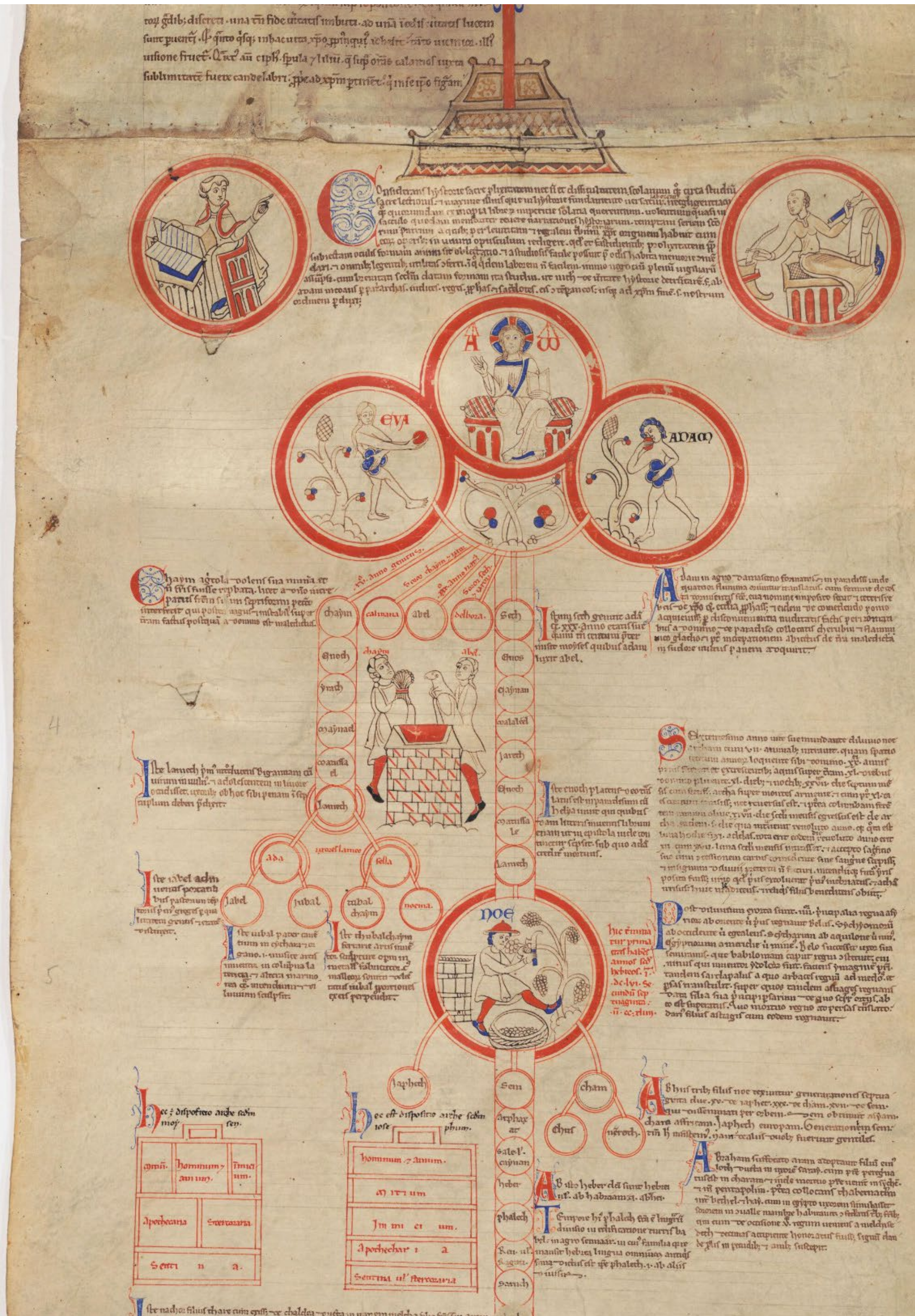# History as a visual concept: Peter of Poitiers' *Compendium historiae*

