



# Filologia del testo inglese medievale

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CdL in Lingue e Letterature Europee e Americane

A.A. 2020/21

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# The codex

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A humble writing support, it was used by the first Christian missionaries to copy and circulate the Scriptures.

Christianity = religion of the book

Roll = papyrus

Codex = parchment

«The codex is par excellence the form of ‘Christian’ books as much as parchment is par excellence the ‘Christian’ writing material», Luiselli Fadda (2019).

# The codex

Base-unit: **quire** (*bifolium*)

**Binion:** formed of two *bifolia*

**Ternion:** formed of three *bifolia*

**Quaternion:** formed of four *bifolia*

# The codex

*Bifolium* folding types:

- ‘*vis-à-vis*’ rule (or Gregory’s rule): hair side facing hair side, flesh side facing flesh side (typically continental)

# The codex

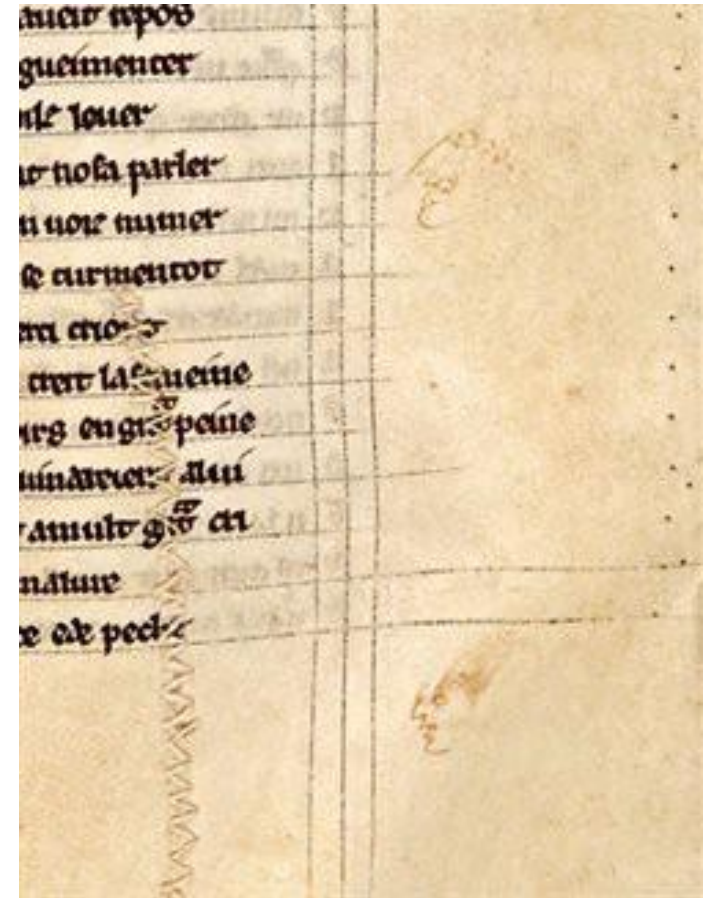
*Bifolium* folding types:

- **‘*vis-à-vis*’ rule** (or Gregory’s rule): hair side facing hair side, flesh side facing flesh side (typically continental)
- **‘pair’ rule:** *bifolia* folded so as to alternate flesh side and hair side (typically insular)

# The codex

Page layout (o *mise-en-page*):

