MIDDLE AGES

INSULAR PERIOD TO CAROLINGIAN PERIOD SCRIPTS

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FALL 2017 PALEOGRAPHY
THE MIDDLE AGES BEGAN WITH THE FALL OF THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE AND MERGED INTO THE RENAISSANCE AND AGE OF DISCOVERY.
LIFE IN MIDDLE AGES
LIFE IN MIDDLE AGES

- LIFE EXPECTANCY = 30 YEARS
- POOR HYGEINE CONDITIONS – NO SEWERS, NO RUNNING WATER
- MOST PEOPLE LIVED IN VILLAGES
- WAR AND PLAGUES FREQUENT
- DEAD BODIES LEFT OUTSIDE – LED TO DISEASE
HISTORICAL CONTEXT
IRELAND

- **INSULAR** – NAME OF SCRIPT

- **IRELAND AND BRITAIN (ANGLO-SAXON) FROM 550 A.D. TO 900 A.D.**

- **INSULAR IS LATIN FOR ISLAND**

- **IRELAND WAS CALLED HIBERNIA AT THIS TIME**

- **IRELAND ISOLATED – NOT INVADED BY ROME WHICH HAD CONQUERED MUCH OF EUROPE INCLUDING BRITANNIA (BRITAIN)**

- **TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, SMALL SOCIAL GROUPS, FEUDAL KINGS, ORAL TRADITIONS, RELIGION MUCH LIKE DRUIDS**

- **WRITTEN LANGUAGE CALLED OGHAM – WEB OF SYMBOLS**
HISTORICAL CONTEXT
FRANCE

- CAROLINGIAN – NAME OF SCRIPT
- FRANCE – 780 A.D. TO 1200 A.D.
- KNOWN AS SUCH BECAUSE ASSOCIATED WITH EMPEROR CHARLEMAGNE WHO WAS KING OF THE FRANKS FROM 768 A.D. THEN EMPEROR OF THE WEST FROM 800 A.D.
- CHARLEMAGNE WANTED ONE SCRIPT FOR EMPIRE THAT WAS EASY TO READ AND EASY TO WRITE
- CHARLEMAGNE WANTED TO ENFORCE HIS POLICIES ON HIS SUBJECTS
- ENGLISH MONK ALCUIN DEVELOPED SCRIPT AT A MONASTERY IN TOURS, FRANCE
- FROM 789 A.D. ALL BOOKS, RELIGIOUS MATERIALS, LEGAL RECORDS, IN EMPIRE, USED THIS SCRIPT
LETTER G / g

INSULAR MINUSCULE

- Looks like a long twisty ‘t’
- Curly descender

CAROLINGIAN

- Looks modern
- Closed loop
LETTER S / s

CAROLINGIAN
STILL LOOKS LIKE A LOWER CASE ‘r’ BUT MORE UNIFORM

INSULAR
LOOKS LIKE A LOWER CASE ‘f’ OR A LOWER CASE ‘r’
LETTER A / a

INSULAR
DEVELOPED OUT OF IRISH HALF-UNCIAL, PROTOTYPE OF OUR MODERN ‘a’

CAROLINGIAN
DEVELOPED FROM HALF-UNCIAL, STILL SEE STYLE TODAY IN FONTS
LETTER T / \( \ddot{t} \)

INSULAR

LOOKS LIKE AN ODD ‘C’

CAROLINGIAN

LOOKS LIKE OUR ‘t’ A LITTLE BIT
EVOLUTION OF MINUSCULE

- Rustic
- Greek Uncial
- Uncial
- Half-Uncial
- Visgothic
- Luxeuil
- Beneventan
- Caroline
- Insular
- Protogothic
- Textualis quadrata
- Fraktur
- Humanist
YOU TUBE VIDEO
CAROLINGIAN SCRIPT

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z603Je-yjd8