Epistolary. IX century.

M

91 Epistolary for St. Gall use, followed by part of the Mass
for Holy Saturday.

Manuscript on fine vellum, written and illuminated at St. Gall,
Switzerland at the end of the ninth century.

3 large illuminated initials, 144 smaller initials throughout
the text.

80 + 12 leaves (10 1/8 x 5 3/8 inches) 21 lines.
Collation: a^8-i^8; j^12, k^8 = 92
Narrow 4°. rose velvet by M. Lahey, in ol. mor. case

Contents:

f.1-80 Epistolary
f.81-92 Portion of Mass for Holy Saturday

Text: The text consists of excerpts from the Epistles, Apocalypse
and prophetic books of the Old Testament, to be read by the deacon
on feast- and Sundays. Lessons for the vigil and feast of St. Gall
are on f.47v. The last twelve leaves (formerly bound after f.72)
contain part of the Mass for Holy Saturday, consisting of the pro-
phetic odes 4-12 (incomplete) with one gradual and two tracts.
ff.80-80v contain lessons for the Purification of the Virgin and
the Feast of St. Constantius, added in the XIIIth century.

Script: Neatly written in a fine slanted, minuscule by two scribes.
The assisting hand is the more rounded, using greater pressure and
showing a preference for uncial .Identifier instead of d. The Mass at the
end is entirely by him, as are some of the sections of M.1. Both
hands are characteristic of the Folchart-Sintram, late IXth century
period at St. Gall. Many passages have tonic accents.

Decoration: The three large initials I (f.1v), P (f.2), and B
(f.59) are fine examples of the most elaborate style of St. Gall
illumination. Carolingian interlace is given fluid rhythm, and,
by a variety of minor decorative elements (chiefly foliate and
floral) an effect of great delicacy and liveliness is achieved.
The summounting dragon heads rise above sprays of flowers. Gold
and silver bands are outlined in minium; blue is frequently used
as background.

The small initials are varied and executed with equal care.
A second, less imaginative decorator is responsible for the last
eight initials.

History: While the writing of this manuscript dates it about the
same time as M.1, which is circa 880, the style of the initial
ornament is so advanced as to relate the illumination to works
produced at St. Gall at the end of the ninth century, in particular,
the Evangelium Longum (St. Gall Stiftsbibliothek 53) whose format
is approximated and its text complemented by M.91. The armorial
watermark of the end leaves attest to its being rebound at St. Gall
in the time of Abbot Beda Angehrn, 1767-1796. Purchased from Gruel
in November 1905. At that time a XIIIth century Limoges enamel
Crucifixion was set in the upper cover. Removed in 1932.
Binding: Rebound by M. D. Lahey in modern rose velvet. In an olive morocco case lettered: Epistolaire- Xme siècle.


Additional cards:
1. Missal - St. Gall - IX cent.
2. Neumes - St. Gall - IX cent.
   i. MSS.-Illum.-Swiss: St.Gall- IX cent.
   ii. " -Carolingian - IX cent.
   iii." -Initials - IX cent.
   iv.Use - St. Gall
   v. Provenance - Gruel-Engelmann
   vi.MSS.-Illum.-Gold
   vii. " -Silver

Angehrn, Beda, abbot of St. Gall, 1767-1796

see

Heraldry, Angehrn, Beda, abbot of St. Gall, 1767-1796

July 2, 1954
For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

