

# EARLY MEDIEVAL ART

## Chapter 14

# Theme Card-

## TV Networks: HCO



- ▣ The letters each stand for a particular group:  
T=tribes; V=Vikings, for example.
- ▣ The word *networks*.
  - *First, the word refers to the network of lines that represent the directional patterns of migrating tribes.*
  - *Second, a net is made up of places where two threads come together and are knotted.*
- HCO is meant to sound like HBO (to connect with television networks) but the three letters also stand for **Hiberno-Saxon Carolingian, and Ottonian art.**

# The Middle Ages

- ▣ 1000 yrs after the collapse of Rome
- ▣ 3 ages- Dark age, and 2 golden ages
- ▣ Art Historians break it into 3 periods
  - Early Medieval
  - Romanesque
  - Gothic
- ▣ Tribes- Franks, Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Saxons, Norse, and Celts
- ▣ Church Rises at this time, and separation of classes

# British Isles and Scandinavia

- ▣ 296-370 Christianity flourished and travels to Ireland
- ▣ Scandinavia is Denmark, Norway, Sweden
  - Norse People (Vikings)
  - Rich Mythology





**Title:** Gummersmark Brooch

**Medium:** Silver gilt

**Size:** height 5¾" (14.6 cm)

**Date:** 6th century

**Animal style:** array of serpents, four-legged beasts, and human forms

Solar-disks, spirals, and stylized animals

Symmetrical

Probably used to fasten a cloak

Open work-decoration with open spaces worked into the pattern

chip carving- a type of decorative incising made with knife or chisel

Spiraling tongues form the foot plate







**Title:** Purse Cover, from the Sutton Hoo Burial Ship

**Medium:** Cloisonné plaques of gold, garnet, and checked millefiore glass

**Size:** length 8" (20.3 cm)

**Date:** First half of 7th century

Man buried in his ship, wealthy status was shown by the items in his tomb  
4 interlaced animals and above Swedish hawks (attack ducks), while on either side to 2  
rampant beast attack men, Garnets and blue animal decorate the lid  
Swedish, Germanic, and Hiberno-Saxon all displayed



**Title:** Page with *Man*, Gospel of Saint Matthew, *Gospel Book of Durrow*,

**Medium:** Ink and tempera on parchment

**Size:** 9<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> X 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" (24.4 X 15.5 cm)

**Date:** Second half of 7th century

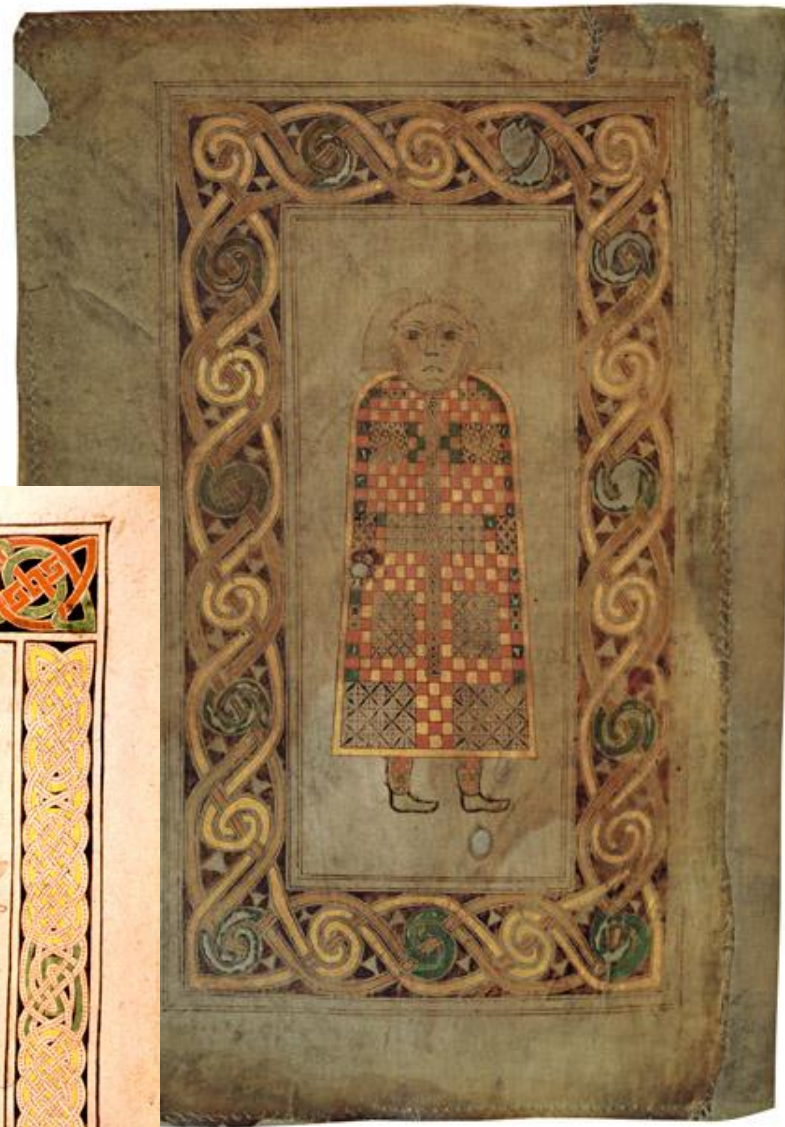
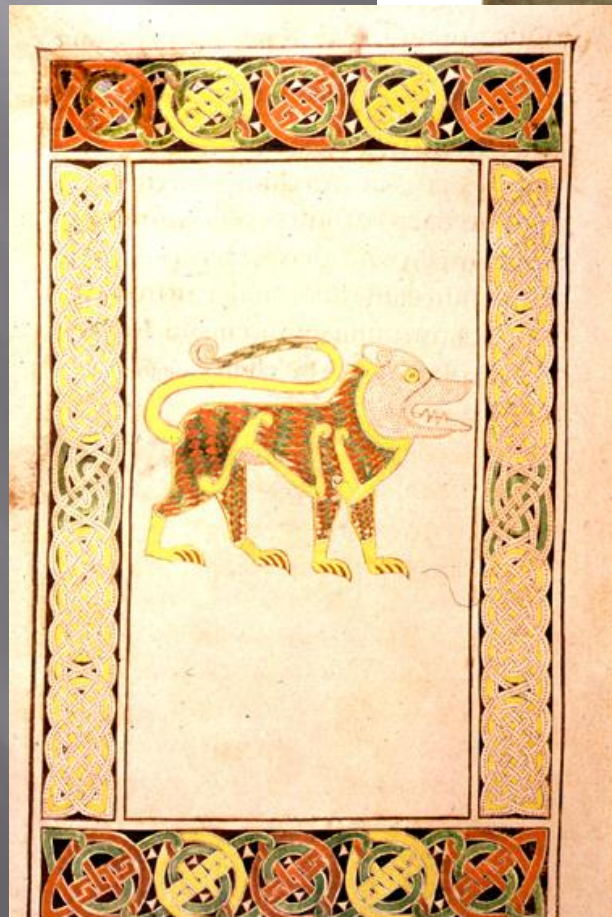
Manuscripts begin to flourish as a result of the medieval scriptorium

**Ribbon interlace-** a complex pattern of woven and knotted lines

Stylized man  
Ferocious lion, sharp teethed

Both stylized with geometric pattern

Start of illuminated texts







**Title:** *Chi Rho Iota page*, Matt. 1:18  
from the *Book of Kells*

**Medium:** Oxgall inks and pigments  
on vellum

**Size:** 12 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> X 9 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" (325 X 24 cm)

**Date:** Late 8th or early 9th century

Gospel book

"the chief relic of the western world"

Hiberno-Saxon Book

Made in a monastery in Iona

Brought to Kells in 9<sup>th</sup> century

Intricate, exact, and subtle, full of  
knots and Color

Most celebrated page

Look closely at the designs what do  
you see?







