

ON SCRIPTS AND SCRIBES

Scripts changed throughout the Middle Ages. Developments in letter shapes and ways of writing were related to the evolving needs of government, university study, scholarship and the development of vernacular literatures. One of the legacies of Charlemagne's rule in the decades before and after 800 was a standardized script used throughout Europe. As part of ecclesiastical reform, biblical and liturgical texts were improved and standardized, while great energies were spent in gathering together and writing out classical texts (we owe our knowledge of many Roman writers today to Carolingian manuscripts). As part of this activity, a new script was developed, today called Carolingian minuscule. It was developed in such places as Corbie and Tours – at the latter monastery it was used for the series of great Bibles made to be sent to institutions elsewhere. The script was gradually adopted all over Europe; it began to be used in England from the tenth century. A late version of this kind of script is written in a style used in the area around Rome, and at the monastery of Farfa, in the late eleventh century (plate 1). It presents a rather square version of the Carolingian script but retains the latter's spacious clarity. It is paired with a version of ancient Roman capitals known as rustic capitals, as were the best demonstrations of the script in Carolingian times.



1 Carolingian minuscule script, with initial, from a Lectionary. Italy (Farfa or near Rome), late 11th century.

It was a small, often more compressed, version of this script that was to be used in continental Europe (and after 1066 increasingly in Britain) for the great task of stocking the libraries of the monasteries founded in such profusion in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. It also provided the model for the script in which commentaries on the Bible were written in the margins next to the larger text of the Bible itself, by which time we see clearly the diagonal hairline serifs showing that the pen was held at an angle (plate 2), a portent of the Gothic scripts that were about to emerge. Scripts like this characterize the

*Amantissimi pueruli p multas
et ceteris illis iecinquagena
annos et ceteris excedat. Aut apius
unusque per aliquam benedicam remorandi
nam bene.*

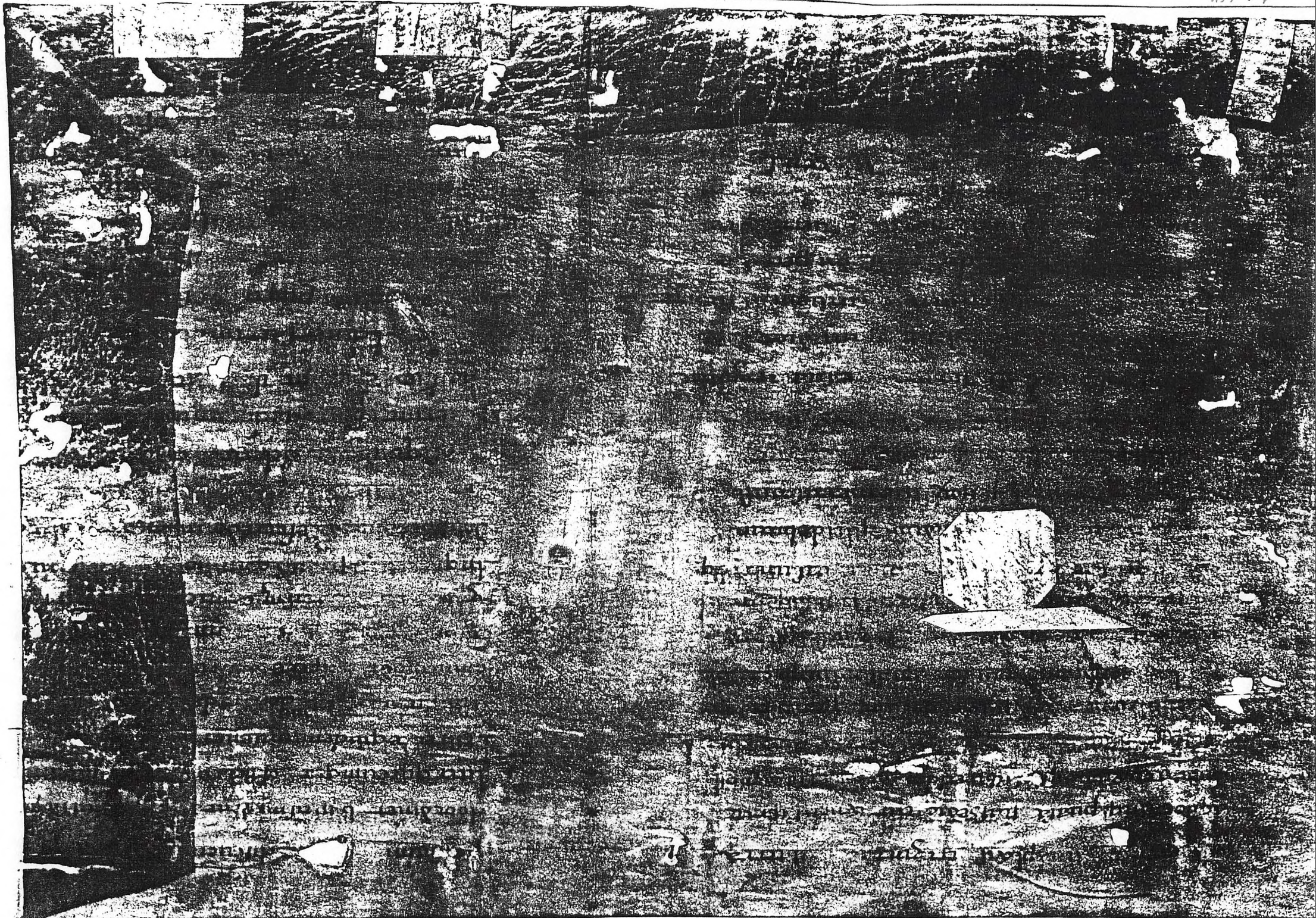
id est per aut languore decensus aut aliis
 compacionibus implicatus id ex plere nequi
 te p[ro]p[ri]o p[ro]babilis uite aut diaconos
 inquit edictis basilicarum et reparationes
 p[ro]curandum vitam inquinat.

