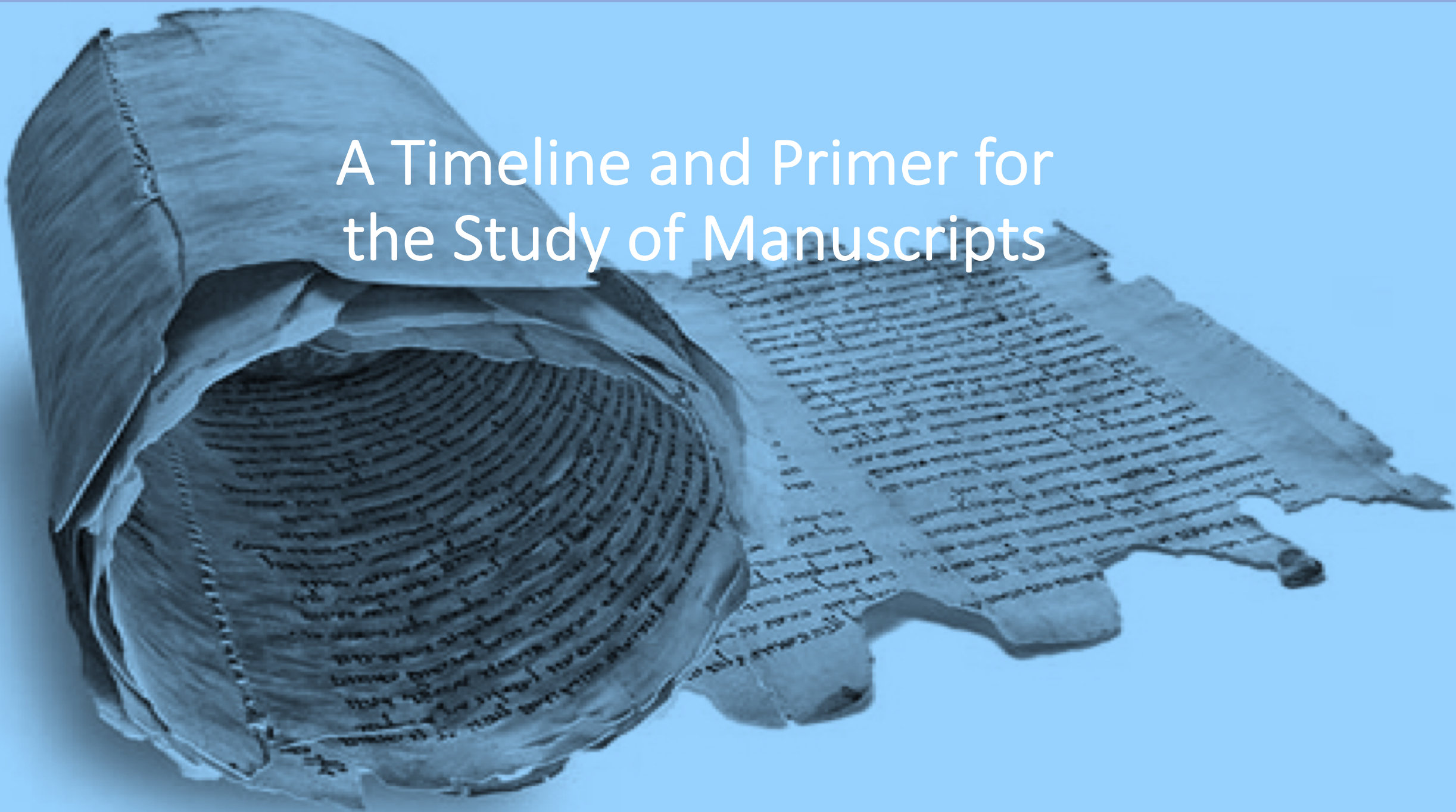
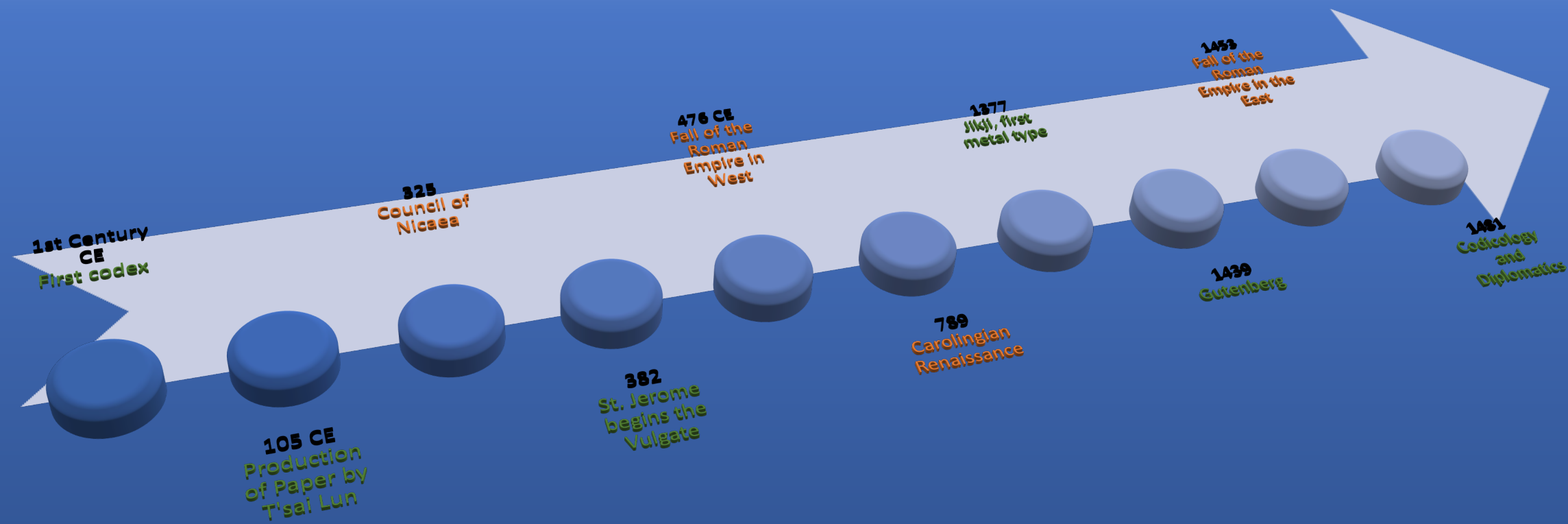


