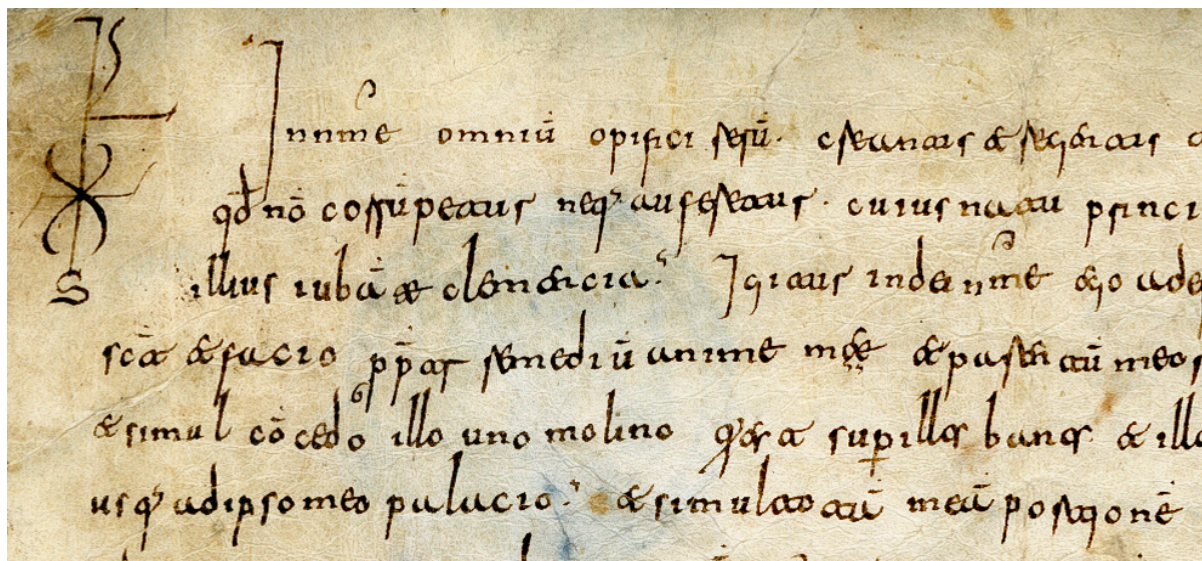


## Deciphering Secrets Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)



### 11<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish

#### Manuscript Archivo Municipal de Burgos (Spain). Manuscript SJ-1/1

#### Paleography Manual V3.0

Dr. Roger L. Martínez-Dávila  
University of Colorado  
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

6 April 2018



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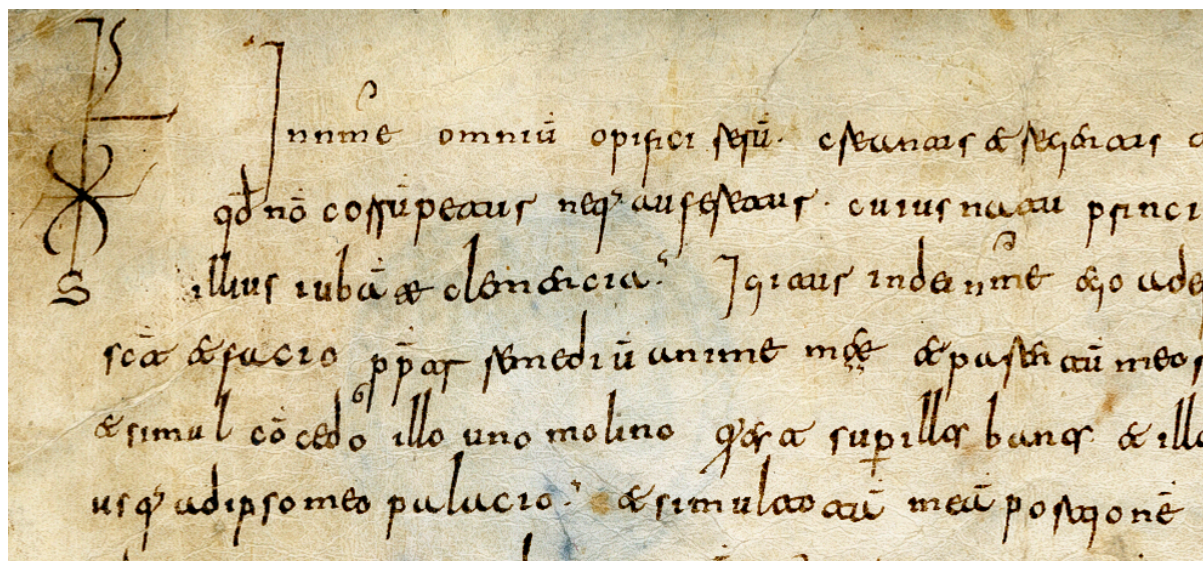
This project has received funding from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement n° 600371, el Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (COFUND2013-51509) and Banco Santander. The University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and the University of Colorado System have provided supplemental funding.

