SCRIPTORIUM MONK AT WORK. (From *Lacroix*.)

LIVING MANUSCRIPTS

Random Things About Life as a Copyist

- Copied Scripture 6 hours a day.
- *"Only try to do it yourself and you will learn how arduous is the writer's task. It dims your eyes, makes your back ache, and knits your chest and belly together. It is a terrible ordeal for the whole body." – Monk's name unknown*
- *Cassiodorus –* "by copying the precepts of the Lord he spreads them far and wide". He also said, "every work of the Lord written by the scribe is a wound inflicted on Satan."
- They left grammatical errors in the text because they didn't want to be found tampering with it.

Penalties On Monks/Scribes

- Penalty for breaking a pen in anger.
- Penalty for taking another monks parchment.
- Penalty for not being neat and clean in their copying.
- A diet of bread and water if their duty of copying was neglected.

Evidence for faithful copying abounds

- 5,686 Greek portions of the N.T.!!

- Plato – 7 copies
- Herodotus – 8 copies
- Tacitus – 20 copies
- Aristotle – 49 copies
- Homer (Iliad) – 643

Span of time is impressive

- 1200 years for Plato
- 1300 years for Herodotus
- 1000 years for Tacitus
- 1400 years for Aristotle
- 500 years for Homer's Iliad.

- Portions of John, Romans, I and II Cor, Eph, Gal, Phil, Col, I Thess, and Hebrews are all 150 years and UNDER.
- *"This is simply unheard of in any other ancient writing."*

99.5% Accuracy

JEREMIAH 31:31–34;
II COR. 3:1–3