A Timeline and Primer for the Study of Manuscripts





Periods and periodization

Late antiquity (3rd-7th centuries?)

Middle Ages (never Dark Ages!)

Early Modern Period/ Renaissance

Who made manuscripts?

Scribe



Illuminator



Rubricator



What about the author?

Parts of a manuscript

Parchment and vellum



Hair side, flesh side

cū iohes & paulo.	oīt
S cī colma adamiāne.	oīt
cū p̄māsi & p̄rothasi.	oīt
O mnes scī marines.	oīt
cū siluester.	oīt

O mnes scī sacerdotes aleuto.	oīt
cū maria magdalena.	oīt.
S cā agnes.	oīt
cū lucia.	oīt

Paper

Chain lines (horizontal)

Laid lines (vertical)

Watermark



Sample manuscript

Folio, bifolium

Recto, Verso

Miniature

Historiated initial



Double page spread from a manuscript

In the example of *Les Très Belles Heures de Notre-Dame du Duc de Berry*, 1380–1412, Folio 76 verso / 77 recto

① ② Verso / recto. Medieval manuscripts were not numbered consecutively by pages (pagination) but by folios. Each folio (Lat. *folium* = leaf) has two sides, called recto and verso. The recto ② is the front side and forms the right-hand page of an open book; the verso ① is the back side and lies on the left. The size of the page is given as height x breadth; here it measures 280 x 200 mm.

③ Ornamental border including a decorative frame (separating the miniature/text and the border) and inserted figures. If these are grotesques or fabulous creatures (cf. ill. p. 42), they are known as drolleries (Fr. *drôlerie* = droll event). The border decoration here consists of thorn leaf tendrils and tendrils bearing ivy or vine leaves with pointed ends.

④ Historiated initial; an initial which is filled with a miniature-like representation of a single figure or a complete scene.

⑤ Bas-de-page (Fr. = bottom of the page). Picture area in the lower part or underneath it, illustrated with small scenes or drolleries.

⑥ Miniature; here it takes up a column width.

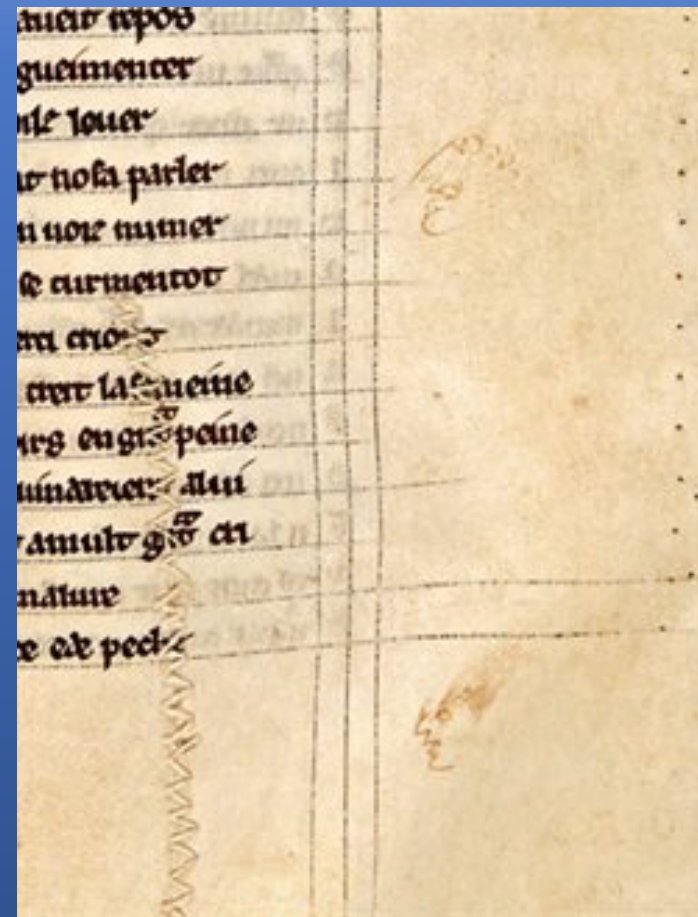
⑦ Initial (Lat. *initium* = start, beginning). The first letter of a section is given prominence by differentiating it in size or type of script or by ornament before the Gothic era it sometimes filled the entire page.

