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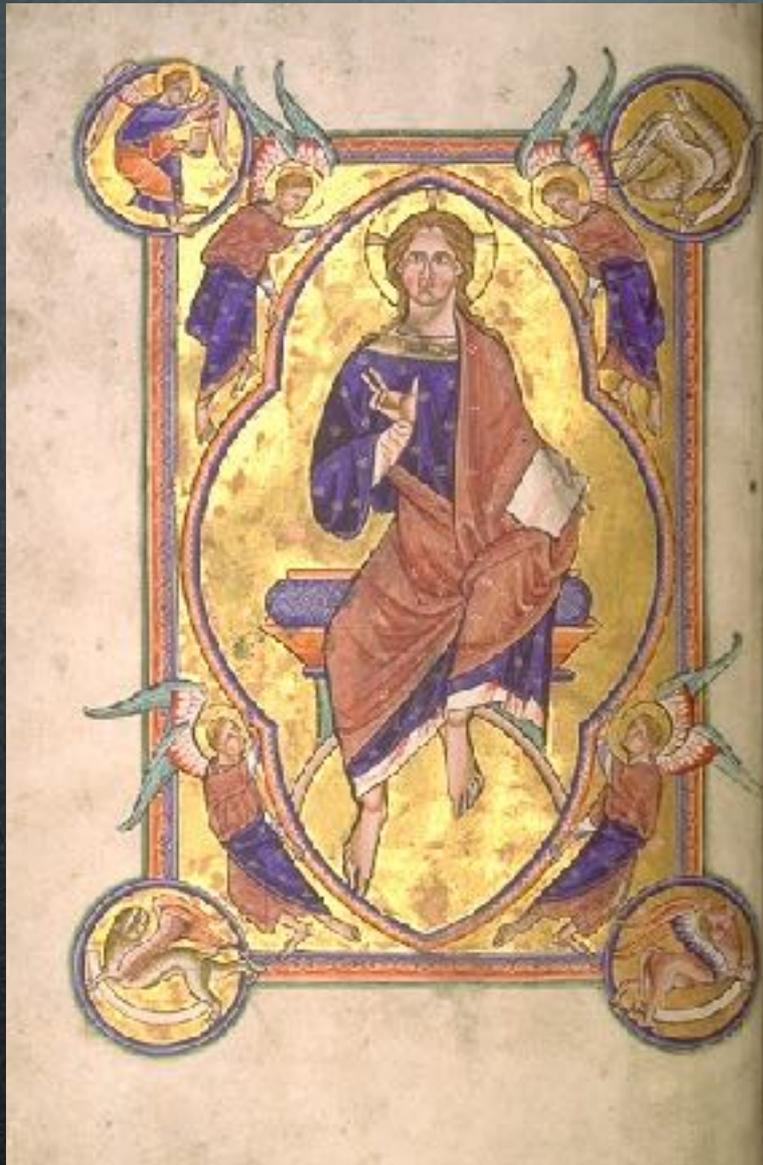
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ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

CELESTIS

QUI

CHRISTIANUS



Illuminated Manuscripts

So-named because many were illustrated in gold leaf which reflected light and literally illuminated the pages.



Vatican Vergil
Among the earliest surviving illustrated manuscripts was the *Vatican Vergil*, written near the end of the Roman Empire, about a.d. 167.



Vatican Virgil

The Vatican Virgil depicts scenes of Roman culture, gods and their mythology, and legendary battles.

ET IN MARCI NEPTUNI INSTRUCTIS NAULIS UT ST
ATINEDOTACITINEFRAMICNSILENTIALUNAI
LITONANOTNEETENSILANINASCUNYRIGINPUPPIS
INTALISNTATISQUEDELOMADITENSUSINIGUES.
INCLUSITERODANNOSITINLAFTALIA

ETIAM SUMMA PROCVLLARVAFCVLAHNAFVMANT
MAIORESQVECADVNEALTIODEMONITIBVSUMBRÆ



BOPIA CORYDON
DE FORMON SVMFCORYDONASTORAKDEBATALEXIN
DELICIASDOMININICQVLOSITERARETHABEBAT
LANTVMINTERDENSASVMBROSACACVMINAEAGOS
ADSIDVAVENTIEBATIBHÆCINCONDITASOLVS

Vatican Vergil

The Vatican Vergil used color, the painting style, and rustic capitals (capitalis rustica) in the *Roman Classic Style* of the time.



During this period, the Roman Empire suffered repeated attacks from Germanic barbarians from the north.



Persians and Huns attacked the Roman Empire in the Middle East.



Over a period of 320 years, the city-states of the Roman Empire fell apart.



The classical era of literature, arts and trade languished as desperate people escaped to outlying areas.



As Christianity took hold, they brutally destroyed all that was Roman along with its pagan history and artifacts.



In the year 391 CE, Christians destroyed the Library of Alexandria in Egypt. The library was created by Egyptian King Ptolemy, and expanded under the reign of Alexander the Great.



The Library of Alexandria was the largest throughout ancient history, and was designed to keep all of the world's knowledge in one place.



By 476, Germanic tribes known as the Visigoths had driven out the last Roman Emperor. The Visigothic Kingdom was a Western European power in the 5th to 7th centuries.





The Dark Ages

The Dark Ages resulted in vast migrations across Western Europe. People withdrew into poverty, illiteracy and superstition.



The Dark Ages

Yet, Christianity began its expansion throughout Europe during this time. Books flourished and created a demand for written scriptures.



SCRIPTORIUM MONK AT WORK. (From *Lacroix*.)

In most of Europe, the scribes were religious Monks working in *scriptoria*s, rooms in monasteries devoted to writing Christian gospels and psalms.



Musical notation

Music became a written art form as the monks noted their Gregorian chants on sheets of parchment.

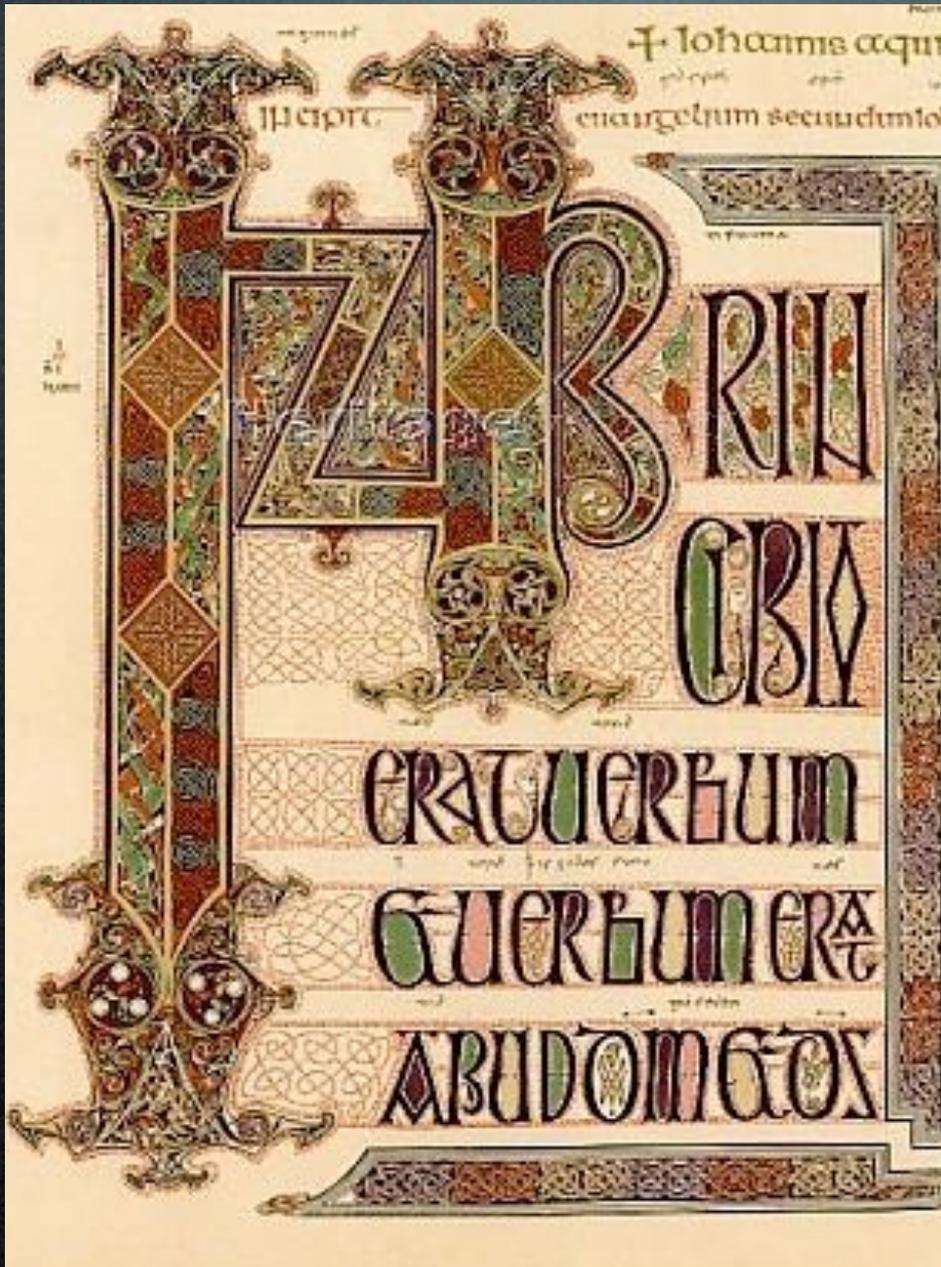
The chants were named for Bishop Gregory I who began the first catalog of notated music during the 6th century.