This project explores Peter of Poitiers' twelfth-century diagrammatic work, the *Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi*. Ubiquitous throughout the mediaeval and early modern periods, the *Compendium historiae*'s graphic and pictorial elements gave it semantic and aesthetic power in the classroom, and beyond.
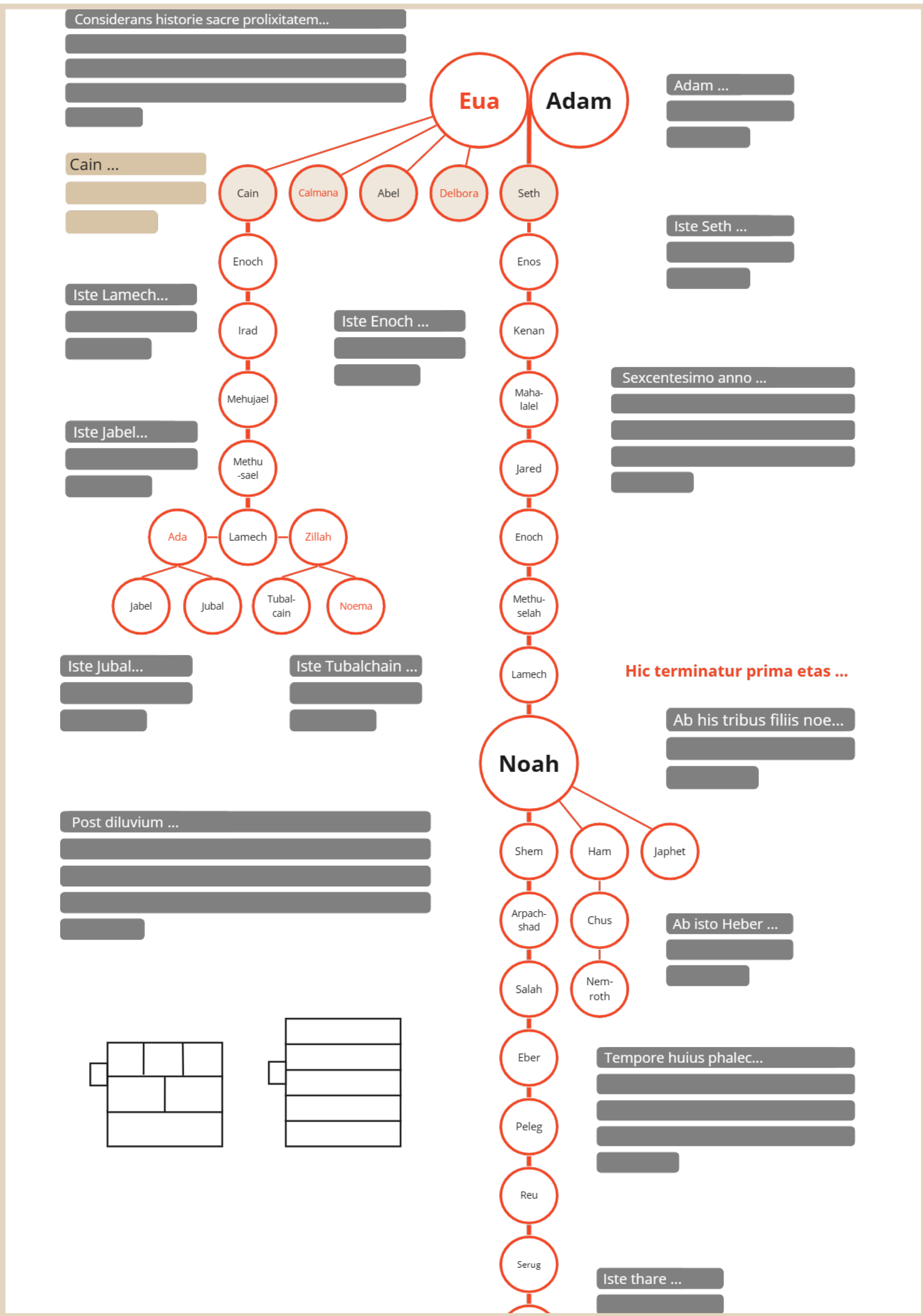
Our sources | 300+ manuscripts

H = Cambridge, Harvard University, Houghton Library, Ms. Typ 216, France, 1200–1225

Diagrams

Other diagrams embedded in the graphic metastructure visualise objects in biblical history. These include: cross-sections of Noah's Ark, forty-two encampments of the Israelites in the desert, the twelve tribes of Israel, and a plan of Jerusalem.

