

MANUSCRIPTS CHALLENGE

Sponsored by the Holy Cross Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi and the Holy Cross Manuscripts, Inscriptions, and Documents Club

1. Choose one of the three available manuscripts to create a transcription. Each of the manuscripts are part of the so-called “Bamberg-Pliny Group,” which are all Carolingian manuscripts with very similar scripts.
2. Make a transcription of the designated portion, rendering on paper what your team believes to be the most accurate account of the text on that page. Feel free to mark missing or unclear text as such; you are not responsible for accurately transcribing unreadable text. You may consult, but not copy from, a published edition.
3. Translate the designated portion of the chosen manuscript into clear readable English while remaining faithful to the Latin. You may consult, but not copy from, a published translation.
4. Analyze the manuscript for unique qualities that would be difficult to reflect in a translation. These could include images on the page (“folio”), ambiguous text, the handwriting, section information, damage, accents and other grammatical marks, etc. The analysis is essential to a successful submission. Consider comparing your chosen manuscript with another from the Bamberg-Pliny group. Why do you think scholars grouped these manuscripts together?
5. Consider what your observations of the manuscript itself can tell us about the scribal process. Namely, what do you think your document can tell us about the literary culture of the Carolingian period? (you’re more than welcome to read up on this time period)
6. Studying these manuscripts can be challenging. Feel free to consult outside material, such as dictionaries, grammars, scholarly works, online databases, teachers, and editions and translations of the work for assistance in understanding your manuscript. Do not, however, copy published editions or translations in your submission. The work must be yours.
7. Send in your transcription, translation, observations, and conclusions in a single orderly PDF document with your school name and the names of the students participating. The deadline for submitting the Classics Day Manuscripts Challenge will be FRIDAY, MARCH 20th at 7:53 PM.
8. The top three finalists will be informed of their status roughly one week before Classics Day. The grand winners of the Manuscript Challenge will be announced during Classics Day and will present their findings. Presentations should be no more than 10 minutes long, and should cover your procedures, findings, observations and anything you struggled with while completing the challenge. Each of the top three teams **SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PRESENT** in the event that they are chosen.

Thank you for your interest in the Manuscript Challenge. Send submissions to the email ManuscriptsInscriptionsandDocumentsClub@g.holycross.edu with the subject line MANUSCRIPT CHALLENGE. Please feel free to send any questions or concerns you might have to that email address as well. The challenge is difficult, but we are more than willing help you in working through any problems. Good luck to all competitors!

THE MANUSCRIPTS

As a group of 3-5 students, pick one manuscript to work on and compare. It is worth looking at one or both of the other manuscripts to compare when working on your analysis section. All manuscripts are Carolingian manuscripts from the Bamberg-Pliny Group. All are from the 9th century and from the library of Louis the Pious.

1.) Bamberg, Stattsbibliothek, Patr. 113 (B.IV.27), Origen *Peri archon*, interprete Rufino:
<https://www.bavarikon.de/object/bav:SBB-KHB-00000SBB00000172>

A beautiful Carolingian manuscript of Rufinus' translation of Origen's *Peri archon* (*De principiis*). It is an extremely important theological treatise in the Christian tradition and despite being originally written in Greek, mostly survives through this translation. Since antiquity, scholars have argued over the faithfulness of Rufinus' translation to the original.

Transcribe and translate folio 3 verso (page 10 in viewer) from *Omnes* (with the large *o* under the red title) to *ait* (end of first paragraph)

2.) Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Laud. misc. 105, (Ps.-)Cyprianus Carthaginiensis: *Tractatus et epistulae*: https://bibliotheca-laureshamensis-digital.de/view/bodleian_mslaudmisc105

St. Cyprian was an influential early Christian martyr, bishop, and writer. The section you will transcribe is from *Ad Donatum*, his first work. The passage in particular describes the vices of gladiatorial contests.

Transcribe and translate folio 2 verso from *iam si* (13 lines from the top, middle of the line) to *praetiosa*.

3.) Munich Bayerische Staatsbibliothek CLM 3824, Augustine *De doctrina Christiana* and *De Genesi contra Machianos*: <https://daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/0011/bsb00114379/images/index.html?seite=00001&l=en>

This manuscript contains one of St. Augustine's most important theological treatises, *De doctrina Christiana*. The work deals with scriptural interpretation. While the digitized manuscript is in black and white it is still highly legible.

Transcribe and translate folio 3 verso (Page 8) from *Duae sunt* to *gaudeamus* (next folio)