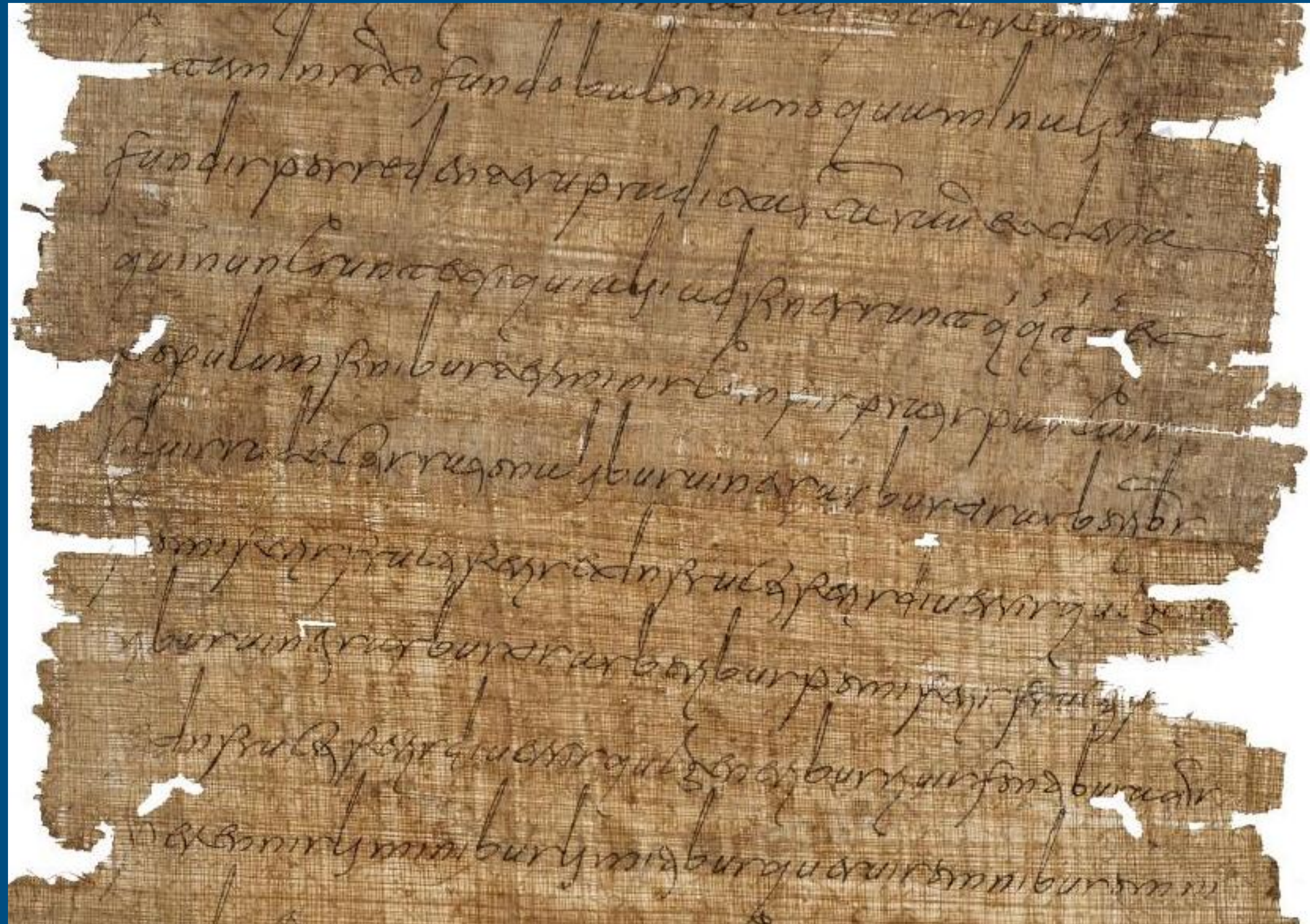


The Medieval Book Week 4

The Carolingian Renaissance: Reform of script & survival of texts & manuscripts

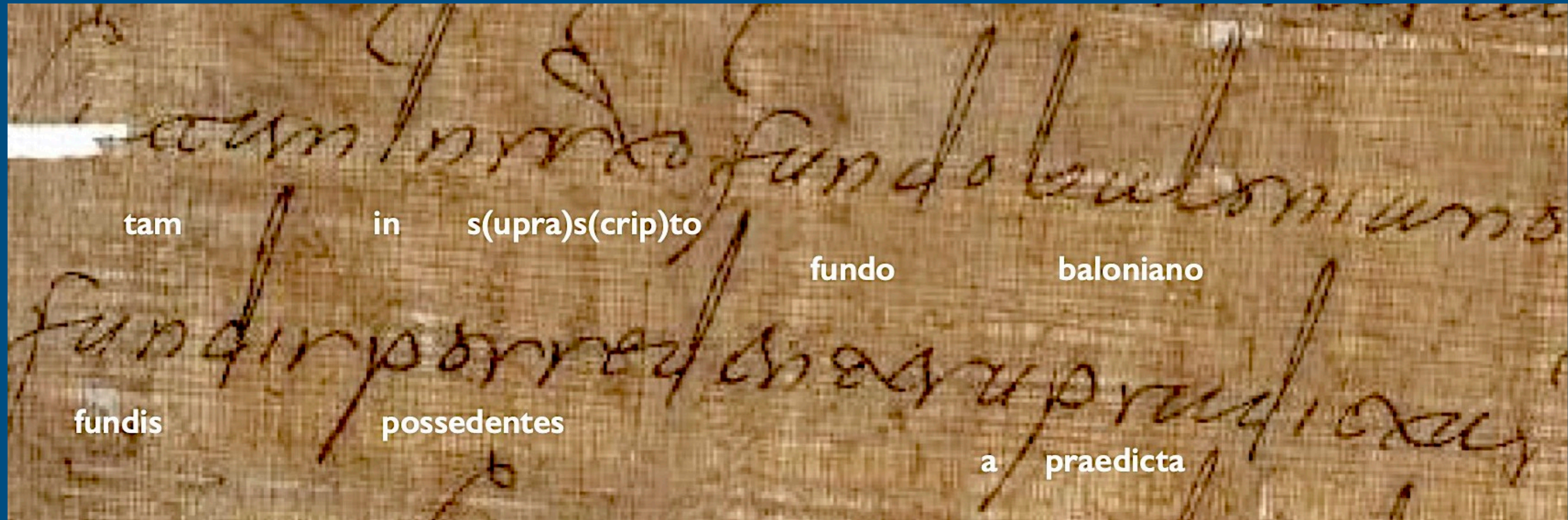
**Script in Continental Europe
before the Carolingian reforms
(6th-7th-early 8th c.)**

Everyday scripts in Roman antiquity



Later Roman Cursive (ca. 3rd-6th century).
This is from Ravenna ca. 600 CE.

A closer look at Later Roman Cursive



Inside the former empire, traditions of administrative writing and, to some degree, education survived, while Latin developed into proto-Romance varieties.

