



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

The Book of Kells

Iconography

The 'vocabulary' of the illustrations

The Loyola Institute
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Iconographic Elements

▶ Lozenge

▶ Fish

▶ Lion

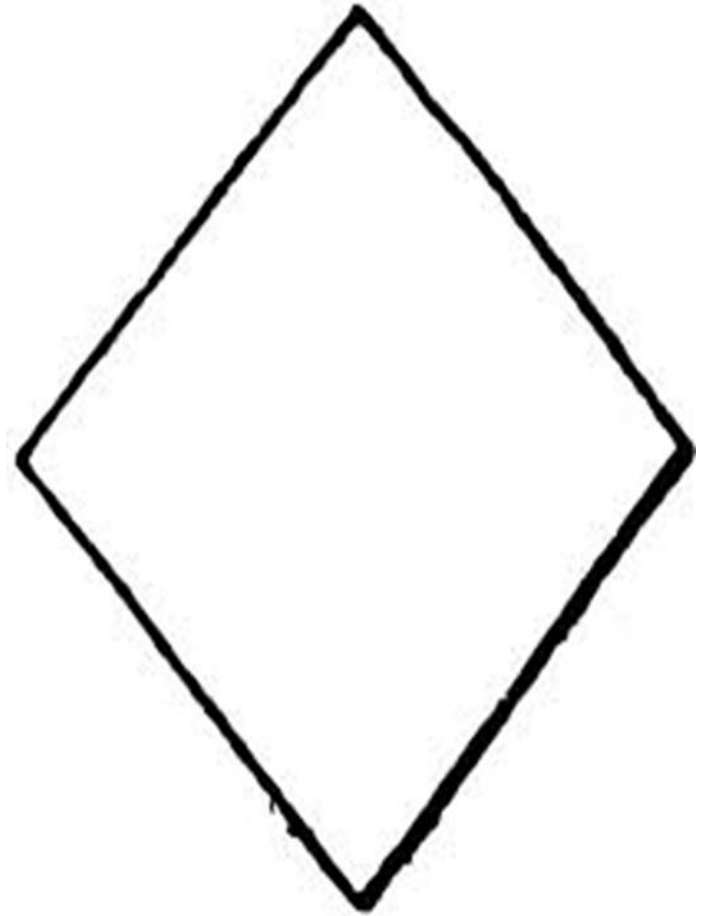
▶ Peacock

▶ Snake

▶ Flabellum

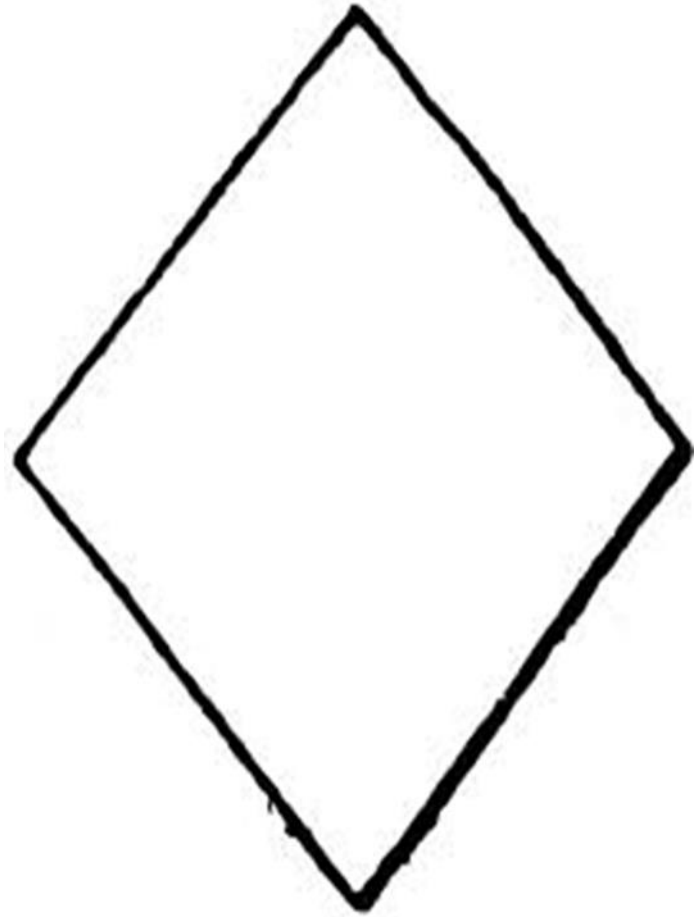
'Lozenge'

- One of the most important elements of iconography in the Book of Kells



'Lozenge'

- A multi-valent symbol



Lozenge/Diamond

- A cosmic symbol
- Four corners of the world
- A flat earth image

Moone High Cross



moone high cross, moone, co.kildare
10th century a.d.

