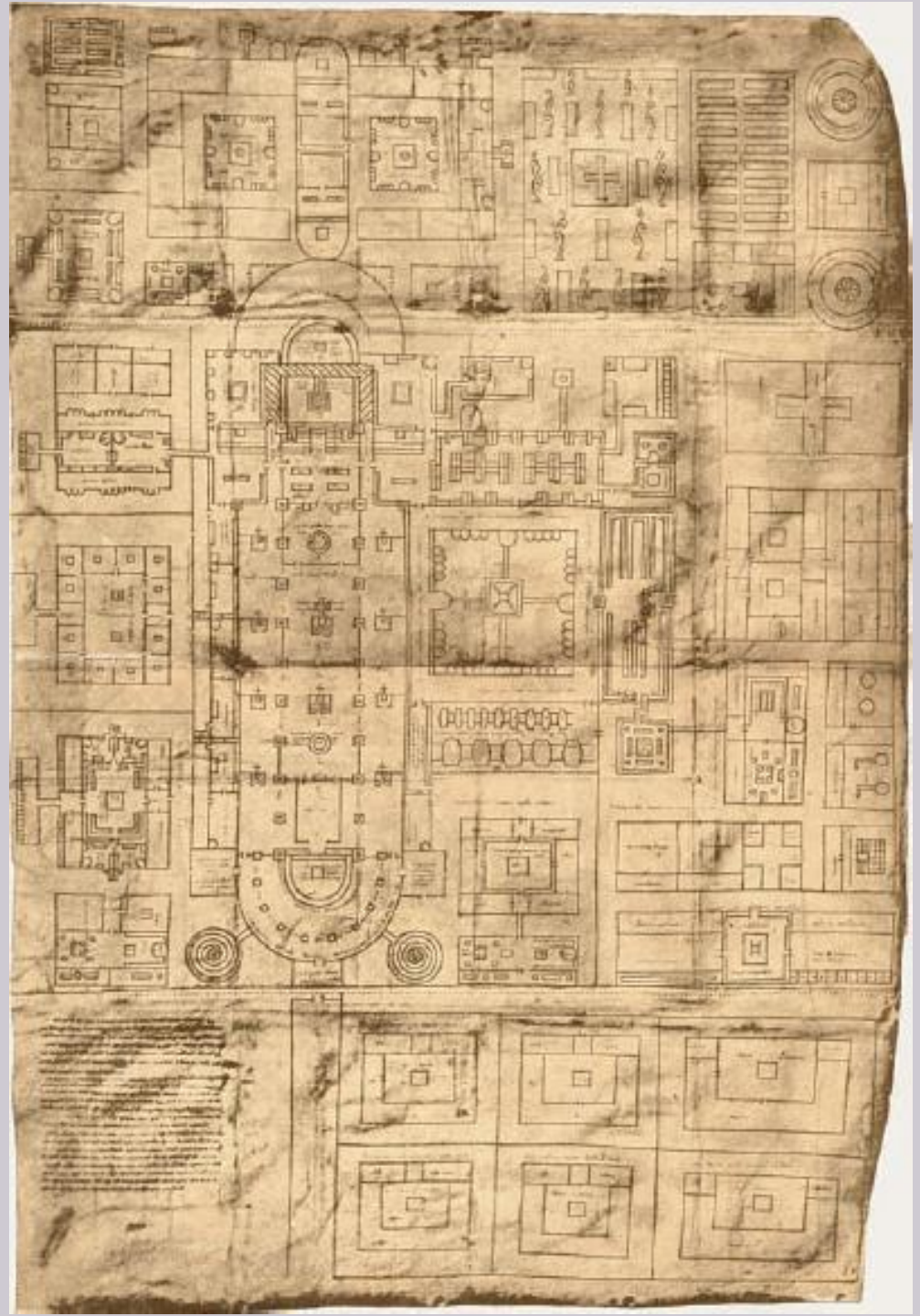






Cover for a Book of the Gospels,  
Carolingian, German, 11th century  
(gold)

Schematic plan for a monastery at Saint Gall, Switzerland, ca. 819. Red ink on parchment



The purpose of this plan for an ideal, self-sufficient monastery was to separate the monks from the laity. Near the center is the church with its cloister, an earthly paradise reserved for the monks.



