

Decorative and Textual Landmarks in Early Medieval Gospel Manuscripts

Canon tables: multiple pages of columns of Roman numerals in an architectural setting of columns and arches.

Jerome's Preface to the Four Gospels, addressed to Pope Damasus:

BEATISSIMO PAPAE DAMASO HIERONYMUS
NOVUM OPUS FACERE ME COGIS EX VETERI

Other prefaces to the individual Gospels may be included.
There may be chapter headings preceding each Gospel.

The Gospel according to Matthew:
(Possible Matthew portrait. Symbol: Winged Man.)

LIBER GENERATIONIS JESU CHRISTI FILII DAVID
(begats)
XP^I (CHRISTI) AUTEM GENERATIO SIC ERAT

The Gospel according to Mark:
(Possible Mark portrait. Symbol: Lion.)

INITIUM EVANGELII IESU CHRISTI FILII DEI

The Gospel according to Luke:
(Possible Luke portrait. Symbol: Ox.)

QUONIAM QUIDEM MULTI CONATI SUNT

The Gospel according to John
(Possible John portrait. Symbol: Eagle.)

IN PRINCIPIO ERAT VERBUM

Bible-related names & terminology (late-antique and early medieval)

Jerome (d. 420) translated the bible from Greek and Hebrew into a new Latin version, called the **Vulgate**. The Vulgate was adopted with different readiness in different places.

Vetus Latina (Old Latin) is the term for the Latin translation(s) that predated Jerome's Vulgate version.

per cola et commata: "by clause and phrase," a layout of the text in short sense units, recommended by Jerome and frequently found in copies of the Vulgate. Not used in copies of the Vetus Latina.

Septuagint = the Greek translation(s) of the Hebrew scriptures, made beginning in the 3rd century BCE.

Psalter = the book of psalms, or a manuscript containing the psalms.

Pandect: a codex containing the whole Christian bible, i.e. the Old Testament/ Hebrew scriptures and New Testament in one volume. Very rare before the 12th century.

Eusebian canons, a.k.a. Ammonian sections, listed in **canon tables**: a system of dividing the Gospels into sections that was devised in the 3rd-4th centuries and was used before the modern divisions into chapter and verse were invented in the 13th century. **Canon tables** use the Eusebian canon numbers to show which passages in the Gospels have parallels in other Gospels. They appear in architectural frames at the beginning of Gospel manuscripts in all the early medieval Christian traditions.

Evangelist symbols: The "four living creatures" that appear in Ezekiel and in Revelations early on became associated with the four evangelists and are often used with evangelist portraits to mark the beginning of each Gospel in manuscripts. They are:

Matthew: winged man
Mark: lion

Luke: ox
John: eagle