In circueant parrochias sibi com-
 sas et ibi inquirendi studium habeant
 contra dep[re]hensum homicidius. adulteris.
 et aliis que contrarias sunt deo
 et patri. et vitare debet. & infra
 parrochias ecclesiarum quib[us] no[n] co[n]

Illud etiam ad nos placuit ut Garro ab sit facill
 tate aente pte non & dioces ab alus quibus possiden
 tur epis uis sibi undicem qd tricennalis lex co
 cludit quia & filioz nroz principum. noma
 nant auctoritas uultra triginta annos. Nulli
 liceat pidapellare quos legimus pte excludi
 DE RE FERRE IN REUTIO NROS COLLEGIUM EX
 CALI.

Iderebus sole siarum que ab eis p[er] triginta
annoz[um] spaciū sine ullius pellacio
ne possesse sunt testimoniū an non recipiant.
Sed eodemodo contineantur. Sicut res ad fis-
cū dominicū parentes contineri solent.

Siquis terrā ab altero dixerit violentat. Sibi
esse oblatam & conuerſam priusquā trigin-
ta annorū completur numerus
erē confutera occupatam & quire repo-
nere repetens pro obuijs et metus.



pelata est corā scē synodo querimoniā
 p̄būm in quodam ep̄i violentes
 p̄p̄e dicandum vel confirmandum
 suū p̄p̄e unū parrechiā scē curare quā
 p̄p̄e ut mansiones quibus in p̄p̄e
 in debuerant alio p̄p̄e redimantur quā
 rare debent. Quē duplex infamia & ne gl̄e
 gencia & auaricia scē synodo horrat fuit magno.
 dū uerunt ne quis poenitus ultra exerceat
 cupiditatis ingenium. & ut solliciti gres sint
 ep̄i de suis gre gibus uisitando.