⑧ Fleuronné initial (Fr. *fleuronné* = flowered). Ornamentation (e.g. leafy tendrils) drawn with pen and ink, usually in red and blue, and used in initials.

⑨ Text block; here there is one block of text in a single column.

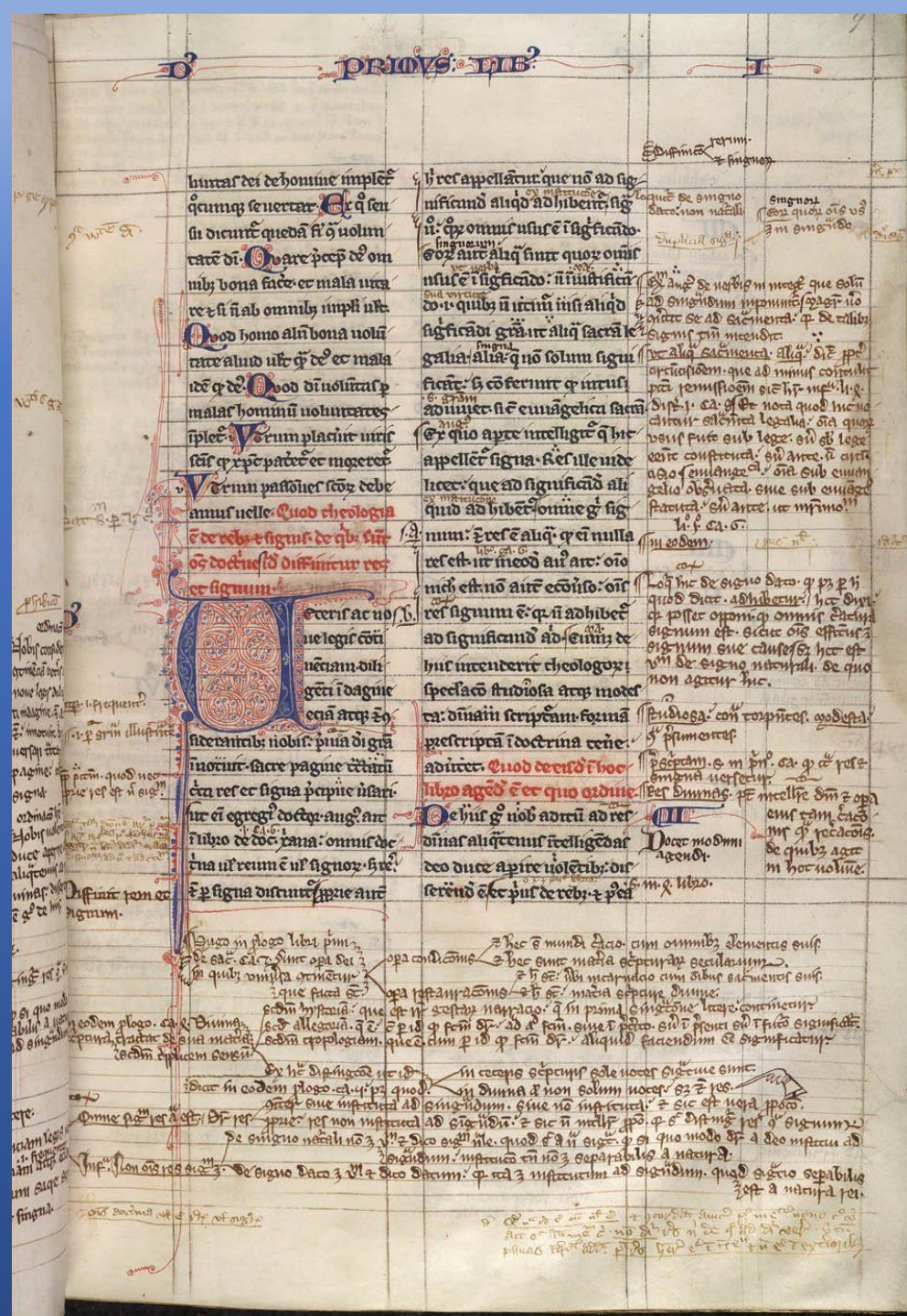
⑩ Line filler of red and blue ornament.

