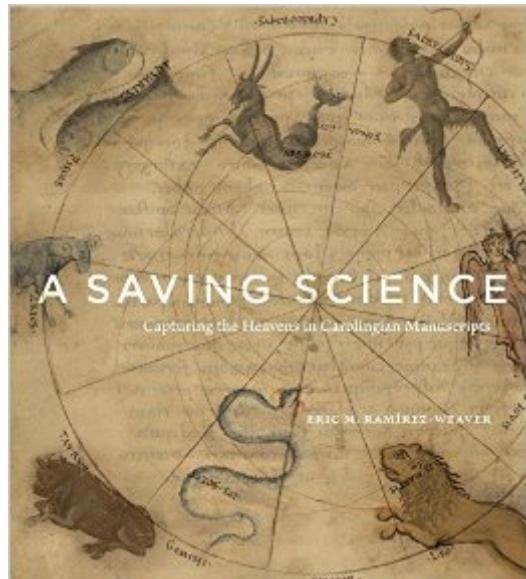


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# A Saving Science: Capturing The Heavens In Carolingian Manuscripts



## Synopsis

In *A Saving Science*, Eric Ramerez-Weaver explores the significance of early medieval astronomy in the Frankish empire, using as his lens an astronomical masterpiece, the deluxe manuscript of the *Handbook of 809*, painted in roughly 830 for Bishop Drogo of Metz, one of Charlemagne's sons. Created in an age in which careful study of the heavens served a liturgical purpose "to reckon Christian feast days and seasons accurately and thus reflect a heavenly order" the diagrams of celestial bodies in the *Handbook of 809* are extraordinary signifiers of the intersection of Christian art and classical astronomy. Ramirez-Weaver shows how, by studying this lavishly painted and carefully executed manuscript, we gain a unique understanding of early medieval astronomy and its cultural significance. In a time when the Frankish church sought to renew society through education, the *Handbook of 809* presented a model in which study aided the spiritual reform of the cleric's soul, and, by extension, enabled the spiritual care of his community. An exciting new interpretation of Frankish painting, *A Saving Science* shows that constellations in books such as Drogo's were not simple copies for posterity's sake, but functional tools in the service of the rejuvenation of a creative Carolingian culture.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; Sew edition (December 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0271071265

ISBN-13: 978-0271071268

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,373,702 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations #913 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Design #1097 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Calligraphy

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