52°58'45.95" n 6°49'30.73" w elev 93m

Lozenge

- Represented Christ
- A visual Image that personifies the Word





Lion with breath emphasised

- Folio 72v
- A lion drawn with life giving breath emerging from it's mouth



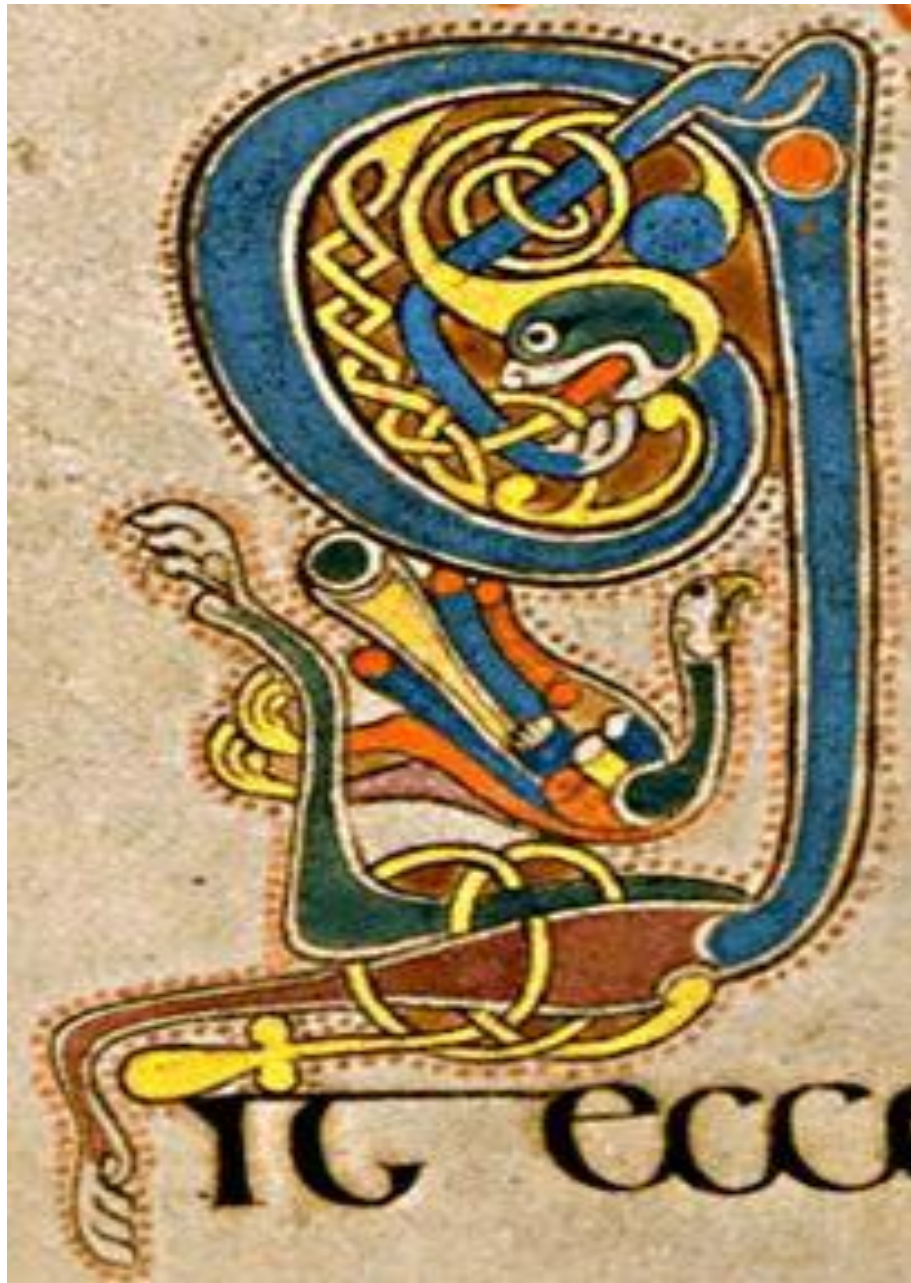
Lions: Symbolic Meaning



Isidore of Seville







Peacock

Symbol of Immortality

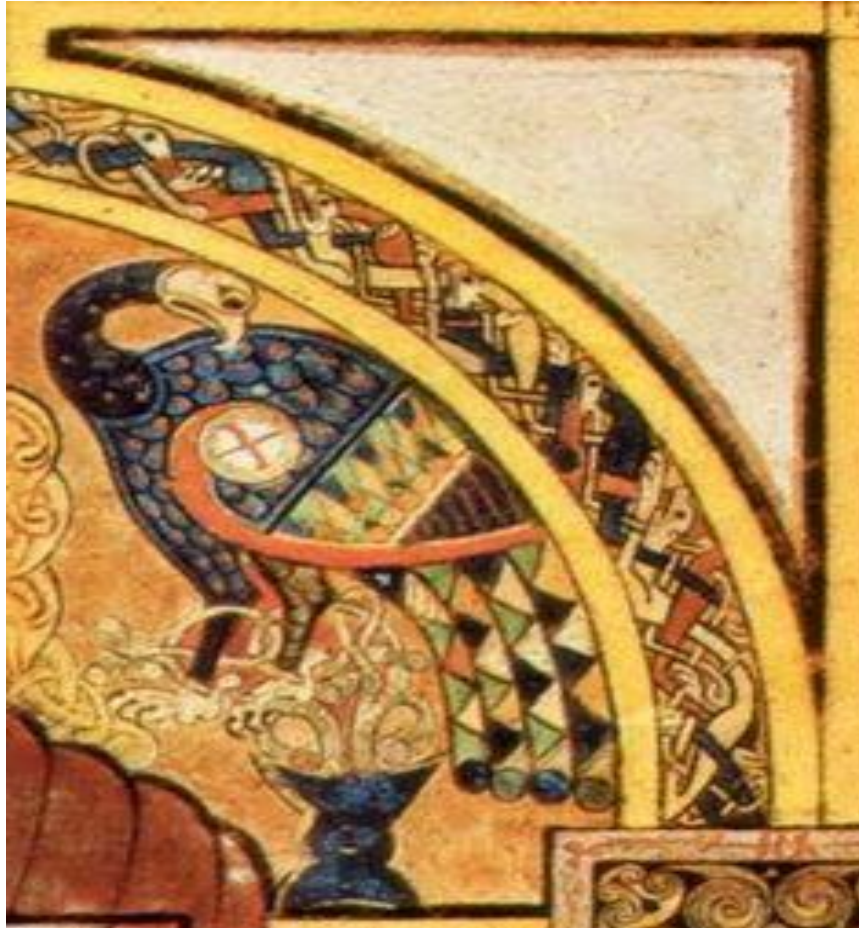




St. Augustine, The City of God

- “For who but God the Creator of all things has given to the flesh of the peacock its antiseptic property? ... And after it had been laid by for thirty days and more, it was still in the same state; and a year after, the same still, except that it was a little more shrivelled, and drier.” (Book 21, chapter 4):

Peacocks



Snakes



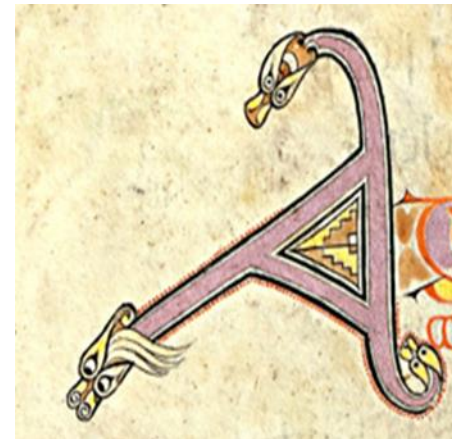
- Symbol of evil
- Genesis 3

Snakes

- Symbol of life renewed
- Skin

- Multivalent symbol

Folio 26r



Flabellum



Flabellum

- A liturgical instrument
- Waved before the iconostasis during the Eucharist in the divine liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church



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Fish





Ichthus

- These are the first letters of the **Greek** words *Iesous* (Iota), *Christos* (Chi), *Theou* (Theta), *Uios* (Upsilon), and *Sotor* (Sigma).
 - **I c h t h u s**
 - Christogram



Ichthus

- *Iesous Christos Theou Uios Sotor*
- The five Greek words stand for the English words meaning, "**Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour**" or "**Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour**".

Fish



Folio: 112r, initial letter T
with fish

Page (Folio): 120v





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Thank You

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