

News on conferences

We've given more presentations on the work of the project this year, both in the form of descriptions of the making of our catalogue and of conference papers on specific manuscripts and specific issues related to the Project. In July 2006 Elaine, Mary and Orietta gave papers at York and Orietta and Mary gave a paper at Leeds; in February 2007 Elaine gave a workshop at Rutgers and Mary gave a paper in Belfast; in March 2007 Orietta gave a paper at Bangor; in May 2006

Elaine gave papers at Madison and Kalamazoo; in July 2007 we sponsored a session at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds; and as we go to press we're preparing a session for the International Society of Anglo-Saxons' meeting in August 2007. Our first Project Symposium took place in July 2007.

Mary Swan

'EM 1060to1220 Project Symposium', University of Leicester, 5-6th July 2007

The first of the Project's two symposia was held in Leicester on 5 and 6 July 2007. 29 people attended: numbers were necessarily limited in order to ensure plenty of discussion, and that certainly succeeded! It was a tremendously useful opportunity for the Project team to talk about what we are doing and more importantly to hear in detail what others are working on and to discuss together fundamental questions for the Project in terms of topic, methodology and future directions.

Among the things discussed were charters, preaching texts, liturgy and music, Latin and English glosses, and scribal localisation with a particular emphasis on dialect and script. It was the first opportunity to talk in detail about the

catalogue—its mechanisms, layout and terminology—and we got copious and welcome feedback which will inform our next steps. The symposium also highlighted the work of the Project in an integrated and sustained fashion, and we're very grateful to all the attendees, among whom were numbered historians, literary scholars, linguists, and codicologists and, perhaps most significantly, a healthy number of graduate students. The connections we were able to make in those two days will be of invaluable assistance to us and we should like to thank the AHRC for its sponsorship.

The second symposium will be held in two years' time, 2009.

'Writing England: Books 1100-1200', University of Leicester, 6-8th July 2007

Hot on the heels of our symposium was the conference, 'Writing England: Books 1100-1200', organised by Orietta and Elaine. Many symposium delegates stayed for this, and we were joined by a considerable number of scholars working in the varied field of England, its books and languages and its multiple contacts during this period. It was interesting to see how ideas raised in the symposium reemerged in the conference, and we saw definite signs of the start of an exciting reevaluation of the twelfth century. From a wide range of perspectives, one overarching issue stood out: the relationship between the "old" and the "new" and how we might conceive of this.

As St Augustine puts it: 'The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed.'

English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220

www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/

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Special points of interest:

- *Project report*
- *Research in progress*
- *Related Project*
- *Issues and debates*
- *News on conferences*

English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220 Newsletter



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Project progress report



MS 11A,
by courtesy of the University of Leicester Library

The last year has been a busy one for the Project, as we've worked on consolidating our methodology for describing manuscripts and on the technical specifications for our catalogue. We've trialled a format for manuscript descriptions, which involved clarifying the precise aspects of palaeography, codicology and contents, we will catalogue, and also the precise terminology we will use. We have published on our website the Introductory matter for the catalogue and the

manuscript description of Cambridge, University Library li. 1. 33. We'll add new manuscript descriptions as they're completed, and we welcome comments and corrections on the material. The Project team has expanded this year; Elaine has taken up a post at the Florida State University, and remains Project Co-Director, and Jo Story (School of Historical Studies, University of Leicester), an Advisory Board member from the start of the Project, has joined us. The first of the Project's AHRC-funded PhD students, Thomas Gob-bitt, started work at Leeds in autumn 2006 (see page 2), and Kate Wiles, the second PhD student, will start in autumn 2007. Zoe Enstone and Rob Payne, MA students at Leicester, also joined the Project in Spring 2007 on a work experience placement. We're learning just how much one can do with Skype as a medium for transatlantic Project meetings where one side of the water has a very civilised start after morning coffee and the other has to get up in the early hours to join in. [continued on page 4]



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Research in progress

Focus on St Guthlac's, Hereford

My work on the earliest manuscripts from the book collection at the Priory of SS. Guthlac, Peter and Paul at Hereford has now entered its second year. The focus of my research in recent months has narrowed to concentrate on three key manuscripts: Hereford Cathedral O.VI.11 and P.III.2, and Oxford, Jesus College 37. My concern at the moment is to establish a context for the acquisition, adaptation and use of the three, via a close reading of the manuscript texts, careful scrutiny of the material properties of the manuscripts, and through reference to the documentary sources relating to the history of the priory and its two predecessor churches. I expect the focus of my work to narrow still further before the end of the year, but it is useful at present to maintain an integrated approach and to explore the links that emerge through the application of a variety of disciplines. I am very much interested in exploring issues of continuity and rupture in the literary life of the Hereford communities at St. Guthlac's Minster and St. Peter's Church, which were integrated and reformed in 1143, and which may have preserved elements from their respective book collections even after they were joined together and resettled in new accommodation.

Chris Tuckley, University of Leeds

Contextualising Cambridge, Corpus Christi College (CCCC) 383

I am currently in the first year of my PhD. I am researching the context of English language law-codes between 1060 and 1220 AD. My particular focus is on the early twelfth-century manuscript CCCC 383. This manuscript has been described as a 'legal encyclopaedia' by Patrick Wormald, alongside the *Textus Roffensis*, BL, Cotton Nero A. i. (A) and the nine manuscript copies of the *Quadripartitus*. Wormald also observed that CCCC 383 had received significantly less attention than the other two.