**Title:** South Cross, Ahenny

**Medium:** Stone

**Date:** 8th century

**Source/ Museum:** County Tipperary,  
Ireland

Irish High cross

Like the elaborate, fancy metal crosses of  
the time

Outlines by gadrooning- rope like molding

Covered with spirals and interlace

Large bosses- brooch like projections

Bosses could resemble jewels





# Christian Spain

- ▣ Home of the Visigoths that migrated from the
- ▣ Visigoths here began to adopt the Christian Faith
- ▣ Adopted Latin for writing and the Western Orthodox Church in 589
- ▣ 711 Islamic invaders conquered Spain- Christians and Jews did not have to convert just recognize new authority

**Artist:** Emeterius and Senior

**Title:** Colophon Page, *Commentary on the Apocalypse* by Beatus and *Commentary on Daniel* by Jerome

**Medium:** Tempera on parchment

**Size:** 14¼ X 10⅛" (36.2 X 25.8 cm)

**Date:** Completed July 27, 970

**Source/ Museum:** Made for the Monastery of San Salvador at Tábara, León, Spain.

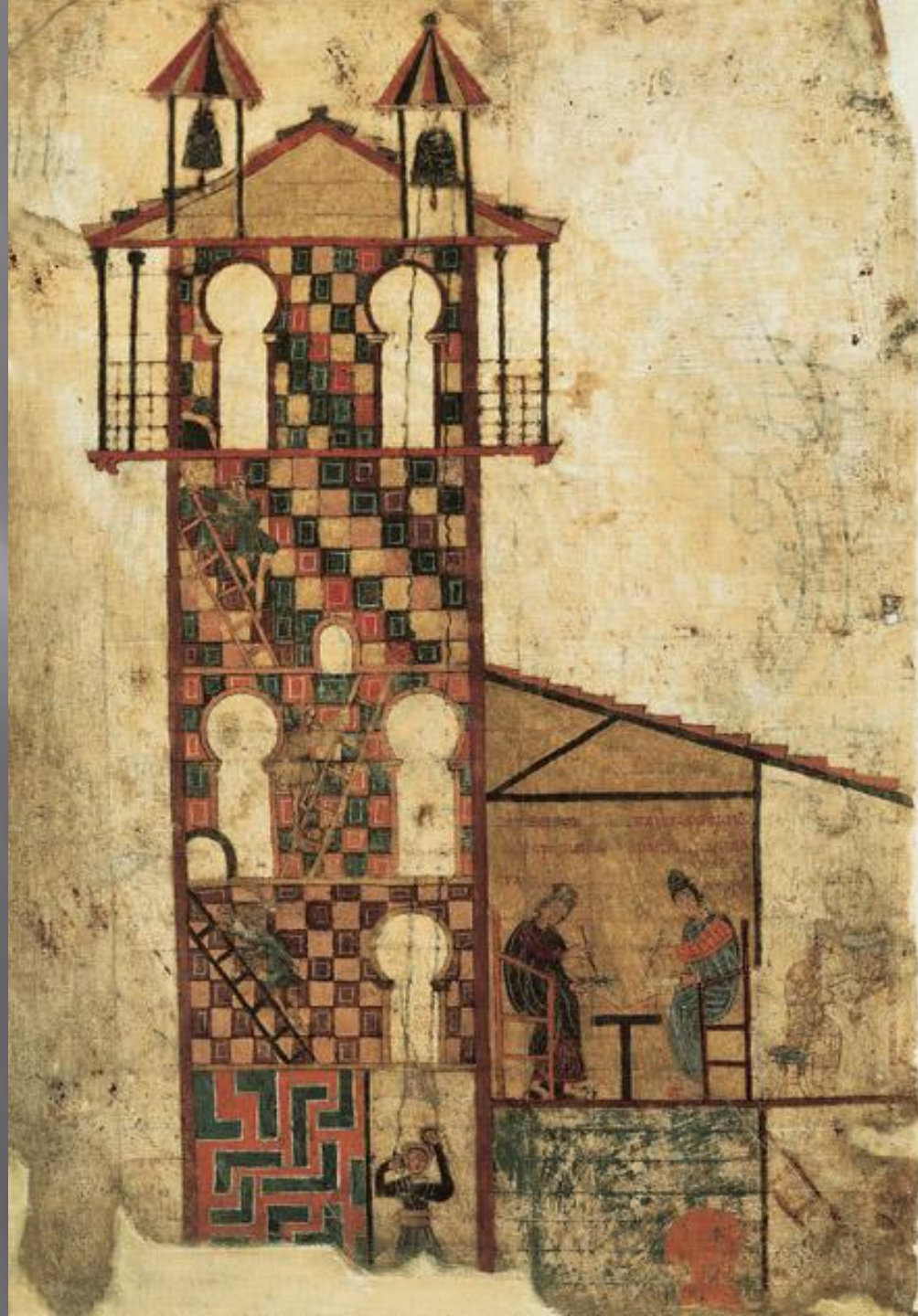
After 711 invasion- rich exchange of art and ideas occurred Islamic art mixed with the Christian ideas

On **colophon-** page at the end of **manuscript** scribes began to sign their work

Colophon drawing shows a 5 story tower, with scriptorium attached to it, Exterior and interior at same time shown

Writers identified

Helper cut **parchment-** paper





**Artist:** Emeterius and Ende, with the scribe Senior

**Title:** Page with *Battle of the Bird and the Serpent*, *Commentary on the Apocalypse* by Beatus and *Commentary on Daniel* by Jerome (Detail)