During the 5th century, St. Patrick and other Christian missionaries succeeded in converting the pagan Celtic tribes of Ireland to Catholicism.

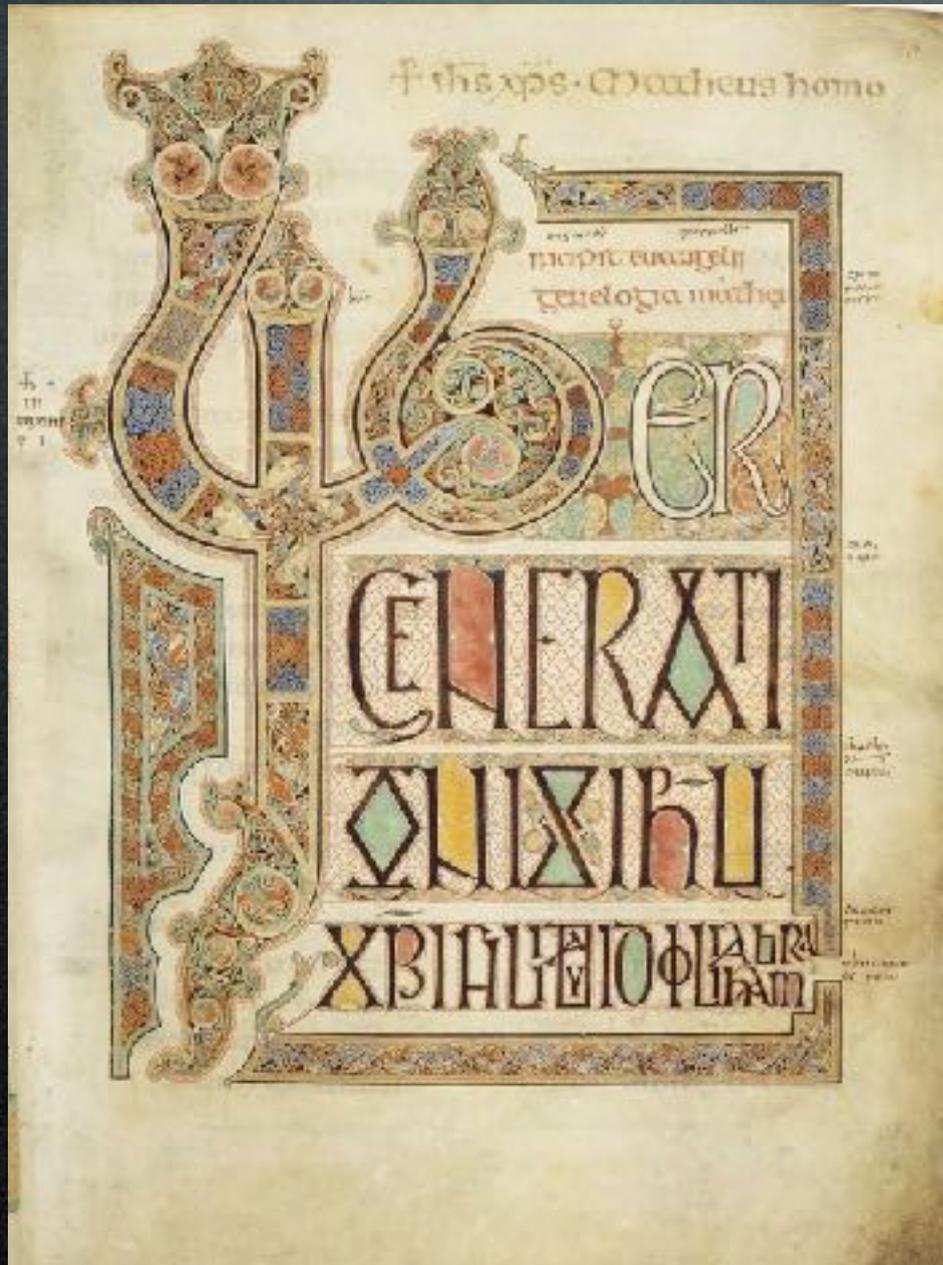


The Celts were craftsmen of the Iron Age and their works displayed intricate patterns of braids and weaves.



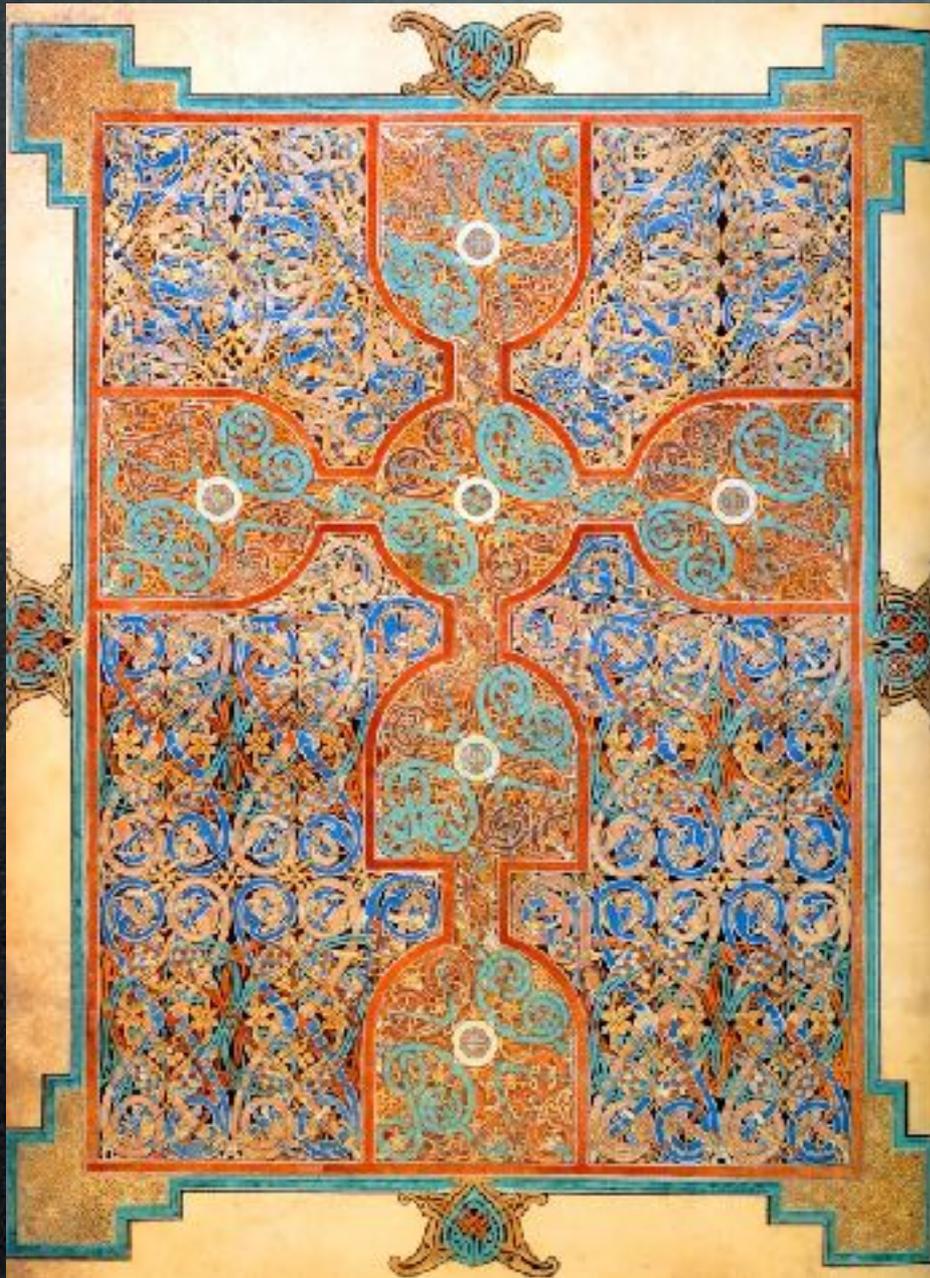
Celtic book design

Celtic designs characterized the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, written in the late 7th century. Ornate frames enclosed full-page illustrations.



