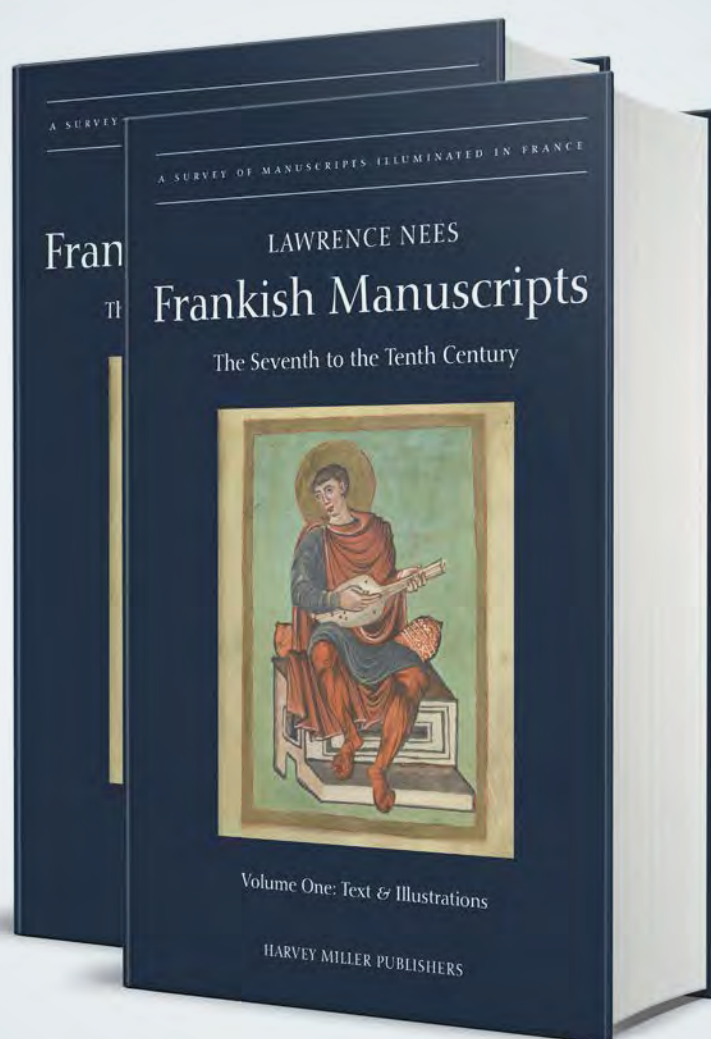


A SURVEY OF MANUSCRIPTS ILLUMINATED IN FRANCE, VOL. 2

# Frankish Manuscripts

The Seventh to the Tenth Century

By Lawrence Nees



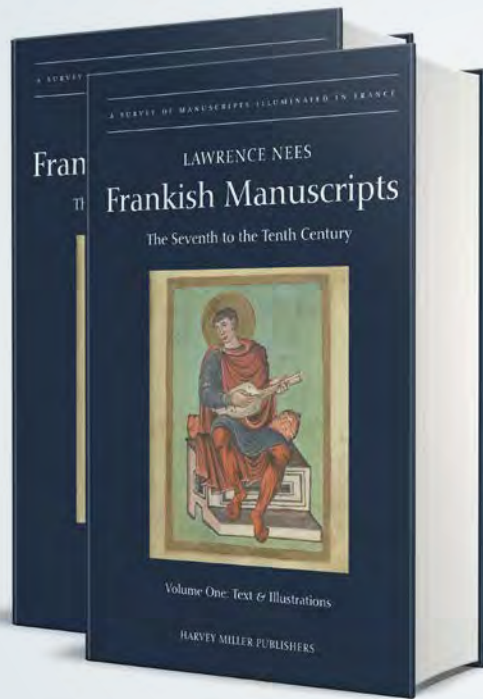
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### VOLUME 1 Text & Illustrations

### VOLUME 2 Catalogue

2 vols, 712 p., 29 b/w ills, 302 col. ills, 230 x 330 mm, 2022,  
ISBN 978-1-872501-25-3  
Hardback: € 295 / £251.00 / \$384.00 excl. VAT & shipping costs

*Frankish Manuscripts* covers the earliest period in this series devoted to manuscripts illuminated in France. The two volumes explore those manuscripts that originate in the period before the kingdom of France emerged at the end of the tenth century. From the seventh to the tenth century most of modern France was ruled by kings of the Franks, from dynasties known as Merovingian and Carolingian, whose territories also included significant portions of other modern nations, especially the Low Countries, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

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manuscripts, decorated with luxury materials and exceptionally beautiful script, ornament and illustrations. In the spirit of a survey intended to show the range of Frankish illumination, it also includes manuscripts of ancient and contemporary poems, scientific works, commentaries, a cookbook, and one manuscript in a vernacular language. Together, these two volumes provide **the most comprehensive survey of manuscript illumination in Francia**, its large corpus of illustrations making the manuscripts more readily available for study not only by scholars of illumination but also by others interested in early medieval culture.