**Medium:** Tempera on parchment

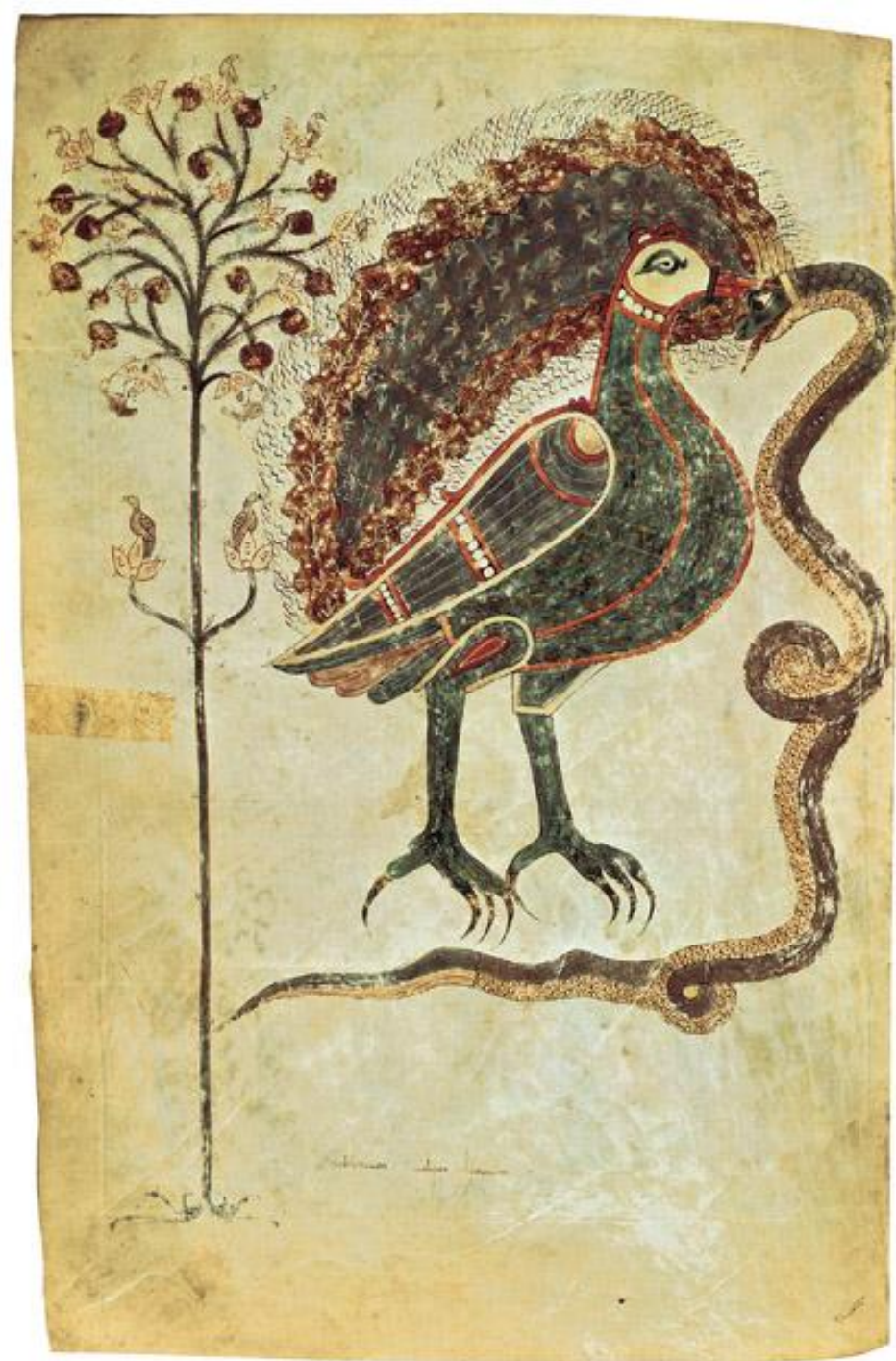
Peacock grasping a snake

Symbolize?

Why would they have pictures like this in illuminated manuscripts

Abstract coloring and geometric patterns

Why the Churches uses symbolic stories and allegories to translate ideas to less educated





**Title:** Cross

**Medium:** Gilded silver, wood, jewels, glass, cameos, and gold-glass medallion of the third century

**Size:** 50 X 39" (126 X 99 cm)

**Date:** Late 7th-early 9th century

Langobard Kingdom in Italy

A migrating people who excelled in metal work.

Over 4 ft by 3 ft

Show their display of colors and shapes

Christ is sitting enthroned on a mandorla in relief

More than 200 jewels and an antique **cameos-gemstone, clay, or glass** having layers of colors carved in low relief





A roman  
portrait  
dating from  
the 250 CE  
was placed  
in the cross



# Carolingian Europe

- ▣ 768-877
- ▣ Began with Charles the Great or Charlemagne
- ▣ Were Franks a Germanic people who settled in North Gaul
- ▣ 12-25-800 crowned the next Emperor of the holy Roman Empire
- ▣ Restore a Christian State and Revival of the Arts
- ▣ Rome and Ravenna were the inspirations



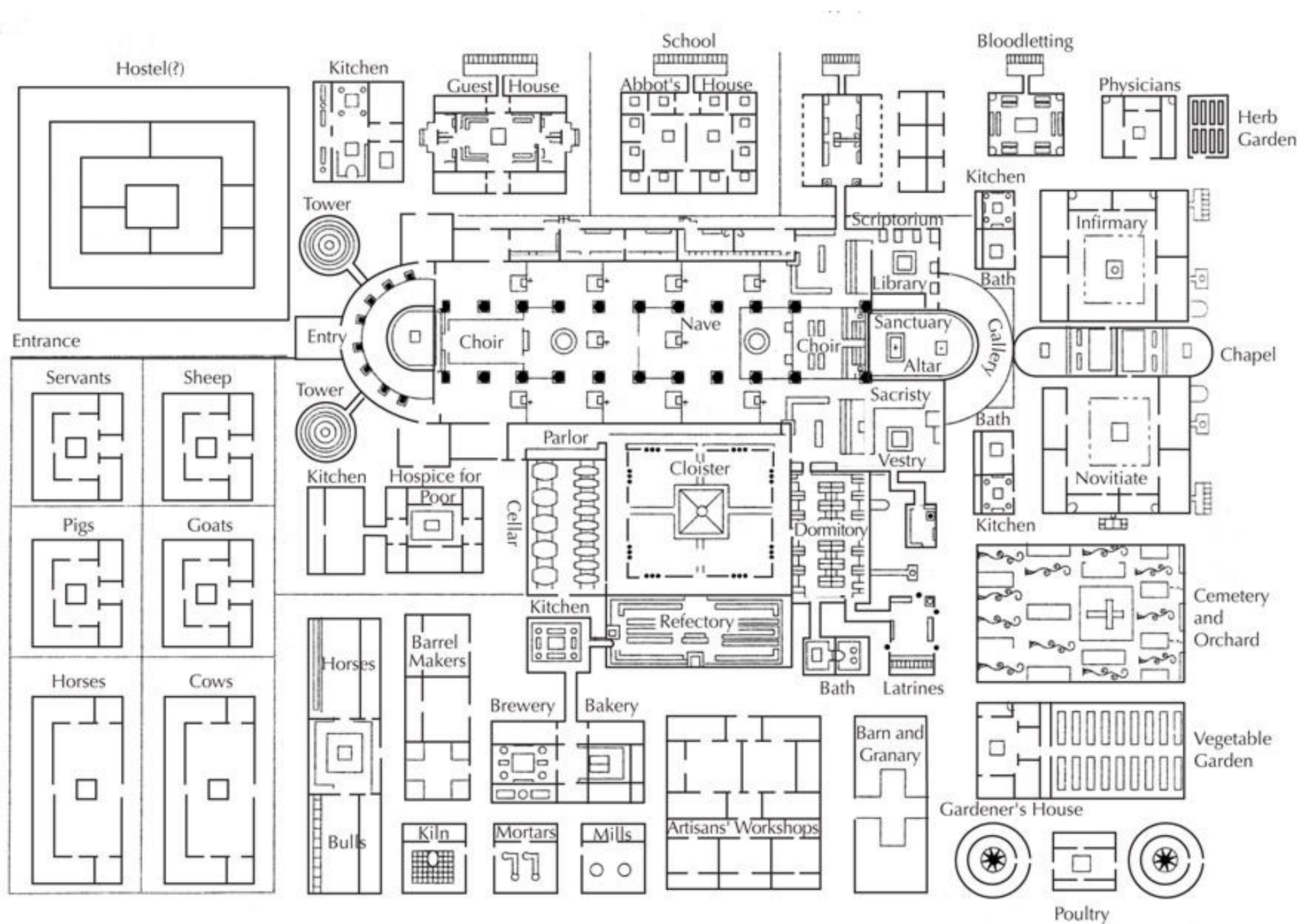
**Title:** Abbey Church of Saint Riquier,  
Monastery of Centula, France, dedicated  
799