The Lindisfarne Gospels

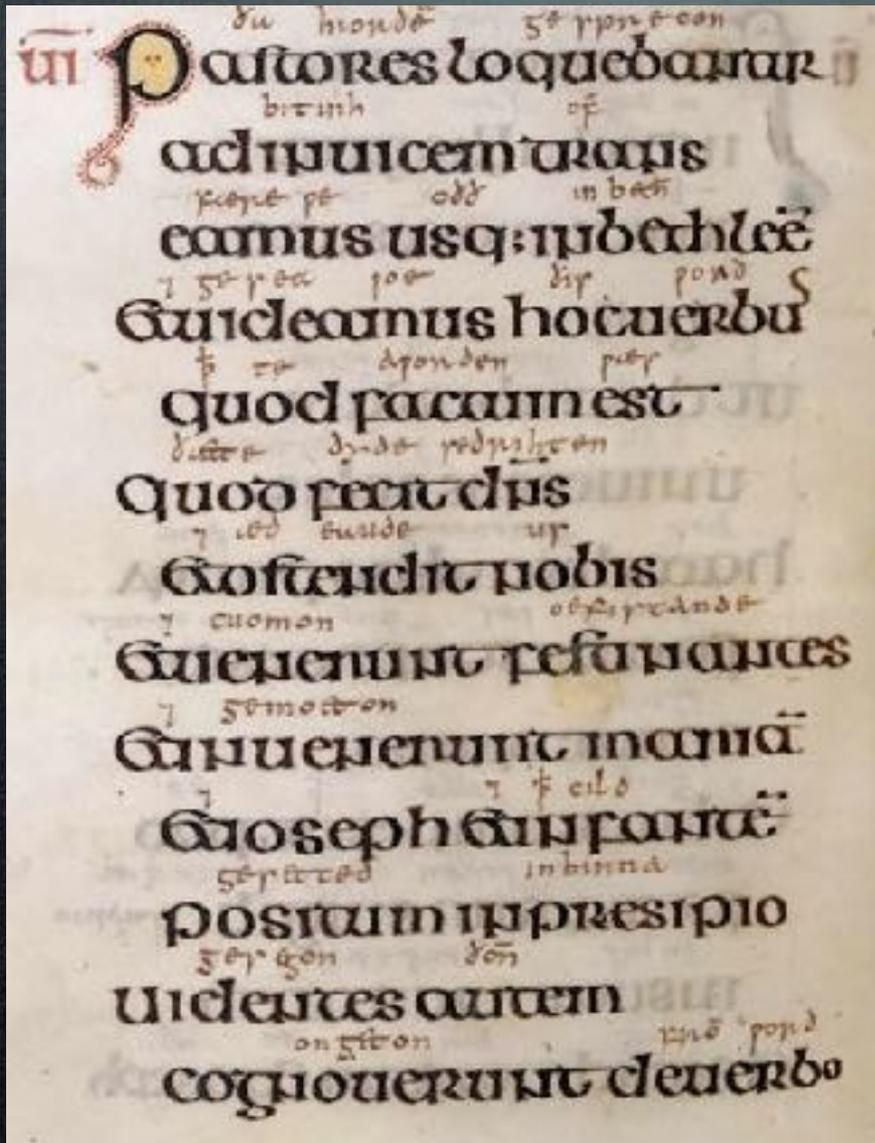
Initial capitals introduced the text and letter sizes were adjusted to conform to the overall design of the page.



The Lindisfarne Gospels

Elaborate *carpet pages* were so-called because of their dense oriental carpet-like devotion to intricate patterns.

Greek uncials



The Lindesfarne Gospels established use of the *half-uncial*, a variation of the Greek uncial (capitals), but *with distinct ascenders and descenders*.



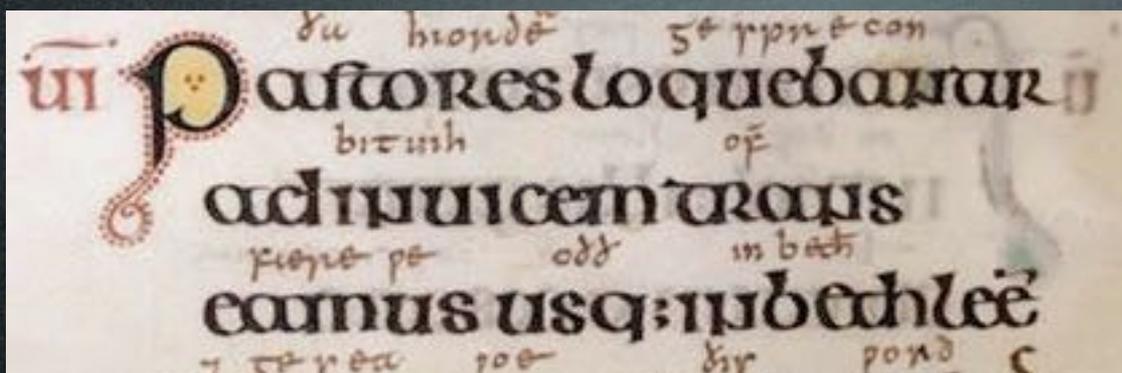
Book of Kells

The Book of Kells, was written around the year 800 CE. Its complex illustrations were adorned with geometric patterns that weave and twist among the signature initials and hand-lettered manuscript.



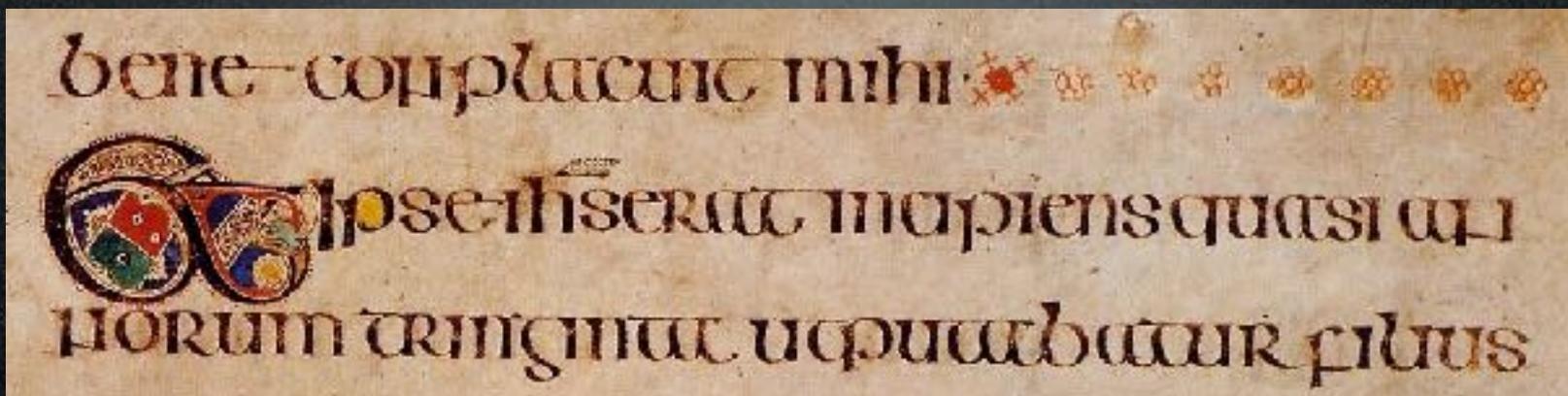
Book of Kells

Newly-converted to Christianity, the Celts integrated pagan motifs from Egyptian culture with Christian saints.



The Lindesfarne Gospels,
c. 712 CE

The Book of Kells,
c. 800 CE



Like the *Lindesfarne Gospels*, the *Book of Kells* was lettered with half-uncials that had changed little in nearly 100 years.



The Book of Kells was not yet complete by the time Vikings began to invade the British Isles. It was safely transported to Dublin, Ireland where it was spared from widespread book burnings.



Carolingian Renaissance

In the 9th century, King Charlemagne ruled over the Frankish and Germanic cultures of central Europe.



