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Sommario/riassunto	It has for decades been part of the canon of maxims of basic research that most images of rulers in early medieval book illustrations have been transmitted in liturgical manuscripts, id est manuscripts originally intended for divine worship. There have however to date been few investigations which draw serious consequences from this and which also view miniatures of rulers in the light of their functional aspects, for example as 'memorial depictions' (O.G. Oexle), or on the basis of the social reality of the pious motives behind their presentation. This study gives a more precise explanation of the function and purpose of ruler-

images by examining a few selected early medieval miniatures. It analyzes the historical and social contexts of their genesis and the liturgical and commemorative aims of their use against the setting of the social form of remembrance of confraternity.
