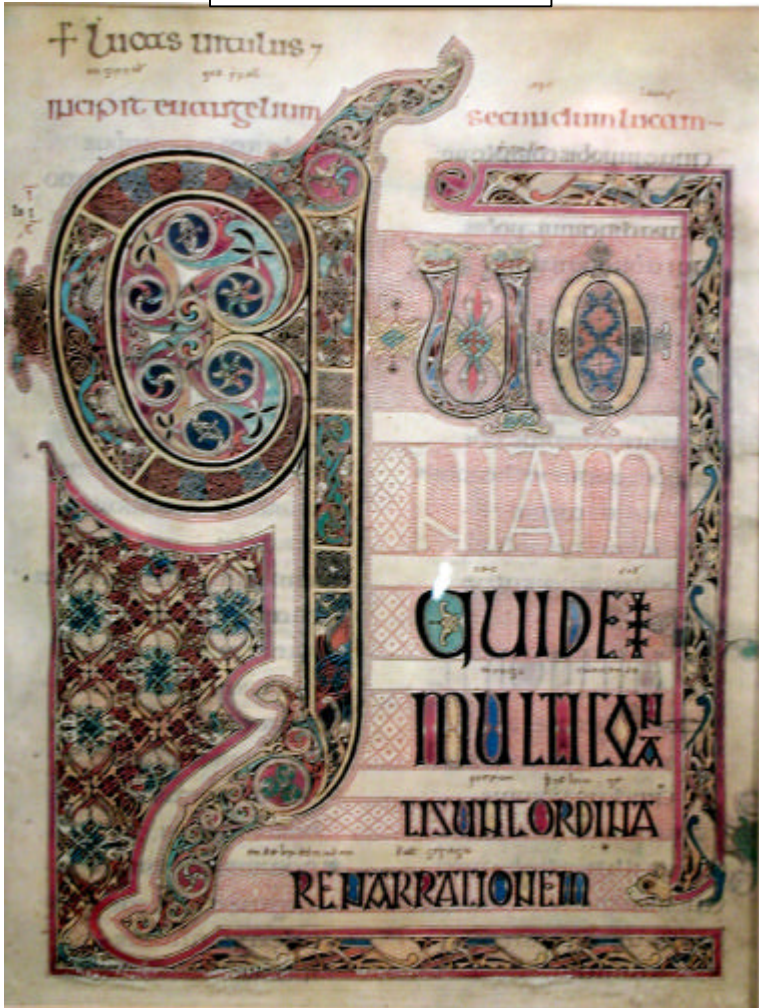


Lindisfarne Gospel



In the early Middle Ages Patrick of Ireland championed a great deal of missionary and cultural vitality. More than half of our biblical commentaries between 650 and 850 were written by Irishmen.

Irish monks fanned out throughout Europe establishing numerous monasteries thus laying foundations for several dozen of the most prominent cities on the continent (e.g. Liege, Trier, Würzburg, Regensburg, Salzburg, Vienna). The classical literature of the ancients was copied into Latin and as the need arose into Arabic and preserved for the future by these devout monks.

The knowledge preserved by Christian monastics helped to influence both intellectual and technological advances. The museum displays models of

mechanical clocks, water mills, windmills, and documents showing the use of iron bars and chains embedded in concrete for architecture. Also exhibited water-powered trip-hammers and the first real blast furnace. Thus, the marvellous and monstrous apparatus of Western Technology has its roots in the dark Middle Ages.

Chartres Cathedral