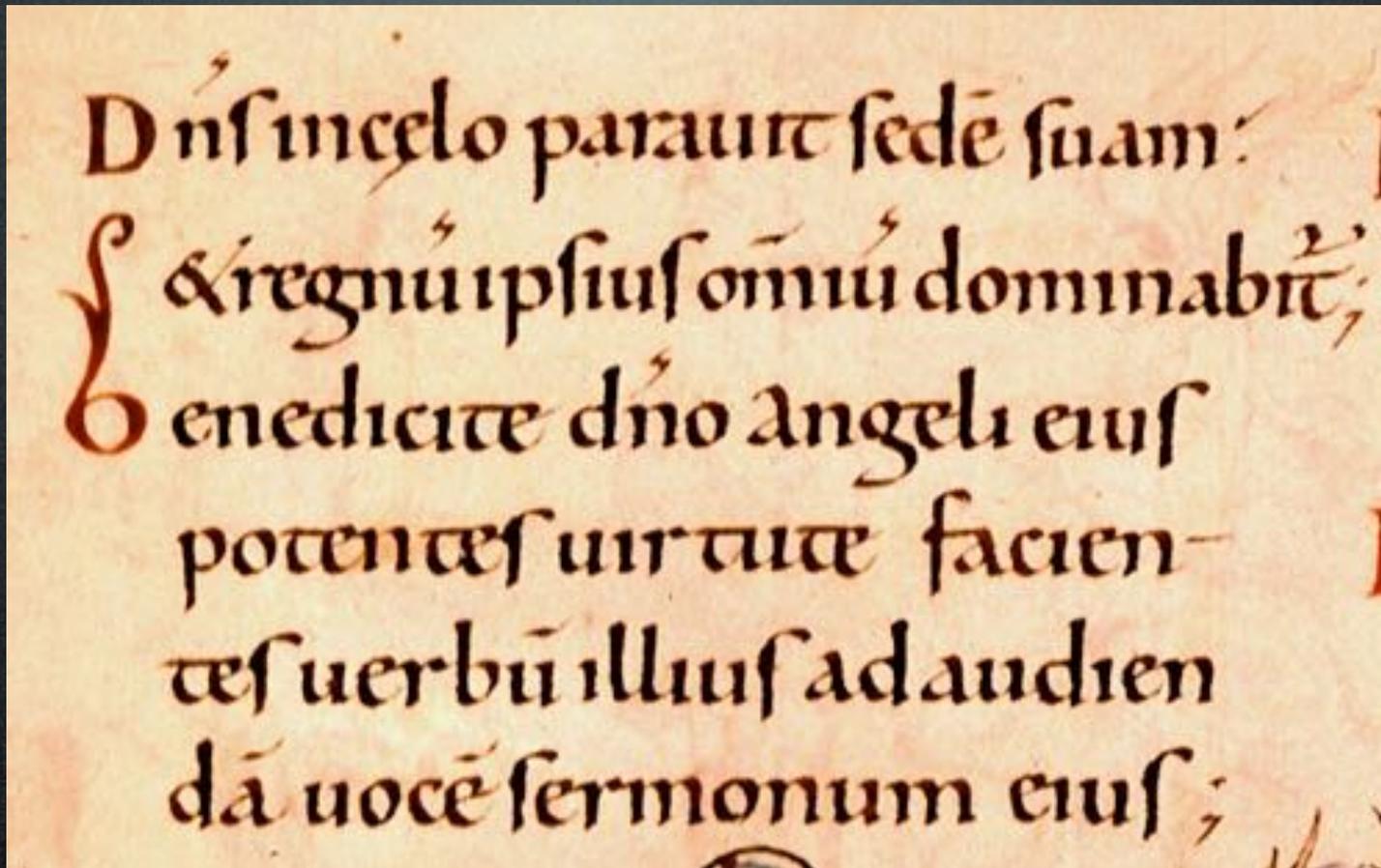
Carolingian Renaissance

Charlemagne, a devout Catholic and loyal protector of the pope, brought civilization back to central Europe.



Carolingian Renaissance

The grateful pope appointed Charlemagne emperor over the Holy Roman Empire.



Carolingian minuscules

This was a period of intellectual and cultural revival.

Charlemagne ordered new design standards and commissioned a new type design, *Carolingian minuscules*.

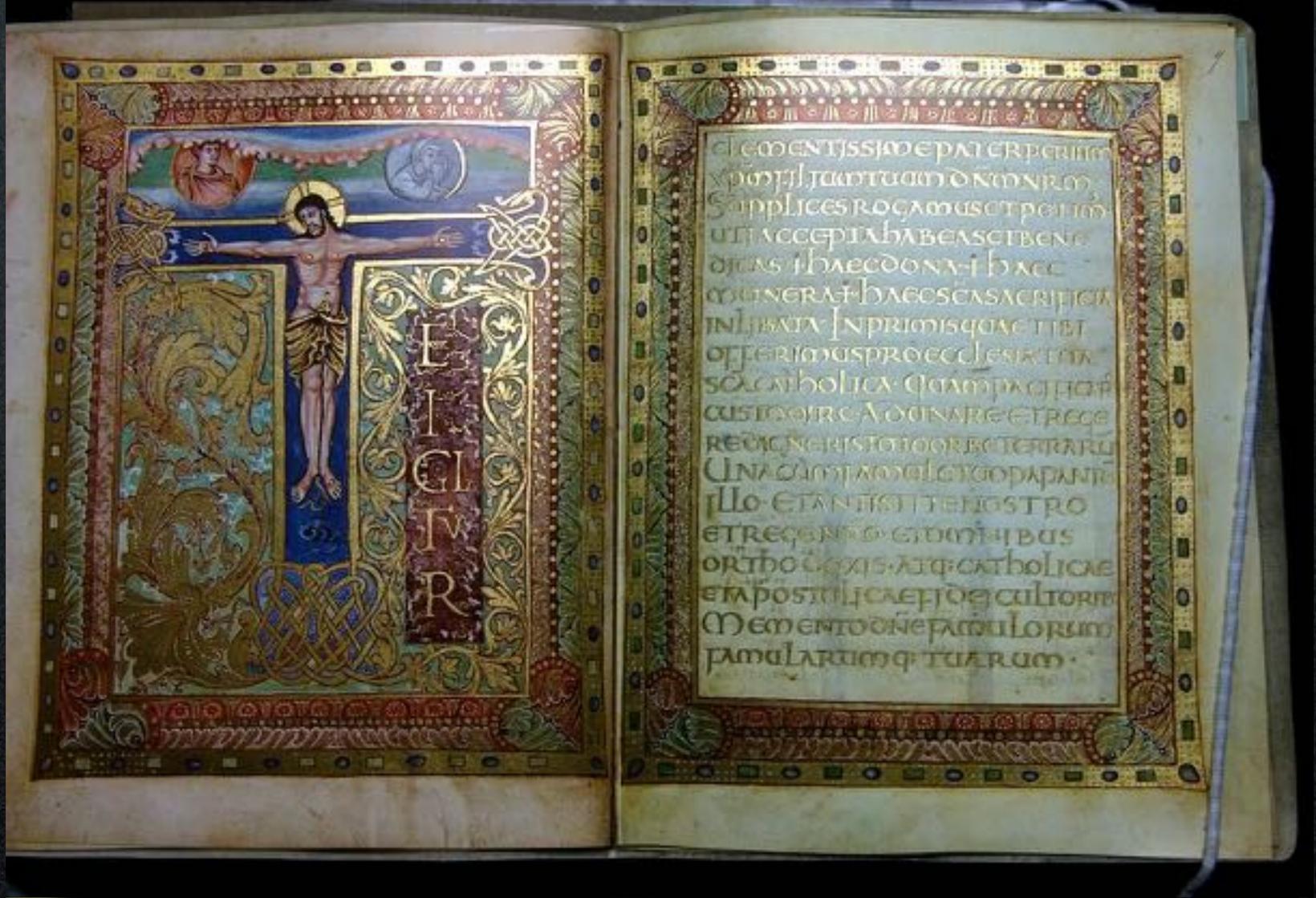
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Carolingian minuscules

Carolingian minuscules were a more developed version of the Celtic half-uncial, and are considered to be the forerunner of the lowercase alphabet.



The **Carolingian Renaissance** heralded new standards in page design and Royal Court-sanctioned schools were formed to improve writing and illustration.