Example: twelve tribes of Israel

Represents the placements of tents of the Levites and the Tribes of Israel around the Tabernacle during the journey through the desert. Several standard archetypes are found in the manuscript witnesses: i.e., quatrefoil, square, circle, free-form.
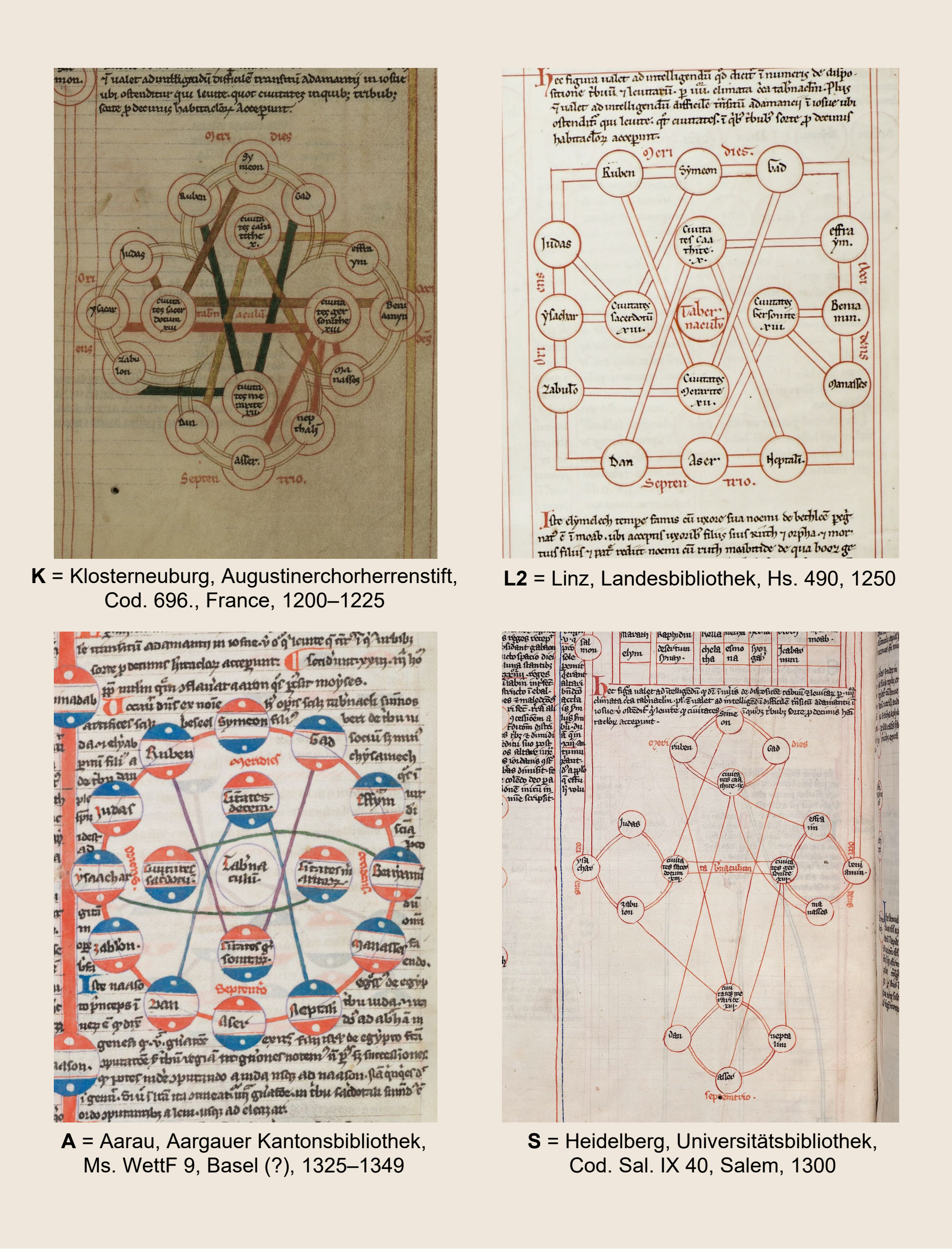
K = Klosterneuburg, Augustinerchorherrenstift, Cod. 696., France, 1200–1225

L2 = Linz, Landesbibliothek, Hs. 490, 1250

A = Aarau, Aargauer Kantonsbibliothek, Ms. WettF 9, Basel (?), 1325–1349

S = Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek, Cod. Sal. IX 40, Salem, 1300

Our visualisation | navigable graph

Draft for a navigational graph of the idealized work as an interactive entry point into the edition

Our team | what we are doing

Manuscripts (late 12th to early 16th c.)