The manuscript is written in two twelfth-century hands, and other texts were added to it in the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. The first hand compiled a collection of law-codes, and the second appended a list of settlements

owing the service of '[s]cipmen' and a, now truncated, copy of the West-Saxon Genealogy. I am interested in these two clearly distinct stages of production, which may reflect on the use of the manuscript as a whole.

In addition to my background as a medievalist, I have also trained as a maritime and theoretical archaeologist. I am keen to combine these academic approaches, and am prioritising an approach that considers manuscript and text as artefacts. As an archaeologist I have focused on the narrative construction of perception and identity, as well as the interrelationship between imagination, artefact and agency. These interests are underlying my approach to CCCC 383. Consequently, my approach to law as medieval historian is being complemented by a post-Processual, phenomenological stance that constructs an understanding of manuscript as cognitive experience.

Thom Gobbitt, University of Leeds

Liturgical Notae in Some Manuscripts of Ælfric Homilies

My presentation for the English Manuscripts Symposium consisted of an examination of the rubrics, gospel incipits and punctuation in five manuscripts containing Ælfric's Easter Homily. The purpose of this examination was to determine to what extent these sources of English homiletic material contained the kind of notation that would (if one desired) enable a reader readily to perform them (sung to a reading tone) as if they were part of the normal liturgical reading of a homily in the Matins service. The (admittedly) partial evidence collected for the symposium showed a clear lessening of such information from the earliest (and very completely notated) manuscript London, BL, Royal 7 C.xii through later manuscripts such as Lambeth Palace 489. However, the changes were not uniform or consistent and each manuscript retained, discarded, or added different notae. Bodley 343 stood out as a particularly well-notated manuscript offering almost as much information for performance as Royal 7 C.xii.

William Flynn, University of Leeds

Related projects

I am presently putting the final touches to a web-site, *The Calendar and the Cloister: MS Oxford, St John's College 17*, which will be hosted by the McGill University Libraries. The web-site contains a full digital reproduction of St John's 17 and its *membrum disiectum*, London, BL, Cotton Nero C. vii fols. 80-84, together with a commentary. St John's 17 was written at Thorney Abbey (Cambridgeshire) ca. 1102-1110. It is a large and visually striking anthology of materials on time-reckoning and calendar construction (*computus*), surrounded by a halo of related texts and diagrams on cosmology, mathematics, medicine, grammar, and prognostication. The Paschal Tables contain the annals of Thorney Abbey, and the texts of Bede's *De natura rerum* and *De temporibus* are furnished with marginal glosses, some textual

and others graphic. All the annals and glosses are fully transcribed in *The Calendar and the Cloister*. There are a few items in Old English, largely glosses. Thorney's particular connection to Bede (it held relics of Benedict Biscop), and the simultaneous events of the First Crusade lent special meaning to a volume devoted to recording past time, and predicting future time. *Computus* was something of an English speciality, due to the exceptional influence of Bede's *De temporum ratione*, and *The Calendar and the Cloister* pays particular attention to comparing MS 17 to analogous pre- and post-Conquest *computus* anthologies. I am planning a book on English *computi* of the 11th and 12th centuries, and articles on particular aspects of St John's 17, notably the graphic glosses.

Faith Wallis, McGill University

Issues and debates

In advance of the 'Writing England' conference, the English Manuscripts project ran its first symposium, to mark the end of its second year. Elaine, Mary and Orietta encouraged participants not only to talk to each other, but to offer constructive advice and criticism about the project. Participants offered advice on several dimensions of the project including the categories to be used for the catalogue, the dominance of Worcester manuscripts, the centrality of homilies to the shaping of the project and the trilingual context of English manuscripts. I'd like to explore the last point further here.

While it is *absolutely* right that this project is focussed on manuscripts in English – and that a catalogue of these manuscripts is its intended (and eagerly awaited) outcome, I do think this aim needs to be pursued with consideration for what was being produced in Latin and French. The vitality of English after the Conquest extends well beyond texts which appear in English. Comparing the twelfth-century texts listed in Ruth Dean's *Anglo-Norman Literature: A Guide to Texts and Manuscripts* with texts in eleventh-century and twelfth-century manuscripts listed in Gneuss's *Handlist of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts* and Ker's *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon* can be very eye-opening for what it reveals about the

complexity of the relationship between English and French. Links emerge between lapidary texts, medical texts, lawcodes, history-writing, proverbs and saints' lives. In some cases, there is a direct movement of knowledge from English to French but in other cases both English and French are simultaneously working to make new kinds of Latin learning accessible in the vernacular.

Finally, although this cannot form part of a catalogue of manuscripts in English, some thinking about what kinds of writing do *not* appear in English after the Conquest might also help the project to be alert to the specificity of the contexts in which English is used: here I am thinking, for example, of the kinds of literary texts in Latin and French which come to be associated with the patronage of members of the royal dynasty: the Anglo-Norman *Voyage of St Brendan* or William of Malmesbury's *Gesta Regum* and verses addressed to English royal women by the famous French poets Marbod and Hildebert all spring to mind. The openness of English to new learning in the 12th century and its close and multiple contacts with French and Latin have much to teach us about the richness of English in the post-Conquest period.

Elizabeth Tyler, The University of York