Prickings



Ruling

- Dry point
- Plummet
- Ink



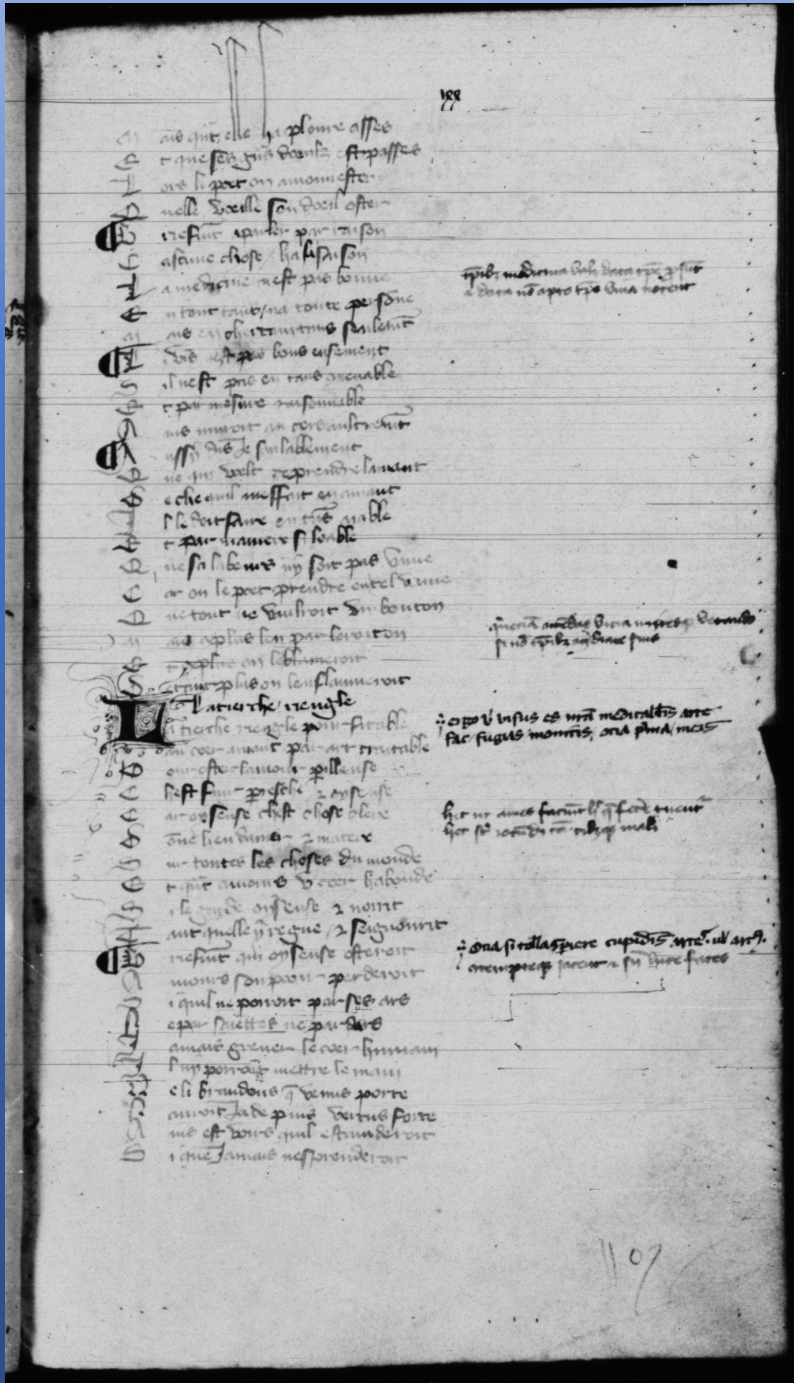
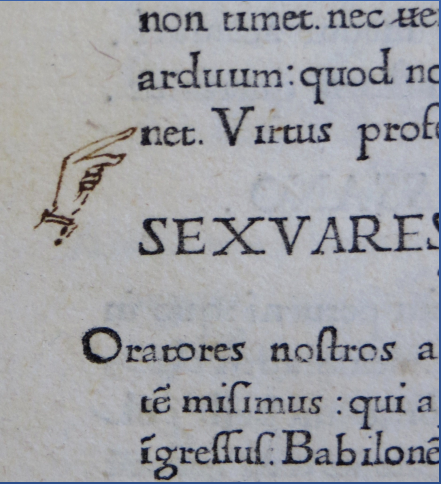
Marginalia