De uero ep̄i occasione p̄dicandi. dū con
 firmandi oneri ep̄i populus nobis ad
 moniti polliciti sunt. Sed deinceps hanc
 uelle. & eo tempore suū ministerium
 in quantum facit eis datus & equū legi
 uis p̄desse possum non quod eos p̄fecero
 quantum uis est. In p̄p̄e
 una tunc rosa.

Denunciandum est om̄ibz & p̄p̄e
 ordinandum. ut om̄ibz p̄p̄e
 immunitate & p̄p̄e
 dispositionem p̄p̄e. Singulaz p̄p̄e
 in quibus p̄p̄e scē auctoritatem anno
 nica p̄p̄e.

De p̄p̄e basilicis. In p̄p̄e
 in p̄p̄e basilicis. In p̄p̄e
 me basilicis que p̄p̄e Salomā construc
 te sunt uel caridie continuantur p̄p̄e
 scē p̄p̄e canoz regulam ut p̄p̄e ep̄i
 in cuius territorio p̄p̄e p̄p̄e con
 sistant.

In quibz aedificiis rusticis parrechiis
 p̄p̄e scē p̄p̄e manere in conuictis illis
 ep̄i quā p̄p̄e p̄p̄e p̄p̄e
 si p̄p̄e p̄p̄e p̄p̄e in obuictis
 subdis p̄p̄e p̄p̄e.

elata est corā sēd synodo querimoniā
 p̄bitum ex quod fuit quidam ep̄i violentes
 ad predicandum uel ad firmandum
 quas p̄t unū parrechiaſ circuitu quā
 p̄cipue ut mansiones quibus in p̄ccatione
 in debuerant alio p̄cio. ~~redemant~~ quipa
 rare debent. Quēduplex infamia & negle
 gencia & auaricia sēd synodo horraſuit magno.
~~disuerunt~~ ne quis poenitus ultra exerceat
 cupiditatis ingenium. & ut sollicitiores sint
 ep̄i de suis gre gibus uiscandis.

e uero ep̄i occasione p̄dicandi. aut con
 firmandi ōneri eēp̄i populus inobis ad
 moniti polliciti sunt. Sed deinceps beccat
 uere uelle. & eo tempore suū ministerium
 in quantum ficut eis datur exequi. hū
 uis p̄desse possum non quod eorū p̄fecero
 quantum in  ulu est. Sed in por
 tuna. ~~Exione~~ rosa.

Denunciandum est omib. & multis
 ordinandum. ut om̄s recte & p̄p̄t
 immunitate & p̄uilegio & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 dispositionem eorū. Singulis p̄t. & p̄t.
 in quibus p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 nica p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.

me basilica que p̄dunt Salosa construc
 te sunt uel catidie continuantur p̄t. & p̄t.
 sēd p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 in cuius territorio p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.

ingula & ecclesiarū rustica p̄t. & p̄t.
 p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 ep̄i quia & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 si p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.
 subsidis p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t. & p̄t.

quem omnia fecerunt; Dixit autem ad eum prepositus. possumus eum cognoscere theodorus dixit. uellem si dare uobis talem intellectum. ut eum cognoscere possidemus ducenarius dixit. & si agnouerimus eum. num quid possumus relinquere imperatorem terrenum & ad eum accedere? sed theodorus dixit. nihil est quod uobis impediat. ut derelinquentes tenebras & fiduciam quam modicum habetis apud temporalem & terrenum atque mortalem uestrum in accedatis ad deum uiuum & regem aeternum atque celestem. ut ipsi efficiamini milites sicut & ego; Brincas prepositus dixit. demus ei inducias paucis diebus ut semel ipsum ammoneat. & conuestatur ad id quod expedit; Cumque accedat dilationem beatus theodorus permanebat in oratione; Illi uero solliciti & de aliis christianis. circuebant ciuitatem ut quoscumque inuenissent christo credere tenerent; cumque comprehendissent aliquos adducebant eos in carcerem; Beatus uero theodorus sedens cum eis. docebat eos uiam salutis ac perseverantis. **U**icet nolite haec tormenta permescere quae admodicum uobis inferuntur. ut ad regem celestem & dominum ihesum christum; Cumque haec & his similia beatus theodorus

ms 1819

London. Schøyen 1819

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The Bernhard Bischoff collection of manuscript fragments and early printed leaves on vellum and paper [eighth to sixteenth century]

