



Interpreting the Physical Features of the Faddan More Psalter

In July 2006 an early medieval manuscript was unearthed from a bog in Co. Tipperary in the centre of Ireland. The widely reported event was the start of ten years of research and conservation of what is now one of the National Museum of Ireland's top ten treasures. Dating from the late eighth century, the codex is an illuminated psalter, written in Latin, from the age of the great Irish illuminated manuscripts. Although in a poor state of preservation having been entombed in the saturated bog for over a millennium, many features of the original book have somehow survived.

One unexpected feature was the vegetable tanned leather cover, which seemed to draw stylistically from Near Eastern models for its form and is unknown to us in a Western context. This lecture will describe the material nature of the Psalter and some of the unique discoveries made along the way of what is the first Insular manuscript to be discovered in over two hundred years.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Time: 11 AM Pacific Time

Zoom Meeting

Link will be sent before the lecture

To register go to: <https://friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/calendar.html>

Scroll to *Faddan More Psalter*. The lecture is limited to 300 participants. Participants must have an electronic device: computer, tablet or phone, with camera & microphone. Only one log-on device per participant will be allowed.

This on-line Zoom lecture is FREE.

Dr. John Gillis is a Senior Manuscript Conservator and currently works in Trinity College Dublin at the Conservation Department. In 1988 he established and worked as Head of Conservation in the Delmas Conservation Bindery at Archbishop Marsh's Library, Dublin. John has been teaching book conservation techniques and theory in Italy for over twenty years. He lectures both at home and abroad and has been published in a number of journals and books. His major achievement to date has been the conservation of the Faddan More Psalter at the National Museum of Ireland Conservation Department over a four-and-a-half-year period, for which he won the Heritage Council of Ireland Conservation Award in 2010. He has recently completed a doctoral thesis focusing on codicological and historical aspects of the Faddan More Psalter, John has twice been a resident scholar in the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and has lectured widely in the United States while carrying out his research. He is currently working on a monograph detailing all aspects of the Faddan More Psalter, from art historical, codicological, palaeography and materiality.