**Medium:** Engraving

**Date:** dated 1612, after an 11th-century  
drawing

**Source/ Museum:** Bibliothèque  
Nationale, Paris

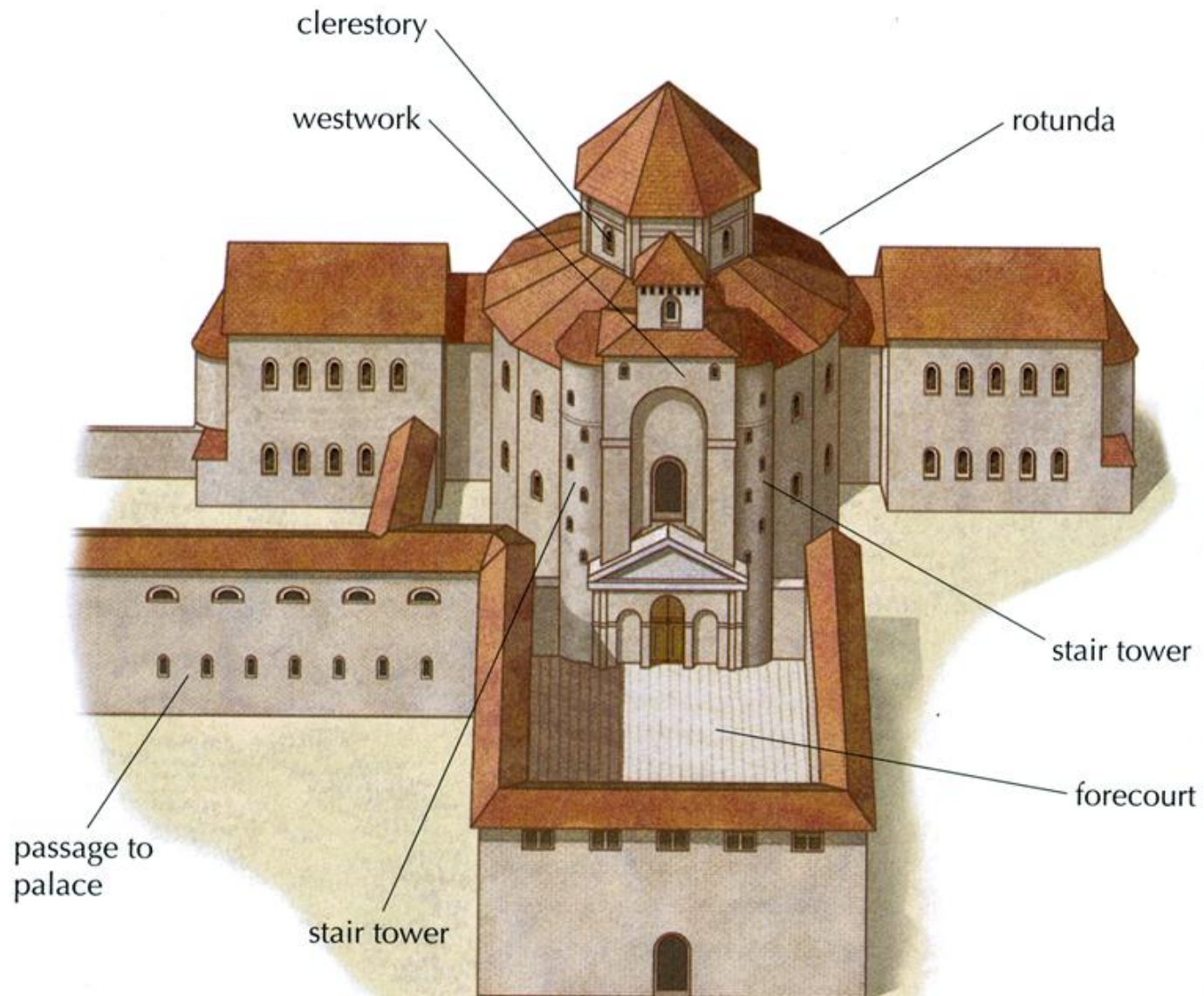






# Palace Chapel of Charlemagne, Aachen (Aix-La-Chapelle), Germany. 792-805

Westwork- the monumental, west-facing entrance section of a Carolingian, Ottonian, or Romanesque





**Title:** Palace Chapel of Charlemagne,  
interior view  
**Date:** 792–805  
**Source/ Museum:** Aachen (Aix-la-  
Chapelle), Germany

Martyrium- Church built around a sacred  
site or house sacred objects

Later became his mausoleum

Throne room so the king could take part in  
the mass

Relics housed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> level

Reconstructed several times, the last being  
WW II

Core of the chapel is an octagon





**Title:** Page with *Mark the Evangelist, Gospel of Mark, Godescalc Gospel Lectionary*  
**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors on vellum  
**Size:** 12½ X 8½" (32.1 X 21.8 cm)  
**Date:** 781–83

Commissioned by Charlemagne and his wife Hildegard

Halo-lion inspires and is the attention of Mark, Why lion?

Their halo's touch as if they are communicating

The artist gives him molding by lines displaying under his robes  
However his left knee is shown at an impossible angle

Spiral vine motif adorn his platform  
Stylized plants and geometric pattern appear around the border





**Title:** Page with *Matthew the Evangelist*, Gospel of Matthew, *Ebbo Gospels*

**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors on vellum

**Size:** 10 ¼ X 8¾" (26 X 22.2 cm)

**Date:** Second quarter of 9th century

For an archbishop Ebbo

Unique style of medieval expressionism

Matthew almost vibrates with intensity as he writes

An angel spills works and thoughts into Matthew's inkwell

His robes match the threatening background

The perspective in this piece twists awkwardly





**Title:** Page with *Matthew the Evangelist*, Gospel of Matthew, *Ebbo Gospels*

**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors on vellum

**Size:** 10 1/4 X 8 3/4" (26 X 22.2 cm)

**Date:** Second quarter of 9th century

Visual Interpretation of literary words and images

This technique is like charades

"Beside the still water" so they place a stream

Enormous investment in time, talent, and materials

Protected with magnificent covers





**Title:** *Crucifixion with Angels and Mourning Figures, outer cover, Lindau Gospels*  
**Medium:** Gold, pearls, sapphires, garnets, and emeralds  
**Size:** 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> X 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" (36.9 X 26.7 cm)  
**Date:** c. 870–80  
Lavish Book cover