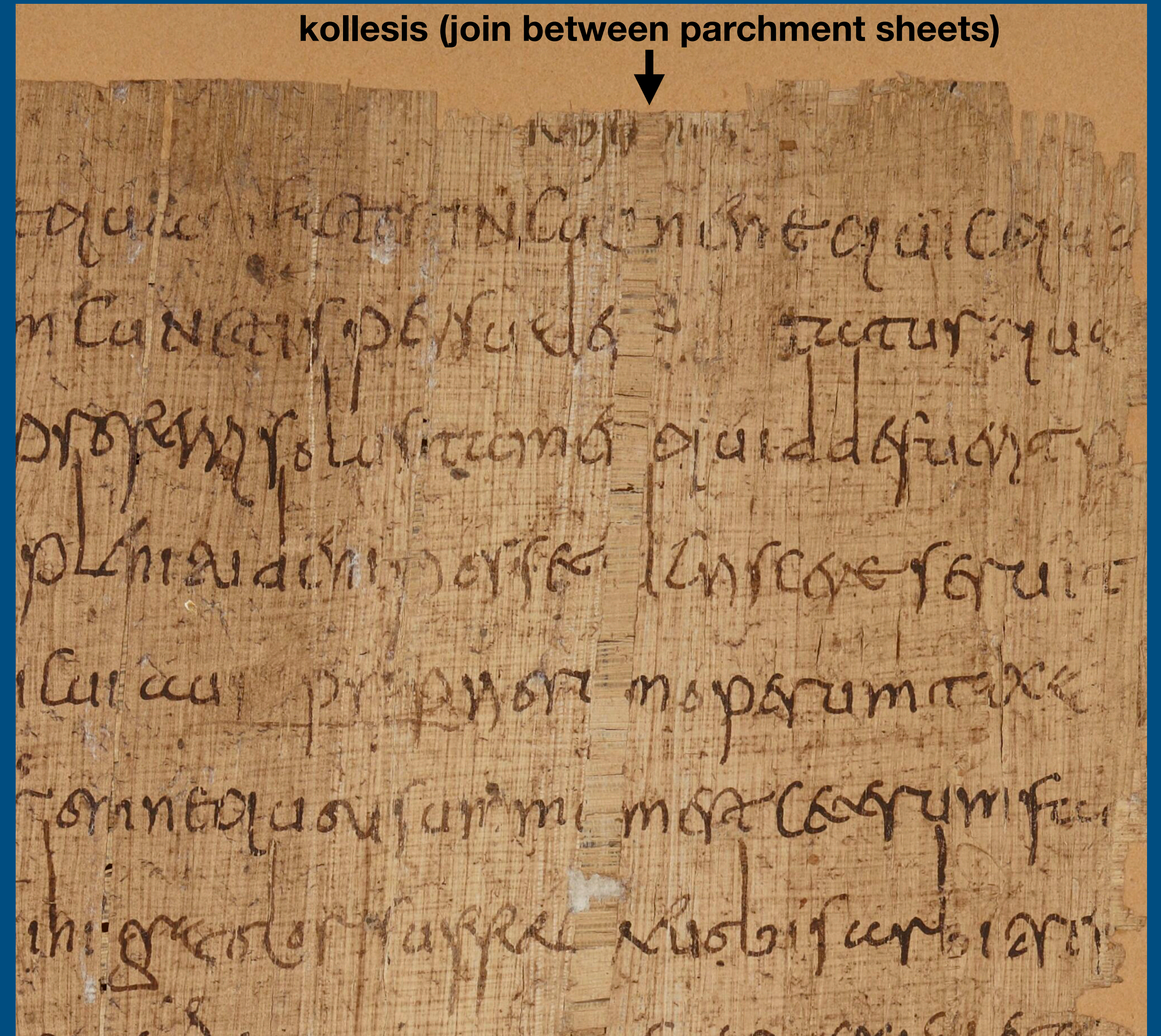
The everyday writing of imperial Rome persisted, declined, but ultimately spawned new experiments in script and page layout.

dicendum: elyris. nō pōsitorū iudicū. ut in eam
forte arse agi. nō hōsi bīl tōr uidē. ne unde peccae mala redigunt
in dōr eleadit impulsim. in profundū mēzandū. 3. in mōnē di sunt
ne cū culpā suōr pōsitorū. Considerant. Condratōs. occidit. fiant
sed sic eorum. praua. pōsitorū. diu dicent. ut tāmē diuindōmōr. con
mā. fāne. sub eis. iugum. nō pōsitorū. qdā fāp pōsitorū
mōr. gladiō fāndū nō sū. & cū mē peccae. nō hōndēda iudicēdū
pōsitorū. fāp pōsitorū. tūc se scit. grāuē dīgnōr. fāndū qdā
pōsitorū. nō quōd nō cōr uōr uōr. nō mē nō dōr. fāndū rāp
complemētū dī sū. qdā nō. fāndū cōdratōr uōr mē uōr
audi cōr iudicē & qdā sū pōsitorū qui apōr pōr; mē lānīr qdā
bī; mōr. ad cōr mē cōr. cū mē uōr. dōr nō. pōr
rāndū sū mē pōr. pōr mē. & dē dī. nō pōr
bī. mē cōr mē. ad grāuē iugū. dī mē uōr. dī cōr

Bern, Burgerbibliothek, MS 611. Merovingian Patristic miscellany, eastern France, early 8th c.

BNF lat. 8913. Fragments of a 6th-c. papyrus codex of Avitus. Merovingian cursive minuscule. Note kollesis!

kollesis (join between parchment sheets)



† PARTES ORATIONIS QUOT SUNT
OCTO. quae NOMEN. PRONOMEN.
VERBUM. ^{ADVERBIUM} PARTICIPium. CONIUNCTIO.

praepositio. INTERIECTIO:

† DENOMINE NOMEN qui dicitur. prout dicitur
et dicitur. NOMEN quod accipit duntaxat. scilicet. quod
quod dicitur. dicitur prout dicitur. quod dicitur. quod
dicitur. Quod dicitur. quod dicitur. quod dicitur.
quod dicitur. quod dicitur. quod dicitur. quod dicitur.
quod dicitur. quod dicitur. quod dicitur. quod dicitur.

Paris, BNF lat
13246, the
Bobbio Missal.
SE Francia (?),
early 8th c.

10
ENIM SUPERUENIET NOM
NES QUI SEDENT SUPER FACI
IM ORBIS TERRAE. UICILA
TELTAQUE OMNI TEMPORE
ORANTES. UT DICNI AB IAMINI
FUGIRE. USQA OMNIAQUE
FUTURA SUNT EQSARE
ANQE FILIUM HOMINES
ERAT AUTEM DIEB: DOCT
IN TEMPO NOCIB: UERO
EXIENS MORABATUR IN
MONTE QUI UOCATUR OL
UIQE ET OMNES POPULUS
MAGNIFICABANT DM

MIROMENSISETIDI

DQUI EXAOPONCO
APOSQOLOQUO CUM
LAQIS CLAUERUS
RICNICELESQIS ANI
MAS LEGANDI ATQUE SOL
UENDI PONTIFICIUM

7
REDEMEN TER AD POU GOOD HERMAL
SUNT DIE MALOR HABEMUR QUAM DIOR
IN XPHOMINR MALOR UIUING TOLEHO
MENERMALOR ETNR HERMAL AD PE
NEPNTET CUNCO POKER PERALIE
NASADOLTERIOR POKER CALUMNIA
NRES OPPROPERE POS HOMINR PDIG
MAL DIE ERGO MALOR ABEMUR QUAM
DUR IN XPHOMINR MALOR UIUIMUR TA
CIUAMUR FF NEUORMEDI POKER INDIA CLA
MAL SADAMUR GOOD DIE MALR PHO
MENERMALOR DOR NOR DR POKER BEPA
REDINETUR IN

QUI PRIMO ERDOPCESEUERBO
QUE TENEPANGLIBPOCKIA
UIRPRADAM DIMMOPTOS
ANNES IN APOSA DADA QUANTUS
UOSUIRIRADAM DECEXAGUANT
SUSFILUR HABOIT SE REPUS HOM
ERHABEL ETNUR XPHILOR EXAUS
AS DOROREROA UOSURET ORIA
UOSUIRIRADAM DECEXAGUANT
ABEL PERPAM OPPRIMUS OL
LETOLOREUS NUBELAS NOM

occuparet in aeternum deponeret
pauca digne quibuscumque accipit missam
uicem aduocem p[ro]p[ri]um n[ost]r[u]m Ihu[m] x[p]m
lum autem eius est honor & gloria in saecula
leu[is] s[er]u[us] loqu[er]e am[en] //

OMELIA S[AN]CTI AGUSTINI
DE ASCENSIONE D[OMINI]



LORIFICATIO

d[omi]ni nos[tr]i ihu x[p]i resurgendo
ascendendo complacuit
resurrexerunt ipsius pas
chee dominice cele
brecum[us] Ascensionem
hodie celebramus p[er] h[oc]
nobis d[omi]n[u]s u[er]aque. Ite[m]
resurrexerunt u[er]o nobis exemplum

OMILIA IN LETANIIS

CMELIAN

CELI INCM

legatur cecidimus p[er]ce
per cecidimus deponitio
ne nos remonuit p[er]ce
acropum hinc ad montem
di[sc]ip[ul]os



Script of Luxeuil (Burgundy),
early 8th c.

Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August
Bibliothek, MS Guelf 99 Weiss

INTERPRETIOLIVS

in planacionis in scolo beati gregori papae

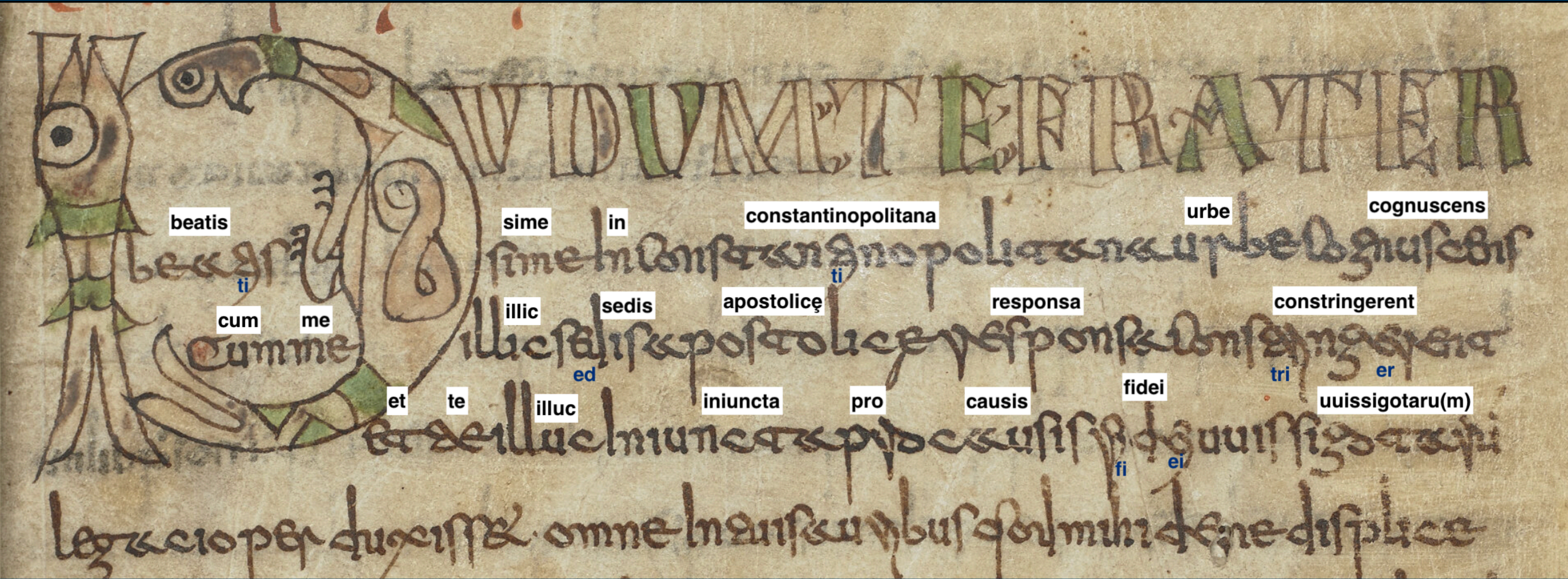
reuerentissimo et sanctissimo patri leandro

episcopo gregorius leuissimum di



WIDUM ET RATER

in me in conspectu nobis et in urbe de gnu scis
illuc salis et postolice responce in conspectu
et de illuc in uenit et pro causis et de quibus fig et pi
le et cior per duces et omne in uenit et de quibus fig et pi



British Library MS Add. 31031, detail. The script is “Laon a-z” script.

cumque die a laudibus. tunc ubi fructibus fœmina
 alcellam p̄dnam s̄ces s̄s̄s̄a. uir dī almonas
 atrium s̄s̄s̄a. Cum ecce p̄d̄a quidum in cella
 cōn s̄s̄s̄s̄. eluacis in aēre oculis. uidit eius
 d̄m s̄s̄s̄s̄ suae animam de eius corpore exes
 sam in columbae specie caeli s̄s̄s̄a p̄ntare
 se. quia n̄a eius gl̄ria cōgruā d̄s̄s̄. d̄m p̄d̄
 atri d̄ in h̄m̄is. talia d̄s̄s̄s̄s̄ s̄s̄s̄a s̄s̄s̄s̄.
 eius quae d̄s̄s̄s̄ s̄s̄s̄s̄s̄ denunciat; quod
 s̄s̄s̄ p̄d̄s̄s̄ misit. uatius d̄s̄s̄s̄ almonas
 atrium d̄s̄s̄s̄. atque in sepulchro quod s̄s̄s̄
 ipse p̄s̄s̄s̄s̄ p̄d̄s̄s̄; quod facit cōn̄s̄s̄
 uatquodum m̄s̄s̄ una s̄s̄s̄s̄ in d̄s̄s̄ s̄s̄s̄s̄
 quod que d̄s̄s̄s̄ n̄e s̄s̄s̄s̄ s̄s̄s̄s̄s̄, **xxv.**

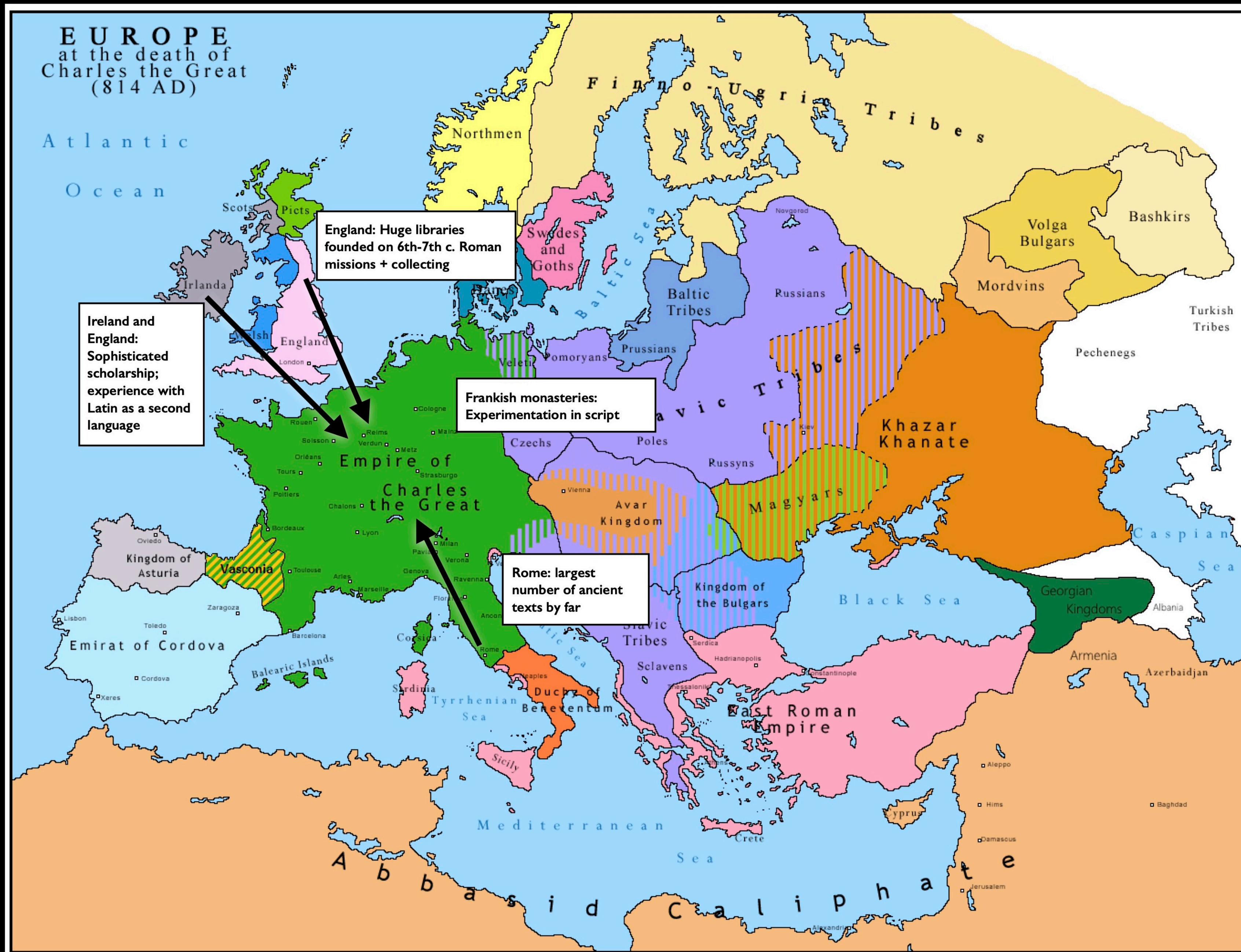
Autun, Bibliothèque Bussy-Rabutin,
 MS S 21 (20). Dialogues of Gregory
 the Great. NE France, 8th c.

s̄s̄s̄s̄ suae animam
 in columbae specie

above:
 sorores suae animam
 in columbae speciae

is gl̄ria cōn
 talia d̄s̄s̄s̄
 s̄s̄s̄s̄s̄s̄

left:
 gloria
 et laudibus
 fratribus



End of 8th century:

Charlemagne's consolidation of power allowed him to focus on reform of church and intellectual life within his empire.

He gathered scholars from England, Ireland, and Italy to lead the effort.

Books came with them.

Reform of script = reform of life

- Charlemagne gathers advisors from England, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy
- A new script, Caroline Minuscule, rationalized out of the script experiments of the 7th-8th-c. monastic styles.
- Good word spacing and other aids to reading.
- Simplified inventory of forms and few ligatures.
- “Hierarchy of Scripts” : use of ancient and late-antique high-grade scripts (ancient capitals plus Uncials) for headings, subheadings, initial letters, etc.
- A plain-page aesthetic.