Over three hundred manuscript witnesses provide the material for the synthesis and modelling of the main graphic archetypes, a critical edition of the text, and a codicological database.

Visualisation of the graphic metastructure

Based on significant witnesses we are using SVG to model the genealogical structure of the *Compendium*. This will serve as the basis of our edition, to be displayed in a navigable interface, online and publicly available.

Critical edition of the text

Transcription, translation and the critical text with apparatus (critical, biblical, sources) are integrated into the graphic metastructure. They will be linked with the navigable interface.

Codicological database

The database of the manuscripts, linked to the navigable edition, includes detailed descriptions of each witness. It includes codicological and textual data, information regarding the graph and diagram archetypes, and art historical analysis of the images.
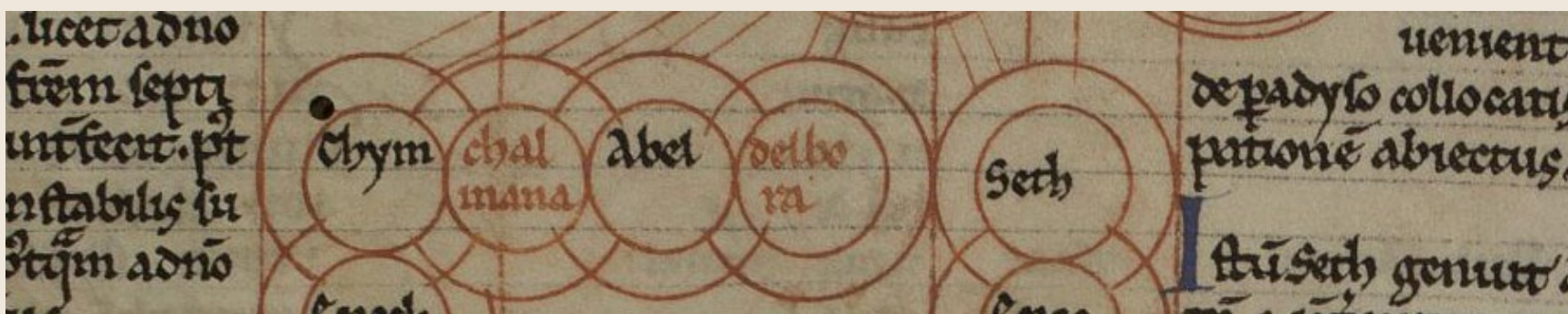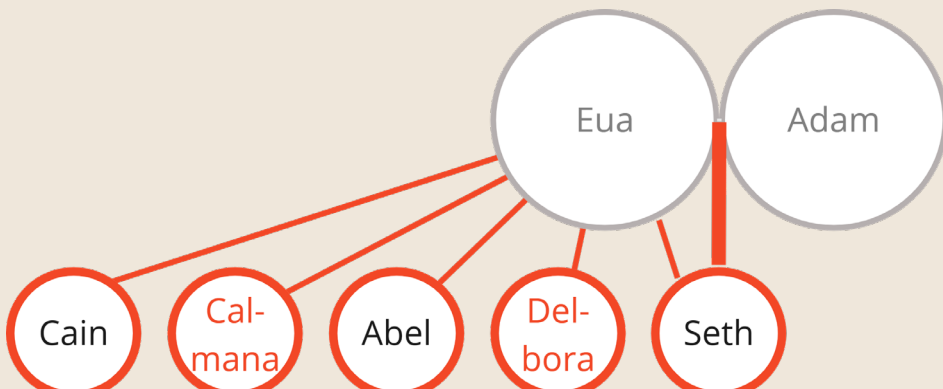