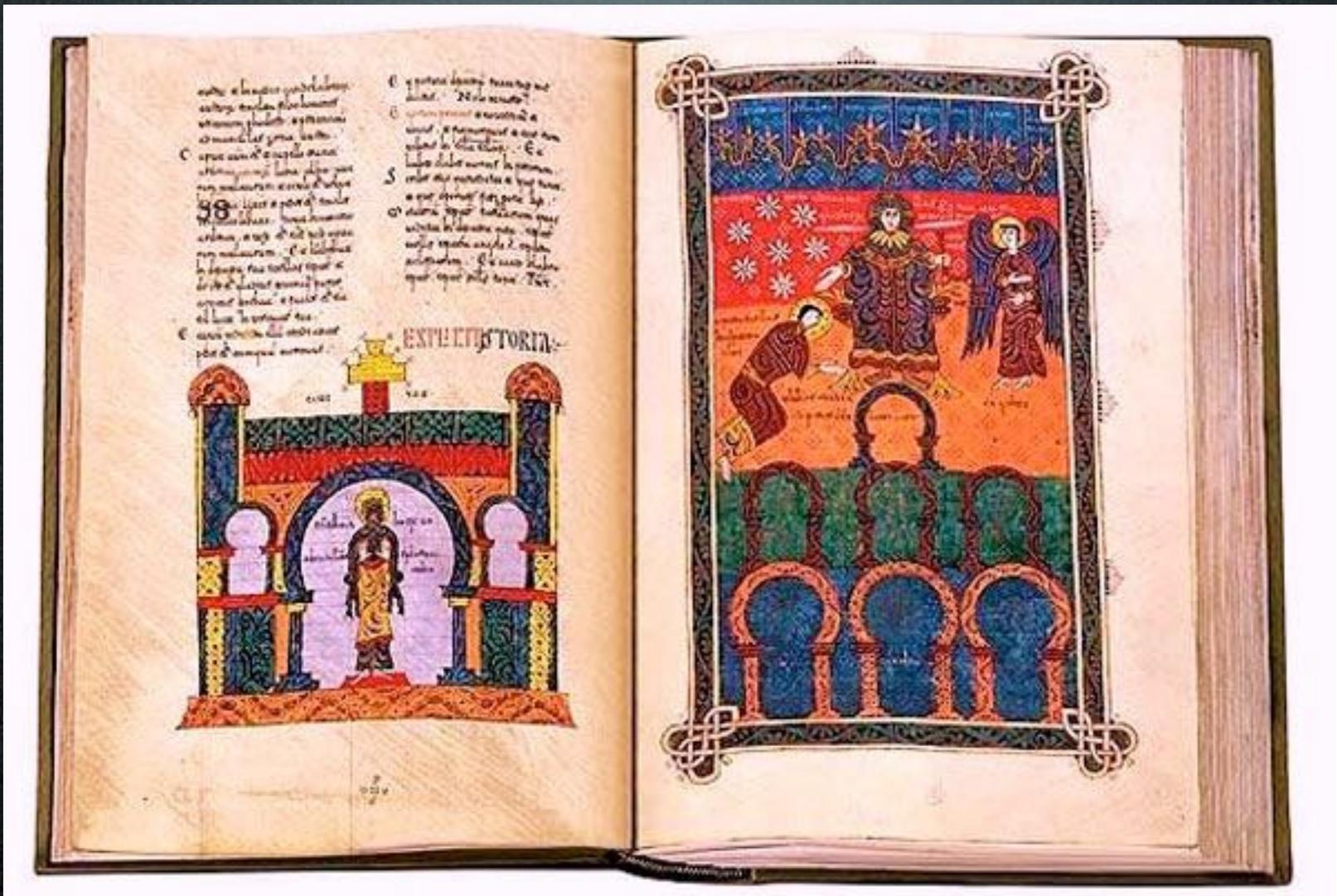


Due to a lack of literate scribes, many of the manuscripts of the **Carolingian Renaissance** were written by clerics privately established by Kings and wealthy noblemen.

**Spanish pictorial
expressionism**

Spain missed out on the advances of Carolingian Renaissance due to the Iberian peninsula's relative isolation from Western Europe.



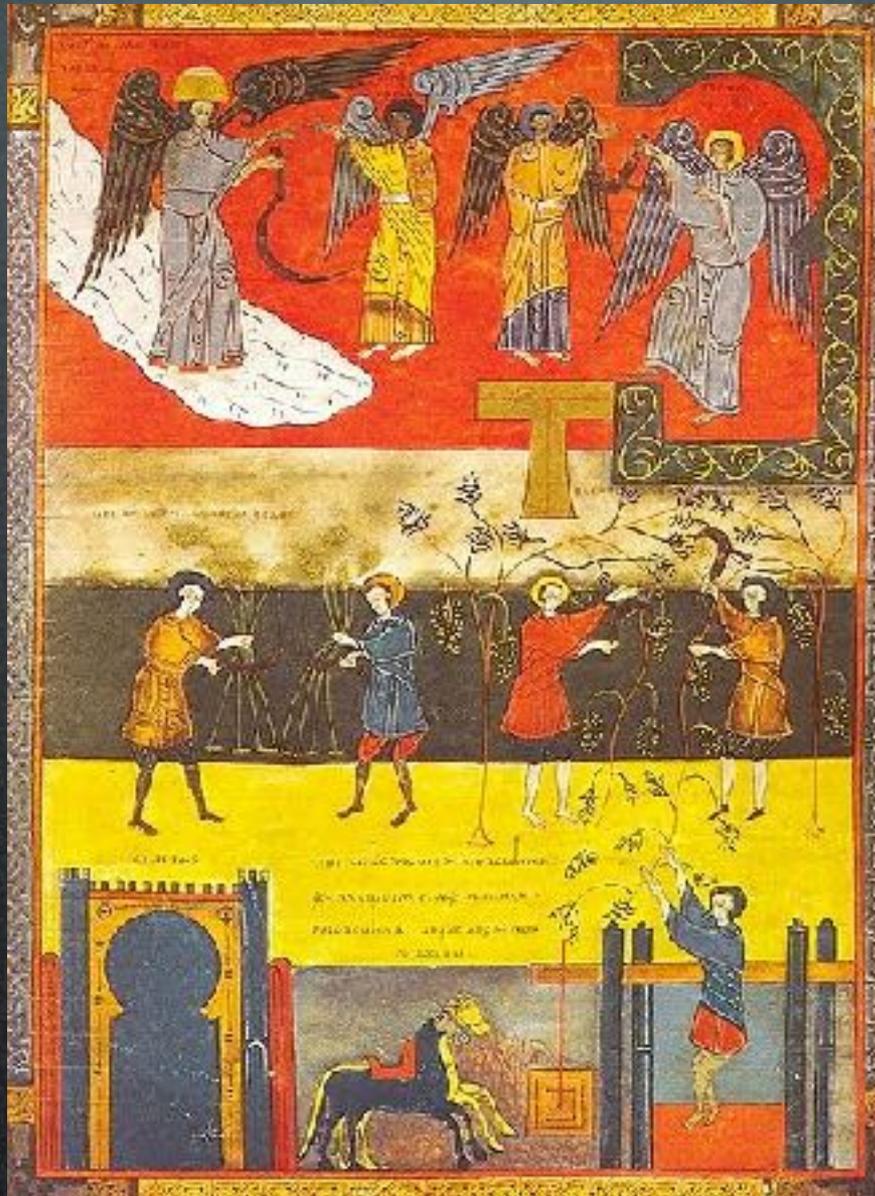


The Iberian peninsula had been conquered by the Arab army, whose Moorish settlers merged Islamic design motifs with Christian traditions.

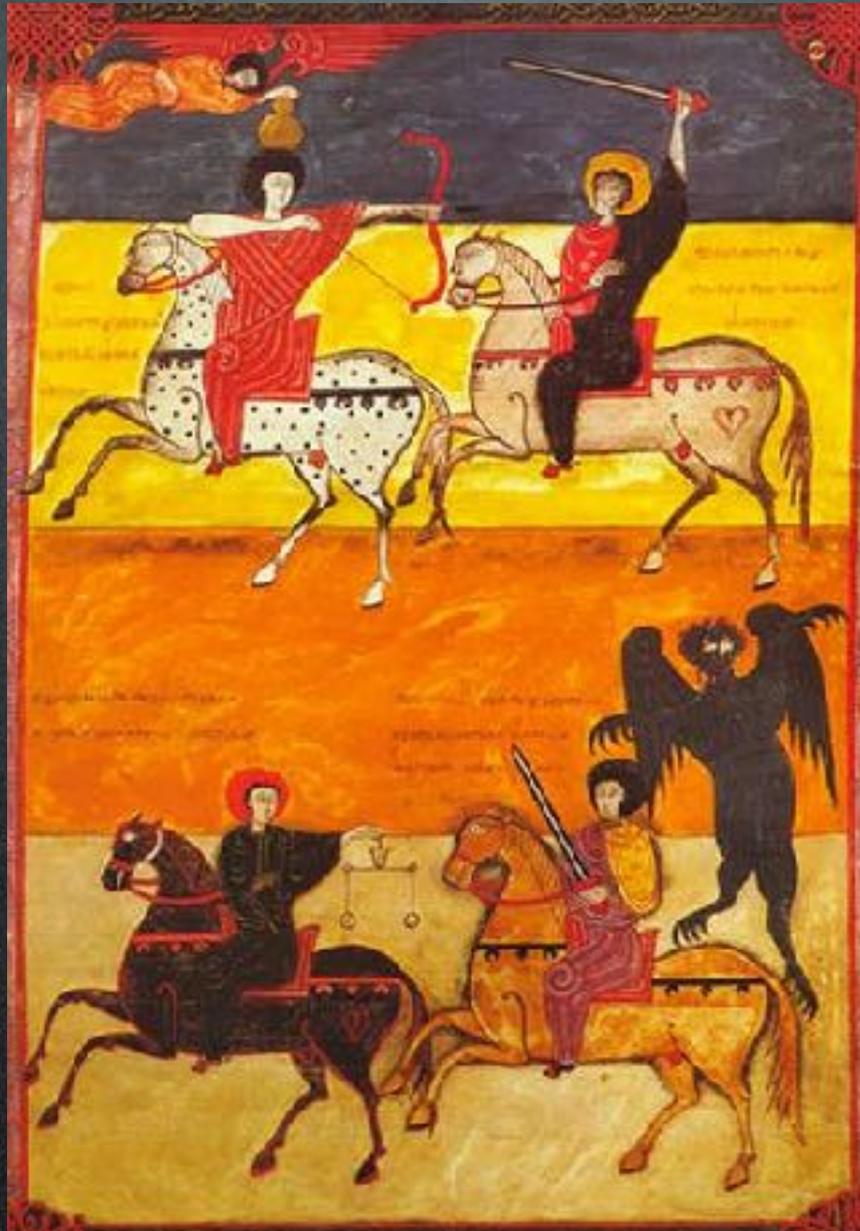


Spanish pictorial expressionism

was characterized by intricate geometry and intense color.