43
sed pro uetua aetate & similita clericali. cum esset amabilius prius
coepit modo esse uenerabilis. per hunc salutem dico. uidere uos sub
ope xpi quam maturis sine super statum publicum liceat cupiens.
quocirca nisi desiderium meum uidetur onerosum remeante praef
faco siam locorum uestrorum & temporum gnarus. stat sententia
eluctari oppositas priuatarum occupationum difficultates. & con
plectendis pectorib. uestris quamlibet longum officium deputare.
sitamen quod etiam nunc ueremur non uis maior disposita confun
dat. quae uos quoq. non per indignum est. cum fratre faustino pro
ut tempora monent tractu communicato deliberare. quem ego quia
diligam tamquam me diligat nisi. si respondet iudicio meo gratias ago.
porro autem cum uis bonus ab omnib. censeatur. non est homo peior
sinon est optimus. VALE.

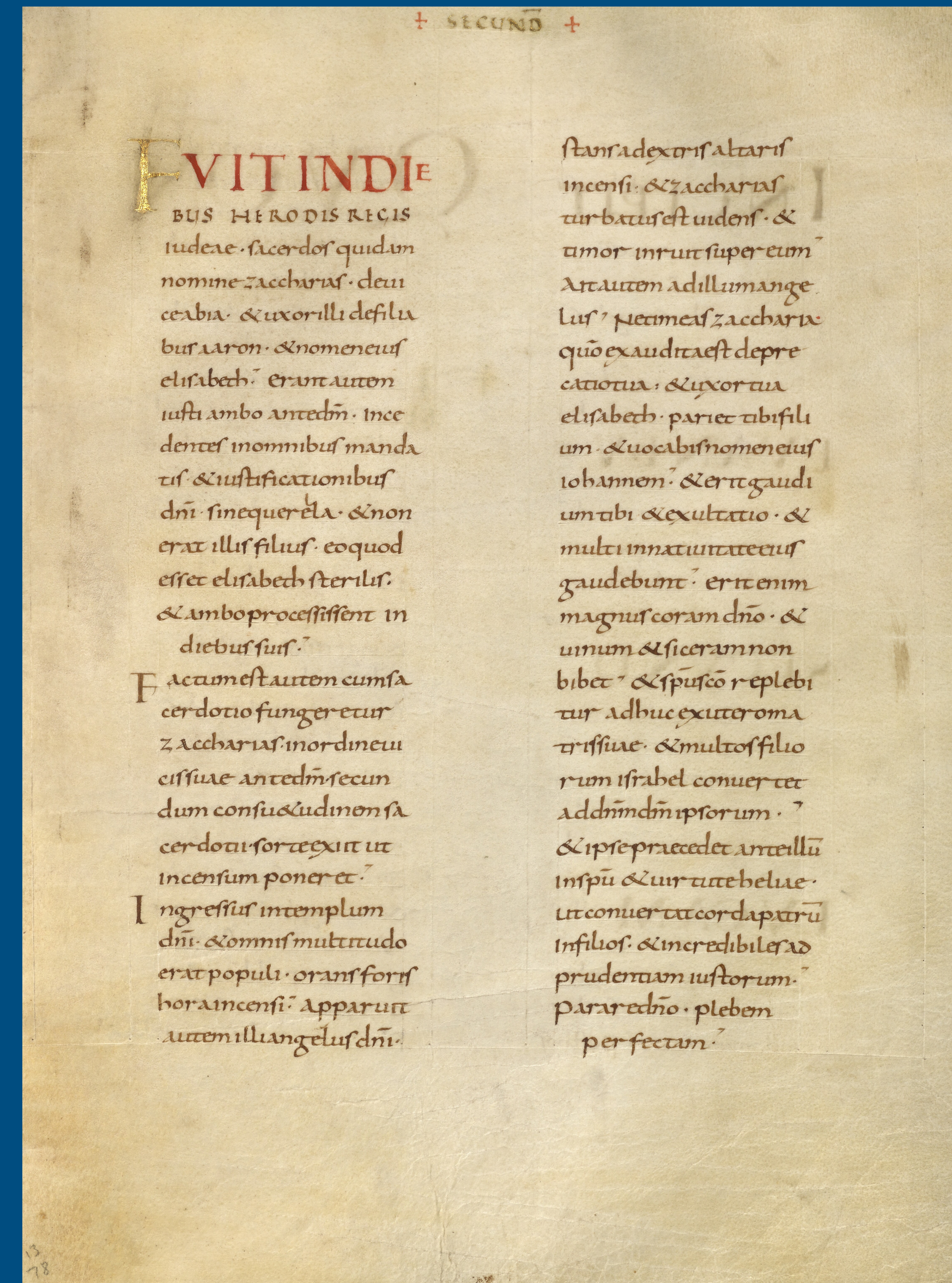
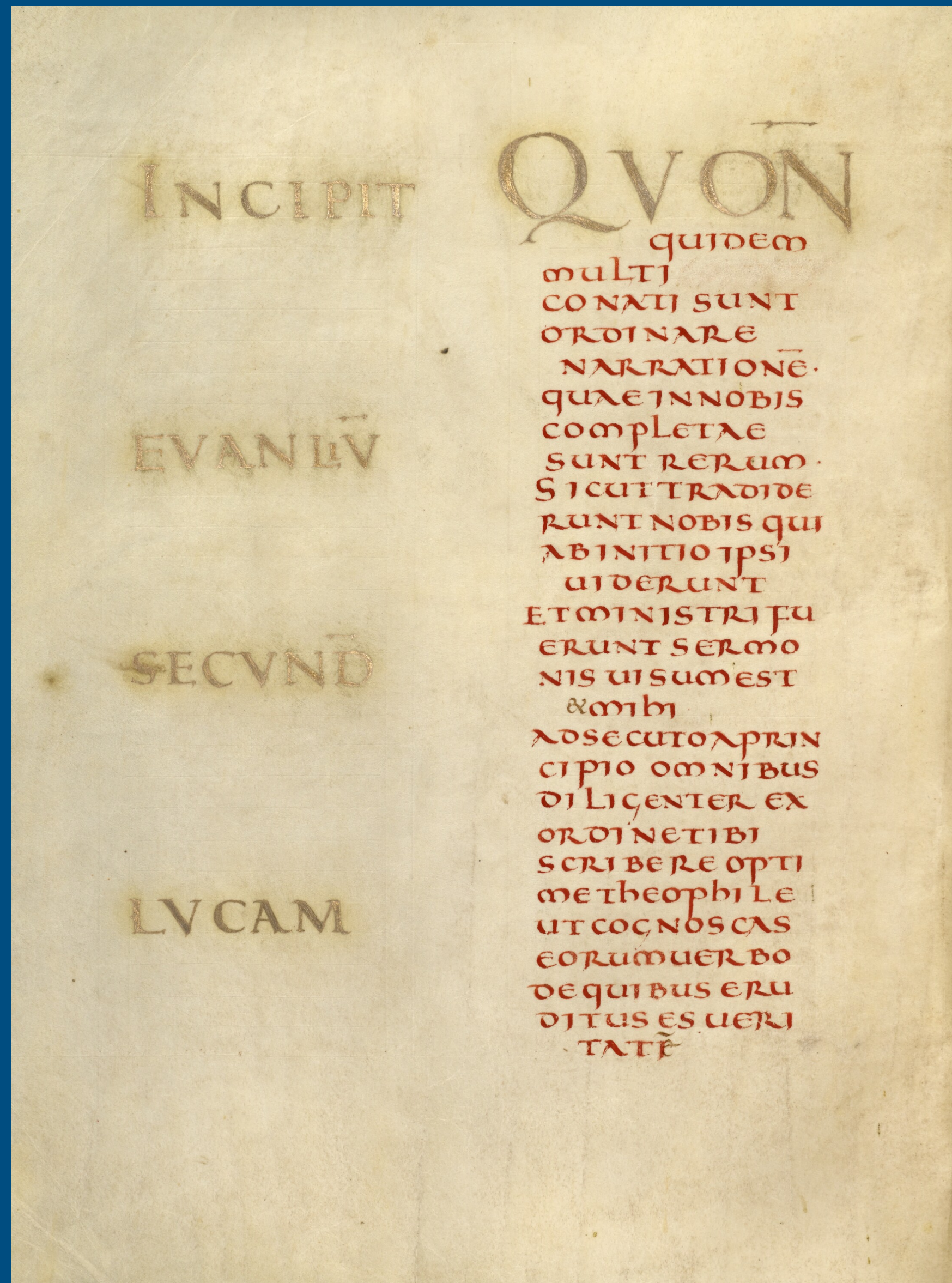
Iterat portatorem salutacionis iteratio. gozolas uester deus tribuat
ut nofter. apicum meorum secundo gerulus efficiatur. Igitur uere
cundiam utriq. ex amice communem. Nam si & iam nunc silere medi
temini. omnes & mecum & illum per quem scribere debebas indignum
arbitrabuntur. De temporum statu iam nihil ut prius consulo nescit
morib. tuis oneri si aduersa significis cum prospera non sequantur.
Nam cum te non deceat falsa mandare. atq. tam cum sint uotua me
moratu fugio quicquid illud mali est per bonorum iudicia cognoscere.
VALE.

