

¶ ISIDORUS, LIBRI SENTENTIARUM (abbrev.), DE OFFICIIS (excerpta); etc.

Foll. 138, paginated 1-237, 237-275; 240×140-145 mm. (ca. 200×112 mm.) in 24 long lines. Ruling before folding, on the hair-side, mostly 4 bifolia at a time. Single bounding lines. Prickings or slits in the outer margin guided the ruling. Gatherings of eight, with flesh-side facing hair within the quire (except the first where the arrangement is normal), signed in the centre of the lower margin of the last page with Roman numerals set off by various combinations of points and lines. Colophons in black uncial. Headings in black capitals or in uncial in red or black or with lines alternately red and black and coloured with a daub of yellow. Punctuation: the main pause is marked by the medial point, colon, or semicolon, lesser pauses by the medial point. Abbreviations include the Insular symbol ÷ = est; and the ordinary forms **b**, **q**: = bus, que; **aū** = autem; **dīcs** = dicens; **ē** = est; **ffs** = fratres; **glam** = gloriam; **īīl** = israel; **m̄s** = meus; **m̄ā** (on p. 12 **m̄ā**), **m̄ām** (the Veronese symbols) = misericordia, -am; **n̄** = non; **n̄rī** = nostri; **ōms**, **ōmā** = omnis (and omnes), omnia; **p**, **p̄**, **p**, **pp** (with an s-like flourish over each **p**) = per, prae, pro, propter; **q̄d**, **q̄m** = quod, quoniam; **r̄**, **s̄** = runt, sunt; **t̄** = ter; the abbreviation-stroke often has a dot above. Spelling shows confusion of e and i, o and u, ci for ti. Initials, simple in design and carefully drawn (pp. 3, 193), show interlace pattern, bird and fish motifs, and dogs' heads. Parchment of good quality, but rather dark on the hair-side. Ink greyish-brown. Script, by several hands, is pre-Caroline minuscule of a distinct type (cf. our No. 905 and the group of manuscripts listed there): the characteristic letter is r with its shoulder turned firmly up; α is the rule; i-longa is used initially ('Icunia'); ascenders and descenders are long; the **ſ** ligature is used for soft ti. Some Old High German names were entered, saec. ix, on pp. 1 and 2.

Origin uncertain. The manuscript was written in the centre that produced St. Gall MS. 108 and the group of manuscripts associated with it (see our No. 905). Verona is suggested by the abbreviation for 'misericordia' and by the presence of the rhythmic hexameters on p. 144 in which Egino, bishop of Verona (796-799), is spoken of as 'eximius pastor' 'qui hoc iussit patrare istique librum nomen Egini'; but both may come from the exemplar, and the position of the poem in the manuscript strongly favours such a view. A centre north of the Alps is not to be excluded. The manuscript appears in the St. Gall catalogue of 1461.

Our plate from pp. 124 and 193.