

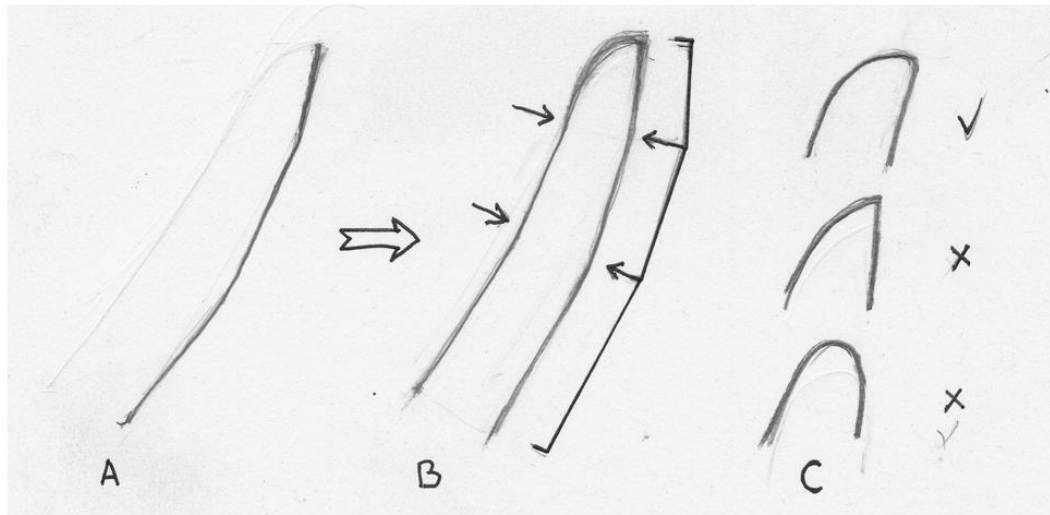
Day 4, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Icon Diploma notes: Tutor Aidan Hart.

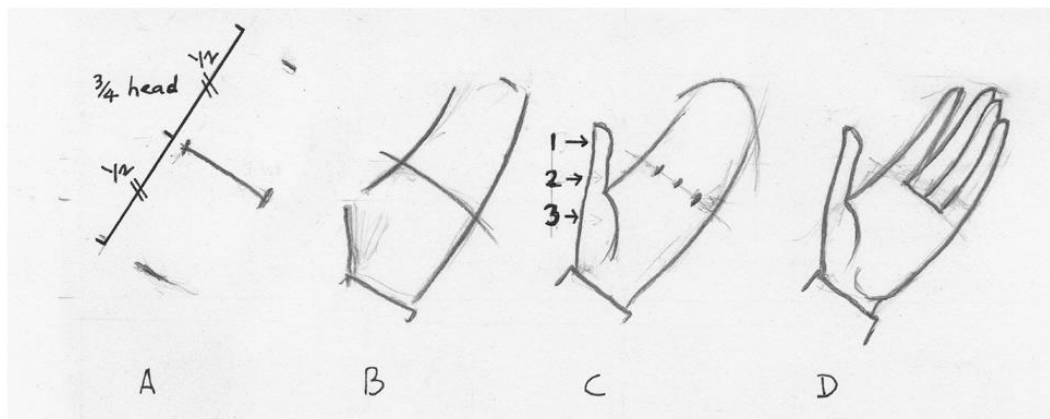
Greetings from Aidan on our return reminding us that 'this is a marathon, not a sprint!'

### Proportions of Hands

The hands must be drawn in proportion to the head, at three quarters of the head size from wrist to tip. The body proportions must be established first.



finger drawing.jpg



hand proportions.jpg

When drawing a bust, establish the position of the halo in relation to the top of the board. The width of the head is approximately the radius of the halo. When you have established the rough position of the top of the head, then divide the rest of the icon board below into three equal parts. The top third then becomes your head height. Reassess the icon you are painting and make any adjustments to the overall position now.

Once you have the head height established, then three quarters length gives you the length of the hands. Note that icon hands are not elongated overall, but the fingers are. The thinness and verticality indicates stretching between heaven and earth. When hands are shown upwards, they are raised in prayer to heaven.