Many examples of Moorish-influenced manuscripts from Spain feature texts from the Book of Revelation.



Manuscripts delved into themes of the *Apocalypse* such as the Beatus of Fernando and Sancha's *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. Many considered the year 1000 to be the end of the world.

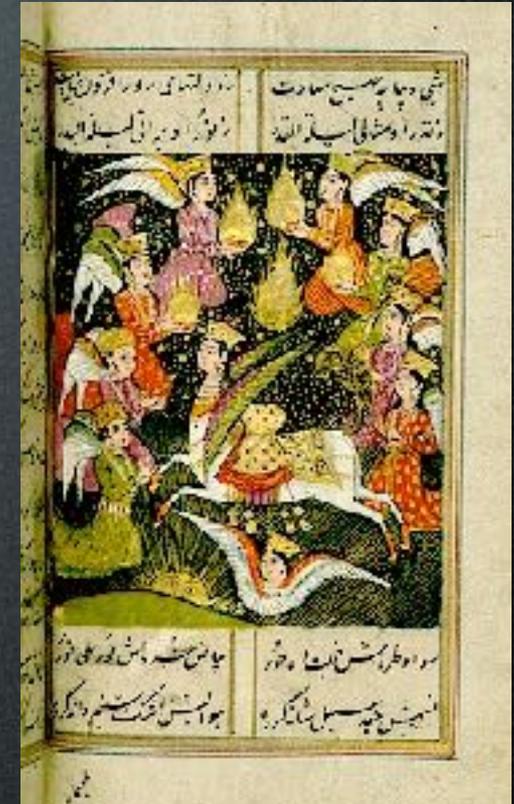
Mainz Haggadah



The Qur'an



Padishanamah



After the fall of Rome, illuminated pages were created for sacred texts from the Middle East to India. They included Jewish, Islamic and East Indian manuscripts.



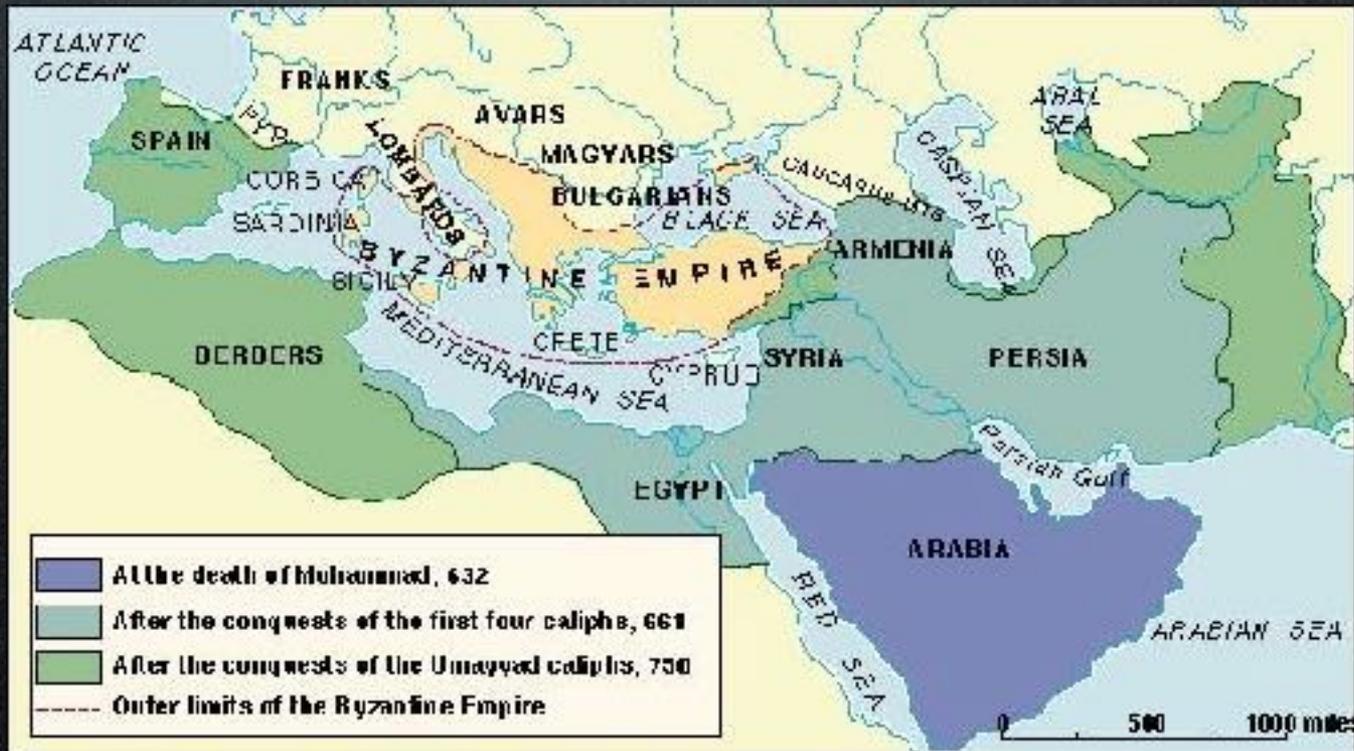
The *Haggadah* is a richly illustrated Judaic manuscript that tells the story of Passover.



The Guide for the Perplexed is a philosophical work originally written in Spanish by Jewish scholar Maimonides and later translated to Hebrew in the late 14th century.

The spread of Islam during the middle ages

Mohammad called on his people to learn to read and write and quickly Islam spread from the Middle East to North Africa and India.



التي يوم الدين قال ترفانظ

إلى يوم يعنون قال ترفانظ
لا غفر منكم أجيبين الأعداء من الغاصب قال ما لعلن والحق أن لا تملأن
حفة منك ومن يملك منكم أجيبين بل ما أسلككم عليه من حذر وما آتاكم من الخلف
أن هو الأذكار للبعالمين وتعلمون كذا أي حجب



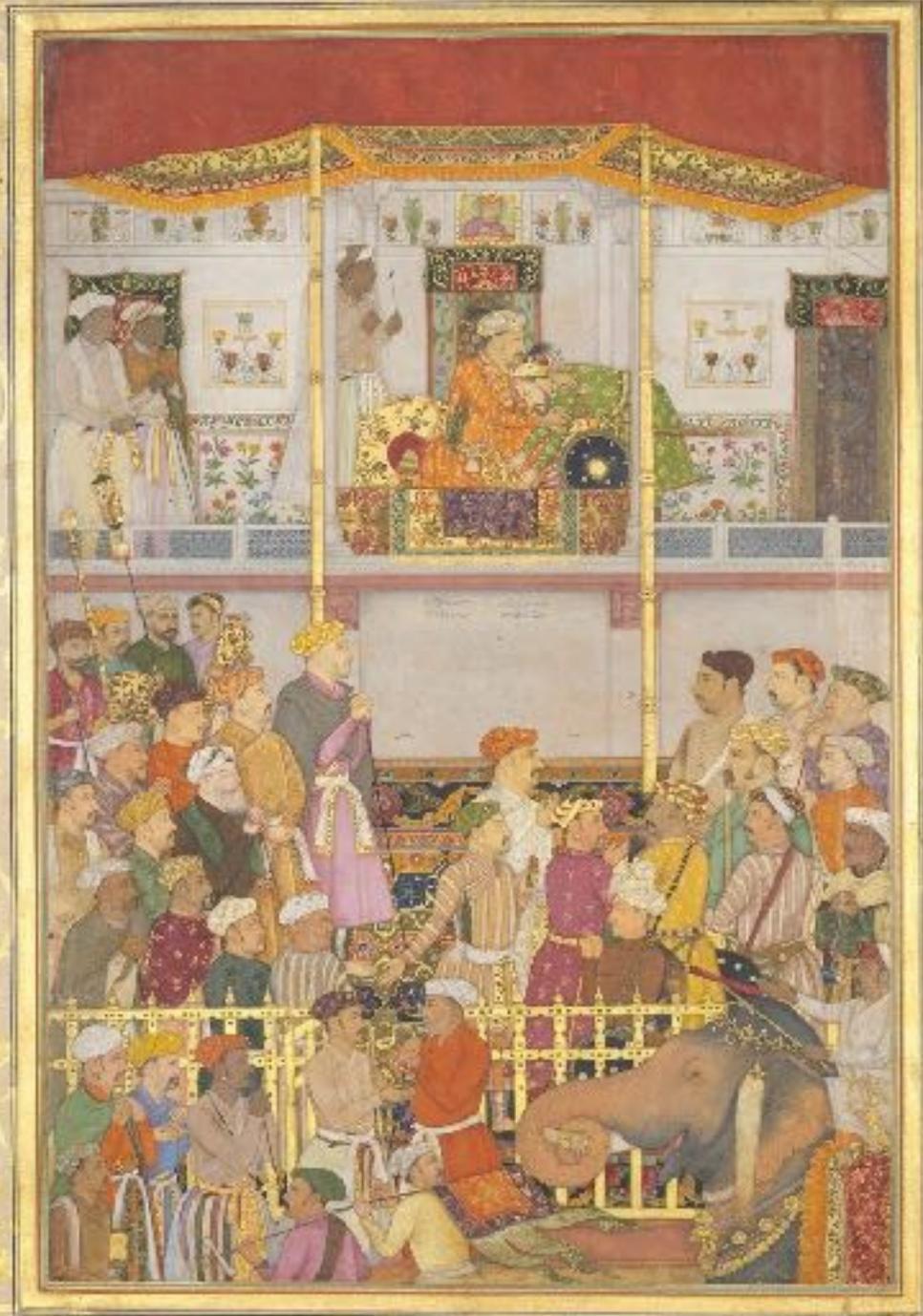
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
أنا أنزلنا إليك الكتاب بالحق تأكيداً لعلنا لا نرى الذين لا يوقنون الذين
تعدوا من دونه أولياء ما نعبدهم إلا ليقربوا إلى الله فقل إن الله يحكم بينهم
بما هم يخلفون إن الله لا يهدي من يشاء عن صراط مستقيم وإن زاد الله أن يخبره
ولما لا تنطق في قلوبهم سمعاً من الله الواحد القهار من القرآن والأحاديث

يَكُونُ لِلدِّينِ عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ

Qur'ans and other Islamic manuscripts flourished throughout north Africa and the Middle East.