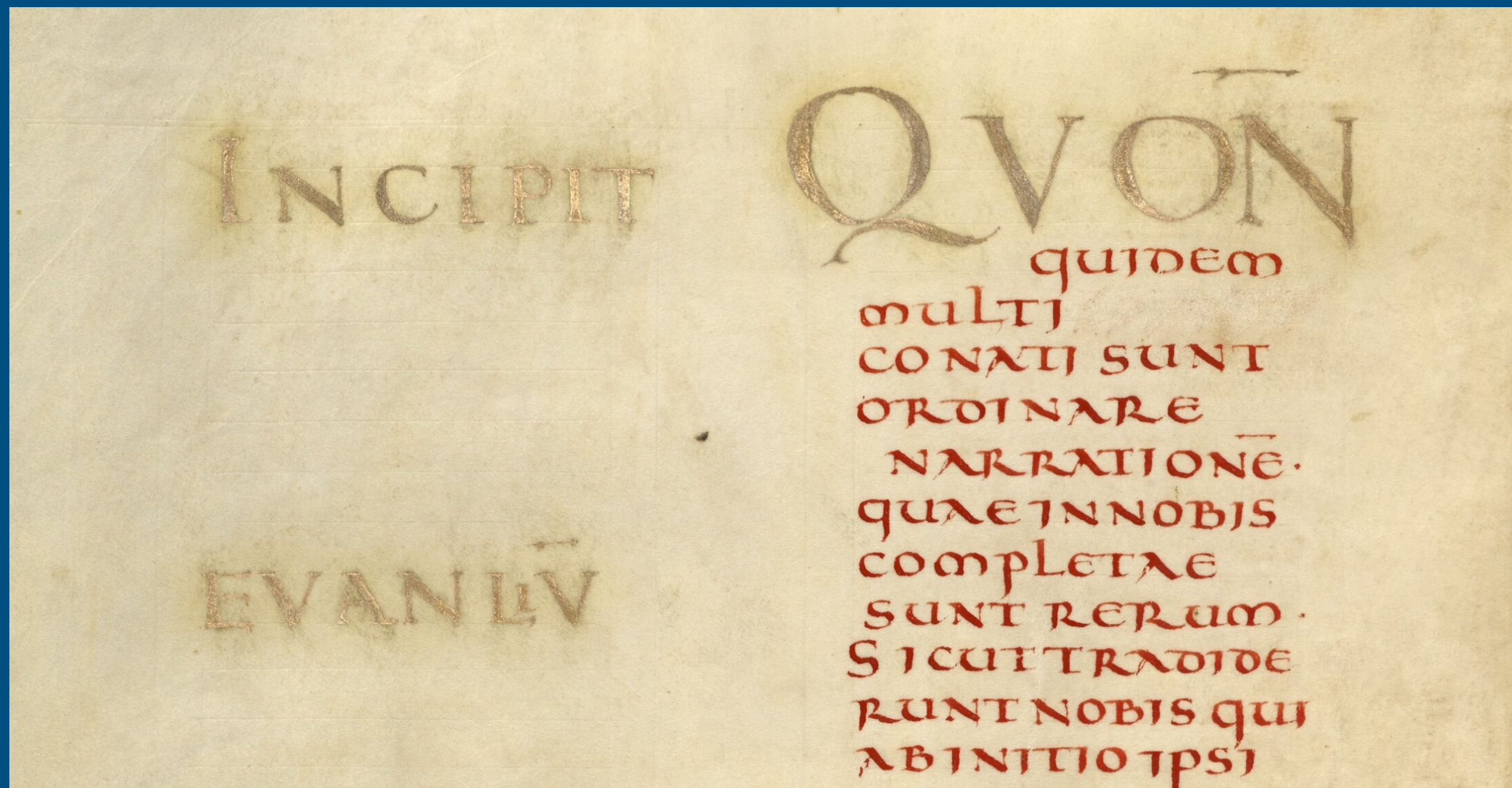
Per faustinum antistitem non minus mihi uectis contubernii sodalitate

gozolas uester deus tribuat
gerulus efficiatur. Igitur uere
Nam si & iam nunc silere medi
quem scribere debebas indignum
am nihil ut prius consulo nescit

Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Laud Lat.
104. Letters of Sidonius Apollonaris.
Court School of Louis the Pious, ca.
814-840.

Los Angeles, Getty Museum, MS Ludwig II I. Gospels (opening of Luke).
Written at Lorsch, Germany, ca. 826-838.

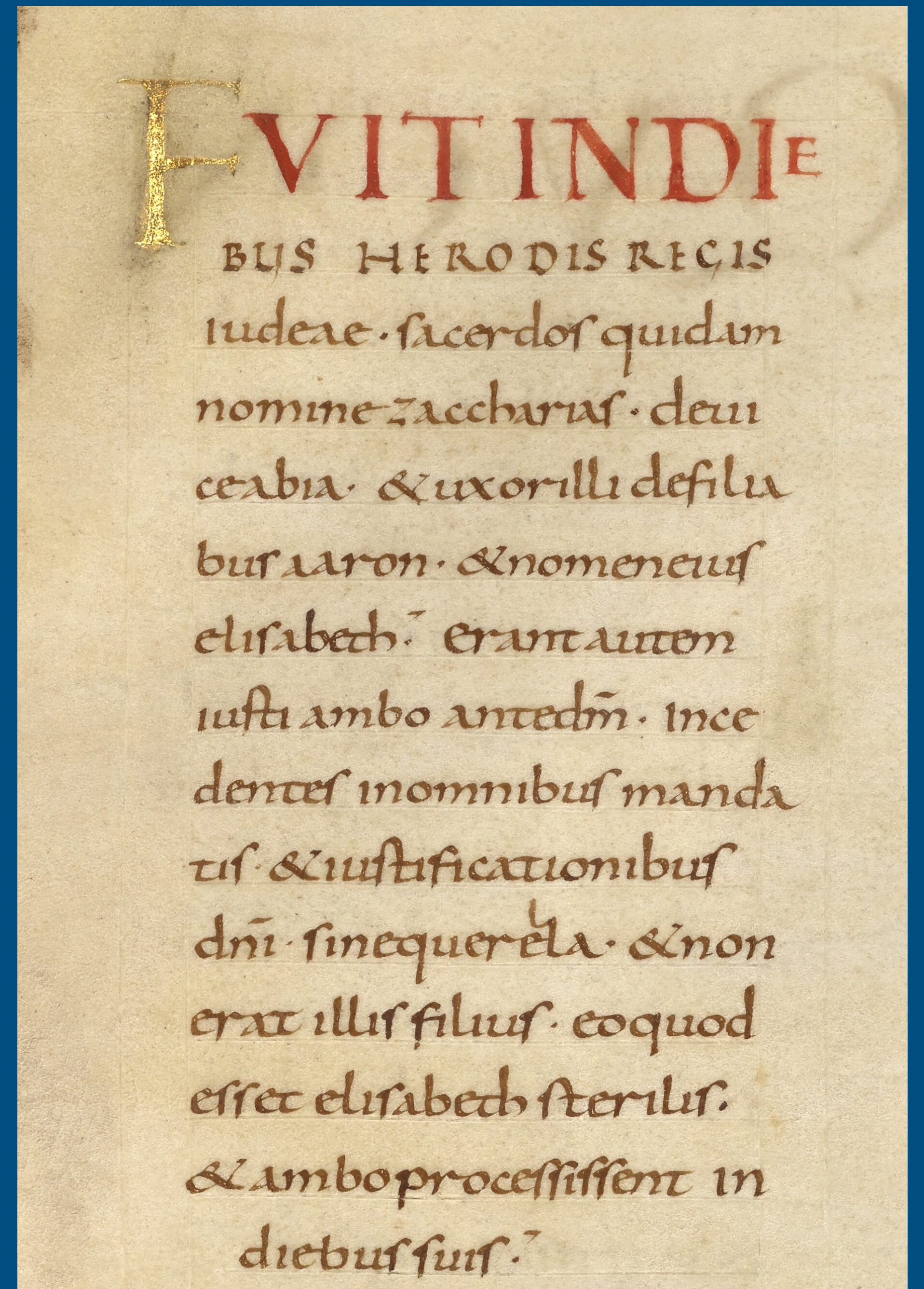




Los Angeles, Getty Museum, MS Ludwig II I, details.

Above: Square Capitals (in gold); Uncials (in red).

Right: Square capitals (gold and red);
Rustic Capitals (line 2); Caroline Minuscule (main text).



The women's monastery of Chelles had been among the pre-Carolingian experimenters in script...



