



From Holy Island to Durham

The Contexts and Meanings of The Lindisfarne Gospels

Richard Gameson

ISBN	9781908990273
Publisher	Profile Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	8.59 in x 9.99 in
Pages	160 Pages
Price	\$39.50

- The publishers have been afforded rare access to the Lindisfarne Gospels by the British Library to enable superb color reproduction on images of all of the illuminated folios from the manuscript
- This publication, which has been commissioned in conjunction with a special exhibition of the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham, brings their remarkable story and beauty fully to life
- The volume is published to the highest standards of international fine art publishing

The Lindisfarne Gospels contains a strikingly pure Latin text of the four New Testament Gospels. It was produced at Lindisfarne to the highest standards of the age, using the finest available materials and with illuminations of exquisite artistry. It is, moreover, preserved in near-pristine condition, a circumstance that is all the more remarkable given the Lindisfarne Gospels' eventful early history. The author examines the spirituality and culture of the community on Holy Island that created the Lindisfarne Gospels around the year 700. He recounts the challenges that the community faced in response to Viking raids and persecutions from the late eighth century, and the epic story of the community's 200 years of peregrination in the North of England, via a long sojourn at Chester-le-Street, until it eventually settled in Durham as a permanent home in the late tenth century.

Contents:

THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS: WHAT WE KNOW AND HOW WE KNOW IT – The Lindisfarne Gospels: a Summary Description

ON LINDISFARNE – The Gospel Text; Script; Decorated Initials; Carpet Pages; Evangelist Portraits; Ornament; Summary; Context and Meanings

AT CHESTER-LE-STREET – Aldred's Old English Gloss on the Gospels; Aldred's Colophons to the Lindisfarne Gospels; Aldred's Work on Proverbs; Aldred and the Transformation of an Office Book; Why did Aldred Gloss the Lindisfarne Gospels?

IN DURHAM – The Last Days of the Community of St Cuthbert; The Beginnings of Durham Cathedral Priory

AFTERMATH AND ASSESSMENT – From Durham to London; Some Broader Perspectives; Envoi

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The book is written by Professor Richard Gameson of Durham University - the UK's leading expert on early medieval manuscripts and illumination.