Half the length of the hand gives you the width.

Note that the fingers taper and sometimes overlap. Note the position of joints so they relate and diminish.

The overall shape of the fingertip profile at the top of the hand is that of a parabolic curve

The joints should be blended, not naturalistic and angular. Male hands have more distinct joints, females more blended. Note the position of the joints that they correspond inside to outside of the finger.

The top of the hand should be divided into four for the fingers.

Thumb length is just past half way.

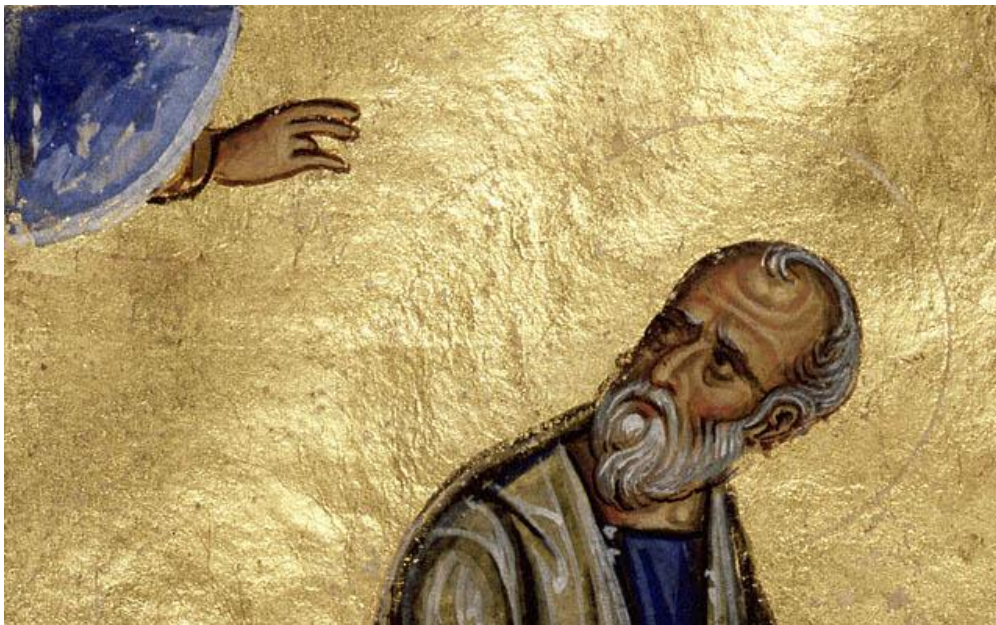
The extremities of the body are more expressive. Curves should be gradual, fingernails subtle.

Note concavities. Train your eyes to always look twice. Note whether lines are concave or convex.

When drawing a hand grasping an object, allow for the thickness of the fingers to go around the object. If there is obvious movement in the joints, such as when holding something, then the joints are expressed.

Look at old illuminated manuscripts for other examples, such as Ottoman, Romanesque/Carolingian

### **OTTOMAN EXAMPLES: (Approx date range between 1300-1900)**



<http://www.counter-currents.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/scribe.jpg>



<http://historicconnections.webs.com/manuscripts.htm> St Paul Papyrus P46 Ottoman