Bodleian Library MS. Douce f. 1. Fragment of the Gelasian Sacramentary. Chelles, mid-8th c.

...and was an early adopter of the new script and page style.

bulatio fornax aurificis est. Si tamen aurum sis & non palea aut sordibus ca-
teas non incinerem conuertaris. **DILIGITE Dñm OMNES Scti quoniam**
ueritatem requirit dñs et retribuet his qui habundant
faciunt Superbiā. Sed quando retribuet. O si modo retribueret mo-
do eos uolebam uidere humiliatus ac que prostratus. Audite quid sequitur.
Viriliter agite: nolite laxas manus in tribulationibus dimittere. non
nutent gena uestra. **Viriliter agite. Et confortetur cor uest-**
rum. Ad perpesciēda & tolleranda omnia mala huius saeculi confortetur
cor uestrum. Sed qui sunt quibus hoc dicit propheta. **Viriliter agite.**
Et confortetur cor uestrum omnes. Numquid his qui diligunt
mundum. Non. sed quibus dicit. Audite. **Omnes qui speratis in dñm.**
Explicit tractatus psalmi xxx.

girbalda scripsit.

q. x.



The First Bible of Charles the Bald, BNF lat. 1. Tours, 840s.

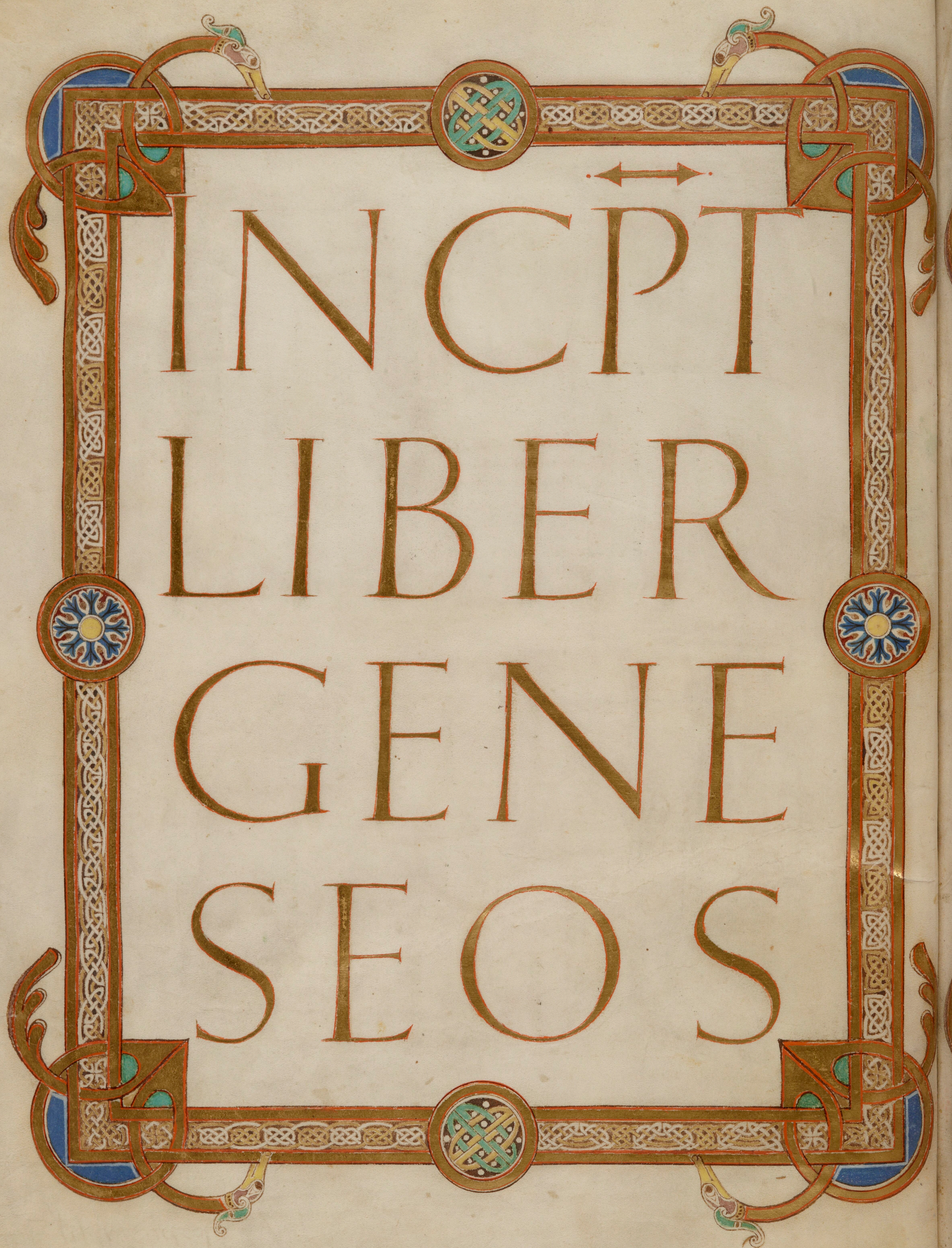
Detail of fol. 3v:
Scenes from the life of Jerome.



The First Bible of
Charles the Bald,
BNF lat. 1. Tours,
840s.

Fol. 423r:
Presentation of
the manuscript
to the emperor





The Second
Bible of
Charles the
Bald, BNF
lat. 2. Tours,
870s.

Fol. 10v
Genesis
incipit left,
fol. 234r
Psalter
incipit right

IN XPI NO
MINE IN
CIPIT PSAL
TERIVM
DE TRANS
LATIONE
SEPTUA
GINTAIN
TERPRETV
EMENDATV
ASCOHIE
RONIMO
PRESBITE
RO INNOVO.



EATIS VITAM QUI NON ABIT
IN CONSTITUTIONE IMPIO
RUM ET IN QUA PECCA
TORUM NON STETIT.
ET IN CATHEDRA PESE
LENTIA ENON SE OIT

Sed in lege domini voluntas eius. & in lege eius medi
tabitur dies ac nocte. Et erit tamquam lignum
quod plantatum est deus de aquis aquarum. quod
fructum suum dabit in tempore suo. Et folium
eius non defluet. & omnia quaecumque faciet
prosperabuntur. Non sic impius non sic. sed
tamquam pulvis quem proicit ventus a facie
terrae. Ideo non resurgunt impii in iudicio.
neque peccatores in consilio iustorum. Quia
non iudicabit dominus viam iustorum. & iter impiorum
peribit.
II. PSALMUS DAVID DE ADVENTU
INFIDELIUM IN XPI PASSIONE.

[illegible]

¶ Sicut illi inquit cui semel agri
cultura placuit. recepit de agris
suis humum. reponere nullis pmo
psuadet ut i tanta sci. sic nec sibi
cui lyrica pfectio placuit. aliud sua
deri possit. iuxta illud quot homi
nes sententię.

¶ Ciprea autē dix cippo abundan
te. na isula ē ubi colligitur genus
metalli. qđ cippum nuncupat. in
de sunt aplustra nauum. i. ornam
ta. et unde gerant frontes earū. t.
cipria trabe dixer. qđ i cippo isula
naues abundant.

Amyrtilo auriga siue pelopis.
que cu dephendisset qđ axes suos
corrupcat i hippodamie certamin
i pelag eu percipit. & cui sup
placio mare nomen accepit.
Elear dedali fili. pennis resolutis
qđ egra adligata arte patris sup
fat. i morte corruit. & nom mar
ipesuit. icariv. icarieuon.
celebrabat festiuitas i honore ioui
lo ponere solent. Est eni iussu altitud
usq. modis ibi currebat iā equis qm
illos hoc. qđ i currib currebant.
termin ponebat ad que currerint. d
uitata meta. **A**fflic loc. i xapan
quis tubo. iur liciu & tuba iur
noris filio. qđ i bello pugni & adal
del. i. iur dominus. et silentiu uess

Cologne, Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cod. Bodmer 88, ca. 1000:

**Works of Horace
with glosses. Here,
Odes I.1. Detail next
slide.**

piebant² nobiles q¹q² aliqd
magni pagentes. **M**a ignobi
les et desides exhibebant.
Ternari siq¹de numer² &
q¹ternari² siue septenari².
p¹ multiplicitate accipit².
ut uig¹l. tq²; q¹tq²; beati.
Attalus pergamorum
rex ditissimus fuit. cui
propt¹ opu magnitudine
populus roman² testam¹
to successit.
Metuens tepestare. relau
Quicqd de libicis uerritur areis.
Gaudentem patrios findere sarculo
Agros. attalicis condicionibus.
Nunquam dimoueas. ut trabe cypria
Myrtoum pauidus nauita secret mare.
Luctante icarus fluctibus africum
Merector metuens. otium & oppidi
Laudat rura sui. mox reficit rates
Quassas. indocilis pauperiem pat
Ist qui nec ueteris pocula massici.

genus rustici ferra
menti. quod gre
ci todion uocant.
g¹ hedere
dict² fr qd
herant arbori
b. & inde poete
tantu¹ c² fuerant
coronari. ut uir
gl. lastores hedera
crescente ornate
poeta. Diuina g¹
honore se die
per poema adop
tuo.

cult
sui
psu
cui
der
nes
me
de
ta.

