G.27 LEAF FROM A SACRAMENTARY, in Latin. Possibly Chur, Switzerland, second half of the eighth century, with Latin texts added on the blank recto at the monastery of St. Gall in the ninth and tenth centuries.

Vellum, 1 leaf (273 x 169 mm). Script: decorative Roman capitals. 1 large colored interlace initial and other decorative ornament.

Provenance: Monastery of St. Gall (probably preserved in a binding); Prof. Anton Ruland; Joseph Sattler; Max Kammerer, Wartenberg (Bavaria); purchased in November 1954 from Arthur Rau, Paris.

3. SACRAMENTARY, in Latin. Possibly Chur, Switzerland, second half of the eighth century. 1 leaf (10 1/2 x 6 1/2 inches). Decorated initial page. Matted. [G. 27]

This initial page has the finest Merovingian decoration in the United States, and its style is related to that in the Gelasian Sacramentary (St. Gall, Ms. 348). The full-page initial I is subdivided into six panels of interlace framed by borders with a beaded pattern. At top and bottom are interlace and scrollwork terminals, and at the top is a beaked and crested bird's head. The whole is surrounded by a row of red dots. Beside the initial, there are six lines of majuscule script ornamented with geometric and especially foliate patterns and one line of interlace. The page is carefully composed: not only are the various elements linked by spots of related color, but the initial I, less its terminals, is the same height as the Schrifftspiegel (the seven lines of text and decoration) and its interlace panels are usually as high as one line of text, including one inter-linear space.

This decorated page was originally the verso; on the recto are two later texts. The longest of these is a benediction of the Innocents written in St. Gall in the early ninth century. Thus, this leaf probably went from Chur, like St. Gall 348, to St. Gall itself. The other and later text is a prayer for the emperor and has been dated about 900.

Provenance: St. Gall, early ninth century (probably preserved in a binding); Prof. R. Ruhland (?); Joseph Sattler; Max Kammerer.


For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


From The Twenty-first Report to the Fellows of The Pierpont Morgan Library 1984-1986. New York, 1984:

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