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## Paleography: A Script from the 11th Century

### What is Paleography?



Source: Archivo Municipal de Burgos, SJ-1/1. Used with permission.

Merriam-Webster dictionary offers two useful definitions of the term, "[paleography](#)". The two definitions of this noun are:

- the study of ancient writings and inscriptions and
- an ancient manner of writing; ancient writings.

We can then appreciate that the term is both (1) the academic investigation of older forms of handwriting as well as (2) the actual handwriting itself. For our purposes, we will use the term "paleography" to describe the process of interpreting and recognizing letters and numbers in our primary sources (the manuscripts).

As a historian of medieval Europe, my approach to paleography is one focused on the pragmatic use of techniques to read the text. While I appreciate the beauty and details of the calligraphy, in general, I view paleography as a tool.

We begin our study of medieval Spanish (and Latin) handwriting with a manuscript held by the Archivo Municipal de Burgos (Spain) and is catalogued as SJ-1/1.<sup>1</sup> This manuscript is a royal donation of properties to a monastery and is dated 3 November 1091. In the document, Castilian King Alfonso VI concedes valuable resources (a grazing reserve, a mill, and a communal oven) to the Monastery of San Roberto de Casa Dei, which was located in the vicinity of the city of Burgos.

Historians are often interested in these types of documents because they can reveal:

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<sup>1</sup> The manuscript that is included in this manual was reproduced with the permission of the Archivo Municipal de Burgos (Spain).

