



The second is a monogram rather than an initial, comprising the 'MA' of 'Matheus' at the beginning of the 'argumentum' to Saint Matthew (plate 37). The main letter is made up of two great bows, and five animal heads are introduced, two of them combined at the foot of the monogram to form a single face.

The third initial is again an 'M', opening the 'argumentum' to Mark with the word 'Marcus' (plate 38). The form of this 'M' is quite different from the earlier one and its design is much more elaborate, for there are elongated animal forms, painted in very delicate colours, inside the outlines of the letter as well as on the ground which it



37. Monogram MA at the beginning of the 'argumentum' to Saint Matthew's Gospel (actual size). The Lindisfarne Gospels, folio 18b (detail).

38. Initial M at the beginning of the 'argumentum' to Saint Mark's Gospel (actual size). The Lindisfarne Gospels, folio 90 (detail).