Cologne, Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cod. Bodmer 88, ca. 1000: Works of Horace with glosses, detail

The Carolingian Watershed

Almost all Classical Latin texts reach us via Carolingian manuscripts.

If a text made it to ca. 800, it has a very good chance of having survived to today.

Surviving Latin
manuscripts
up to 800 CE:

1577

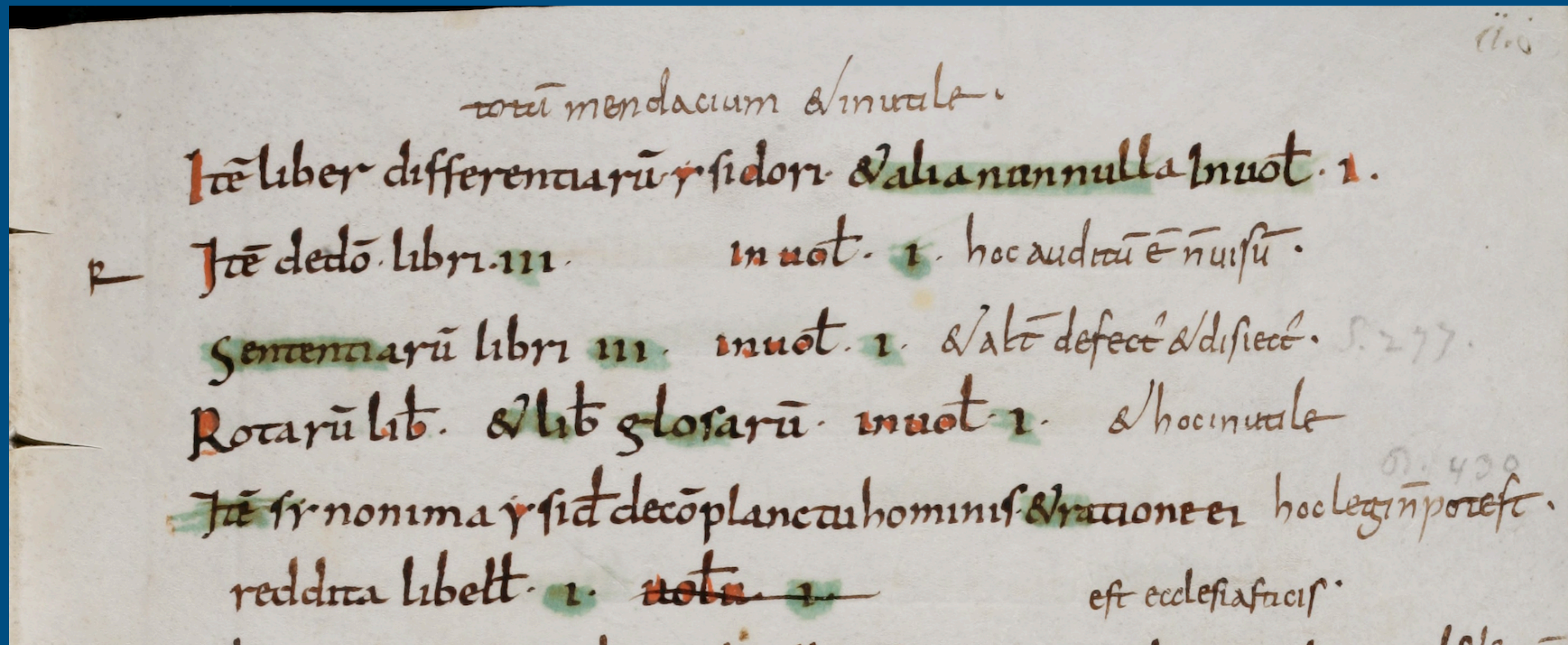
Surviving Latin
manuscripts from
just the 9th century:

7656

So what happened?

Carolingians Destroying Manuscripts


Carolingians also had an unfortunate habit of destroying ancient manuscripts once they had made clean copies of them.



Notations on 7th-century manuscripts in the 9th-century catalogue of the library of St. Gall: “Useless. Illegible.”

IT EODALIQUITO DESINOINTO A SUI

IN SIDORIS PALÆNIS EPI

ur in filio natus suus quoniam in hac miseria
et proinde tuus suus; ut quid miser hanc lucem ui
dis; ut quid miser huius in etoratus occurrit;
ut quid nunc oculus egredere et seculo; quia libia fessis
quae iam ratione reciderem; cupi enim mori iam licet
occulbere; uiuendi enim mihi est et diu moriendi uocem
solam mihi mori placet; sed eu miseris et pro ea tu mori
et ueni; O mori quia iocunda es miseris
mori quia suavis es amare te uiuentibus; quia iocun
da es omni tuisque ad quem merentibus; acci dact ergo
aduiat magnam molem moris; gran de solacium; Dea finit
miserere qui es sepulchre; et si non uita salus in uel
mori miserem in ei placet; mori malum omnium.

St. Gall, Stiftsbibliothek,
MS 194. Spain or
Southern France, ca.
700.

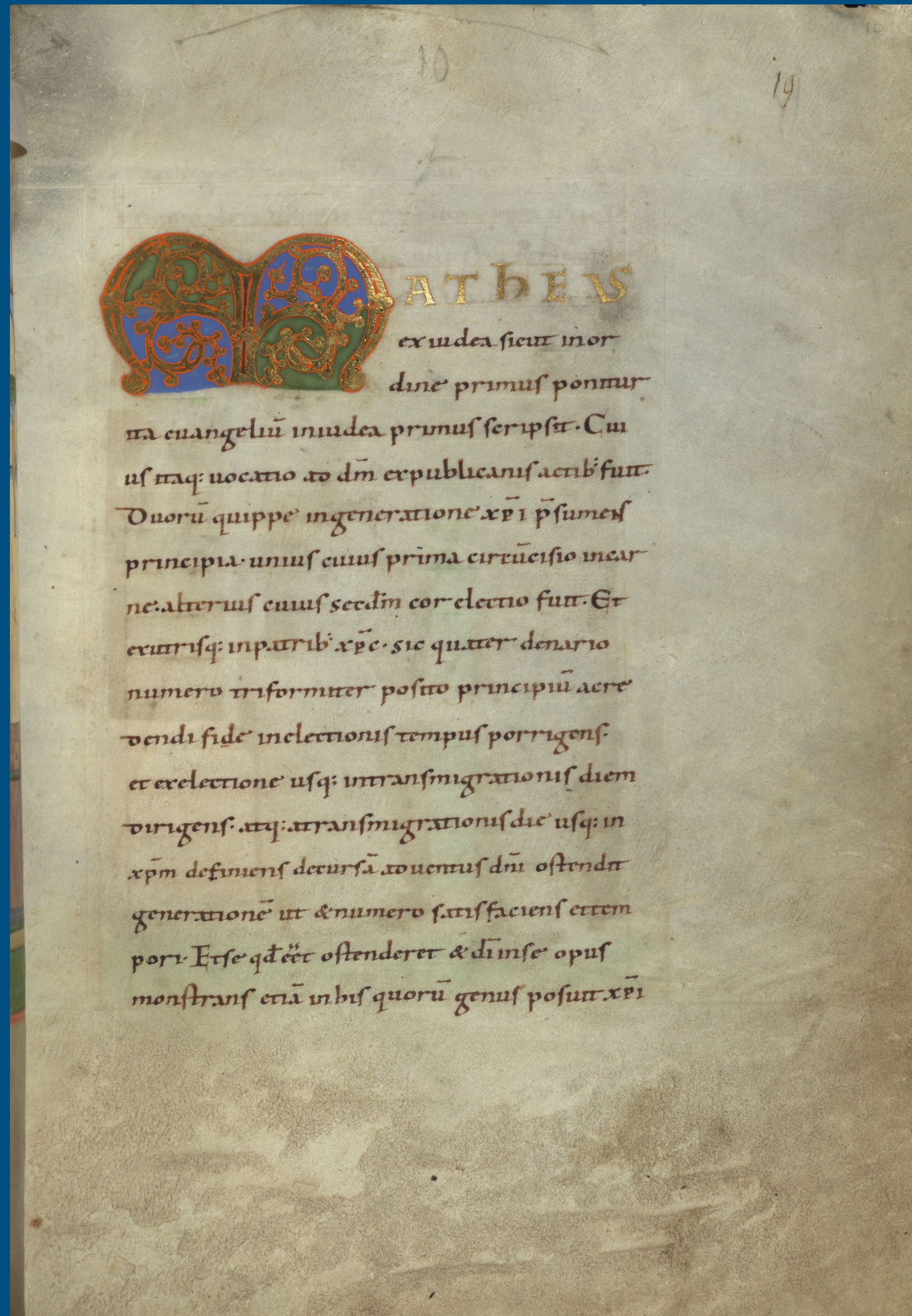
One of the “useless”
“illegible” manuscripts.