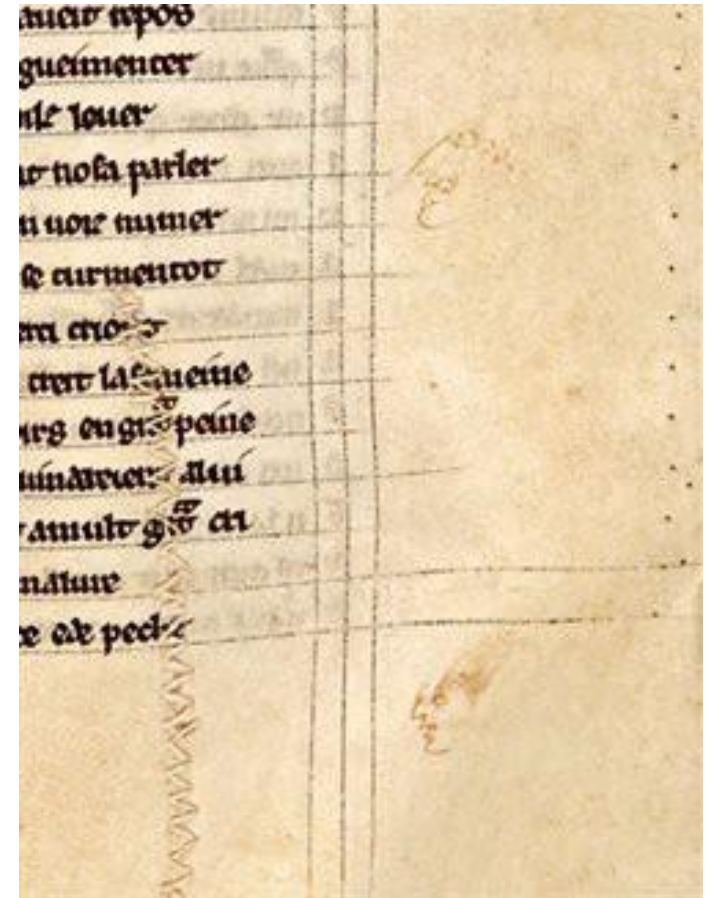
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# The codex

Page layout (o *mise-en-page*):

- piercing the margins with the *punctorium*
- scratching or drawing guiding lines (optional)

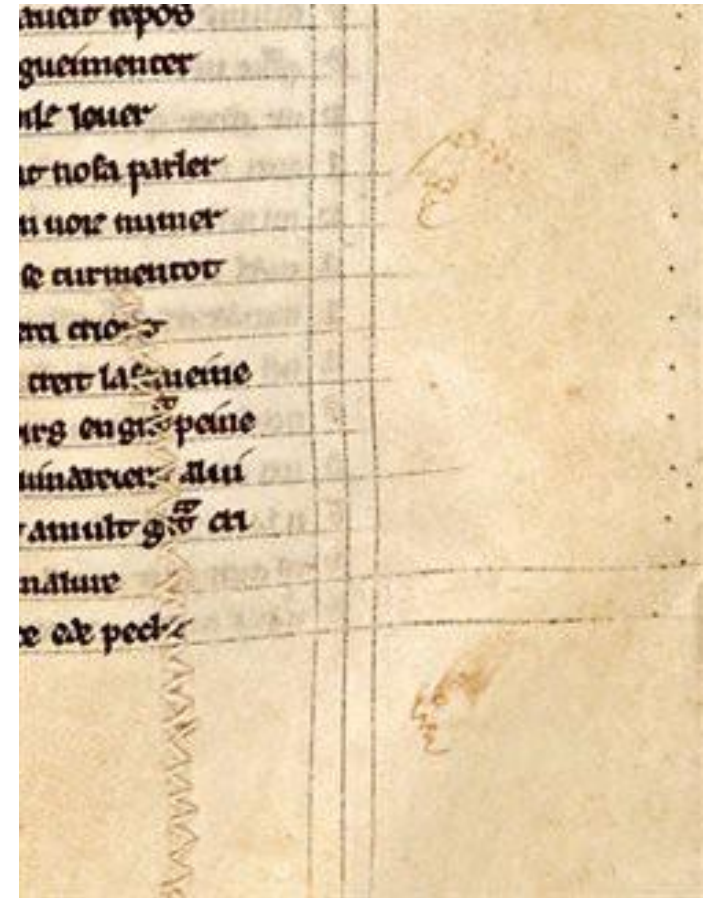




# The codex

Page layout (o *mise-en-page*):

- piercing the margins with the *punctorium*
- scratching or drawing guiding lines (optional)
- set-up of the page for written text, miniatures, and illustrations



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- support for binding

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The person in charge of producing parchment or vellum is called **parcamenarius**

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Despite its inferior quality if compared with papyrus, parchment was very expensive to produce.

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Re-use of parchment pages (*codex rescriptus*):

[Isidore, \*Etymologiae\* \(London, British Library MS Harley 3941\), IX sec. The text is written over Eusebius's \*Chronicles\* \(fol. 125v\)](#)

# The codex

Writing was done using the *calamus* (pointed cane) or the *penna* (quill), which were cut so that they had a pointed end and a flat surface.

The writing material affects the style. According to the way the scribe handles the pen (using the point or the flat part) the trait changes and so does the shape of the characters.