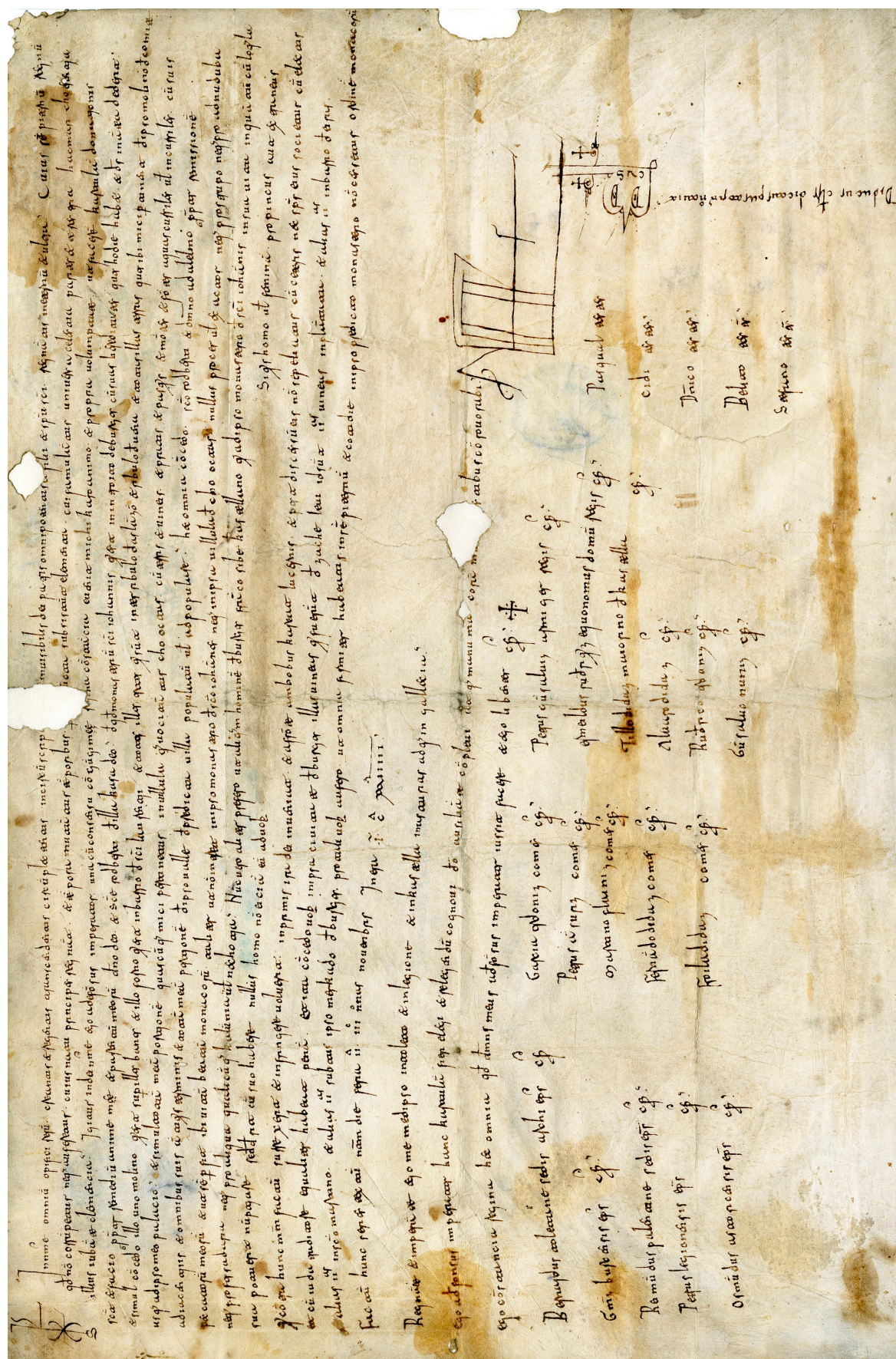
- political relationships between institutions and persons,
- economic relationships that held communities together,
- the natural and manmade resources that were available, and
- many other sorts of religious and cultural norms and patterns.

In the case of this manuscript, it is intriguing because it demonstrates how Castilian kings patronized religious institutions with the donations of income-generating properties. For example, a grazing reserve of land could be used to tend to animals. Mills and ovens were often communal resources that charged users for their services (in-kind and monetary payments).

This manuscript is written in Visigothic script.

On the following page is an image of the manuscript.








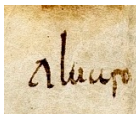
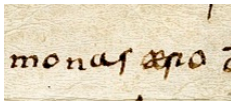
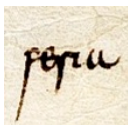


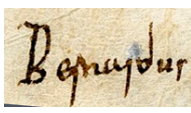
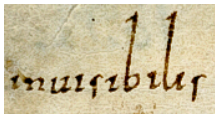

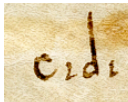




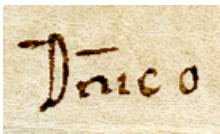
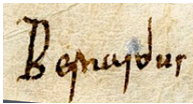


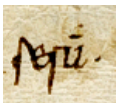
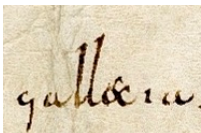

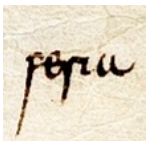
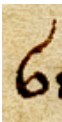