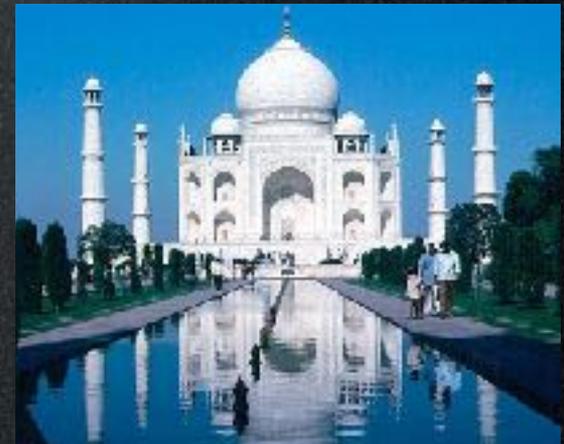
Muslims illuminated numerous manuscripts of poetry.

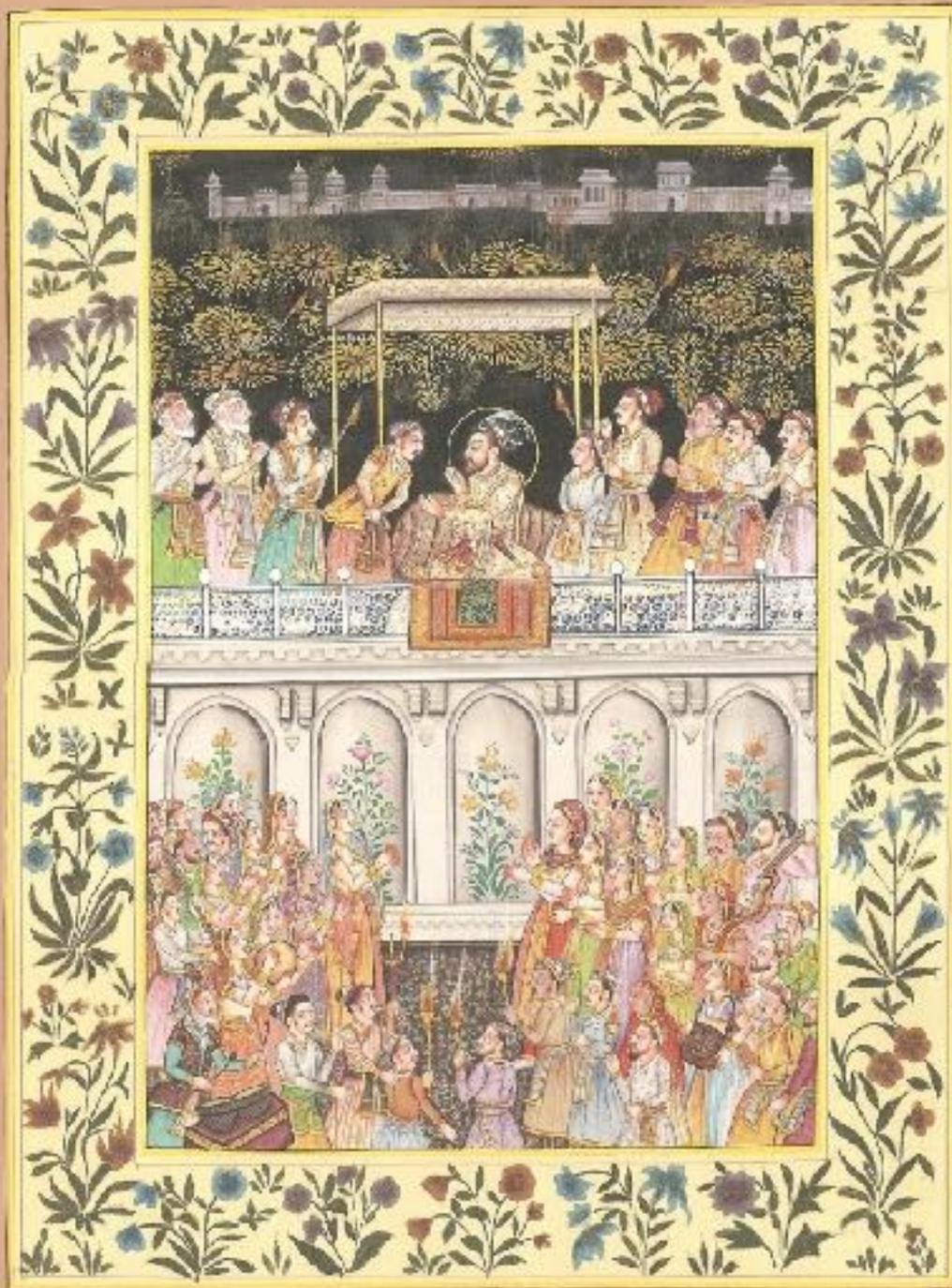


Padishanamah

Chronicle of the King of the World, 1635

By the 14th century, the Mughals (Muslims from Mongol, Turkey) ruled India as emperors. Mughul emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal.





Padishanamah

Chronicle of the King of the World, 1635

These illuminated manuscripts were richly illustrated with birds, animals and human figures. They included Persian architecture and decorative patterns as well as schematic stylizations of plants.



India also had illuminated texts on Buddhism.



