

# The Lindisfarne Gospels: A Masterpiece of Book Painting

*Janet Backhouse*

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**Janet Backhouse : The Lindisfarne Gospels: A Masterpiece of Book Painting** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lindisfarne Gospels: A Masterpiece of Book Painting:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. It's nice selection for a good price By History Teacher This little introduction to the Lindisfarne gospels has clearly written essays and a nice selection of the carpet pages and illuminations. I don't know if the reproductions are true to life as I've never seen the Lindisfarne gospels but they are attractive and suitable for a book with such a low price. I would recommend this little guide if you are interested in insular manuscripts and want an introduction to the Lindisfarne gospels. Only one strange thing--the Book of Kells is never mentioned in the essays and I would think it would be, since they are such related works. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book had smaller pages than I expected, though ... By Jeff Wilson This book had smaller pages than I expected, though perhaps I should have expected that considering the price. The discussion was interesting and informative. I think that pictures of all the original pages that have made these gospels so famous are included, though in rather small size. I'm an atheist but this book is really a pleasure. We're lucky it has survived since 698 AD when it was written and coloured, only a hundred miles or so from where I was born. The pages are 6-1/2" x 5" There are 64 numbered pages, about half of which are comprised of full-colour images of the original painted pages, plus images on the two inside binder pages and the two pages facing them). Additional smaller examples of border tessellation are included amid the descriptive text. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great exposition on a medieval masterpiece By Matt N While this is not a page by page reproduction of the original medieval

gospel, it does an excellent job exhibiting the finest pages and providing background on its creation. I bought this after seeing the original in the British Library in London and this book does it justice by describing the meticulous detail required to produce such a masterpiece.

"The Lindisfarne Gospels" is one of Britain's greatest artistic treasures, a surviving example of Anglo-Saxon book painting of the late-seventh century. Written and illuminated in honour of God and St Cuthbert, in about AD 698 by the monk Eadfrith, afterwards Bishop of Lindisfarne, it is famous for the quality and intricate design of its decorated pages. In this gift book, Janet Backhouse describes how the manuscript was made, placing it in the context of early Christian Northumbria. With all the major pages and many details reproduced in colour, this work represents an introduction for anyone interested in manuscript illumination, insular art and design and the early history of the book in Britain. An accompanying video, narrated by Kevin Whately, is available, ISBN 0-7123-0423-1 (PAL), 0-7123-0401-0 (NTSC).

About the Author Janet Backhouse was Assistant Keeper in the Department of Manuscripts at the British Library. She is the author of *The Illuminated Manuscript*, also published by Phaidon.