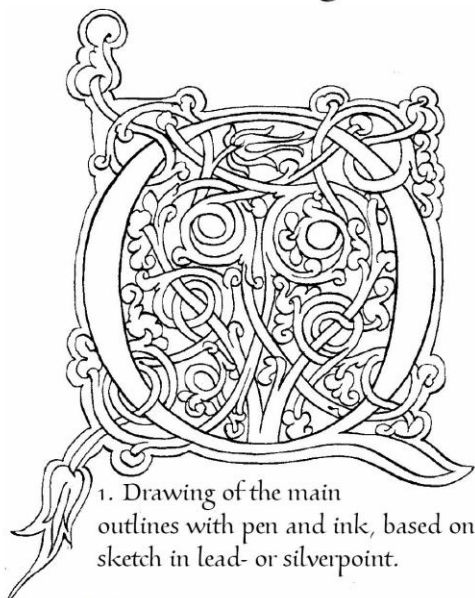
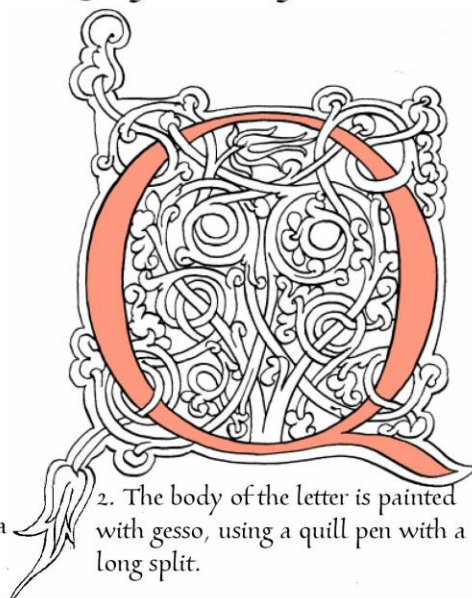


Humanistic White Vine Initials (BIANCHI GIRARI)

according to the initial Q on fol. 18 r of MS. 492 (Vergil's Works) of the Riccardiana Library (Florence), ca. 1450-1460



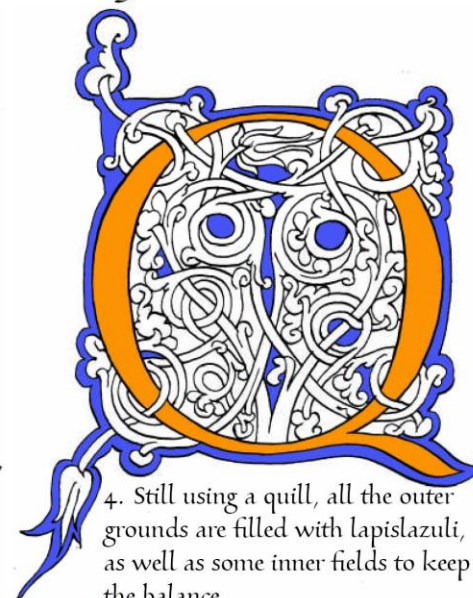
1. Drawing of the main outlines with pen and ink, based on a sketch in lead- or silverpoint.



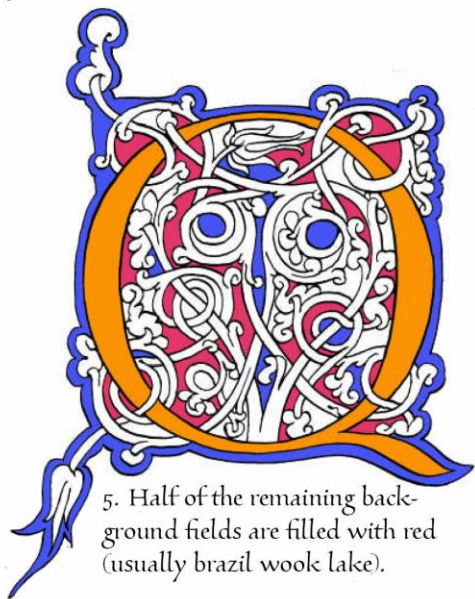
2. The body of the letter is painted with gesso, using a quill pen with a long split.



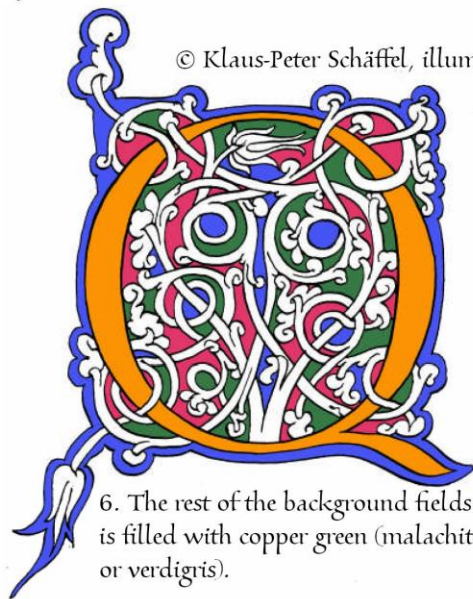
3. Gold leaf gilding.



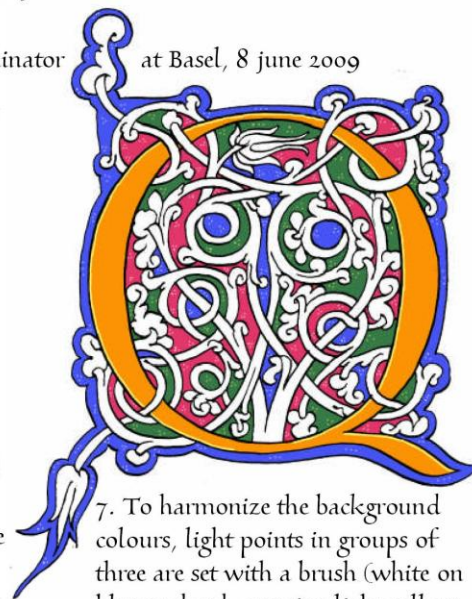
4. Still using a quill, all the outer grounds are filled with lapislazuli, as well as some inner fields to keep the balance.



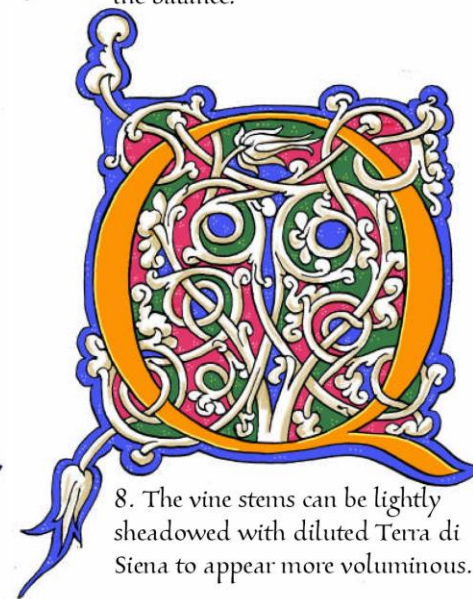
5. Half of the remaining background fields are filled with red (usually brazil wook lake).



6. The rest of the background fields is filled with copper green (malachite or verdigris).



7. To harmonize the background colours, light points in groups of three are set with a brush (white on blue and red, covering light yellow on the green).



8. The vine stems can be lightly sheadowed with diluted Terra di Siena to appear more voluminous.

© Klaus-Peter Schäffel, illuminator

at Basel, 8 June 2009