Estimate 70,000 – 90,000 GBP ▼

toad, as well as the story about an eagle dropping a tortoise on the head of the poet Aeschylus, killing him [here misidentified as Achilles], citing Aristotle, Seneca, Cicero and Valerius Maximus), Italy, fourteenth century (Schøyen MS 1823); (i) 2 leaves from Boniface VIII, *Liber Sextus Decretalium*, with the gloss of Accursius (book VI, III:7.6-7.8), 470mm. by 300mm., 2 columns, initials in blue and red, one illuminated (4-line) enclosing an otter-like animal's head, Bologna, fourteenth century (Schøyen MS 1822); (j) leaf from a theological tractate based on Pseudo-Dionysius Areopagita, *De Coelesti Hierachia*, 188mm. by 155mm., 2 columns, 30 lines, capitals touched in red, Germany, late fourteenth century (Schøyen MS 1827); (k) Augustine, *In Iohannis Evangelium Tractatus* 124, no.40, 353mm. by 245mm., 2 columns, 49 lines, Netherlands, fifteenth century; (l) leaf from a breviary with readings for the Ascension, 232mm. by 165mm., 2 columns, 34 lines, initials in red and blue, southern Germany, fifteenth century (Schøyen MS 1826); plus (m) 14 paper leaves from a treatise on the Calendar, discussing the liturgical year, intercalary days, the seasons and months and the etymologies of their names and the Olympiads, 255mm. by 190mm., 2 columns, 36 lines in a cursive hand, probably Germany, late fifteenth century; and another 49 manuscript fragments on vellum and paper from the eleventh to the late sixteenth century, and 47 early printed fragments all apart from one on paper, and a blank sixteenth-century paper leaf used to illustrate watermarks (many of these with accompanying academic notes); almost all recovered from bindings and with some spots, stains and trimming, overall fair condition, items (a) to (c) and (h) in hessian bindings; with a quantity of Bischoff's notes and papers