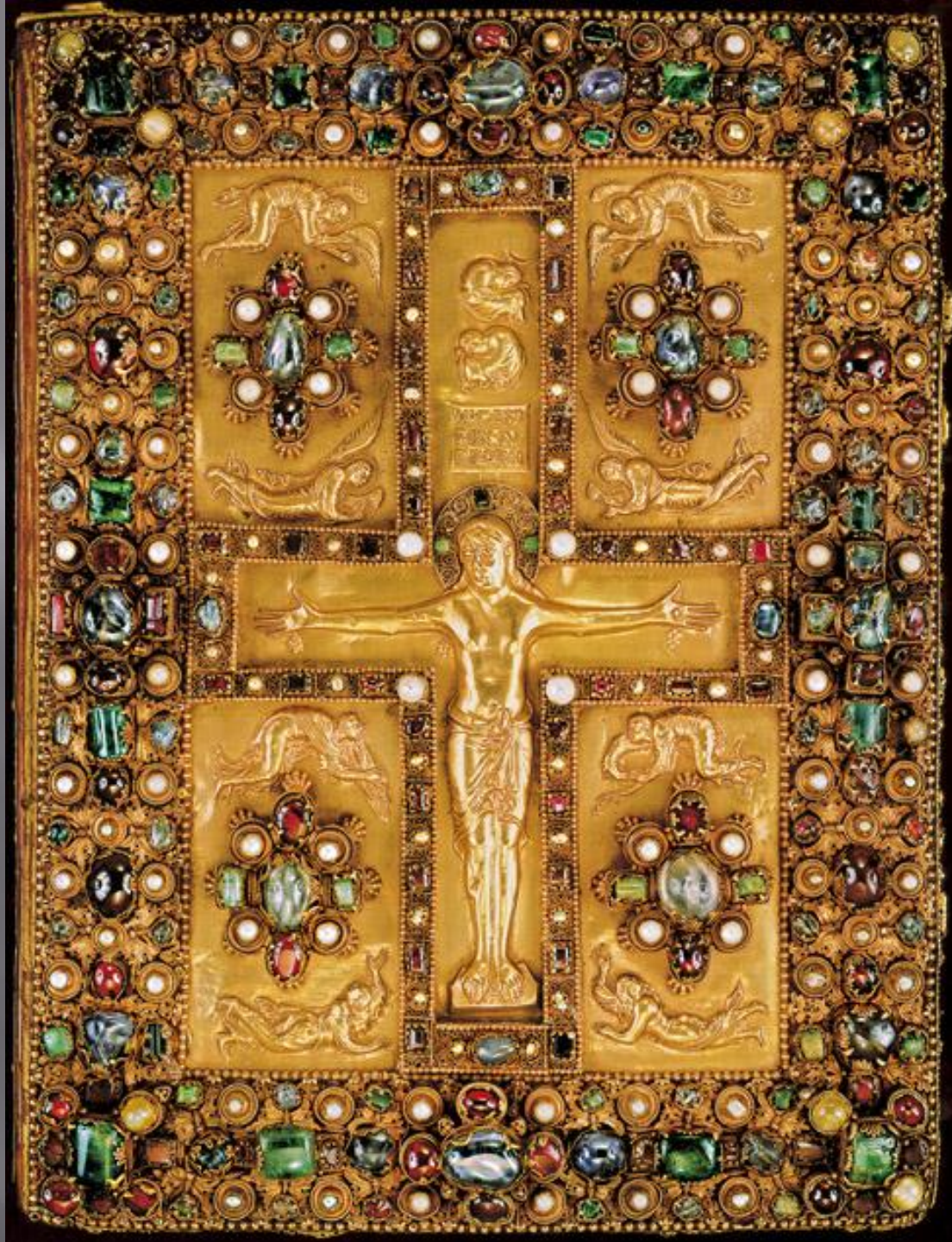
Not known what the book was made for

It became the cover of Lindau Gospels

Cross and Crucifix were common themes, gold figures in repousse

Sun and Moon hid their faces  
Angels above mourners below

Pose Suggests?





# Vikings

- ▣ “People from the coves” “raiders” “pirates”
- ▣ Liked to raid Christian Monasteries for Treasures
- ▣ 1000 Leif Erickson reached North America
- ▣ 10<sup>th</sup> Century French Rules bought off the invaders
- ▣ 995 Olaf Haraldsson first Viking to convert and convert his people

**Title:** *Queen's Ship*

**Medium:** Wood **Size:** length 75' 6" (23 m)

**Date:** c. 815–20; burial 834

**Source/ Museum:** Vikingskiphuset, Universitets Oldsaksamling, Oslo, Norway

Propelled by sails and  
ores, travel inland not  
ocean voyages

Queen Aase and other  
women burial ship

Objects stores on  
board as well as 14  
horse, 3 dogs, and an  
ox were scarf iced and  
stored on board

Servant could have  
been a willing sacrifice

Represented slick sea  
serpents

Carved areas were  
painted





3 foot tall wooden animal head post

Not sure of purpose

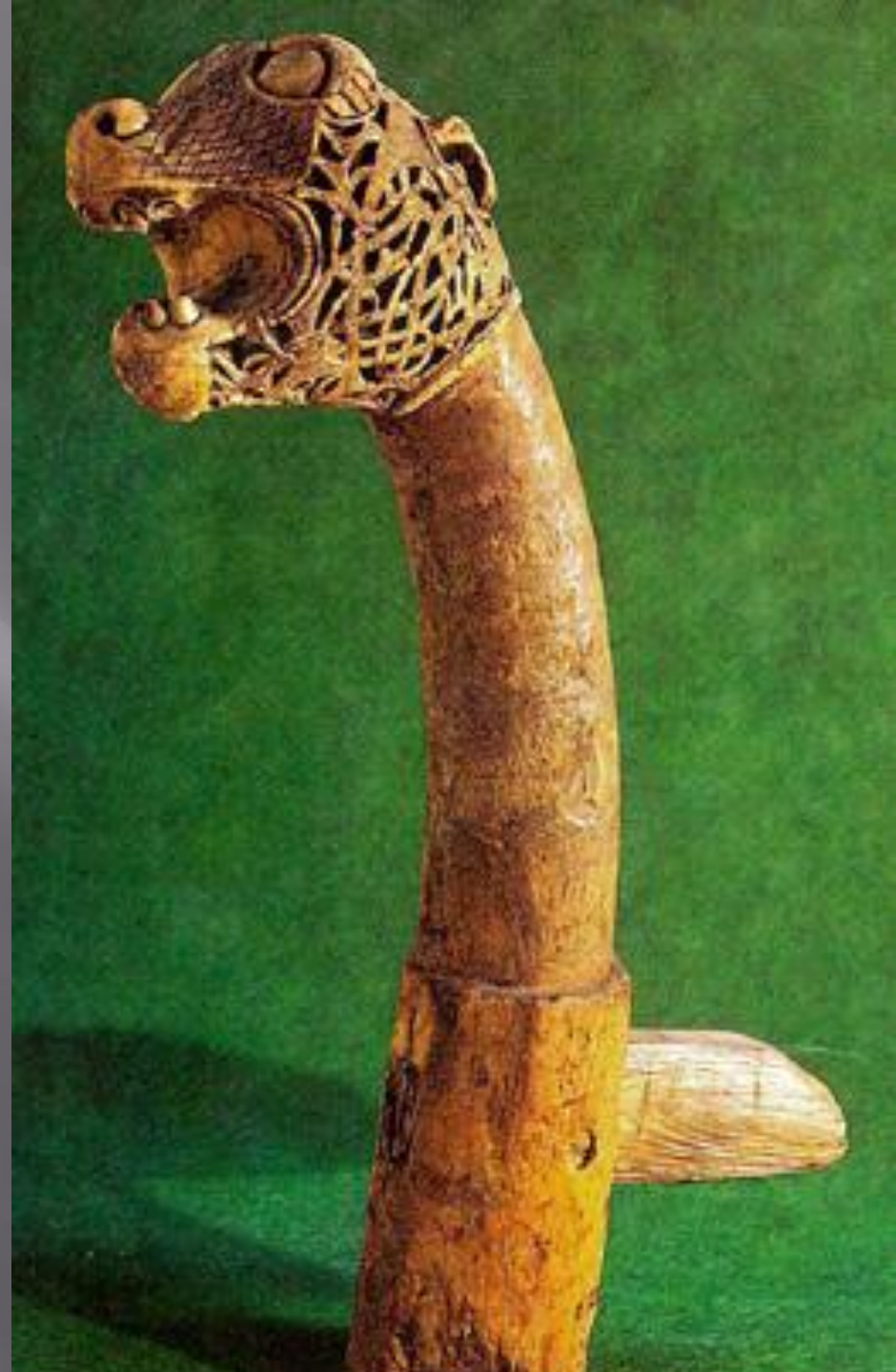
All have slender dog and cat like features

With bulging eyes and a snarling mouth

Interlace ribbon or even interlace beasts are hallmarks of the Viking Empire

Abstraction of the medieval ages

Cross hatching on the face



# Ottonian Europe

- ▣ Dynasty of Saxon rulers in Germany and Austria
- ▣ Known of this name because of first 2 rulers, Otto I, Otto II, and Otto III
- ▣ 962 Otto I crowned Empire by Pope
- ▣ Reinterpreted Roman Buildings to create a new style





**Title:** Church of Saint  
Cyriakus

**Date:** Begun 961; consecrated  
973

Basilica with a westwork

East end aspe  
West end Westwork

Towers and Westwork are  
Reminiscent of Saint Riquier's

Church exterior has windows,  
wall arcades, and blind  
arcades

Arches inside arches with  
column post

Rounded Arches, Multiple  
sizes placed oddly

## Title: Nave, Church of Saint Cyriacus

Has 3 levels arcade separates the arcade from the side aisles

Gallery with 6 arched window opens

Clerestory on top

Alternating of Columns and rectangular pier creates a rhythmic effect

Flat ceiling is made of wood and painted

Upward draw by 2 arches turning to 6 at gallery level

Combination of contrasting elements?  
Where?





