



▲ A REPRESENTATION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE BOOK OF KELLS Jesus is here depicted holding the Scripture close to his side.

## ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

**D**uring the Middle Ages, some scribes began to adorn manuscripts with artwork. This extended from decorated capital letters at the beginning of a line to elaborate depictions of biblical scenes. The earliest known illuminated manuscript is the sixth-century Codex Rossanensis, which contains seventeen illustrations in watercolors. One of the most dazzling and magnificent illuminated manuscripts is the book of Kells. This 680-page manuscript of the Latin text of the four gospels contains colorful and brilliant ornamentation on every page. Produced in the eighth or ninth century in the Kells monastery (County Meath, Ireland), the manuscript reflects virtually thousands of hours of careful work done to the glory of God in appreciation for his Word. The artwork consists of many intricate shapes and patterns in the typical Celtic style.