Drolleries



Manicula



Quire or gathering

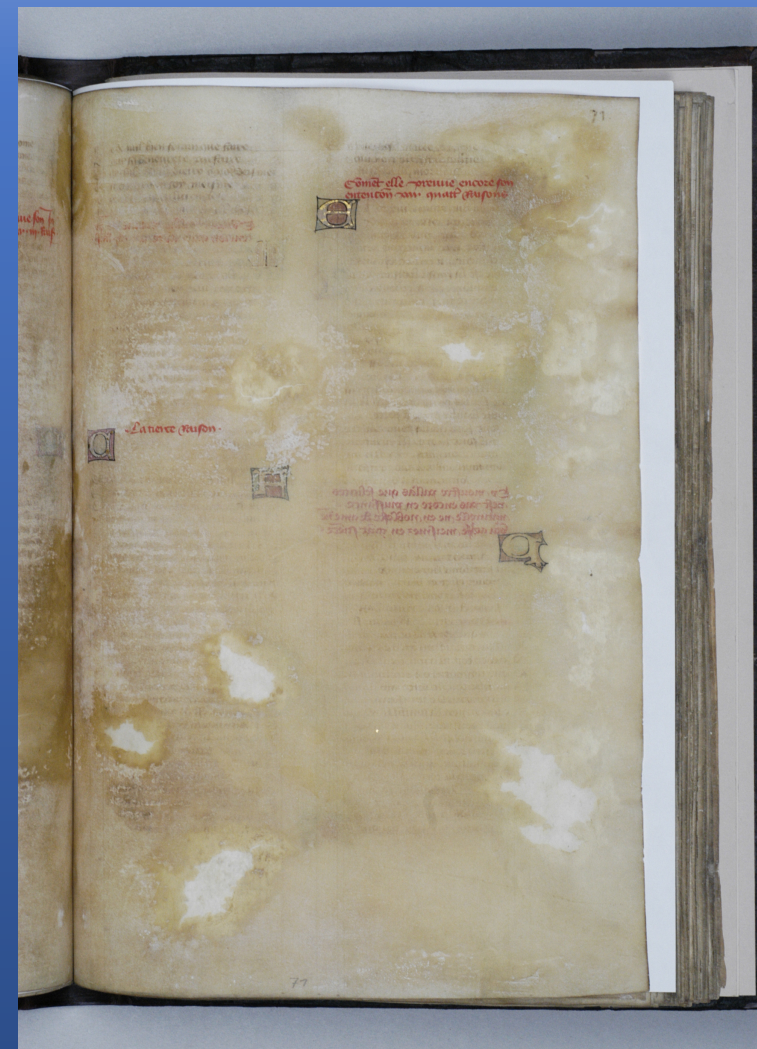
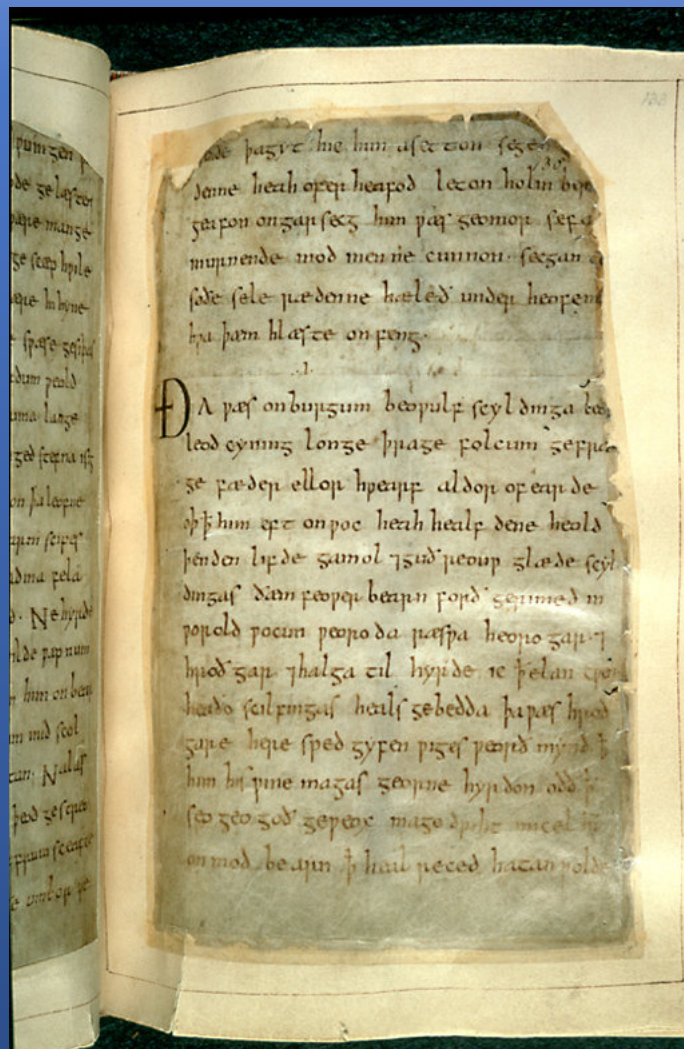


