From the Early Middle Ages onwards, surviving books which record texts for the Mass show often surprising creativity and energy on the part of their scribes and compilers. The Mass Book tradition (which we call today the Sacramentary or Missal) was an extraordinarily complex and dynamic one. Ancient and traditional texts were preserved for generations in these manuscripts, but we can also track the continual addition of new compositions, often meeting urgent needs of the day. The tradition of the Mass Book was, thus, continually updated and reworked over the centuries, and the differences between two manuscripts, even those produced at around the same time and belonging to the same “type”, are often striking. Most surviving manuscripts are identified today as descendants of the Roman, Gregorian Sacramentary, but the vast majority have never been comprehensively analyzed. Nor have Mass Books been widely permitted to contribute to our understanding of the medieval organization of books. Many such books present us a testimony of a widespread dynamism of the scribes and compilers working with liturgical material, and a challenge to scholars to examine the sacramentary tradition in new ways. The potential is particularly acute for the “Mixed” Sacramentaries that represent the majority of manuscripts produced between 850 and 1200. Immense scholarly effort has established underlying, Roman sources. Nevertheless, we still lack coherent categorization of the manuscripts, and any account of how and why these traditions were remade outside Rome over the centuries after the reception of the Gregorian in the Carolingian period, and its initial supplementation. The remaking of the texts of the Mass Book was undertaken at many scriptoria simultaneously, across the Latin West, resulting in the vast range of manuscripts. This conference aims to bring together experts to study them. We hope to establish new methods and practices to get to grips with these complex and largely unstudied books, reflecting on them as a whole, within their context. We can use these sophisticated manuscripts as a means of tracing mutual interrelationships, creating possible networks of manuscript influences, as well as establishing the working processes and motivations of individual compilers and patrons who organized them, and uncovering the traces of later users. We hope to reflect on the medieval organization of knowledge more broadly, of which Mass Books of this kind are a particularly compelling and evocative testament.
Thursday 07 September 2023
Altes Finanzamt Regensburg
Landshuterstraße 4, 93047 Regensburg

9:00-10:30
Susan Rankin
Sacramentaries +

Daniel DiCenso
"Mixed" Sacramentaries and the Sacramentary-Antiphoner: a different perspective on the Carolingian reforms

11:00-12:30
Martin Klöckener
Auf dem Weg vom Sakramentar zum Plenarmissale: Handschriften für die Feier der Messe aus dem Kloster Rheinau (Zürich, Zentralbibliothek, Ms. Rh 14 und Ms. Rh 29)

Andrew Irving
Techniques of distinction: the "syntax" of early Beneventan Mass Books

12:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00
Innocent Smith
The placement of the preface in medieval Mass Books

Sarah Hamilton
Collecting and organising knowledge: the evidence of the St Gallen sacramentaries c. 900-1100

16:30-18.00
Erik Niblaeus
Twelfth-century Missal fragments from Sweden

Concluding discussion of the first day

Friday 08 September 2023
Altes Finanzamt Regensburg
Landshuterstraße 4, 93047 Regensburg

9:00-10:30
Christoph Winterer
Eine Spurensuche zur Wirkung der Fuldaer Redaktionsarbeit für das Götttinger Sakramentar

Martin Berger
Zu den Regensburger Sakramentaren

11:00-12:30
Lenneke van Raaij
Adventurous sacramentaries: liturgical books on the move

Paweł Figurski
Mass Books of the Ottonian and early Salian bishops: networks of influence and innovation

12:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00
Harald Buchinger
Water blessings in early medieval sacramentaries: contexts and contents

James Starke
Refining the narrative of medieval dedication rites: a review of the source material

16:30-18.00
Miklós István Földváry
Disguised sacramentaries

Arthur Westwell
The reception of Carolingian liturgical compilation and the "family of St Amand" between Sarum and Esztergom

18.15-19.00
Concluding discussion