

Glossary

ANTIPHONAL, choirbook with antiphons or verses from Scripture, sung alternately by two choirs.

BENEDICTIONAL, book of blessings used by a bishop when celebrating Mass.

BIBLE, sacred writings of the Christians, comprising the Old Testament (Jewish scriptures) and the New Testament. St. Jerome's fourth-century Latin translation, the Vulgate, forms the basis for the Roman Catholic Bible.

BIFOLIUM, a sheet which is folded to comprise two folios or four pages.

BINION, a quire comprised of two sheets which when folded make up four folios.

BOOK OF HOURS, a short version of the Divine Office used primarily by the laity for private prayer. It includes a liturgical calendar, the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, the Litany of the Saints, Penitential Psalms, Office of the Dead, and additional personal prayers.

BREVIARY, the compilation of prayers of the Divine Office to be said at various hours of the day by the clergy. The hours include: Lauds (morning prayer on rising); Prime (6 A.M.); Terce (9 A.M.); Sext (noon); None (3 P.M.); Vespers (before sunset); Compline (before retiring); and Matins (2:30 A.M.). Mass was said between Terce and Sext. The hours varied with the seasons, depending on sunrise and sunset.

CALENDAR, a listing of the major and minor feasts of the Church year. Local feast days and patron saints often appear and are useful in localizing a calendar and, thus, the book in which it is found.

CATCHWORD, the notation at the end of each quire of the first word of the following gathering, to indicate the order of the quires of a book.

CODEx (pl. **CODICES**), a manuscript in book form rather than a scroll.

CODICOLOGY, the study of the manner in which a codex is constructed; may be referred to as the "architecture" of the book.

COLOPHON, an inscription, usually at the end of a manuscript, giving information about its production (such as a date or scribe's name). This information may refer to the text model and not the book in which it appears, since medieval scribes copying a text would sometimes also copy the earlier colophon.

DIAPER PATTERN, an all-over pattern of repeating lozenges or squares,

especially common in Gothic manuscripts.

DISPLAY LETTERING, decorated letters of varying size which mark any part of a text; commonly used to form a transition between large decorated or illuminated letters and the script of a text.

DIVINE OFFICE, daily cycle of prayer prescribed for the seven "hours" of the day: Lauds (morning prayer on rising); Prime (6 A.M.); Terce (9 A.M.); Sext (noon); None (3 P.M.); Vespers (before sunset); Compline (before retiring); and Matins (2:30 A.M.). Mass was said between Terce and Sext. The hours varied with the seasons, depending on sunrise and sunset.

DROLLERIES, small humorous drawings found as marginalia in illustrated manuscripts.

DUCTUS (pl. DUCTI), the strokes of an initial or letter.

EPISTLES, the Apostolic letters; 21 books of the New Testament.

EVANGELIARY, liturgical book containing selections from the Gospels to be read by the deacon (who assists the priest) during the Mass.

EXPLICIT, a form of closing found in antique and medieval manuscripts at the end of major sections, the end of individual books, or the end of the total work. See INCIPIT.

EXULTET ROLL, used only in southern and central Italy; a liturgical scroll used for the blessing of the Easter candle on the Vigil of Easter, when the words of the liturgy begin with "exult." The scroll was read by the deacon and was unrolled over a podium toward the congregation; therefore, the script was written upside down vis-à-vis the illustrations. (The deacon chanted the text, while the congregation looked at the illustrations.)

FERIAL, referring to the ordinary days of the Church calendar; i.e., those days which are not special saints' days or feast days.

FLESH SIDE, the side of an animal skin which faced inward. See HAIR SIDE.

FOLIO, sheet of a codex containing recto and verso sides. See LEAF.

GATHERING (also called a quire), a set of leaves which are folded together. One or more gatherings make up a book.

GLOSSES, commentary on a text, usually found in the margins and in a later hand.

GOSPELS, from Old English "Godspel" or good news. Refers to the first four books of the New Testament recording the life of Christ.

GRADUAL, a choirbook with antiphons from the Psalms.

HAIR SIDE, the side of an animal skin which faced outward and was hairy; generally more yellow than flesh side. See FLESH SIDE.