Binding

Quire structure
Boards
Stitching



Lacunae



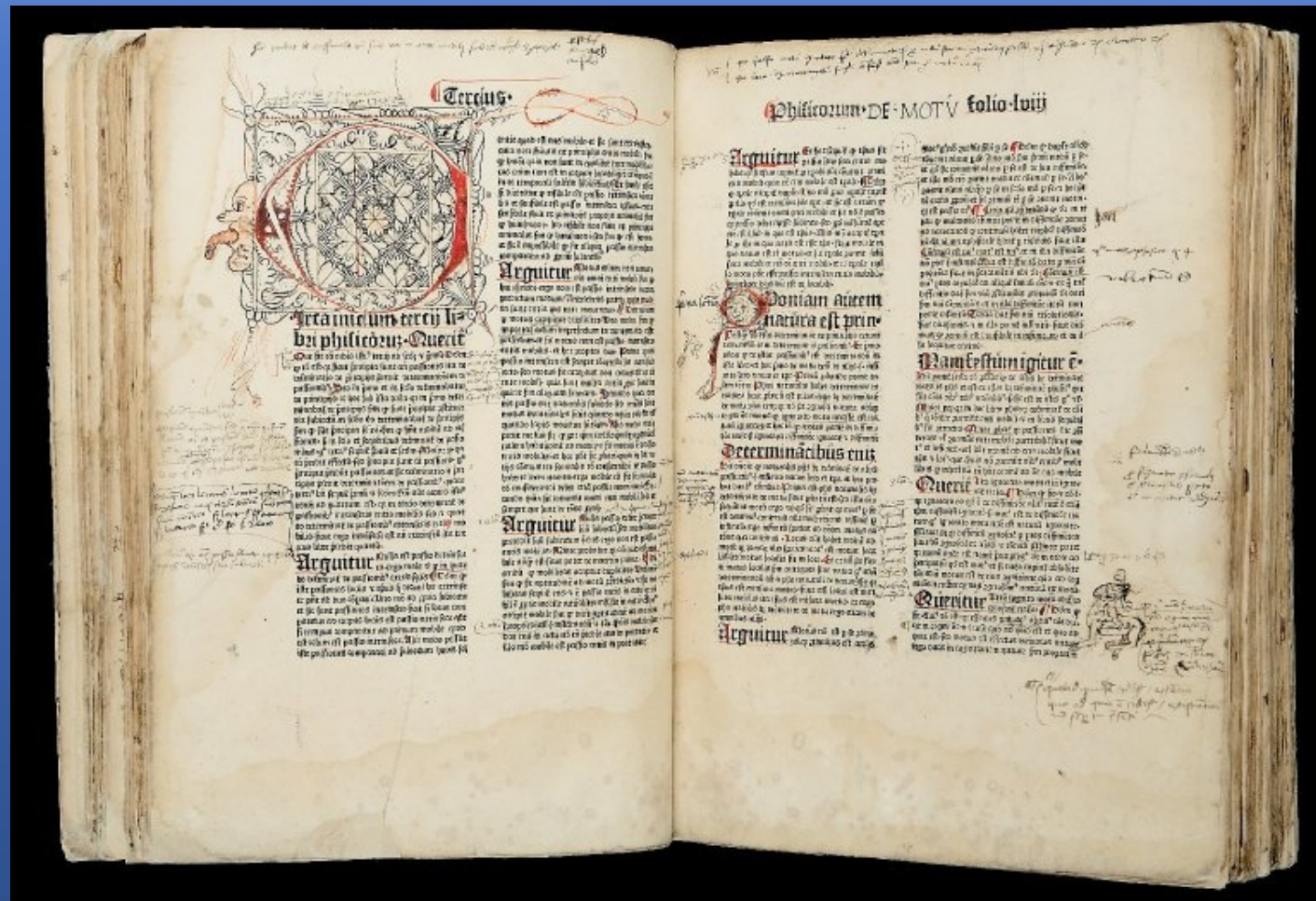
Colophon

ab
salte
talia
sione
ult
edaru
liafe
igen
um
stru
instru
diu
llibz
dqd
u.
neqf

laudem. ut aut non que sine anima sonat
cymbala intelligemus: addit. In cymbat
iubilationis. Iubilatio namq; est: laus in
estabilis. que non nisi de anima pficiat.
et quia saepe scdm carnem mors est: tota
istam armoniam spualit uolens intelli
gi: ita conclusit. Omnis spe laudet dnm;