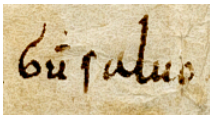
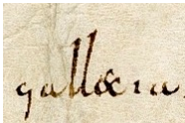

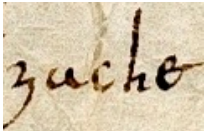
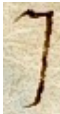

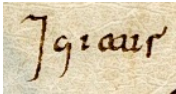
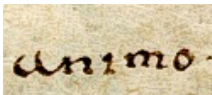
## 11<sup>th</sup> Century Letters (Consonants and Vowels)


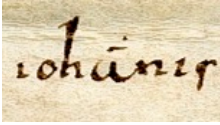

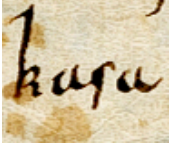

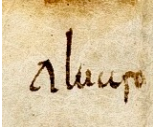

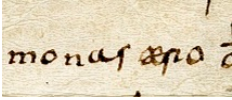

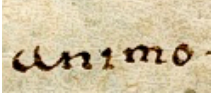

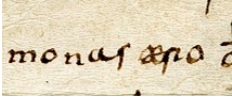


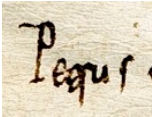
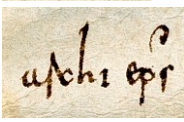
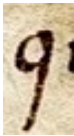
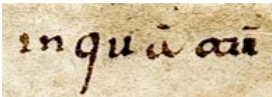
Let us now familiarize ourselves with the alphabet. Please review this sample of letters so that you can begin to learn some of the peculiarities of the script. Lowercase letters are used the most often as opposed to uppercase letters. We will concentrate on lowercase letters at this time but show you some of the uppercase letters.

This paleographic sample alphabet, list of numerals, and abbreviations is based a manuscript held by the Archivo Municipal de Burgos (Spain) and is catalogued as SJ-1/1.

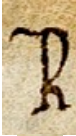


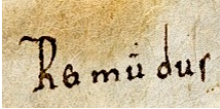
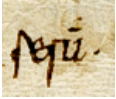


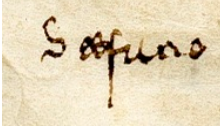
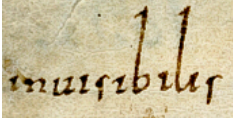

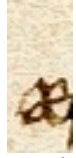

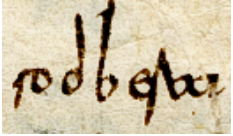
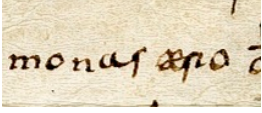
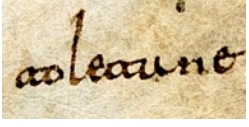

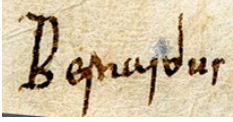
Not all letters and numerals are found in this document, thus missing lowercase items are supplemented with ones from Muñoz y Rivero, Jesus. *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*. Madrid: Tipolit L. Faure, 1917. (This text is in the public domain.)


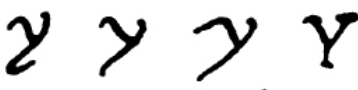

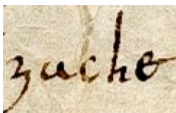
Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word Note: An asterisk denotes an abbreviation.
A a	  	 Aluaro  monasterio  feria
B b	 	 Bernardus  invisibilis
c		 Cidi

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word Note: An asterisk denotes an abbreviation.
D d	 	 Dn*ico or Dominico  Bernardus
e	“e”  “e” connected with “c” 	 reru* or rerum  gallecia
f		 feria
G g	 	 Gu*saluo or Gunsalvo  gallecia
h		 Zache
I i	 	 Igitur  animo

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word Note: An asterisk denotes an abbreviation.
j	“j” and “i” are synonymous 	 ioha*nis or iohannis or johannis
k		 kasa
l		 Alvaro
m		 monasterio
n		 animo
o		 monasterio
P p	 	 Petrus  archiep*s or archiepiscopus
q		 inqua*tu* or inquantum