Top (left to right): Melina Behnke, Franz Fischer, Andrea Worm, Laura Cleaver, Roman Bleier, Patrick Sahle, Agnese Macchiarelli
Bottom: Katharina Bauer, Sina Krottmaier, Elisa Cugliana, Maria Streicher, Eleanor Goerss

Our edition | variance

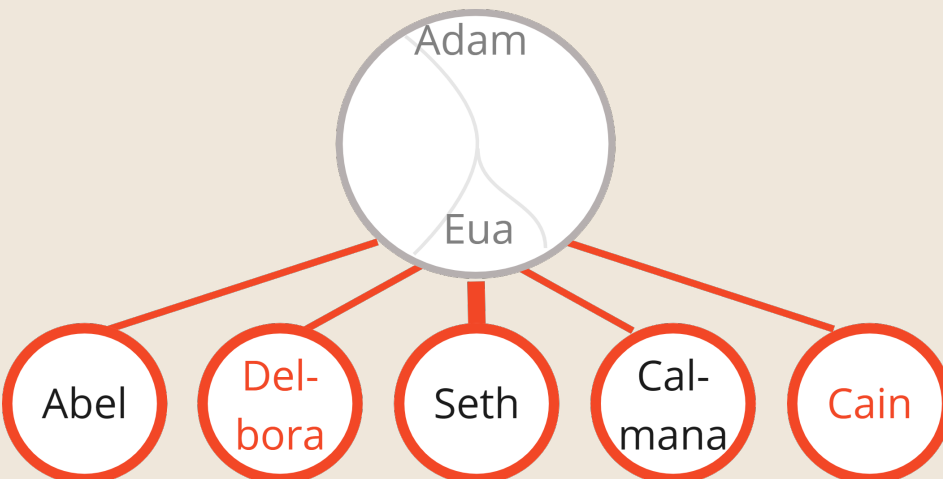### Example: the children of Adam and Eve