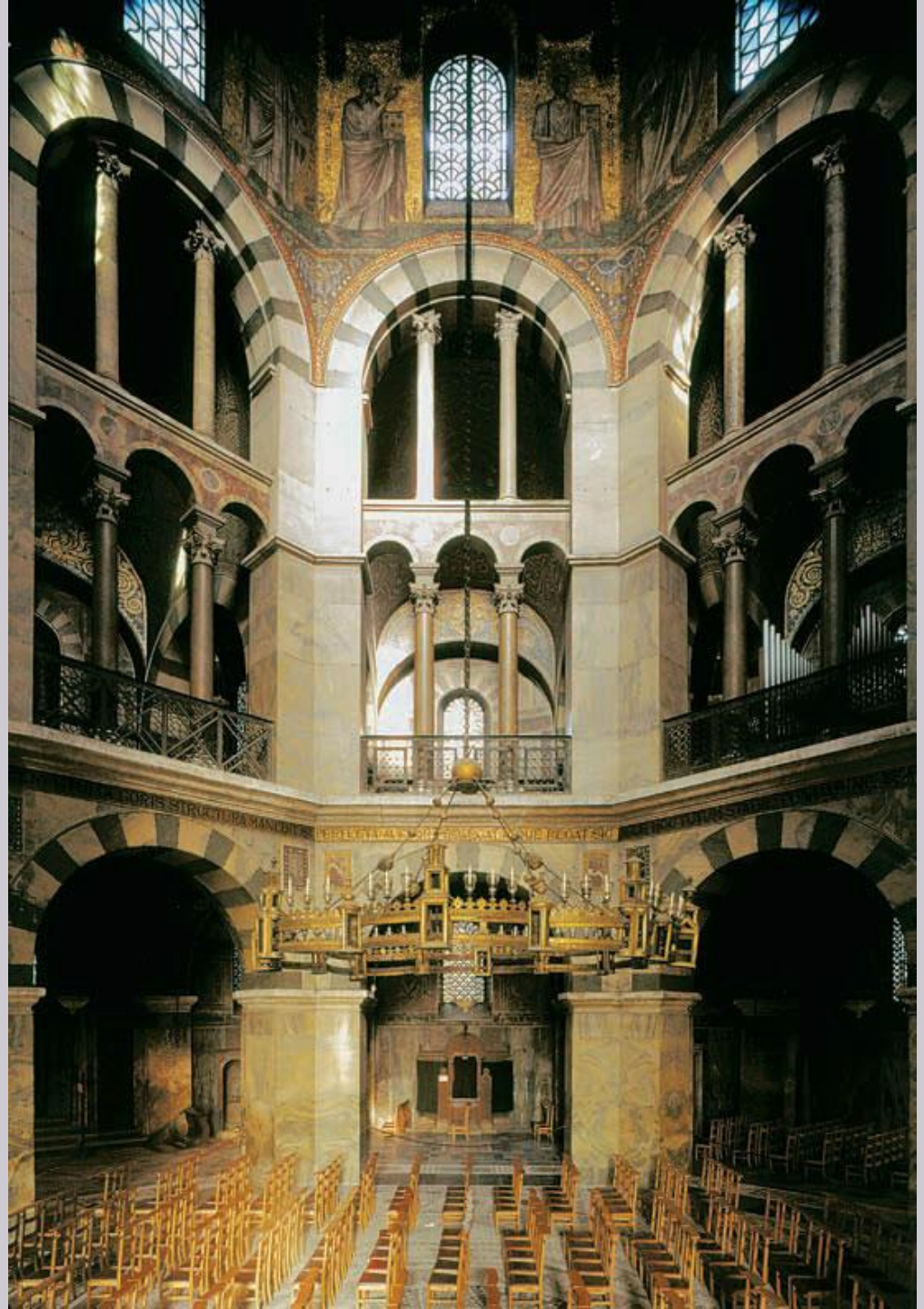
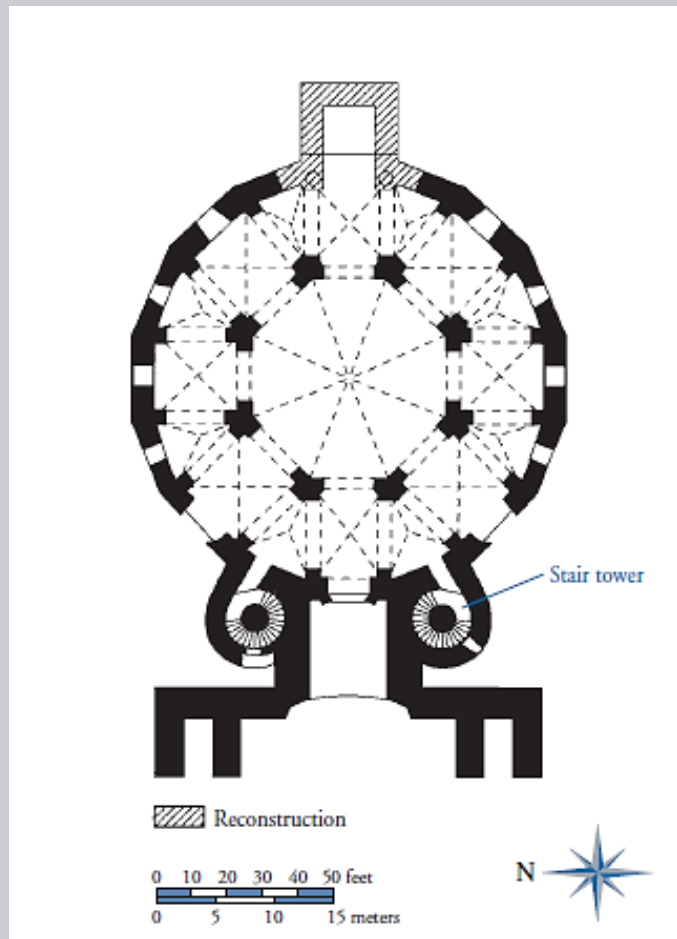
Front cover of the Lorsch Gospels,  
Carolingian, Aachen,  
court of Charlemagne, ca 810



Carolingian Plaque with the Virgin Mary as a Personification of the Church.  
c. 800–875, Ivory



Carolingian; Made in Aachen] Early 9th Century during the time of Charlemagne.  
An ivory plaque of St John the Evangelist.



Interior of the Palatine Chapel of Charlemagne, Aachen, Germany, 792–805.



Back of the Lothar Cross