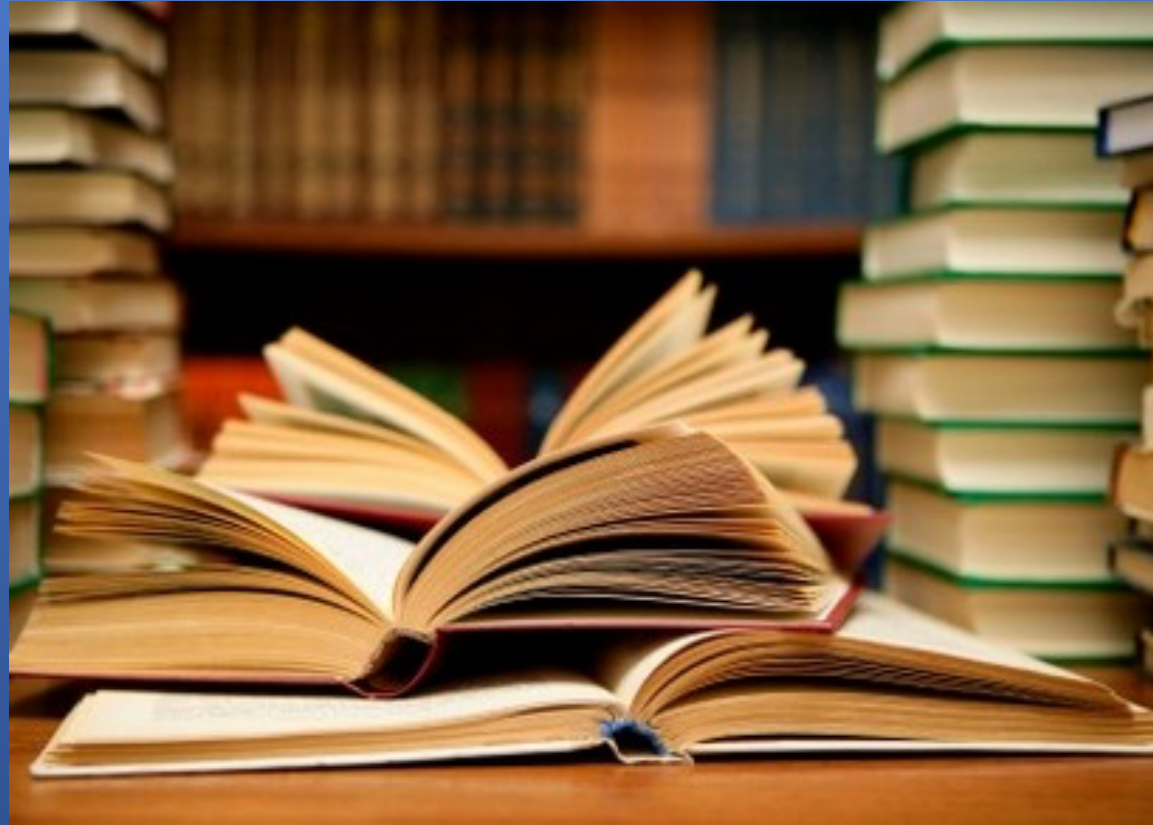
Ludouici pmelle. mor
pnipalis regalis collegii
nauarre parisi

Incunabula or incunables



What do textual scholars do?

Philology



Codicology



Diplomatics

DE *J. Mabillon 2. m. m.*
RE DIPLOMATICA

LIBRI VI.

IN QUIBUS QUIDQUID AD VETERUM

Instrumentorum antiquitatem, materiam, scripturam, & stilum;
quidquid ad sigilla, monogrammata, subscriptiones, ac notas
chronologicas; quidquid inde ad antiquariam, historicam, forensem-
que disciplinam pertinet, explicatur & illustratur.

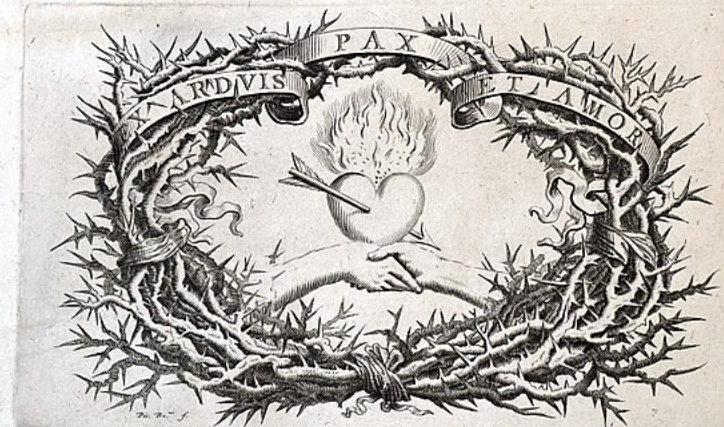
ACCEDUNT

Commentarius de antiquis Regum Francorum Palatiis.

Veterum scripturarum varia specimina, tabulis LX comprehensa.

Nova ducentorum, & amplius, monumentorum collectio.

Operâ & studio Domni JOHANNIS MABILLON, Presbyteri ac Monachi
Ordinis S. Benedicti à Congregatione S. Mauri.