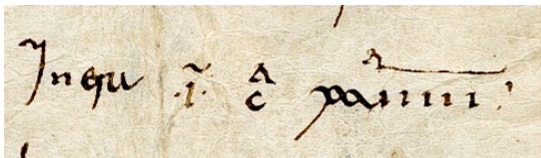


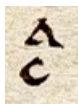
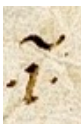


Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word Note: An asterisk denotes an abbreviation.
R r	  	 Remu*dus or Rem <u>u</u> ndus   reru* or rer <u>u</u>
S s	 	 Stefano   invisibilis
t	 “t” connecting to “e”  “t” connected with “o” 	 rodberti   monasterio   toletane
u		 Bernardus

Letter	Individual Sample	Sample Within Word Note: An asterisk denotes an abbreviation.
v	No sample	
w	No sample	No sample
x	No sample	No sample
y	No sample	
z		 Zache

## 11<sup>th</sup> Century Numbers (Roman Numerals)

Not all numerals are found in this document, thus missing items are supplemented with ones from Muñoz y Rivero, Jesus. *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*. Madrid: Tipolit L. Faure, 1917. These numerals are displayed following this table.

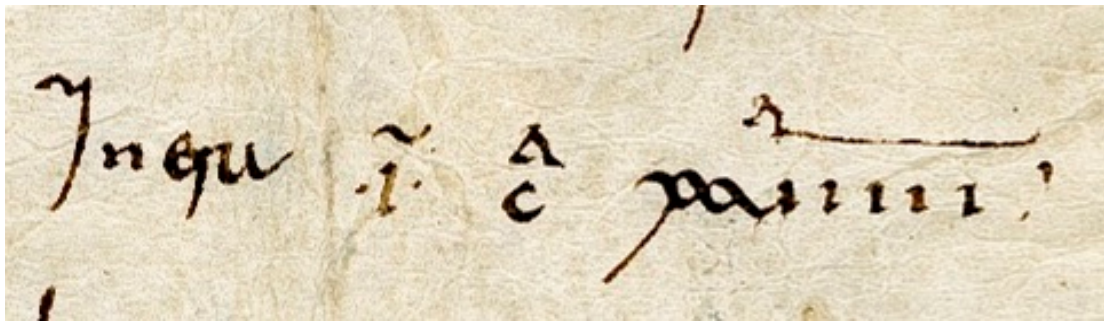
#	Individual Sample	Sample Within Number IS CA XX V IIII
I (1)		
V (5)		In era IS CA XX V IIII
X (10)		
L (50)	No sample	
C (100)		
D (500)	No sample	
M (1000)		



# TABLA DE NUMERALES

1.	ı	)	ʃ
2.	ıı	y	y
3.	ııı	ıı)	ııy
4.	ıııı	ıııy	ıııı
5.	~	~	~
6.	~ı	~ı)	~ıy
7.	~ıı	~ııy	~ııı
8.	~ııı	~ıııy	~ıııı
9.	~ıııı	~ııııy	ııııı
10.	x	ı	e
11.	xı	ıı	ıy
12.	xıı	ııı	ıııı
20.	xx	ıııı	ııııı
30.	xxx	ııııı	ıııııı
40.	xxı	ıııııı	ııııııı
50.	xxıı	ııııııı	ıııııııı
60.	xxııı	ıııııııı	ııııııııı
70.	xxıııı	ııııııııı	ıııııııııı
80.	xxııııı	ıııııııııı	ııııııııııı
90.	xxıııııı	ııııııııııı	ıııııııııııı
100.	c	c	c
200.	cc	cc	c
300.	ccc	ccc	c
400.	cccc	cccc	c
500.	d	d	d
1.000.	m	m	m
2.000.	mm	mm	m
40.000.	mm	mm	m

In the sample manuscript, the following date is recorded:



The date reads, “In era IS CA XXVIII.” This date is: Era. 1000. 100. 29. Or 1129.