**Title:** *Otto I Presenting  
Magdeburg Cathedral to Christ*  
**Medium:** Ivory  
**Size:** 5 X 4½" (12.7 X 11.4 cm)  
**Date:** c. 962–68

Ivory

1 of 19

St. Maurice is presenting Otto  
and his cathedral to Christ,  
St. Peter faces them

Part of altar or pulpit

Wreath is heaven and the  
arch is the earth

Solemn and Intense figures is  
an Ottonian Characteristic





**Title:** Doors of Bishop Bernward

**Medium:** Bronze

**Size:** height 16' 6" (5 m)

**Date:** 1015

Significant influence years to come

Patron was bishop Bernward, who Tutored Otto III

Made for the Abbey Church Saint Micheal in Germany

Inspired by Santa Sabina

Style of the scenes are reminiscent of illuminated Illustrations of the Carolingian Manuscripts

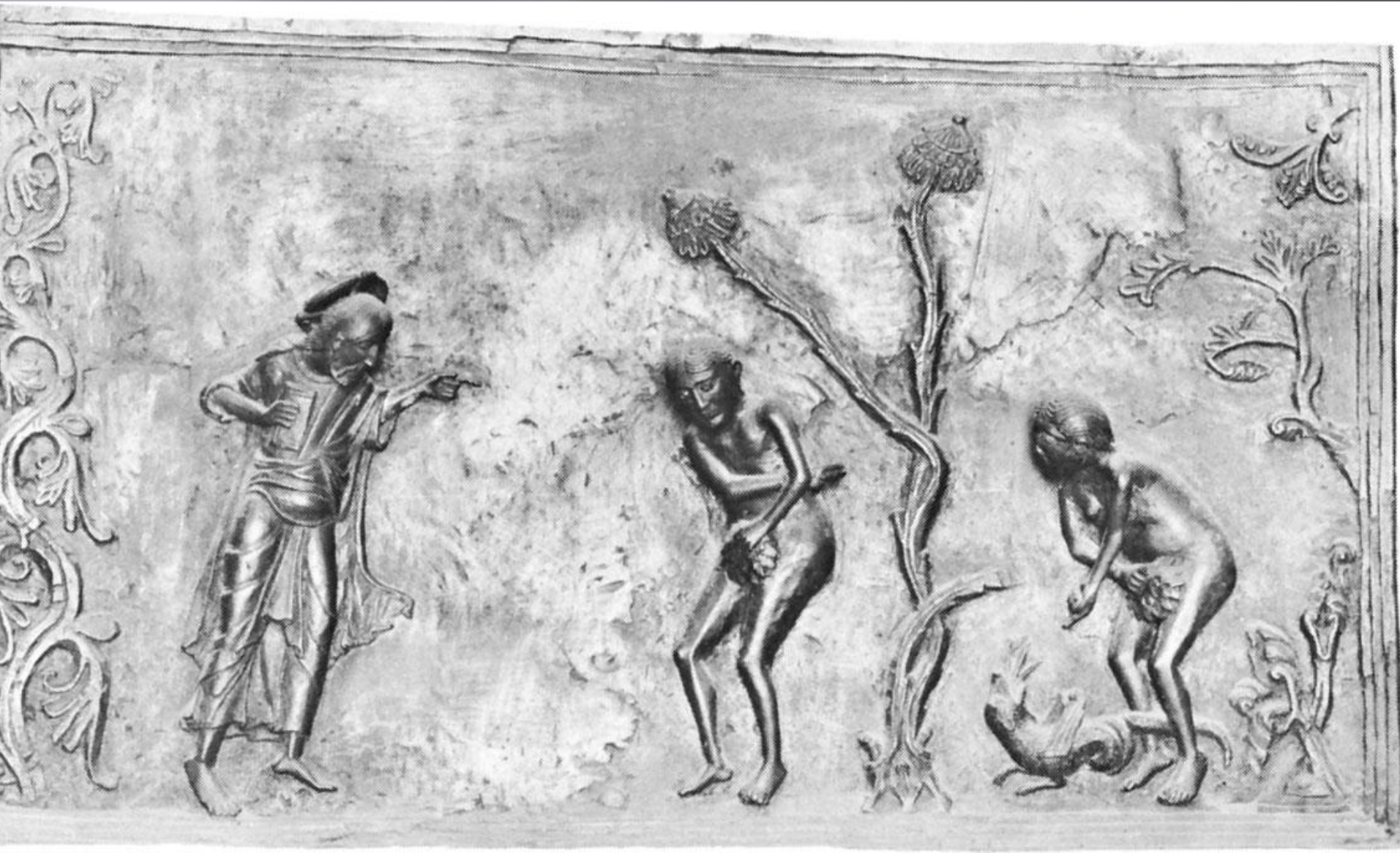
Very low relief architecture and landscape elements in back grounds