PROVENANCE

provenance

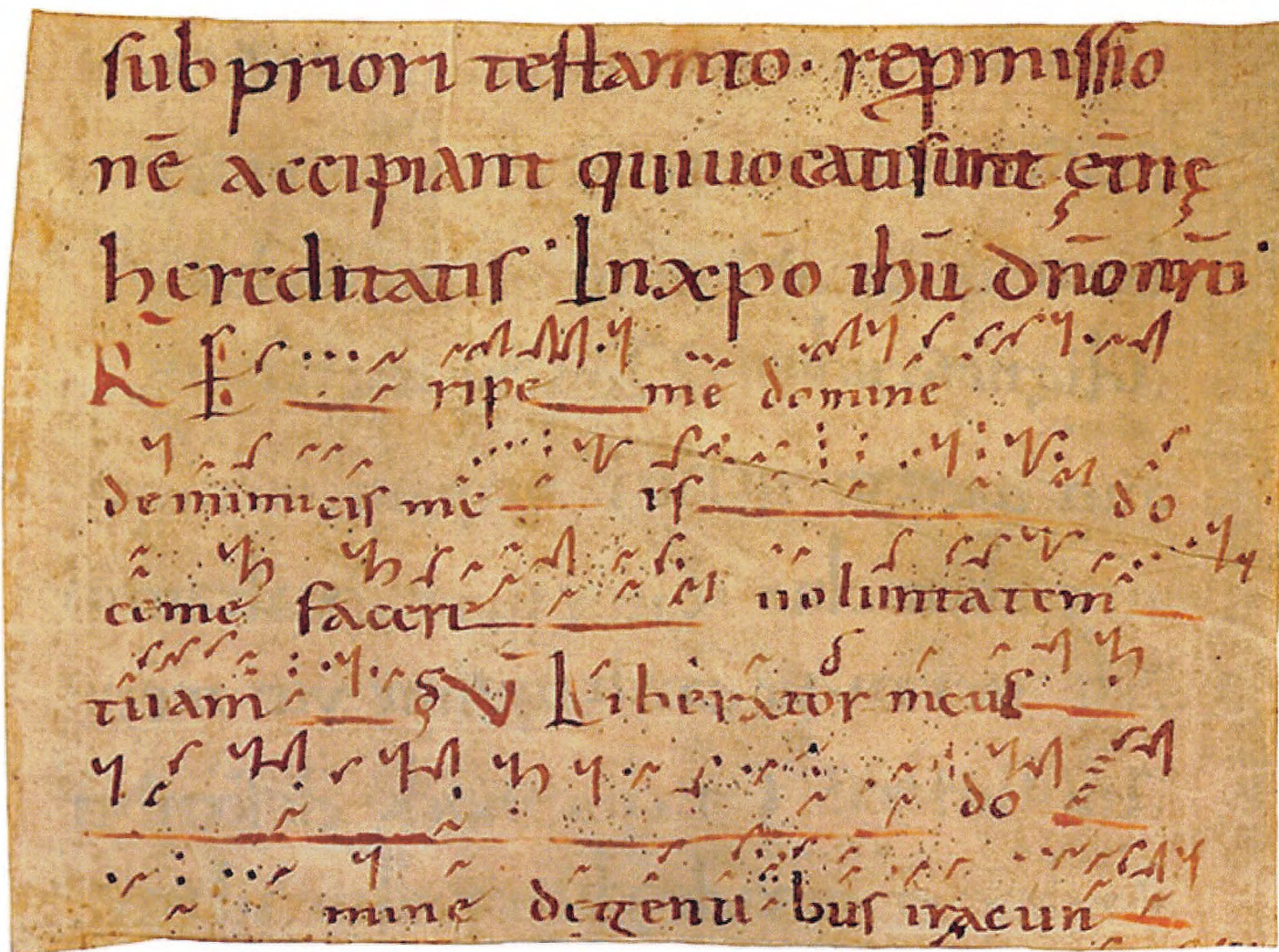
Stephan Beissel (1841-1915), Jesuit scholar; Antiquariat Wöfle, Munich, given to Bernhard Bischoff (1906-91), for his teaching collection. Bischoff was the supreme scholar of Carolingian palaeography, who mastered Carolingian minuscule in a depth unmatched since the eleventh century. Even before attaining his doctorate in 1933, he was recruited by the paleographer E. A. Lowe to work on the *Codices Latini Antiquiores* series, and in 1947 succeeded the great Ludwig Traube in the chair of Medieval Latin Philology at Munich. In 1953 he was elected to the general editorship of the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, and spent the last years of his life cataloging nearly 7,000 Carolingian manuscripts. He was a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, the Royal Irish Academy, the American Medieval Academy, and the German Archeological Institute, and received honorary degrees from the universities of Dublin, Oxford, Cambridge, and Milan. His *Die südostdeutschen Schreibschulen und Bibliotheken in der Karolingerzeit*, 1940 (reprinted in 1960 and 1974), and *Mittelalterliche Studien*, 1966-1981, remain benchmarks of academic research, and his survey of medieval Western script, *Paläographie des römischen Altertums und des abendländischen Mittelalters*, 1986 – the standard in the field – has been translated into English by D. Ó Cróinín and D. Ganz, and into French by J. Vezin and H. Atsma. Acquired after Bischoff's death by Bernard Rosenthal; hence to Quaritch; Schøyen MSS 1816-1832/7 (plus a quantity of unnumbered fragments).