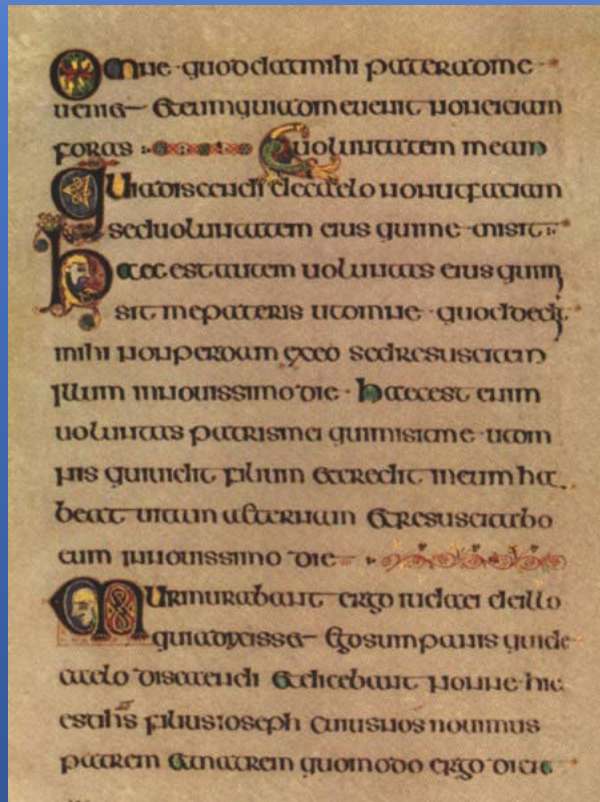
LUTECIÆ PARISIORUM,

Sumtibus LUDOVICI BILLAINE, in Palatio Regio.

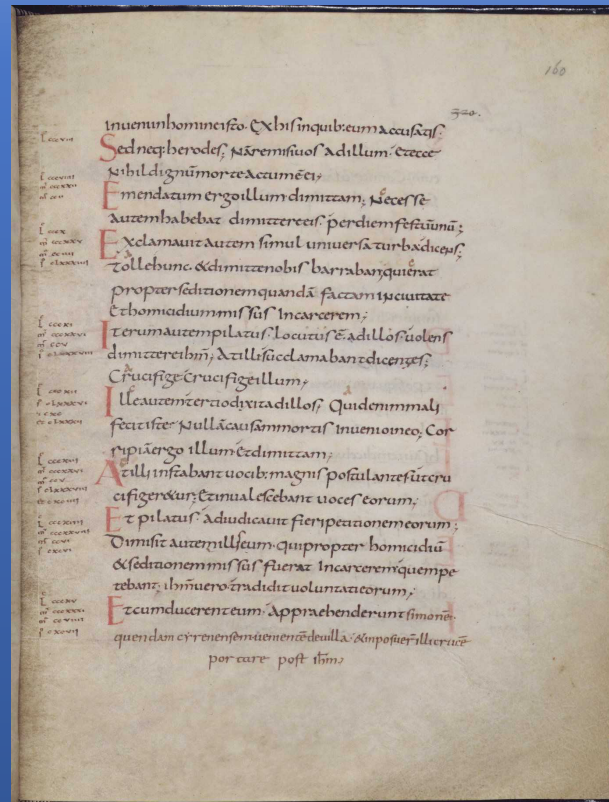
M DC LXXXI.

CUM PRIVILEGIO REGIS, ET SUPERIORUM PERMISSU.

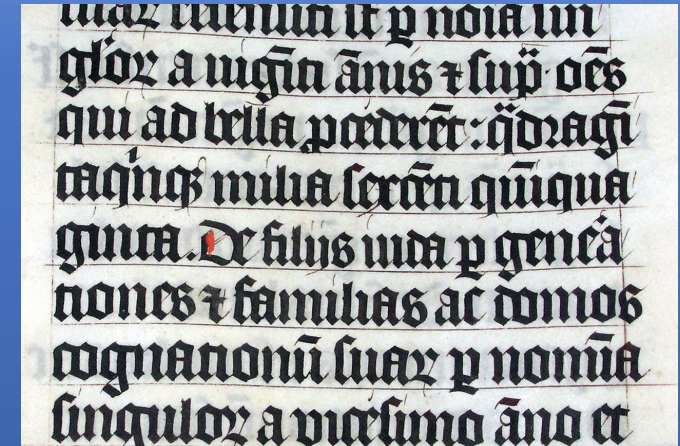
Paleography



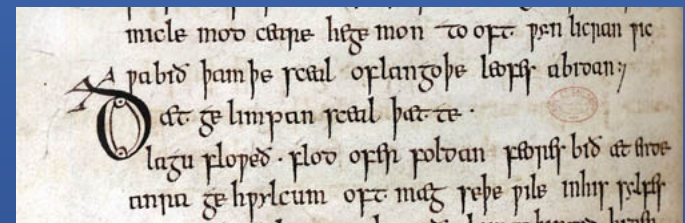
Uncial



Caroline miniscule



Textualis (Gothic script)



Insular miniscule

Ductus

