

A nnuntiaui et locutus sum. multiplicati sūt sup̄ nū
S acrificium et oblationē noluiſti. aures autem
per feciſti mihi. / ecce uenio. / mei. /
H olocauisti et p̄ peccato n̄ postulasti. tunc dixi
I ncipite libri scriptū ē dñe. ut facerem uolunta
tem tuā dñs m̄s uolui. et legē tuā in medio cordis
A nnuntiaui iustitiā tuā in eccl̄a magna. ecce labia
mea n̄ phibebo dñe tūc uisisti.
I uſtitiam tuā n̄ abscondi in corde meo. ueritatē
tuā et salutare tuum dixi.

[8] PSALTER, Fulda, c. 1040

New Haven, Yale Univ., Beinecke Lib. 712.22

Babcock, Cat. 4, p. 77

BOOKHANDS OF THE MIDDLE AGES

The earliest dated Armenian Gospel Books are from the 9th century. Examples from before the period of more prolific production starting in the 12th century are rare. Two other leaves contemporary with the present were Quaritch Catalogue 1036, no. 54, subsequently included in the British Library Exhibition of Armenian Gospel Books, 1987-1988. Two small fragments of leaves were Quaritch Catalogue 1056, no. 58.

A FULDA FRAGMENT

Beinecke MS 712.22

- 8 PSALTER, in Latin, Psalms 38, 10-14 and 39, 6-11; the lower half of a leaf, 10 lines, single columns, written in a very fine romanesque hand, brown ink, ruled with a hard point, the initial letter of each verse in red, recovered from a binding, a few wormholes and light soiling, but an attractive example. [150 × 201 mm (95 × 140 mm)]

Germany, Fulda, c. 1040.

£1750

From a Psalter produced at Fulda and subsequently in the library of the Benedictine Abbey at Lambach. The text is written in a handsome romanesque hand which displays characteristics peculiar to Fulda: 'g' with a triangular lower loop, long, thin abbreviation strokes, and the 'p(er)' abbreviation with the cross stroke at or nearly at the bottom of the shaft. Two other binding fragments (of similar dimensions to the present) from the same manuscript, with penwork initials and beautiful Fulda-style uncial *incipits*, are at Yale, Beinecke MS 481.23 A (Psalms 135, 1-14 and 135, 23-136, 6), and MS 481.23 B (Psalms 140, 6-141, 3 and 141, 7-142, 4). One carries, from its use as a pastedown, a 17th/18th century Lambach shelfmark. We are indebted to Dr. Robert Babcock of the Beinecke Library for the above details. [*]

See illustration

- 9 BIBLE, in Latin, Ecclesiasticus, parts of chapters 18 and 19; part of a large folio leaf written in double columns in a very fine late Carolingian hand, 21 lines, brown ink, ruled with a hard point, 3-line initial 'C' in red with a quatrefoil, heading and chapter number in red, calligraphic capitals touched with red, used as a pastedown, one side somewhat worn but the other side in fine clean condition. [210 × 312 mm (210 × 240 mm)]

Italy, circa 1100.

£1700

A handsome fragment from an Italian romanesque monumental Bible: the text is beautifully written in an archaic script: [*]

See illustration

- 10 BIBLE, in Latin, portions of Joel 1, 2-2, 5 and 2, 22-3, 16; a small vertical strip from a leaf containing 8 lines from 2 columns, ruled with a hard point, late Carolingian hand, light brown ink, portion of a large strapwork initial originally red but now oxidized, worn but legible. [59 × 310 mm (59 × 260 mm)]

Italy, early 12th century.

£80