

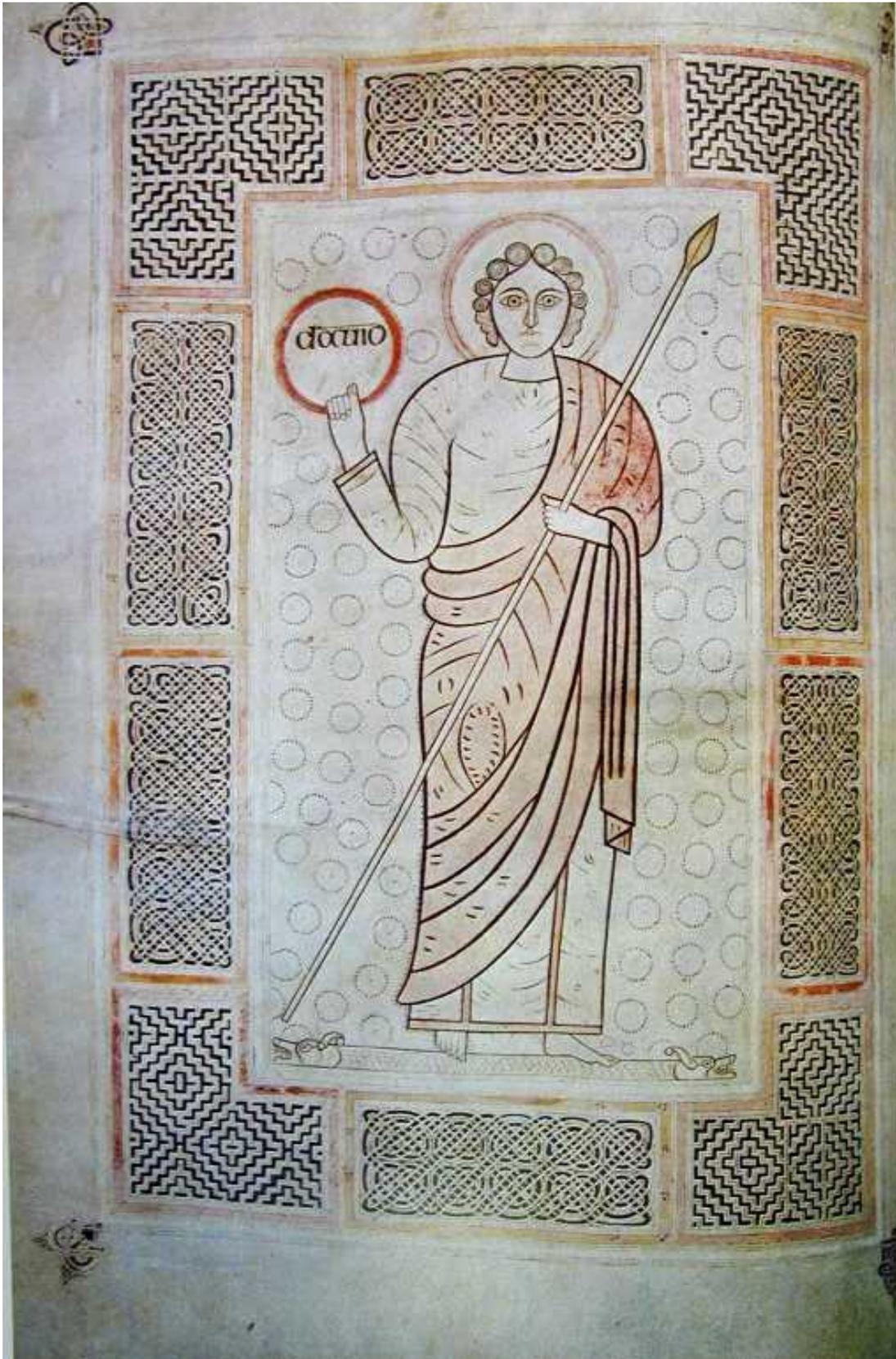
The Hilton of Cadboll Stone, ca. 800, Scotland



The Ardagh Chalice, ca. 700. National Museum of Ireland



The Durham Cassiodorus. Durham Cathedral Library, MS B.II.30. 8th century.



Gallarus Oratory, Kerry. Ca. 600-700.





Tara Brooch, ca. 700. National Museum of Ireland



fruct' spectet utiq. T Attendo quide qd ex collatione dissimilitu sa  
nis intellectib' magnu posueris in certaminu' qd' qd' p' spicu' oculis  
inuentu' speculu. S. adhuc quis ydone? Quid antiq' colubro  
forti' in malicia astutia quid subtili? cui fure' p'scripte copen  
dent. q's omis uincere. eoz e' p'cipue. q's armat ser' uiril' mens  
subnra sapientie. ¶ An ignorat ut omittit milia feminarum  
sub lege t sub gra. uires hostias circuantu' qd uidit in oloferne  
que dice' possum' totu' infernu' q'si q' nihil supnu' habeat. quid  
iabel in sisara. madianitaru' p'ncipe fecerunt. que ualentia  
ser' infirmoris nihil aliud e' n' qd' humilitas semp' p'ualer  
supbie in quaciq. scoz p'fessione.



**Anonymous, *The three drinking-horns of Cormac úa Cuinn***

Once upon a time, the high king Aed Oridnide, son of Niall son of Feargal son of Maelduin, went to establish order in the province of Connacht. As he travelled he crossed the river Eas Ruaid, and when he did so he lost his drinking-horns in the river. Aed travelled on to Corca Tri, where he stayed at the house of the king of Corca Tri.

Aed ate a meal on Sunday night with the king, but though he ate he drank not a drop, for he had no drinking-horn. Aed's way was, that he never drank a drop from any other vessel since he was weaned from his mother, save only from a horn. This was a great grief for the king of Corca Tri, who was honour bound that all his guests be housed, and their hunger abated, and their thirst slaked. But Aed would not sleep, and he would not drink.

And in the morning, the wife of the king of Corca Tri said to him, "Go to see Guaire son of Colmain, for he might have a horn that he would give to you out of hospitality."

So Angal, king of Corca Tri, stepped out from his fort, and his right foot stumbled, so that a stone fell from its place in the wall of the fort. And this stone covered the mouth of a flue where were hidden the three horns that were best on the whole island: the Twisted Horn, the Sea Monster, and the Eel. These were the three horns that had been brought over the sea by Cormac úa Cuinn, and hidden after his death, and not found again until the time of the saints and of Aed Oridnide son of Niall.

And Angal of Corca Tri offered thanks to God, and took away the horns with him, and filled them with mead. He put them in the hands of Aed Oridnide, who gave thanks to God also, and drank deep.