People are carved in varying degrees of relief

Old Testament on the right themes illuminate  
New Testament Themes on the left







**Title:** *Gero Crucifix*

**Medium:** Painted and gilded wood

**Size:** height of figure 6'2" (1.88 m)

**Date:** c. 970

One of Few large wooden works to survive

Archbishop Gero commission for his Cathedral

Made from painted and gilded OAK

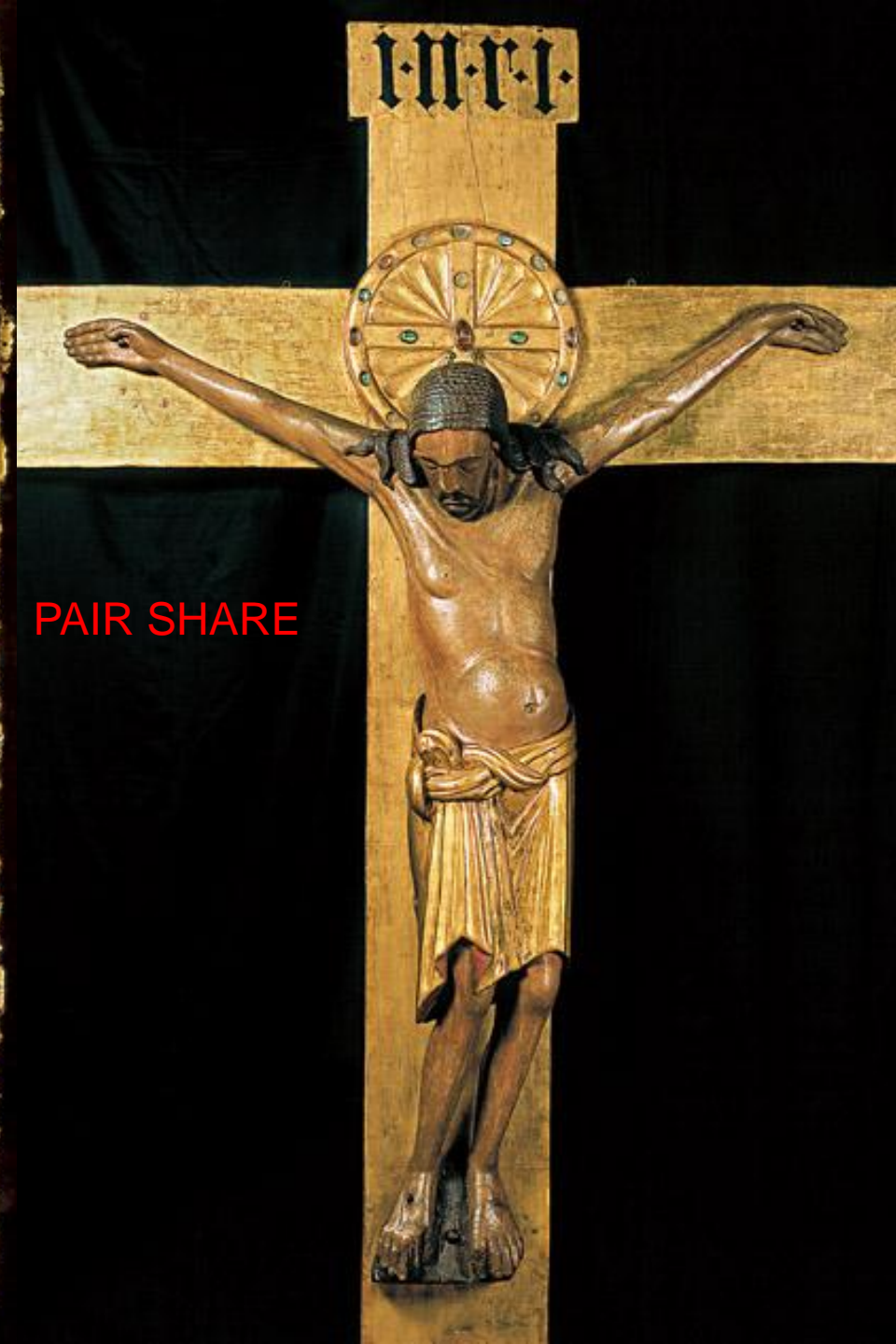
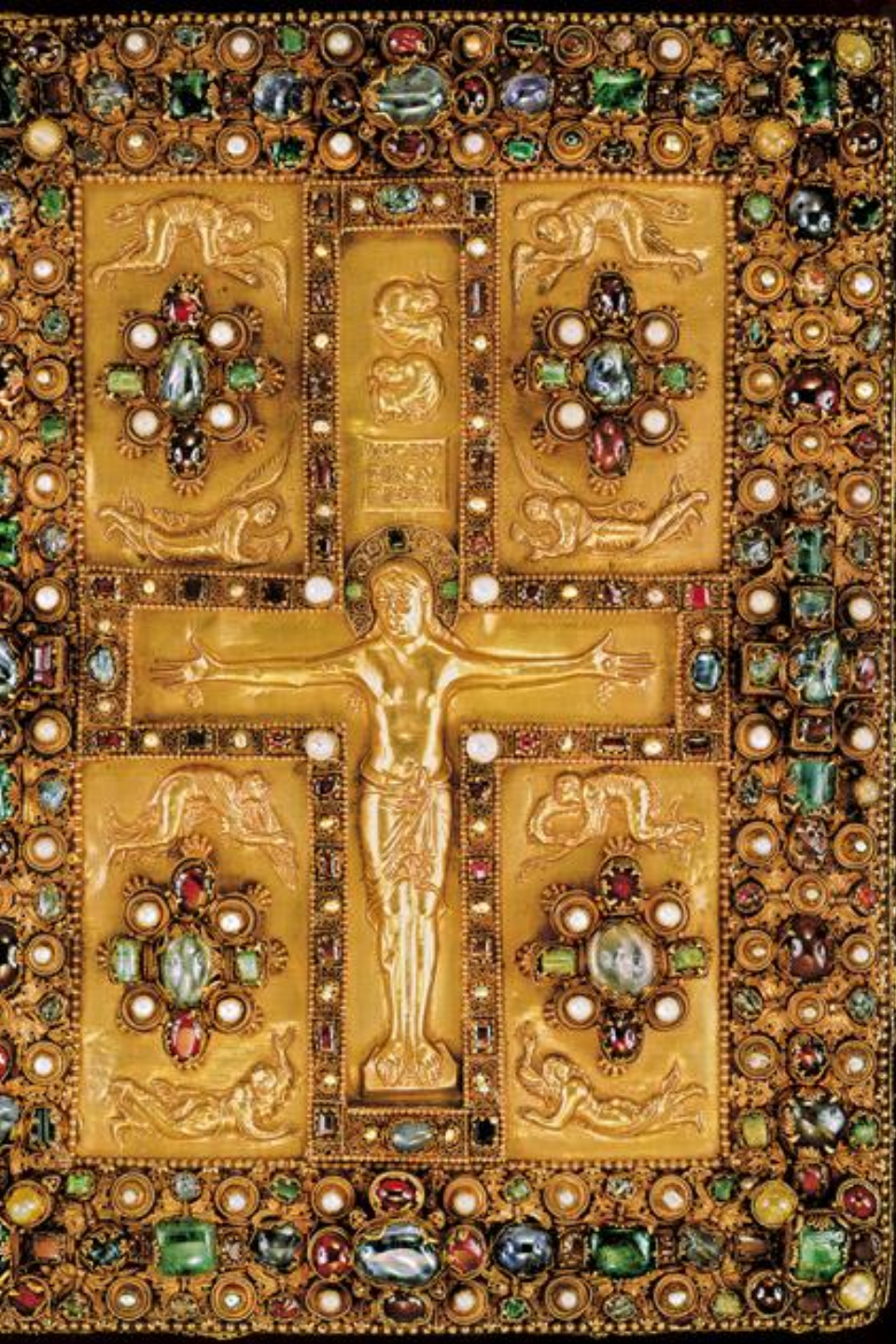
Focus is on Jesus's Suffering, more than 6 ft tall

Shown as torture Martyr  
BODY LANGUAGE!

Whole is the back of head contain a piece of host which represents the body of Christ obtained through the Eucharist







PAIR SHARE



**Title:** Page with *Otto III Enthroned*, *Liuthar Gospels* (*Aachen Gospels*)

**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors on vellum

**Size:** 10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> X 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" (27.9 X 21.8 m)

**Date:** c. 996

Book making at this time was widely scattered and artist drew from numerous inspirations