Which is why when Renaissance humanists went looking for the oldest Latin texts, they almost invariably found Carolingian copies.

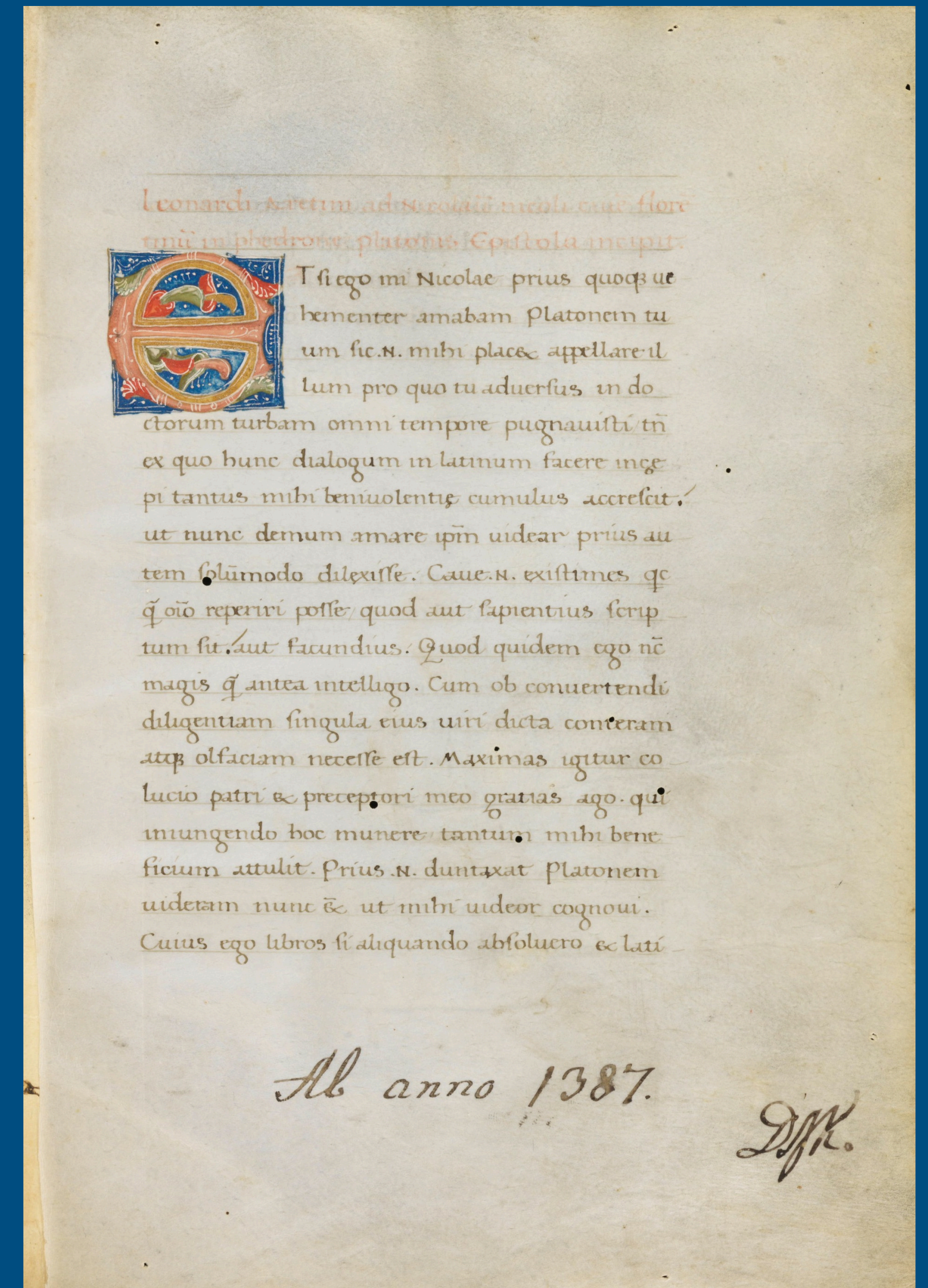


Spoiler: Humanists in the 15th century will look at Carolingian MSS like the one at left...

and produce MSS like the one at right.



<<
11th century



15th century
>>

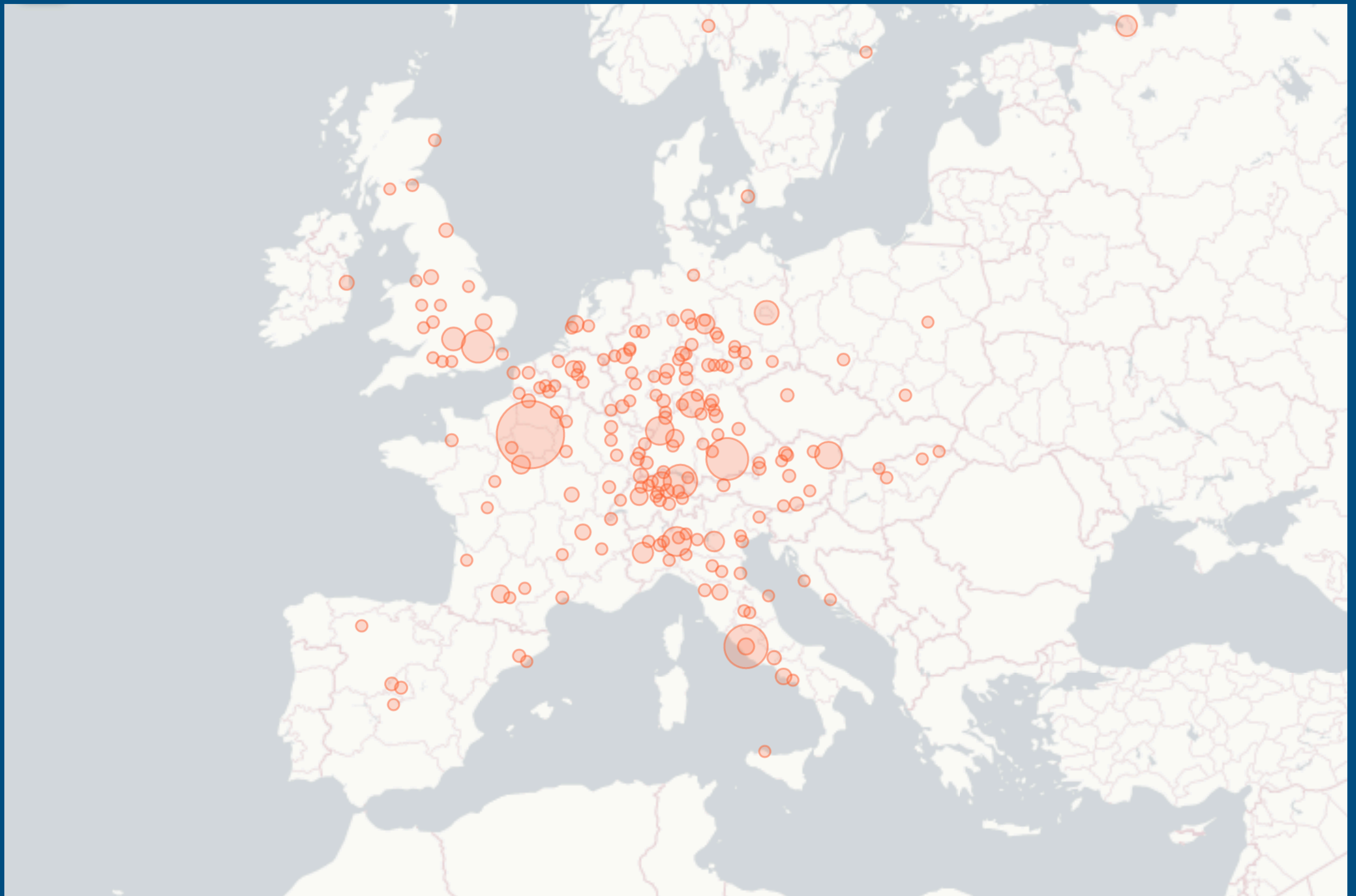
Appendix:

Where do very early manuscripts end up?

**Locations of
all surviving
pre-800 Latin
manuscripts.**

**Bigger
bubble =
more MSS.**

**Total: 1577
items**



**Locations of
all surviving
pre-600 Latin
manuscripts.**

Total: 473 items