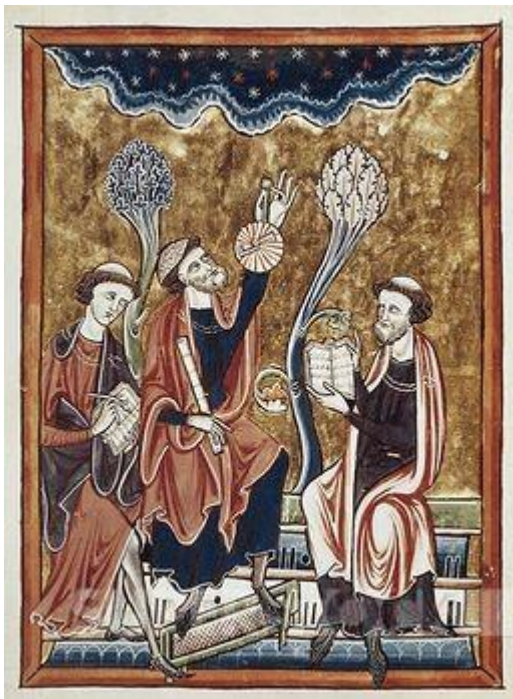


Paraphrastic Gospels <http://www.jerusalemerspective.com/tag/synoptic-problem/>





<http://www.superstock.com> SACRAMENTO DE SIRACUSA-VIRGEN BIZANTINA CON NIÑO- MINIATURA ROMANICA-. Location: BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL-COLECCION, MADRID, SPAIN. | Stock Photo #4409-6513



Prophets <http://www.superstock.com> Byzantine Text Manuscripts | Stock Photo #2102-1376

<http://www.superstock.com> Psalter of Saint Louis and of Blanca de Castilla. beg. 13th c. Fol. 1v. The astronome with an astrolabe and the mathematician establishing the liturgical year calendar. Late Byzantine art. Miniature Painting. FRANCE. ÆLE-DE-FRANCE. Paris. National Library. | Stock Photo #4435-2510

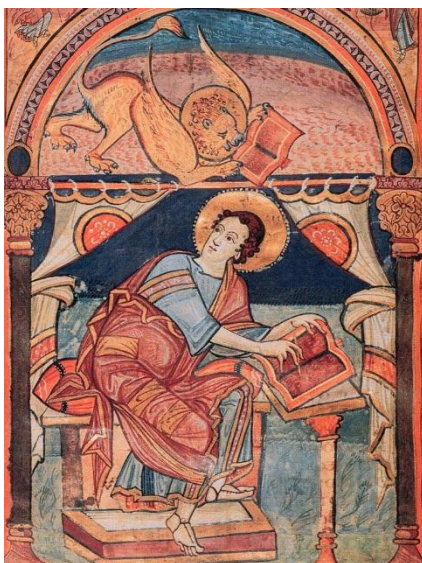
## CAROLINGIAN EXAMPLES

Carolingian Renaissance 750 - 850

Occurring during the late eighth and ninth century, the Carolingian Empire went through a cultural revival with the arts, literature, architecture, and music. During this time, works of ancient Greeks were copied into manuscripts with a new and clearer handwriting called Caroline minuscule.



Charlemagne felt that art should be representational rather than abstract and should educate as well as decorate. Many intellectuals were brought to Royal Court to educate and pursue educational reform.

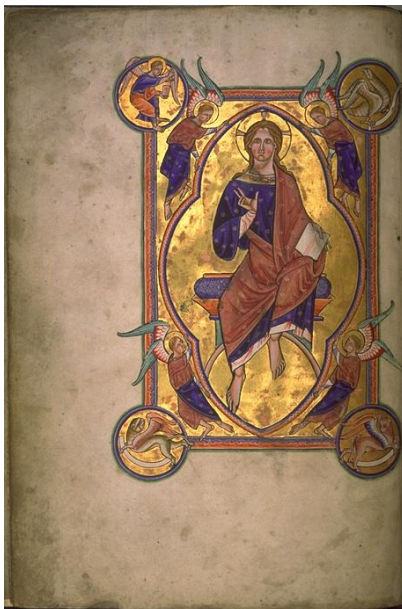




As a product of the Carolingian Renaissance, Carolingian Art is a mix between Mediterranean and Northern European influences. This art was designed to be representational and educate while decorating a home. Carolingian Art brought together Northern Europe and Mediterranean style of art.



## ROMANESQUE EXAMPLES (approx 6-12<sup>th</sup> C)



Folio 4 verso of the [Aberdeen Bestiary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AberdeenBestiaryFolio004vChristInMajesty.jpg). The illumination shows the Christ in Majesty.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AberdeenBestiaryFolio004vChristInMajesty.jpg>

A manuscript illumination 'Letter A' from the Winchester Bible.

<http://abqannieeverydayculture.blogspot.co.uk>



Historiated initial R from the frontispiece of a 12th-century manuscript of St. Gregory's Moralia in Job, Dijon, Bibl. Municipale, MS 2 <http://ladaria.livejournal.com>