The Bernhard Bischoff collection of manuscript fragments and early printed leaves on vellum and paper [eighth to sixteenth century]

a collection of over 120 leaves and fragments, comprising (a) fragment of a leaf from Isidore of Seville, Etymologiae, book 9, II:33-37 (on the Ages of Man) and III:5-7 (de Portensis), 210mm. by 102mm., remains of single column, 12 lines in a pointed Anglo-Saxon majuscule, initials touched in red, eleventh-century marginalia, Germany (Insular scribe or community), c.800 (Schøyen MS 1816), and in the later Middle Ages most probably in the library of the Praemonstratensian abbey of Arnstein (founded 1139); two further leaves of this manuscript are Berlin, Staatsbibl., Lat.fol.445, and they are most probably the earliest German copies of this fundamental encyclopaedic text to survive (published in *Codices Latini Antiquiores*, Supplement no.1674, with the illustration there taken from the present leaf, also by S. Krämer, *Handschriftenerbe des Deutschen Mittelalters*, 1989, p.26, and in *Aevum, Rassegna de Scienze storiche linguistiche e filologie* 81, 2007, p.627); (b) small fragment containing Medical charms using 'pepper and other dry remedies for the body' from an otherwise unrecorded medical text, 90mm. by 20mm., written by an Insular scribe in a Continental scriptorium (perhaps Echternach), remains of 2 lines in an early Anglo-Saxon majuscule, late eighth century or c.800 (Schøyen MS 1817); two further tiny pieces of the same manuscript are in the Marian Library, University of Dayton, Ohio; (c) leaf from the Cundpato Legendary (*Passio S. Theodori martyris Amaseae*), 205mm. by 155mm., single column, remains of 15 lines in the distinctive hand of the Freising scribe Cundpato (fl. first half of ninth century), who signs his name in in Greek and Runic characters in a manuscript of Isidore's *Etymologies* (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm.6250; Bischoff, *Die Südostdeutschen Schreibschulen*, I, no.34, pp.98-99, pl.III.d), and who was most probably a member of the ruling dynasty of Carinthia, who held sway over the region before 763 when Charlemagne suppressed Duke Tassilo III, the last king of Bavaria in the Agilolfing line (cf. the leaf sold in our rooms, 5 July 2011, lot 28), Freising, Bavaria, first half of ninth century, cut up in the fifteenth century in the monastery of Eberhardsklausen, near Trier (Schøyen MS 1819); also published by Krämer in *Aevum*; (d) Osbern of Gloucester (1123-1200), Panormia (on derivations of words), 190mm. by 148mm., 2 columns, 42 lines, 5 red initials, England, c.1200 (and thus perhaps within the lifetime of the author) (Schøyen MS 1818); (e) Peter Lombard, *Commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Romans* (Migne, Pat.Lat 191, cols.1317-21), 280mm. by 195mm., commentary set in smaller script within main text block, northern France, c.1200 (Schøyen MS 1821); (f) leaf from a commentary on John (end of XX and opening of XXI), 262mm. by 200mm., 2 columns, 54 lines, biblical quotations underlined in red, probably Germany, thirteenth century (Schøyen MS 1828); (g) Aristotle, Metaphysica, book VIII, 225mm. by 180mm., 2 columns, 32 lines, initials and paragraph marks in red and blue, Italy, fourteenth century (Schøyen MS 1829); (h) bifolium from a treatise on virtues and vices, each leaf 245mm. by 179mm., 2 columns, 46 lines, initials and paragraph marks as in previous item, the text on pride and anger drawing on moral stories about animals (including the peacock, bat, crab, basilisk, mad dogs, bear,

THE HISTORY OF SCRIPT: SIXTY IMPORTANT MANUSCRIPT LEAVES FROM THE SCHØYEN COLLECTION

10 JULY 2012 | 10:30 AM BST
LONDON



MS 1275/19

Metz linear staffless neumes. France (or Germany?), ca. 950

London, Schøyen Coll.