*Lawrence Nees is Professor in the Department of Art History and H. Fletcher Brown Chair of Humanities at the University of Delaware. He is a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.*



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FRANKISH MANUSCRIPTS - THE SEVENTH TO THE TENTH CENTURY

Map of Writing Centres and Sites Mentioned



8

1  
Ivrea, Biblioteca Capitolare, cod. I

Gregory, *Regula Pastoralis*  
215 × 142 mm, ff. 145 (double folio), correctly at  
bottom of page in pencil, and other numbers in  
ink at top (ending in 145)

c.580, probably Lancel

Ils. 3-4

REINFORCEMENT: Modern leather, restored in 1913

COLLATION: Quaternions almost throughout, for 80  
of eighth-century parchment, numbered with Roman  
numerals in bottom corner margin. The first quatern  
only three leaves, with the framed decorative pages.

TEXT DECORATION: These full-page decorative pages  
at the beginning and end of the text block at the end.  
Many initials somewhat enlarged, four containing  
more elaborate ornamental elaboration.

1.1v Cross under arch on column. Columns pale pink  
shaded dark blue-grey, pink yellow and green. Columns  
shaded solid pink at left and blue at right, with ornate  
marginal leaves and horizontal-shaped capitals. Arch  
has a pink vine with green leaves set against yellow.  
Cross with yellow background, divided into many pro-  
blems by green bands, between which are pink floral  
forms. Long lower section ending in a narrow cross.  
The other terminals in the same shape. At the centre  
of the cross a medallion containing a smaller equal-  
armed cross.

1.1v (IIA) Acrostic poem under a gable on columns,  
the initials solid pink at left and blue at right, as on the  
rest of the leaf, arranged so that they overlap each  
other in the gable's head-and-steeple pattern, in the  
head a single vine. In the pediment two long-tailed  
birds with purple in their mouths feed a heron-like  
arch on columns. The poem is made of two square  
blocks, the upper reading *REVERENDISSIMO ABBI* and  
the lower *VITAT DEO*, written in alternating red and  
green rustic capital letters.

1.2v (IIA) The text for the chapter list under a gable, the  
ornament roughly matching that on the facing verso.  
The gable has rows of fly-like leaves, and the lower  
a tree pattern. Again long-tailed birds in the gable  
flank an empty heron-like arch on columns. A pair  
of much larger long-tailed birds sleep the gable, also  
with purple in their mouths, with heads against the  
verticals of a green v-shaped acorn-like ornament. The inscrip-  
tion in large ornate capitals alternating lines in red

and green, the last but has the G of Gregory in di-  
amond-shaped form with a smaller diamond set at its  
centre.

1.2v Large five initial N for the beginning of the chap-  
ter list, with spiral upper left tail, and the diagonal  
stem a twist pattern in pink, yellow and green.

1.3v Explicit for the chapter list in large ornate cap-  
itals, the text, but without a frame.

1.4v Initial P for the main text stretches the entire  
length of the page, with the text block, in yellow  
and green. The head is formed of two birds with their  
heads meeting, with within a complex down-bow.

1.5v (IIA) Initial A for the opening of the second  
book of the text, in red, green and purple, with head  
for the left descender and the right longer stroke har-  
ing great neck and perhaps suggesting a fish. Double  
spiral arch at the upper terminal from which 'mouths'  
hang a series of other spiral arch shapes.

1.7v Initial A in red, the descender a diamond-like  
within which is set a smaller diamond and from its  
ends descend another sequence of wavy-like spirals.

1.8v Explicit in decorative capitals set in unceremon-  
ious frame.

SCRIPT: Decorated and ornamented initials, large  
coloured capitals, unicals, and composed rustic  
minuscule of the type associated with Lancel and  
used consistently to make new texts and different  
types of text. Some 2000 lines in the work of these  
scribes.

COMMENTARY  
Made for a Bishop Desiderius according to the  
inscription in the form of two separate acro-  
stics, *DESIDERIUS PAPA / VITAT DEO*. A Bishop  
Desiderius of Ivrea assumed a period in Rome in  
870-80, and the book was most likely made for him,  
it could be a decade or two earlier or later than this.  
but unlikely to be outside the range 870-920. This  
is an exceptionally important manuscript, being the  
only richly-decorated book from the important early  
writing centre of Lancel to have a clear indication of  
its date, with the added information of its recipient.

1.1v (IIA) The text for the chapter list under a gable, the  
ornament roughly matching that on the facing verso.  
The gable has rows of fly-like leaves, and the lower  
a tree pattern. Again long-tailed birds in the gable  
flank an empty heron-like arch on columns. A pair  
of much larger long-tailed birds sleep the gable, also  
with purple in their mouths, with heads against the  
verticals of a green v-shaped acorn-like ornament. The inscrip-  
tion in large ornate capitals alternating lines in red

11

111. 72



72. Gospel, Canon table, Rome,  
Dachstein, MS c. 410 (ca. 20)

72-74. Gospel, Dedication page and Matthew  
Preface, Rome, Dachstein, MS c. 410 (ca. 20)



12

111. 122



122. Gospel of Saint Denis, back cover with ivory of Christ, Paris, BnF, MS lat. 9375 (ca. 40)

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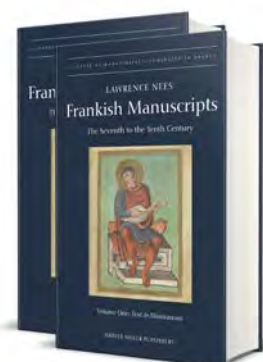
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