

LIBER TESTAMENTORUM

(Book of Testaments)



M. Moleiro

The *Book of Testaments* contains the most beautiful
miniatures Romanesque art has produced.

Jesús Domínguez Bordona



LIBER TESTAMENTORUM (BOOK OF TESTAMENTS)

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL • OVIEDO

«Unique, unrepeatabe edition, limited to 987 copies, numbered and authenticated individually by notary public»



- Date: ca. 1109-1112
- Size: ± 364 x 240 mm
- 226 pages, 17 miniatures, illuminated initials and marginal decorations
- Bound in embossed, brown leather
- Leather case.
- Commentary volume (828 p.) by Elena E. Rodríguez (University of Huelva), M^a Josefa Sanz (University of Oviedo), Joaquín Yarza (Autonomous University of Barcelona) and Emiliano Fernández Vallina (University of Salamanca)

Don Pelayo became the Bishop of Oviedo in 1101. His birthplace is unknown, but all existing evidence suggests that he was born in León.

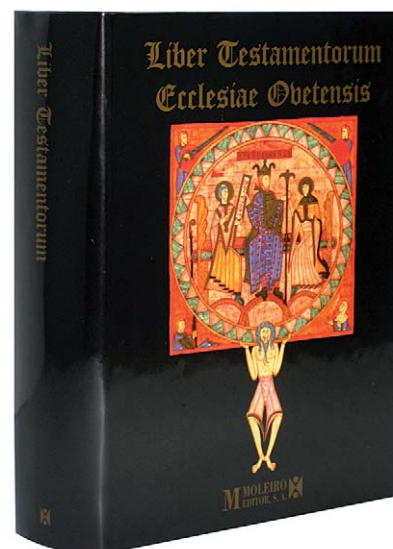
At an early age, Don Pelayo gained profound knowledge of Asturian geography and became thoroughly entrenched in issues affecting the Asturian kingdom. He was untiring in his fight for the progress and well being of his diocese and the Asturian kingdom. He died in Asturias as a "peregrinus in terra aliena" in the year 1153.

As bishop, Don Pelayo assumed many roles including that of recording the donations and privileges that Kings, Popes and other dignitaries extended to the Cathedral of Oviedo. *Liber Testamentorum*, a Romanesque cartulary, contains 87 documents of donations and privileges conceded by Kings and Popes to the Cathedral of Oviedo. This codex was written between 1109 and 1112 under his patronage. It is an essential work for the understanding of the genesis of modern Spain. In addition, the calligraphy creates a harmonious composition between the text and imagery.

The name of the master illustrator of the *Book of Testaments* is unknown. However, his artistic personality is of such magnitude and his technical ability so original, that his work has been considered a precedent in the tradition of European Romanesque miniature. The master of the *Book of Testaments* is an artist with a tireless imagination and a quintessential sense of creativity in the arrangement of every scene in the codex.

"This is, in fact, a book written by the kingdom's notary that encloses within its pages the most beautiful miniatures of Romanesque art... The colors are exquisite. The artist uses purple and light ochre backgrounds with contrasting shades of blue, red, green and yellow highlighted by gold and silver gilt."

Commentary volume



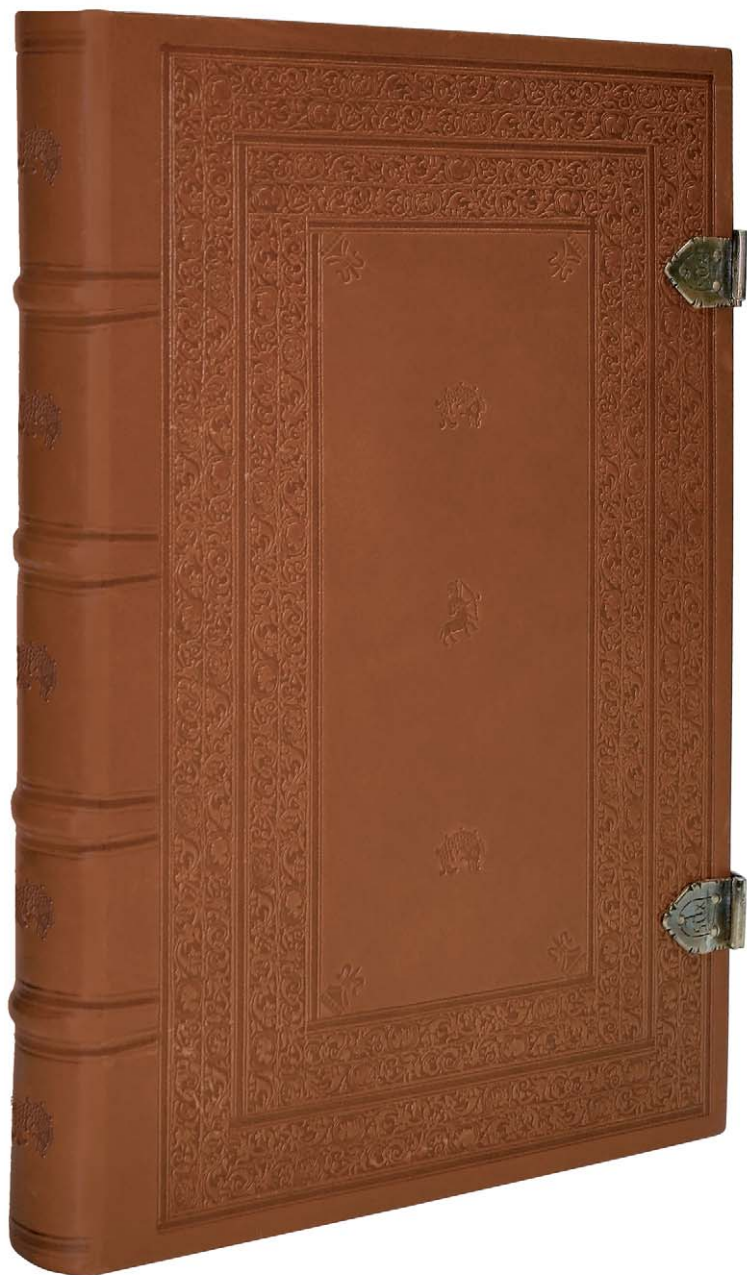
J. DOMÍNGUEZ BORDONA,
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Spanish illumination



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The codex is bound in medium brown calf leather embossed with small fish, vegetables and a Sagittarius. Two clasps engraved with the letters "xps" secure the pages within.



Testament of Ordoño I, f. 8v





