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Date	c 1075-c 1080
Title	Exultet (the Monte Cassino Exultet Roll)
Content	<p>The roll includes the Exultet, a hymn sung by a deacon during the consecration of the Paschal candle, during the Easter Vigil, incipit: 'Exultet iam angelica turba coelorum'. Decoration: 13 unframed miniatures in colours and gold illustrating the text of the Exultet. 2 initials in colours and gold. The miniatures are reversed in order to be seen when the roll was displayed over the front of the ambo (or pulpit) during the service. The subjects of the miniatures are: Membrane 1: Christ enthroned between two angels. Membrane 2: Large initial 'E' (xultet); Four angels ('Angelica turba coelorum'). Membrane 3: The personification of Ecclesia with a group of clerics on her right and a group of lay people on her left ('Letetur et mater Ecclesia'); Tellus, the personification of 'Mother Earth' with a cow and a serpent suckling her breast ('Gaudeat et tellus'). Membrane 4: A deacon reading and unrolling the Exultet roll from the ambo and the Paschal candle being lighted ('Fratres karissimi'). Membrane 5: Initial 'V' of 'Vere dignum'. Membrane 6: The Crucifixion. Membrane 7: The Crossing of the Red Sea; the Harrowing of Hell. Membrane 8: Adam and Eve ('O certe necessarium Ade peccatum'); the Noli me tangere. Membrane 9: The Paschal candle being censed inside the church ('Sacrificium vesperinum'). Membrane 10: Bees gathering nectar; a bee-keeper gathering wax for the candle. Membrane 11: Virgin enthroned, with two assisting figures excised on either side; the Consecration of the candle ('Cereus iste'). (No miniature on Membrane 12).</p>

View: bindings



12 images available

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Languages	Latin
Physical Description	<p>Materials: Parchment. Dimensions: 790 x 290 mm. Foliation: The roll is made of 12 membranes sewn together. Script: Beneventan minuscule. Binding: Unbound.</p>
Ownership	<p>Origin: Southern Italy (Monte Cassino). Provenance: Made at the Benedictine abbey, Monte Cassino under Abbot Desiderius (r. 1058-1087). Alessandro Castellani (b. 1823, d. 1883), antiquary and jeweller: acquired from him by the British Museum in 1877 for £160.</p>
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