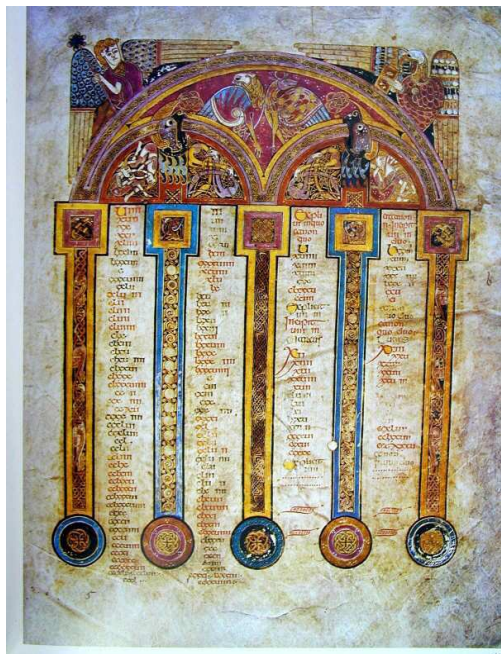


omitting the last 12 verses. These final verses appear to record Peter's answers to questions asked at the end of the meeting.

So the Gospels were written in the Matthew – Luke – Mark- John order, but published in the: Matthew – Mark – Luke – Mark (2nd Edition) – John order. This led to libraries cataloguing them in differing sequences and preachers quoting from them in differing orders. In following generations this would have caused discussion and raised questions. So, to clarify the situation, Clement of Alexandria, the leading teacher in

Book of Kells 807 AD : Canon table



the diocese originally founded by Mark, explained: “The first written of the Gospels were those with the infancy narratives”.

At the time Jerome wrote, the Matthew- Mark – Luke – John order was popular, so he adopted it for his Latin translation. He never said it was the order of their composure.

Augustine of Hippo, writing his first book at about the same time, reported that: ‘it was said’ that ‘the order of writing’ had been: Matthew-Mark-Luke- John. This was presumably the order they had been received by the library at Hippo. Augustine didn’t offer an opinion regarding their order of being written and published. But some years later, after careful internal analysis of the Gospels, he stated in his fourth book that Mark’s theology had been influenced by that of both Matthew and Luke.

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How the Gospels Were Written



The Clementine Tradition