INCIPIT, "Here begins . . ." A form of opening of a text or section in late antique and medieval manuscripts.

INITIALS: DECORATED, enlarged and ornamented opening of a verse or section of a text.

INITIALS: HISTORIATED, initials containing figures, animals, or narrative scenes in the interstices.

INITIALS: SYNTHETIC, initials whose frames are made up of contorted figures or animals.

LEAF, one piece of parchment or vellum; may be used interchangeably with folio. See FOLIO.

LECTIONARY, liturgical book containing the readings for the Mass, organized according to the Church calendar. Was finally combined with the sacramentary to form the missal.

LIGATURE, the manner in which the ducti of two or more initials or letters are connected.

LITURGY, public services or rites of worship in the Church. The principal liturgy is the Mass or Eucharist; also written texts giving the order of service.

MAJUSCULE, large (or upper case) letters. See MINUSCULE.

MARGINALIA, decoration or playful scenes in the margins of a manuscript, especially favored during the Gothic period.

MINIATURE, from "minium," a red pigment. A painting or drawing in a manuscript.

MINUSCULE, small (or lower case) letters. See MAJUSCULE.

MISSAL, liturgical book containing the text and instructions for the celebration of the Mass throughout the year; combines readings and prayers found in the lectionary and sacramentary.

PALEOGRAPHY, the study of ancient scripts and hands.

PALIMPSEST, a folio which has been erased and reused, on which layers of writing can be detected. This was often done since parchment was expensive.

PARCHMENT, treated animal skin used for books and documents. See VELLUM.

PASTE-DOWN, the parchment or paper lining of the covers of a book binding. Often these are reused leaves from older manuscripts with fragments of text or inscriptions.

PERICOPE, Greek for "section." Selected passages of scripture to be read at Church services.

PONTIFICAL, a liturgical book containing the forms for the sacraments and other rites used by a bishop.

PRICKING, marking a folio with a stylus. The prick marks are then connected to rule the page for the scribe.

PROLOGUE, a preliminary text or preface; prologues to books of the Bible are common and their types indicate certain manuscript traditions.

PSALTER, a book containing the Psalms for liturgical use or private prayer.

QUATERNION, a gathering comprised of four sheets which when folded make up eight folios (or sixteen pages).

QUINTERNION, a gathering comprised of five sheets which when folded make up ten folios.

QUIRE, see GATHERING.

RECENSION, a revision of a text, or a revised text. Texts copied from the same model are of the same recension or "family."

RECTO (r), the front side of a leaf. See VERSO.

RUBRIC, a title heading in a text or direction for a liturgical service which has been written in red to differentiate it from the rest of the text.

SACRAMENTARY, liturgical book containing all the prayers spoken by the priest during the Mass; later combined with the lectionary to form the missal.

SANCTORALE, the calendar of Saints' feast days throughout the Church year, beginning with the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30) and ending with the Feast of St. Saturninus (November 29). See TEMPORALE.

SERIF, an extension of the strokes of a letter; often elaborately decorated.

SEPTERNION, a quire comprised of seven sheets or fourteen folios.

SEXTERNION, a quire comprised of six sheets or twelve folios.

SIGNATURE MARK, a number or letter at the end of each quire (usually centered in the bottom margin) to indicate the order of gatherings comprising a book. See **CATCHWORD**.

SINGLETON, a single folio, set into a quire.

TEMPORALE, the cycle of feasts of the Church year which begins with the First Sunday of Advent. See **SANCTORALE**.

TERTION, a quire comprised of three sheets or six folios.

UNCIAL, a letter of the Roman alphabet with rounded forms.

VELLUM, a fine parchment used for writing and illumination. See **PARCHMENT**.

VERSO (v), the back side of a leaf. See **RECTO**.

WRITING FRAME, the area of a page within the margins which contains the writing. The dimensions of the page minus the dimensions of the margins equals the writing frame. (The size of the writing frame usually appears in parentheses after the measurements of the page itself.)

ZOOMORPHIC, comprised of animals or fantastic beast forms.