A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.751, Corvey Gospel fragment
Title: Gospel fragment

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**Shelf mark**  
Walters Art Museum Ms. W.751

**Descriptive Title**  
Corvey Gospel fragment

**Text title**  
Gospel fragment

**Abstract**  
This manuscript consists of four folios from a Gospel Book that was likely made at the monastery of Corvey in Western Germany during the last quarter of the tenth century. Dating to the reign of Otto I, these pages are a magnificent example of early Ottonian manuscript illumination. The heavily ornamented pages, which introduce the Gospels of Luke and John, shine with gold and jewel-like colors against dyed purple grounds. These pages combine monumental classicizing square capitals on purple grounds with rich and complex interlace. This fragment contains the opening pages of Luke (fol. 93-94) and John (fol. 137-138) that were originally part of Rheims, Bibliothèque Municipale, Ms. 10, a Gospel Book originally owned by the Chapter Library of the Cathedral of Rheims until it was confiscated, along with the rest of the cathedral's manuscripts, during the French Revolution. Related manuscripts include Pierpont Morgan Library Ms. M. 755 and New York Public Library Ms. 1.

**Date**  
Third quarter of the 10th century CE

**Origin**  
Corvey, Germany

**Form**  
Book

**Genre**  
Scriptural

**Language**  
The primary language in this manuscript is Latin.

**Support material**  
Parchment  
Thick, with suede surface on flesh side

**Extent**  
Foliation: iii+4+ii  
Two sets of foliation: seventeenth or eighteenth-century ink foliation upper right corners (fol. 93, 94, 137, and 138); modern pencil foliation very top right corner which reflect current fragmentary condition

**Collation**  
Formula: iii, 1(2), 2(2), ii
Dimensions 24.2 cm wide by 31.2 cm high
Written surface 19.7 cm wide by 25.3 cm high
Layout Columns: 1
Ruled lines: 27
Hard point ruling
Contents  fols. 1v - 4v:
Title: Gospel fragment
Incipit: Inicium sancti evangelii secundum Lucam
Text note: Incomplete; only contains incipit pages for Luke, fols. 1v-2v; incipits for John, fols. 3v-4v
Decoration note: All illumination consists of heavily decorated incipit text in gold letters on purple ground within interlace-filled frames, with letters ranging from one to twenty-two lines in height; large initial pages for Luke, fol. 2r, and John, fol. 4r, with intertwining letters decorated with knotwork and interlaced foliate designs; "Inicium" page for John, fol. 3v, has interlace cross with roundels containing birds in four quadrants, and roundels with beasts in corners; palette of gold, purple, yellow, red, blue, lavender, and green
Decoration  fol. 1v:
Title: Frontispiece for the Gospel of Luke
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke
fol. 2r:
Title: Incipit page for the Gospel of Luke
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke
fol. 2v:
Title: Decorated page
Form: Full-page miniature

Generated: 2012-08-20 16:16 -04:00
Text: Continuation of the incipit of the Gospel of St. Luke

fol. 3v:
Title: Frontispiece for the Gospel of St. John
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. John

fol. 4r:
Title: Incipit page for the Gospel of St. John
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to St. John

fol. 4v:
Title: Decorated page
Form: Full-page miniature
Text: Continuation of the incipit of the Gospel of St. John

Binding
The binding is not original.
Modern English crushed dark blue morocco by W.H. Smith and Son, first half of the twentieth century; gold tooled outer fillet and lettering, which read "EVANGELIORUM FRAGMENTA MS. SAEC. IX;" inside: wide borders of morocco with triple fillet gold tooled; vellum doublure and flyleaves

Provenance
Written in the Monastery of Corvey on the Weser River in Germany ca. 940-975, during the reign of Otto I, based on style and paleography

Originally part of a Gospel Book belonging to the Chapter Library of the Cathedral of Rheims until the French Revolution, now Ms. 10 in the Rheims Municipal Library

Sir Thomas Phillips, London, ca. 1855 (Ms. 14122), noted on bottom of fol. 1r

A. Chester Beatty, acquired privately from Phillips collection in December, 1920

Acquisition
Walters Art Museum, Oct. 1952, from Mrs. Chester Beatty through Maggs Brothers
Bibliography

Greene, Belle da Costa and Meta P. Harrsen. The Pierpont Morgan Library Exhibition of Illuminated Manuscripts. New York: Private print, 1934, p. 6, no. 11.


Contributors

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EVANGELIORUM FRAGMENTA

MS. SAEC. IX.
Mon cher collègue,

Je crois que je ne vous ai pas encore répondu et que vous avez eu raison de penser que je n'avais pas eu le temps de vous répondre.

En ce qui concerne la fragment L'évangélium dont vous m'avez envoyé la reproduction, voici mon avis:

1) Je la date plutôt de la fin du 5ème siècle. Il y a encore assez de finesse dans les lettres et en même temps, elle est bien lisible dans l'ensemble.

2) L'art du manuscrit de votre école et de l'école Franco-Sarmental (e.g. mes planches X et XI); entre le luxe et le cadre, généralement, ces manuscrits, avec angle, disposition générale de l'initiale, (surtout la grand I du début de St Jean) et des éléments de style.
Je ne vois rien qui rappelle l'acte de l'acte. Dans l'acte, ce n'est pas un spécimen pur, de la brûlante épique de la France romaine. Toute la vie était dans le nord, vers l'est dans l'Est. Il y a quelque mystère venant d'ailleurs, mais peu de chose. Dans l'ensemble c'est le style septentrional. Il est rare que l'impossible de la localisation reste étranger à la manière d'où on l'a vu ici et là fondé.

Je retiens l'attention sur les rigoles de l'acte de l'acte. Je suppose les plantes métisseuses et canadiennes qui se trouvent dans la région du nord.

Voici tout ce que je peux vous dire —


J'attends votre livre sur la minature anglaise avec la plus vive impatience.

Veuillez croire, mon cher Collège, à mon/authentique et sincèrement

A. Comte

administrateur

à Eric Muller
QVEM DE NEM

NEM DE QVEM
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ORDINARE NARRA
TIONEQUAE INNOBIT
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