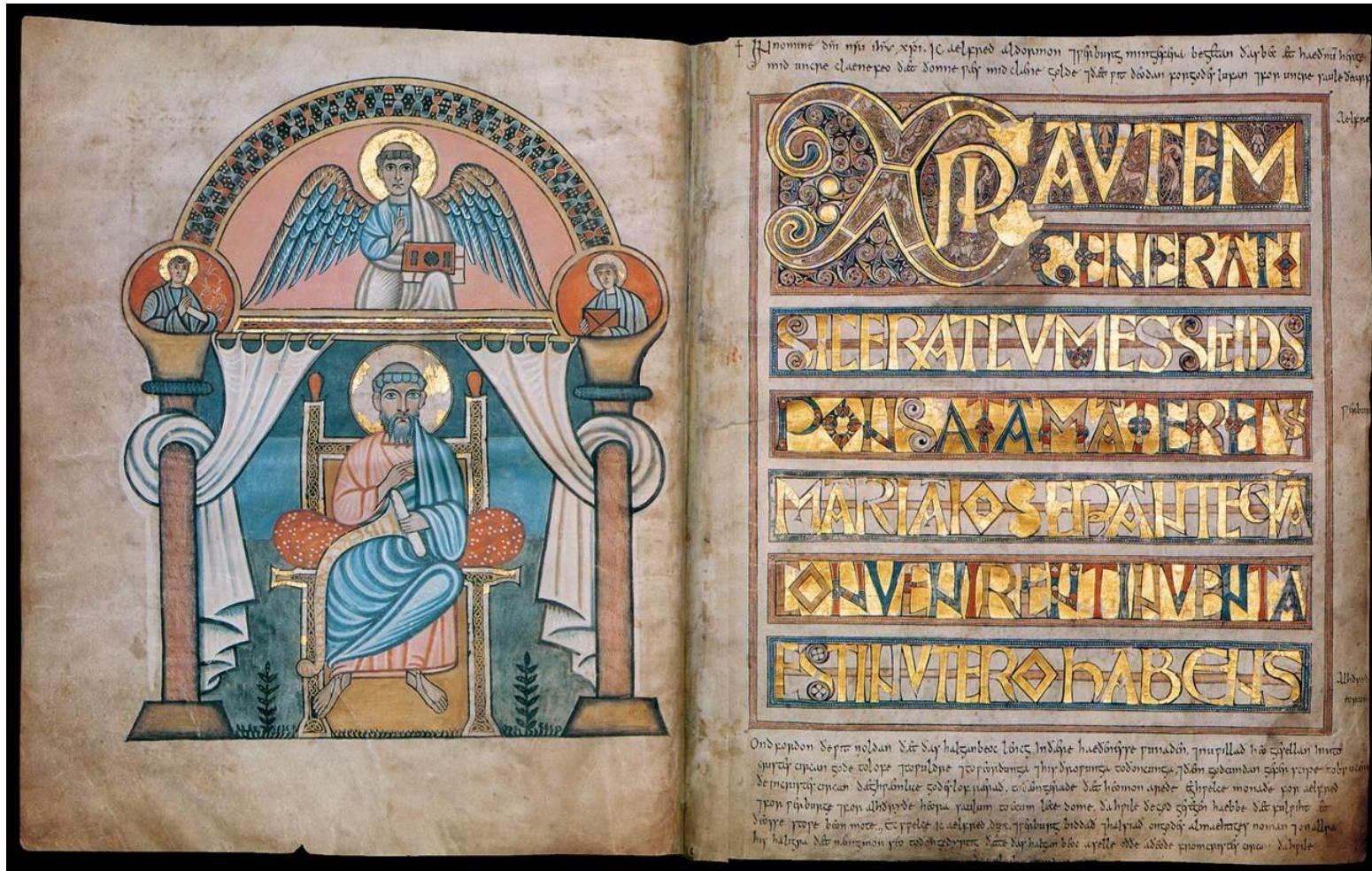
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Ink is also important, as it shows the preciousness of the manuscript.

# The codex



*Codex Aureus.*

Stockholm, Kungliga  
Biblioteket MS A. 135.

Outcome of Viking raids  
in England, it was  
produced in the 8th cent.  
probably in Canterbury.

The codex

**The Vercelli Book**

[Vercelli, Biblioteca Capitolare, MS CVII](#)