However, Spanish “eras” are not the same as the contemporary Gregorian calendar. According *Medieval Iberia: An Encyclopedia* (2013):

The medieval Christian calendar in Spain was complicated, as it was everywhere in the Middle Ages. There was, in fact, no precise fixed calendar, but rather different “eras.” The most important of these, for dating, was that simply known as era, which calculated the year of the birth of Christ. However, this was erroneously calculated as 38 B.C., and thus it is necessary to subtract 38 years from the Spanish era in order to arrive at the actual Christian date A.D. This inaccurate system was replaced in the fourteenth century with *año de nascimiento* (year of Nativity), or Christian Era (as opposed to Spanish Era) dating. This was put into effect in Aragon in 1349; Valencia, 1358; Castile, 1383; Portugal, 1422.”<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the actual date is = 1129 minus 38 = 1091 A.D.

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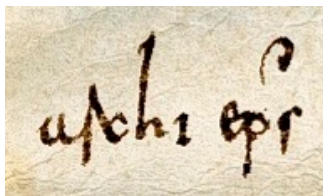
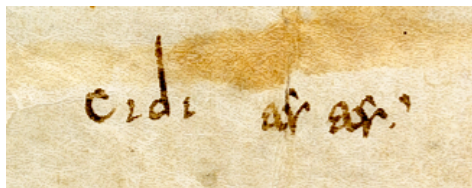
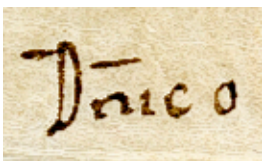

<sup>2</sup> Gerli, E Michael. *Medieval Iberia: An Encyclopedia*. London: Routledge, 2013: 190.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Century Abbreviations

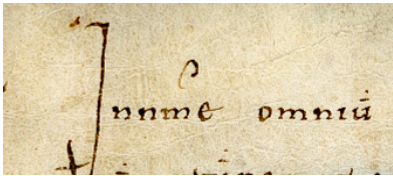
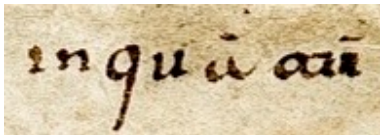
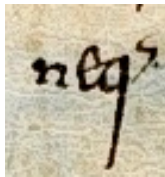
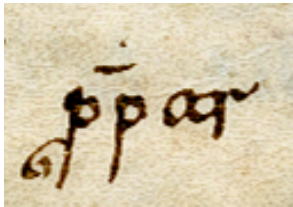
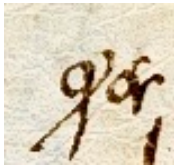
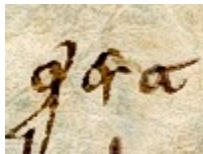
### Overview

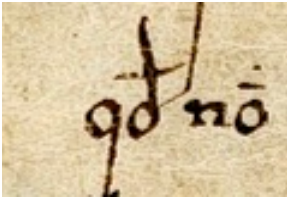
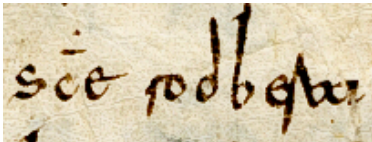
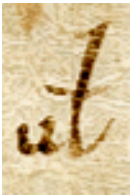
Abbreviations in text are usually indicated by a pen mark above the word or extra pen mark on a letter. Scribes employed abbreviations for commonly used words as well as long words to conserve physical space on a document. Let us review a few of the abbreviations that appear in this paleographic sample manuscript SJ-1/1. This list of abbreviations is not an exhaustive one; it is intended to help you learn to recognize their appearance in manuscripts.

Note: An “\*” is used to indicate the approximate location of abbreviation pen marks.

