

is whether they are evidence of Irish or Anglo-Saxon influence. That it was Anglo-Saxon rather than Irish, that Anglo-Saxon monks must therefore have lived at Tours long before Alcuin, is amply proved by two manuscripts, London Egerton 2831 and Florence Laur. XLV.15 (II.196a-b; III.297a-b), ~~which are~~^{one} written partly in minuscule similar to that in the foregoing Tours group and partly in an Insular minuscule that is clearly Anglo-Saxon. To be sure, these manuscripts were offered as evidence of the ^{presence of the} Irish at Tours, but quite erroneously. ^{The proof is in} ~~the~~ the uncial characters used by the Insular scribe of the Laurentian manuscript ^{which} are unmistakably Northumbrian.

St. Martin's, even before the heyday of the abbey, must have had friendly relations with other houses. We know that in Alcuin's time Corbie lent its precious fifth-century Livy to be