

## EARLY MEDIEVAL SUMMARY 800-1150

- **POLITICS & SOCIETY** – Charlemagne, Ottonian (German) emperors; FEUDALISM
- **ARCHITECTURE** – Romanesque Style
- **ART** – relief sculpture and a fantastic approach to human form
- **IDEAS** – The Culture of the Book; monasteries
- **MUSIC** – consolidation of chant; early notation neumes & staff (staff c.1000)

## Early Medieval

- **Beginning** designated by the reign of Charlemagne 771-814 (lived 768-814)
- **The Carolingian Renaissance** – brief

800-1150

*about 350 years*

European population 500: c. 27 million; 1000, c. 73 million

## EMPIRE OF CHARLEMAGNE



crowned in 800 by the Pope ← legitimacy derives from Church

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## Holy Roman Emperor!

- Created a cultural revival
- Monasteries expand the network of learning throughout Europe
- commissioned illuminated manuscripts and supported the arts
- Also established a uniform code of laws, creation of libraries and educational reform

## Books/Manuscripts

- Promote learning
- Propagate Christianity
- Standardize church law and practice  
(including *music*)

## Creation of new script

One of the features of this more legible standardized script was the use of a large capital letter at the beginning of a section, a text layout design still in use today. The use of the space between words also greatly improved legibility.

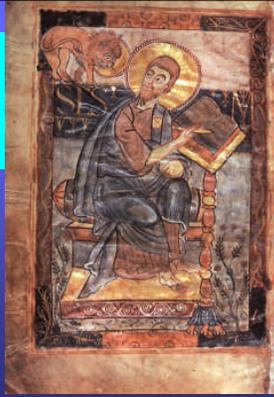
## Creation of new script

One of the features of this more legible, standardized script was the use of a large capital letter at the beginning of a section, a text layout design still in use today. Oh, and the spaces between words help, too.

See fig. p. 133, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

## Godescalc Evangelistary

St. Mark  
781-83  
Ink and colors  
On vellum



Not in text

### Christ Blessing

• Commissioned by Charlemagne and his wife Hildegard

• Court scribe named Godescalc

• **Style is imported**  
– Byzantine  
(Christ Pantocrator)

• interlaced patterns in the border – Celtic influence

Not in text

not much sense of volume from shading; a flat image when compared with . . .

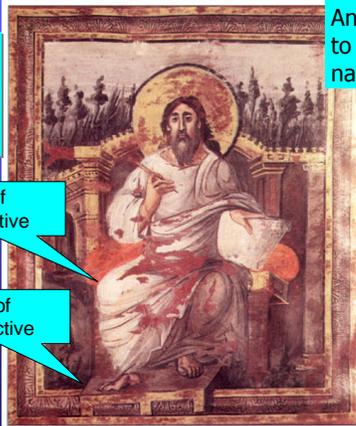


**St. John**  
from the  
Coronation  
Gospels  
9th c.

hint of  
perspective

hint of  
perspective

An attempt  
to return to  
naturalism?



**The 4  
Evangelists**  
early 9<sup>th</sup> c.

• **More vigorous style**

• Four evangelists symbolically represented by the Lion, Bull, Man, & Eagle – these are based upon the revelations of St. John the Divine from the last book of the New Testament

• lecterns the same size – not in perspective, BUT it is set in a landscape, not a plain gold background



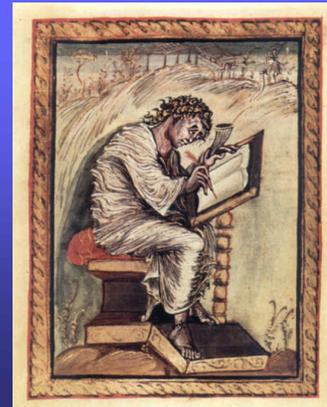
**The 4 Evangelists**  
early 9<sup>th</sup> c.

- Matthew – man
- Mark – lion
- Luke – bull
- John – eagle

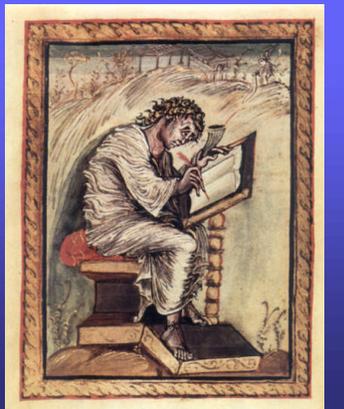


**Ebbo Gospels**

- commissioned by Ebbo – son of Charlemagne
- **Painting style new and vigorous – Celtic (Hiberno-Saxon)**
- 816-40
- St. Matthew
- Created in Reims, another important center for the creation of manuscripts during the Medieval period.



*St. Matthew, from the Gospel Book of Archbishop Ebbo of Reims*



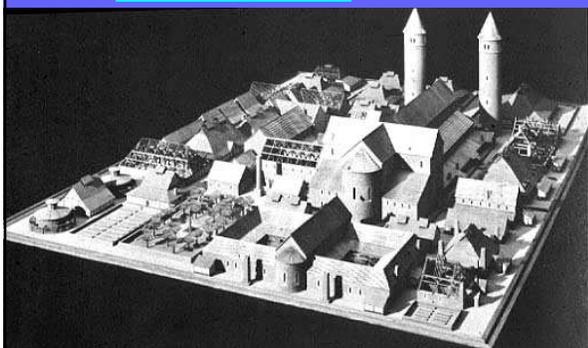
(former KEY IMAGE)

SAN MATEO

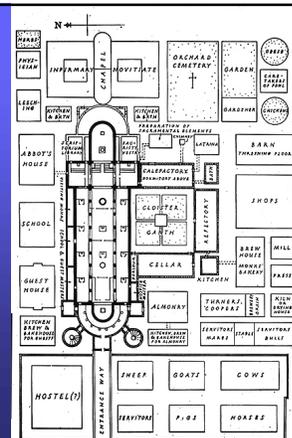
**MONASTERIES**

- The focus of Charlemagne's plans of reform
- Art and education were the focus
- Religious and administrative center
- Agricultural production, some fermented
- Monasteries follow the rule of Saint Benedict – monks live communally

**Monastery of Saint Gall**



Discussed on p. 140-142, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.



## Based upon a plan

- 100 people lived there
- Area of 500x700 feet – compact!
- Designed in the form of a perfect village

MAIN POINT: Monasteries reflected the self-sufficiency of feudalism, and thus could develop their CULTURE OF THE BOOK in isolation.

## Bayeux Tapestry c. 1088



Battle of Hastings

1066

FEUDALISM



KEY IMAGE p. 138 5th ed

Who is depicted:

The 4 Evangelists

Doing what:

Writing the Gospel

And that reflects the:

Culture of the Book

That we associate

with monasteries

with Medieval