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample Within Word	Notes
archiep*s or -- archie <u>p</u> iscopus		In this example the curl symbol above “p” and “s” indicates this is the “archiepiscopus” or “arzobispo” or “archbishop”.
Cidi ts* ts* -- Cidi <u>testis</u> <u>testis</u>		In this example the symbol “ts*” always represents “testis”, or the word “testigo” or “witness”.
Dn*ico -- D <u>omin</u> co		In this example the symbol above the word symbolizes “omi”.
et		In this example the symbol always represents “et”, or the word “and”.



Abbreviation -- Word	Sample Within Word	Notes
Innm*e omniu* -- In nomine omnium		In this example the symbol above the “m” and the “u” symbolizes a “n”.
inqua*tu* -- inquantum		In this example the symbol above the “a” is a “n” and the symbol above “u” is an “m”.
neq* -- neque		In this example the “s”-shaped abbreviation after “q” symbolizes “ue”.
p*pter -- propter		In this example the <u>horizontal curl</u> on the descender of “p” as well as <u>the line</u> above the two “p” mostly likely symbolizes “pro”.
q* e* -- qui est		In this example the line that diagonally crosses the “q” symbolizes “ui”. The second example, where only the “e” appears legible, is the abbreviation for “est”.
q* e* * -- qui est in		In this example the line that diagonally crosses the “q” symbolizes “ui”. The second example, where only the “e” appears legible, is the abbreviation for “est”. The third example is the abbreviation for “in” or “en”.

Abbreviation -- Word	Sample Within Word	Notes
q*d no* -- qu <u>o</u> d non <u>o</u>		In this example the line that crosses the “d” symbolizes the missing “uo”. In the next example, the line over the “o” indicates that the word ends with “n”.
sc*e -- san <u>c</u> te		In this example the line above the “c” indicates this is the abbreviation for “sancte”. This is “Sancte Rodberti”.
u*l -- ue <u>l</u>		In this example the line crossing the “l” symbolizes “e”.

If you are interested in learning some of the more common abbreviations, you can review these tables and graphics from the *Manual de Paleografía Diplomática Española de los Siglos XII al XVII*.

### Vowels in Abbreviations

Here are samples of the vowels a, e, i, o, and u in abbreviated words.

<sup>a</sup> pta. . . . .	prata.
<sup>o</sup> pdictis. . . . .	prædictis.
<sup>i</sup> ta. . . . .	tria.
<sup>o</sup> integ. . . . .	integro.
<sup>u</sup> cdelis. . . . .	crudelis.
<sup>a</sup> incnatio. . . . .	incarnatio.
<sup>e</sup> ffile. . . . .	fertile.
<sup>i</sup> cciter. . . . .	circiter.
<sup>o</sup> cpus. . . . .	corpus.
<sup>u</sup> madale. . . . .	muradale.

## Most Common Abbreviations in Documents from the 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries

abb..	abbas.
act..	actum.
am..	amen.
ap..	apud.
april.	Aprilis.
au..	autem.
conf..	confirmat.
damn..	damnum.
dat..	datum.
decemb.	Decembris.
den..	denarios.
dic..	dicit.
dioc..	diocesis.
dix..	dixit.
ear..	earum.
expl..	explicit.
fac..	facit.
febr..	Februarii.
fec..	fecit.
fidel..	fidelis.
fuer..	fuerunt.
gen..	genuit.
hab..	habet.
id..	idus.
incip..	incipit.
ioh..	Johannes.
it..	item.
jan..	Januarii.
jul..	Julii.
jun..	Junii.
kal..	kalendas.
legion.	legionis.
lib..	liber.
mat..	mater.
morab.	morabetinos.
nich..	nichil (por <i>nihil</i> ).
no..	non.
nob..	nobis.
non..	nonas.
not..	notuit ó notarius.
octob.	Octobris.
pat..	pater.
placit.	placitum.
prid..	pridie.
prs..	presbiter.
reg. exp..	rege exprimente (1).
rob..	roboro, roborat ó robo- ravit.
salt..	salutem.
scil..	scilicet.
sic..	sicut.
sign..	signum.
sol..	solidos.
tam..	tamen.