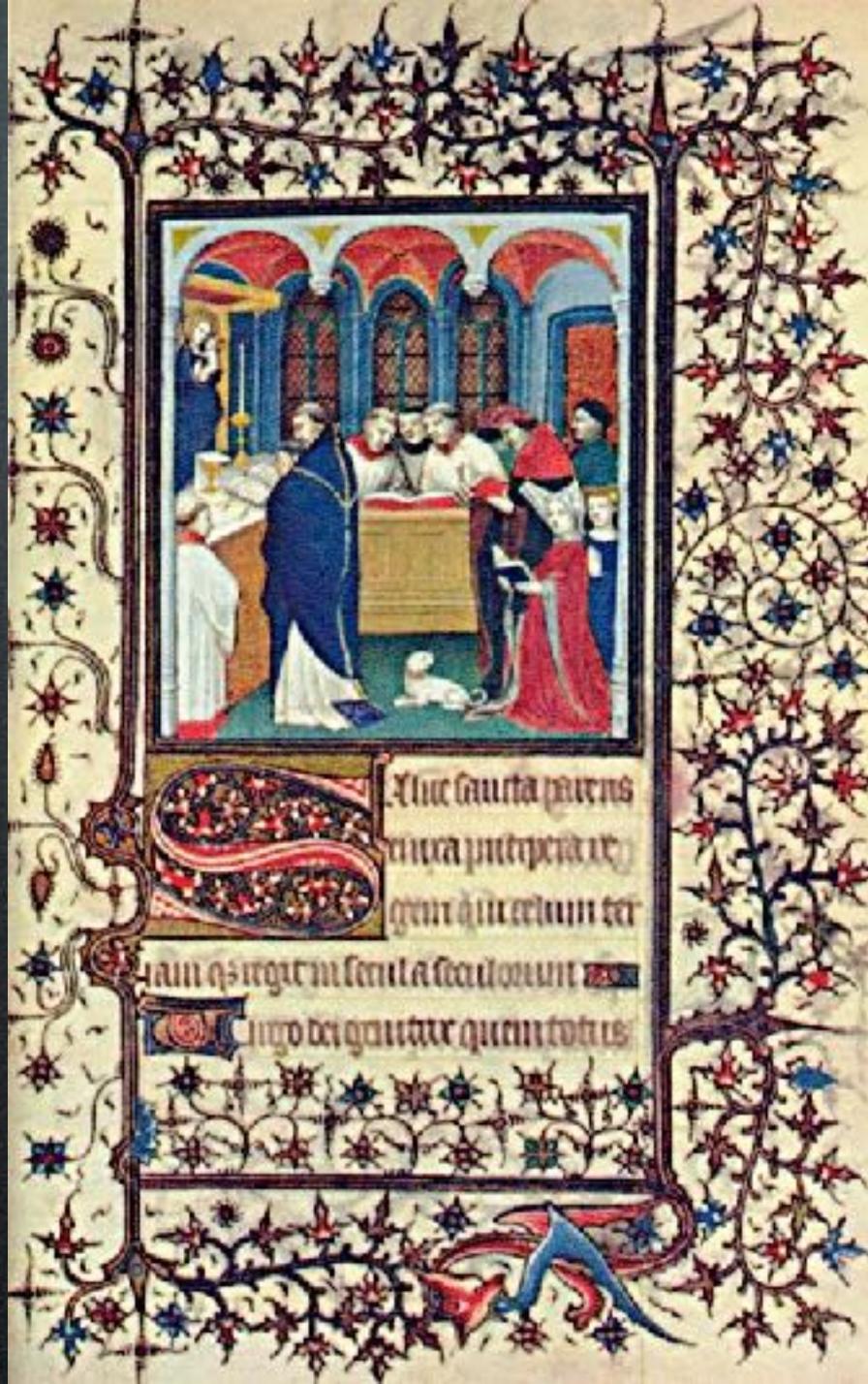
Romanesque era

The years 1000 to 1150 were a time of religious fervor. Europeans launched as many as 10 crusades to conquer the Holy Lands. This didn't sit well with their Islamic neighbors.



Romanesque era

Monasticism reached a peak with many liturgical books: Bibles, gospels and psalters.



Book of Hours

Romanesque designs were used as personal liturgical texts and calendars for noting the holy days by wealthy patrons and noblemen.



Gothic era

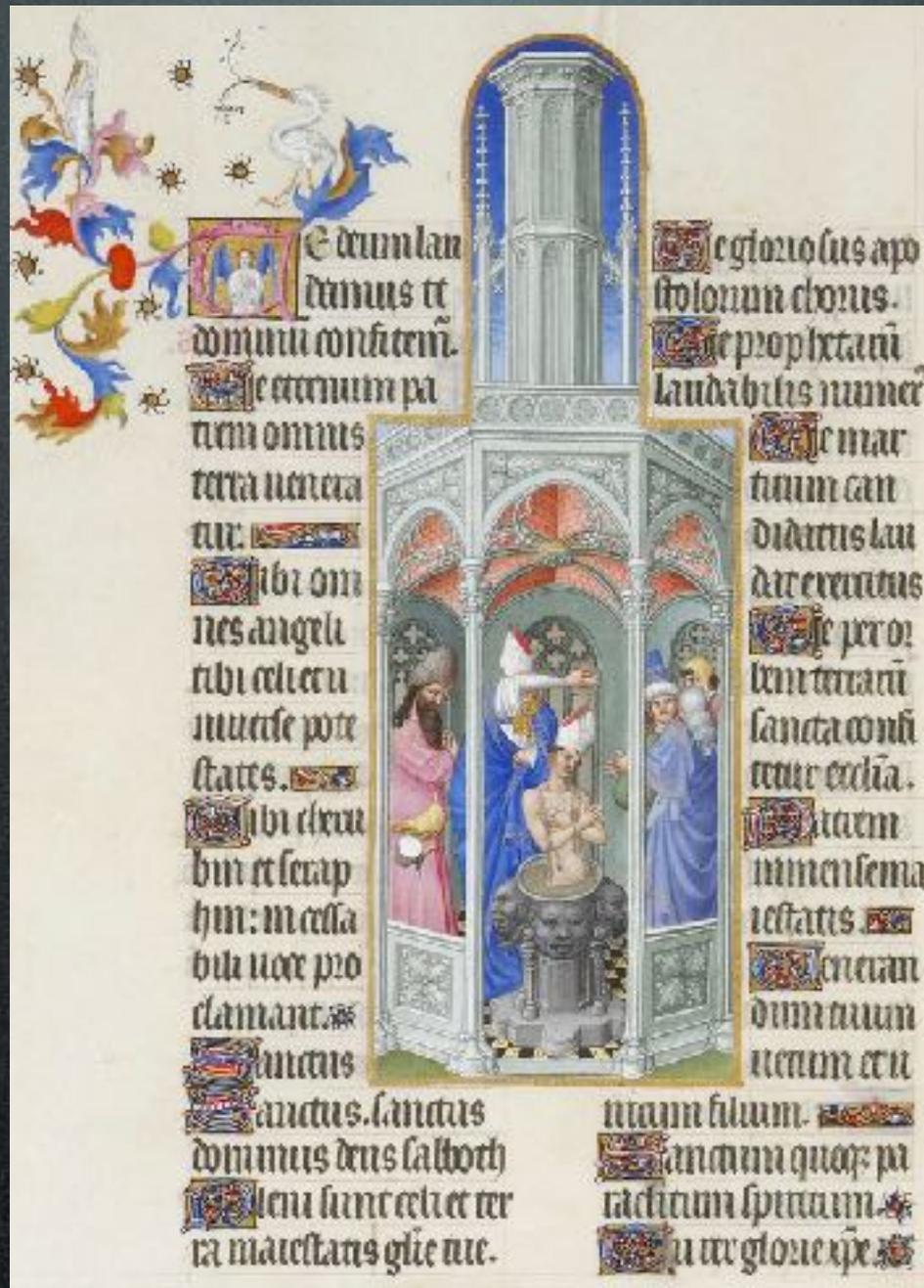
From 1250 to the beginning of the 14th century, Romanesque evolved into Gothic. The *Ormesby Psalter* was one of the great manuscripts from the late Gothic period.



As the medieval era transitioned to the Renaissance period, the production of manuscripts for private use grew more important. In the early 1400s the *Book of Hours* became Europe's most popular book.



By the 15th century, French nobleman Jean Duc de Berry installed a scriptorium in his castle and established the Limbourg brothers as private scribes.



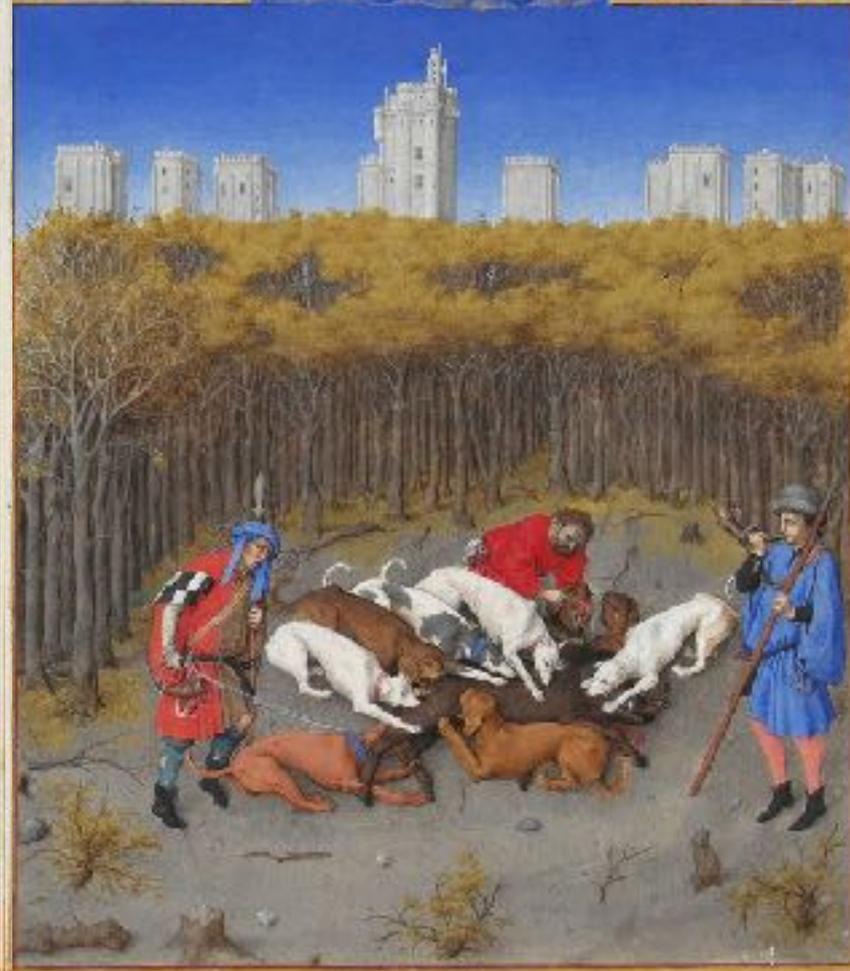
Les tres riches heures

Perhaps the finest illuminated manuscript ever is the 24-page calendar richly illustrated by Paul Limbourg aided by his brothers Jean & Herman.



Les tres riches heures

Each month included a 2-page spread featuring seasonal illustrations and activities crowned with astronomical charts.



*Les très riches heures
du Duc de Berry
(Duke of Berry's
The Very Rich
Hours)*

