

0. THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS - Story Preface

1. WHY FREE EXPRESSION?

2. FREE EXPRESSION IN BOOKS

3. THE DIAMOND SUTRA

4. THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

5. THE PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS

6. JOHN WYCLIFFE'S BOOKS

7. JOHN HUS BURNS

8. TYNDALE WRITES, THEN BURNS

9. LUTHER'S TRANSLATIONS ARE BURNED

10. THE PRINTING PRESS

11. BOOKS BURN IN THE NEW WORLD

12. CENSORSHIP CONTINUES

13. BURNING CONTINUES

14. CHERISHED RIGHTS

15. MORE COOL LINKS

Folio 27r of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Depicted here is the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

Today we can examine the work of one monk, Eadrith (later the Bishop of Lindisfarne), who produced a stunning example of book painting that is even older than the *Diamond Sutra*.

Although the manuscript is undated, *The Lindisfarne Gospels* were likely copied and illustrated by Eadrith while he was still a monk at Lindisfarne Priory, on Holy Island (off the English Northumberland coast). Nothing remains of the original monastery.

Since Eadrith became Bishop in 698 AD—the date scholars typically use for the manuscript—St. Bilfrid bound the manuscript and added precious gems and metalwork to its binding.

Currently owned by the British Library, the Lindisfarne Gospels contain notes from a priest, Aldred, who also inserted a word-for-word Anglo-Saxon translation in the spaces between the lines of Latin text. Those insertions were probably made between 950 and 970 AD.

In the meantime, the monks had fled looting Vikings who, according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, invaded the area (be sure to activate "fly" to "view" this virtual-tour animation) during January of 793. The monks took with them their most important treasures: the Cross of St. Cuthbert (which was made on Holy Island) and their "books" (the Lindisfarne Gospels).

The Gospels had no ordinary journey on that trip. While fleeing the Viking invaders, the monks—and their books—were shipwrecked in the Irish Sea.

Later, the foot-high Lindisfarne Gospels washed ashore and were taken to Durham where monks continued to produce other precious manuscripts.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-LINDISFARNE-GOSPELS-Book-Burning-and-Censorship)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-LINDISFARNE-GOSPELS-Book-Burning-and-Censorship>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-LINDISFARNE-GOSPELS-Book-Burning-and-Censors)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-LINDISFARNE-GOSPELS-Book-Burning-and-Censors>



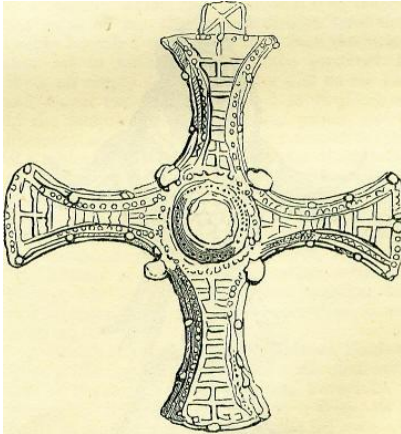
Cross of St. Cuthbert

Image online, courtesy Penn State University.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cross-of-St.-Cuthbert->



Drawing of the Cross of St. Cuthbert

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Drawing-of-the-Cross-of-St.-Cuthbert>