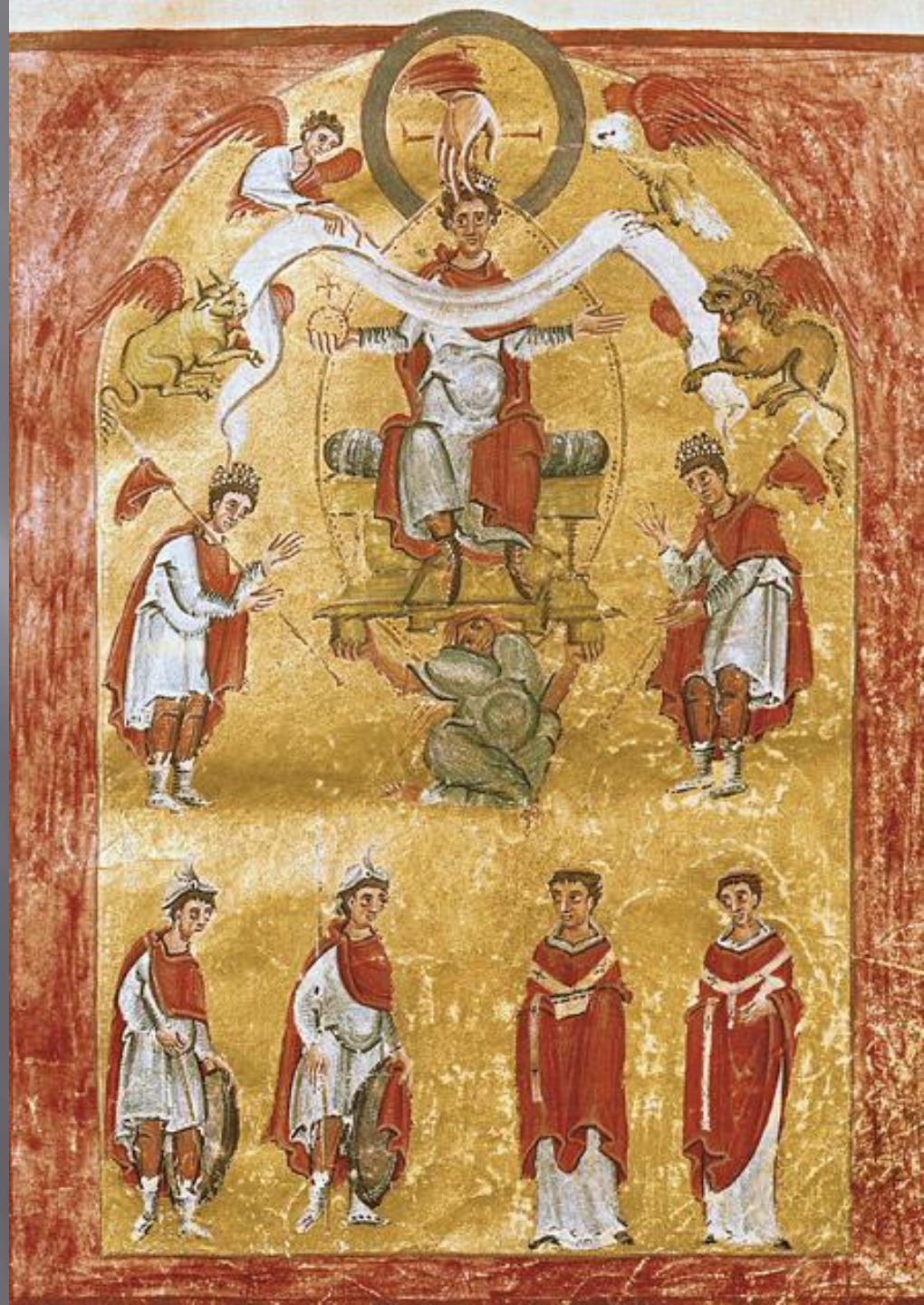
Work of the Liuthar school near Trier

Establishes divine underpinning of Otto's III and shows him near a divine being

Otto III enthroned over Tellus (Earth Personified) surround by Mandorla, holding a orb which signifies the earth with a cross adorning it .

Men bowing are his succesors, holy Lance, , union of Church and State

White Banner and ...





PAIR SHARE





**Title:** Page with *Christ Washing the Feet of His Disciples*, Aachen Gospels of Otto III  
**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors on vellum

**Size:** approx. 8 X 6" (20.5 X 14.5 cm)

**Date:** c. 1000

Made from same scriptorium

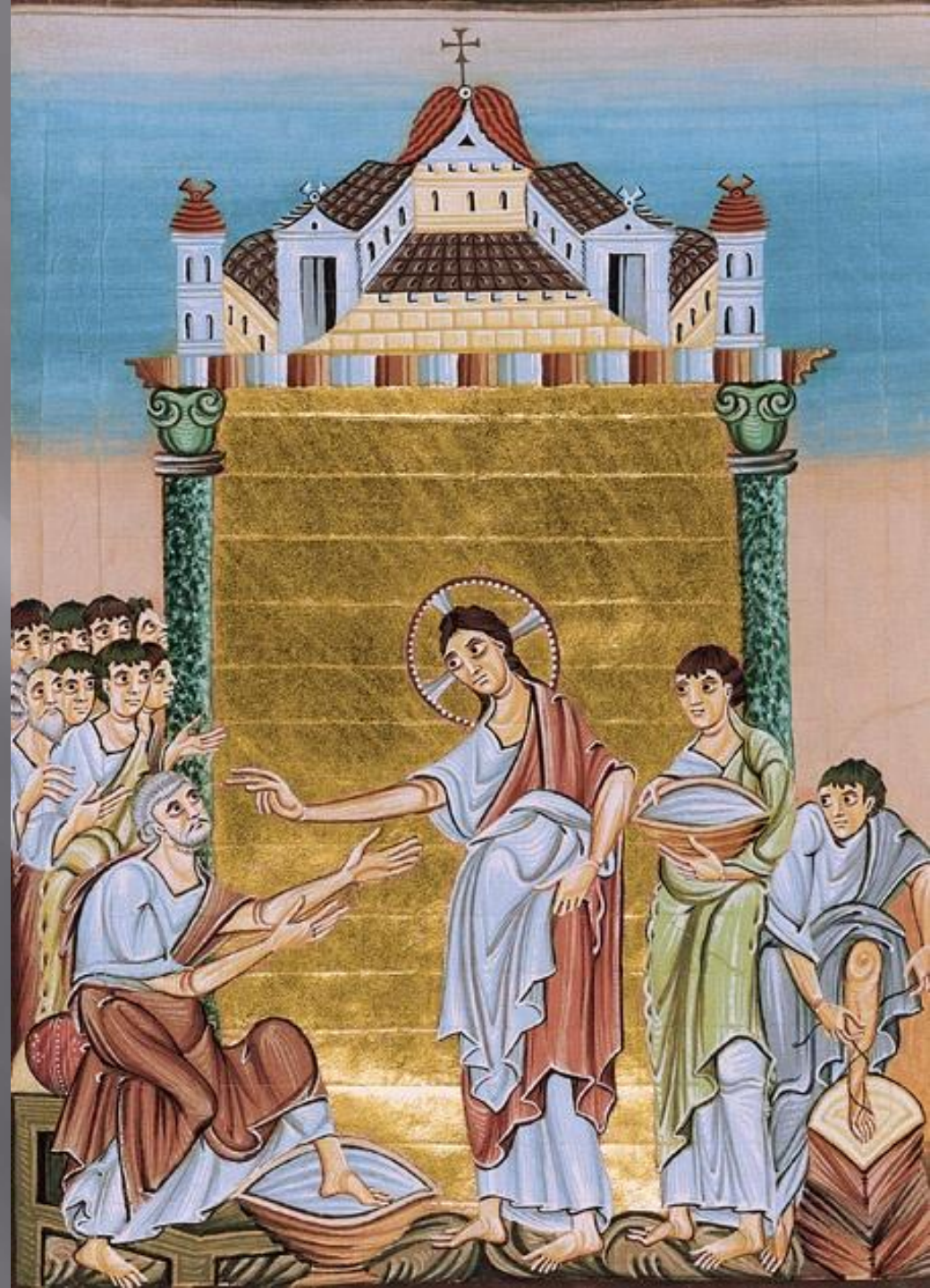
Chapter 13 of the Gospel according to John

Peter and Jesus show elongated arms and stare fixed on each other. Jesus is large and in the center

Heavenly Jerusalem behind them

Foot washing is a gesture of love, hospitality, and humility

The Pope the day before good Friday still performs a "feet washing" on 12 of his apostles every year





**Title:** Presentation with Abbess  
**Hitda and Saint Walpurga**  
**Medium:** Ink, gold, and colors  
on vellum  
**Size:** approx. 11 X 6"  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> Century

Architecture used as a frame to  
highlight the action

Uneven perspective used

Foresground is rocky and  
contains plants is meant to  
represent holy ground

Saint on Pedestal with Halo

