Short paper assignment: 3-5pp, due at the beginning of class next Wednesday 2/21.
Topic: analyze a theme of your choice in either Plato's Phaedrus or Richard de Bury's Philobiblon. Full footnotes please, but no extra research is required.

Lecture 4: the evolution of the book in the Middle Ages

I. Birth of the codex
- Simultaneous with increased use of parchment, although papyrus rolls were sometimes cut into pages and turned into codices
- Advantages of parchment codex over papyrus roll: more durable, cheaper, easier to produce locally (from animal skin, rather than imported from Egypt), more compact for travel, fits more text in, easier to consult
- Early Christians spread the use of the codex, 1st-4th ct;

II. The book in the monastic setting
- Book as object of devotion
- Collective or individual reading for spiritual purposes
- Introduction of space between words (according to Paul Saenger) in 6th-7th Ireland; standard on continent by 1050
Paul Saenger, Space Between Words: the origins of silent reading (1997)

III. The book in the scholastic setting
- Scholastic reading for utilitarian motives
- Ordinatio: toward a “grammar legibility” (M.B. Parkes)
=headings, subdivisions, tables of contents, alphabetical indexes, use of images of rubrication, images.
Results in each page being memorable
Mary Carruthers, The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture (1992)

IV. Paper
Invented in China (2nd BCE, not for writing); to Islam (8th), Spain (10th), Italy (11th), north of the Alps (13th) =6x cheaper than parchment