

The Book of Kells is so brilliantly coloured and exquisitely painted that for centuries people have wondered what its colours might be made of.

With the limitations of scientific instruments available in the past, it could only be surmised what pigments were used to create it. Today, **Trinity's Conservation Team** is fortunate enough to use technologically advanced solutions which return results we can be confident of.



Due to the delicate nature of the manuscript, Trinity has a policy which prevents samples of the book's pigments being removed. Therefore, the instruments used must be safe enough to use directly on the manuscript.

Originally, it was thought that up to thirty different pigments were used, but this number has been narrowed down. It has been identified that a small number of **plant and mineral based pigments** were mixed with white to lighten them, or with extra binder to make them glossier. Some pigments were layered to create the rich and colourful impression conveyed by the manuscript today.

			
Carbon Black	Iron Gall	Red Lead	Orpiment
			
Gypsum	Indigo	Orcein	Verdigris