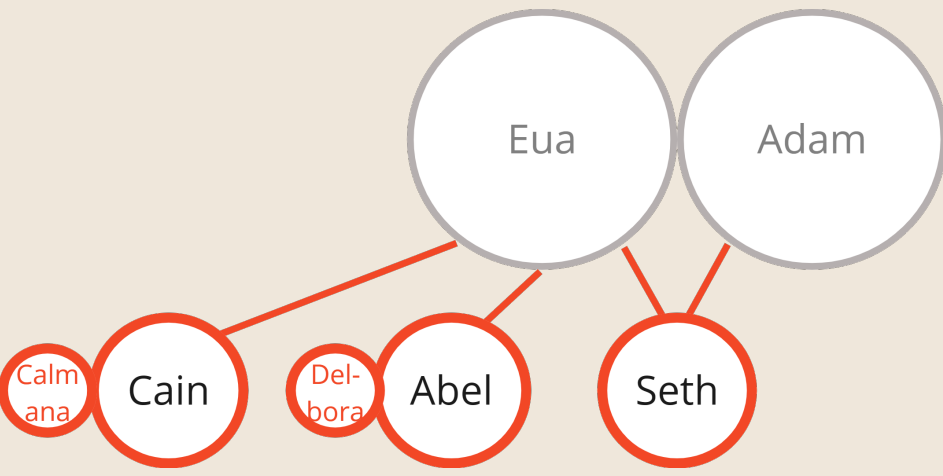#### Structure variants

Group A

K = Klosterneuburg, Augustinerchorherrenstift, Cod. 696, France, 1200–1225

Group B

C = Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, Ms. 83, 1208–1216

Group C

P3 = Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Ms. 1234, 1342–1399

Picture variants

P2 = Paris, Sainte-Geneviève, Ms. 1212, 1275–1299

L1 = Linz, Landesbibliothek, Hs. 390, 1250

Edited text

Until now based on Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 29 ff. VIr–XIr (1200–1225) Collated from the earliest witnesses H, K, P1, R, V1, V2, W
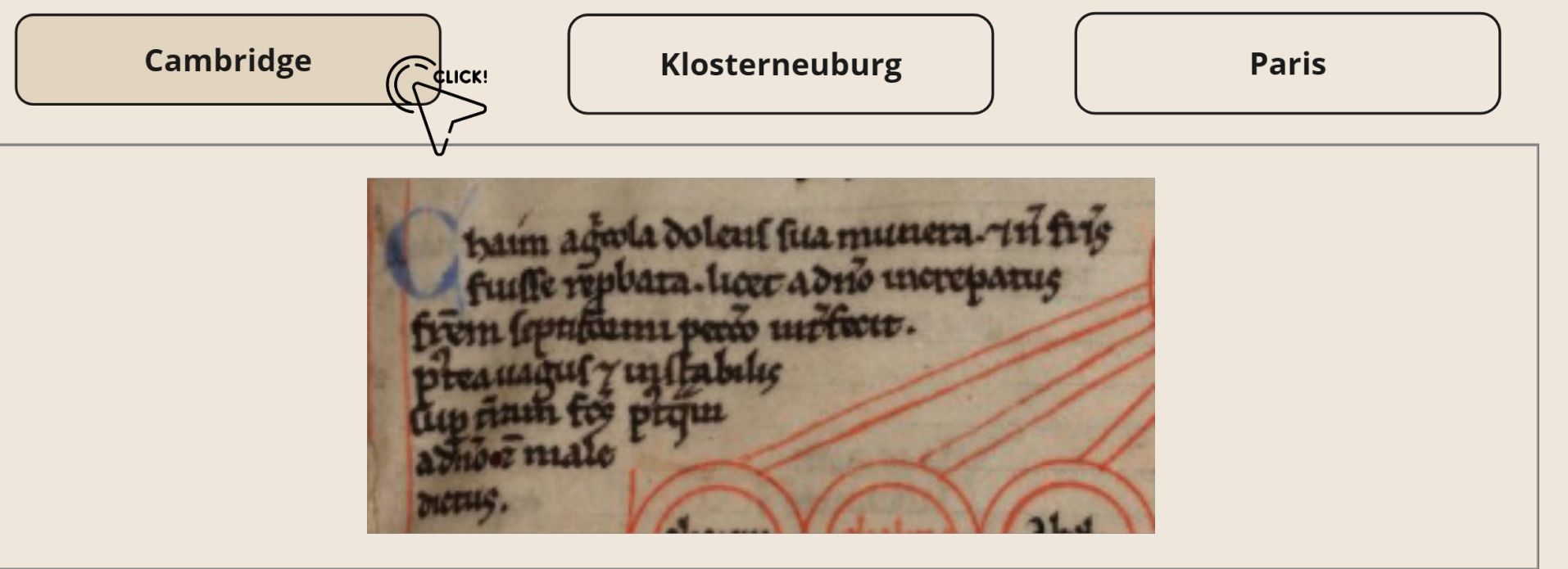
Chaym agricola dolens sua munera et non fratris fuisse reprobata, licet a domino increpatus, fratrem septiformi peccato interfecit. Postea uagus et instabilis super terram factus, postquam a domino est maledictus.

fratrem suum **H P1 R** | reprobata fuisse **V2** | est a domino **V1** a domino etiam **C** | Chaim **C K** Caym **V1** Caim **V2** Chain **W**

Chaym ~ maledictus: Gn 4:1-26; cf. Hbr 11:4, I Io 3:12, Iud 1:11; Petr. Com., *Scol. Hist.*, Lib. Gen., 26-29   septiformi peccato: cf. Beda, *In prin. Gen.*, 2, 4

Cain the farmer, suffering due to the fact that his offerings had been rejected and not his brother's, although reproached by the Lord, killed his brother by committing a sevenfold sin. Then he was made to wander and totter on the earth, since he was cursed by the Lord.

Manuscript transcription

Cambridge   Klosterneuburg   Paris

C   Chaim aǵcola dolenſ ſua munera. 7 n´friſ|fuiſſe repbata.

K   Chaim agricola dolens | ſua munera. 7 ñ friſ | iſſe repbata.

P1   Caym agricola do | lens ſua munera | et nõ frīs fuiſſe repϫobata.

EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN · UNIVERSITY OF LONDON · BERGISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WUPPERTAL · DH BUW · UNI GRAZ · ZIM · GAMS Humanistic Asset Management System · Ca' Foscari University of Venice Department of Humanities · [ve]dph Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities · Gefördert durch: DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft · FWF Österreichischer Wissenschaftsfonds