

News on conferences

Extreme Materialism in Iowa! June 3rd to 13th 2008 saw a group of more than a dozen scholars and craftspeople gathered in the Obermann Centre at the University of Iowa for a workshop on 'Extreme Materialist Approaches to Medieval Manuscripts', directed by Jonathan Wilcox. At this two-week seminar, Anglo-Saxonists and later medievalists from Departments of English, History, Art History, Iowa Centre for the Book were able to gain first-hand experience of preparing parchment (led by Jesse Meyer, founder of Pergamena), paper-making (under the tutelage of Tim Barrett), writing with quills on parchment and making inks (with Cheryl Jacobsen and Karen Horst), and book-binding and conservation (with Gary Frost). The skills required by each of these areas of manuscript making was quite an eye-opener, and each of the scholars benefited significantly from this amazing opportunity. We also gave presentations on particular case studies, ranging from "scruffy" Old English and Latin books, to high-grade liturgical manuscripts, personal prayerbooks and institutional codices, ranging from the eighth to the fifteenth centuries. The synergy effected by bringing together these participants, united by their passion for unique early books, made a major impact on our various perspectives and current projects. For my own part, I have gained an insight into the making of books that will affect every aspect of my research from now on. I also gained many new friends and colleagues, each of whose own expertise has proved an inspiration to me: I shall no longer pay scant attention to line drawings;



shall now know how to tell calf from goat or sheep (allegedly); and will be able to deduce how many times a medieval codex has been bound. Our theorizing of the importance of books to all cultures also provided a salutary reminder of how precious the artefact is as a repository of cultural memory, and how potentially elusive modern technologies are from that same viewpoint. While we were there, the state suffered appalling flooding, necessitating the closure of the university and evacuation of many homes, so as we fled from rising waters to the airport, our thoughts were with all of those left to clear the damage, including our Iowa colleagues involved in the rapid removal of books and art from the library and museum. Thanks to them all, and especially Jon Wilcox, for a wonderful experience!

Elaine Treharne



At the session we organised at the 43rd **International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo** (2008), 'Using Twelfth-Century Manuscripts', Elaine illustrated the recent tendency of scholarship to ascribe manuscripts to Worcester without necessarily definitive evidence in 'Dangerous Liaisons: Scribal Connections, 1050-1220'; Chris Tuckley, who was awarded funding for attending the Congress by the Lynne Grundy Trust, examined the manuscript collection from St. Guthlac's, Hereford, an Anglo-Saxon Minster foundation that was reformed as a Benedictine priory in 1143, in 'An Anglo-Saxon Minster in the Margins: Detecting the Influence of Saint Guthlac's Minster in Twelfth-Century Hereford'; and Mark Faulkner showed various functions of glosses in Middle English, Anglo-Norman French and Latin, in 'Translating the Translation: Latin and Vernacular Glossing in Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts, ca. 1066-1200'.

Takako Kato

English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220
www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/



The Production and Use of English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220

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Project progress report and future conferences

We are pleased to announce some major updates to the Project website: the list of 128 manuscripts with which we started the Project has expanded to 147; we have tripled the size of our working bibliography; we have also uploaded a list of publications to date by the Project team on topics related to the Project. The first entry in our manuscript catalogue (Cambridge University Library li. 1.33) was published last year, and several new manuscript descriptions will be added in the coming weeks. We welcome comments and corrections on the material. We're also working on publication plans for the excellent conference papers given in conference sessions organised by the Project, and at our first Symposium held at Leicester last summer.

The last year has seen two important changes to the project team. Orietta, the initial Project Research Associate, was appointed to a permanent lectureship in the English Department at Leicester in summer 2007, and has become a Co-Director of the Project. Takako Kato took up the



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English Manuscripts
 1060 to 1220
 Newsletter



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Research Associate post in January 2008. Because there was a 4-month hiatus in the work of the Project, between Orietta moving into her new job and Takako taking up the Research Associate post, the AHRC has agreed to extend the end-date of the project until 31 August 2010. We've got plenty of work to do, and are happy to have the full amount of time to complete it.

At the Leeds International Medieval Congress (July 2008), Takako is giving a paper on 'Towards a Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing English: 1060 to 1220' in a session on 'Digitizing Medieval Manuscripts'; and Mary is chairing a session organised by Julia Crick on 'Rethinking the 12th Century', in which Matthew Mesley will speak about 'Searching for a Model Life: Contrasting Two Post-Conquest *Vitae* of St Aldhelm', Edward A. Mullins 'On Medieval Selfhood', and Tamsin Rowe on '*Benedictio frugum*: Liturgy and Nature in Central Medieval England'. Thomas Gobbitt, one of the Project's PhD students, will give a paper on 'Cambridge, Corpus Christi College MS 383: Historiography, Liebermann and the Twelfth-Century Context' at the conference 'Early English Laws: A Centenary Conference Celebrating the Publication of *Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen* (1906-13) by Felix Liebermann' (Institute of Historical Research, University of London, July 2008). We're also making plans for another IMC session and for the ISAS meeting in Newfoundland in summer 2009.

Takako Kato



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Issues and debates

The integrity of text: Designing the Project Catalogue has raised essential questions about the nature of the 'text' in early medieval literature. In 'Early medieval book design in England: the influence of manuscript design on the transmission of texts', Linda Nix examines some gospel books to demonstrate how 'the design of the book can affect the text and its transmission, and, conversely, how a particular text can affect a book's design' (in *A Millennium of the Book*, ed. R. Myers and M. Harris (Oak Knoll Press, 1994), pp. 1-21 (p. 1)). Her focus is principally on *mise-en-page* and *mise-en-texte* and, while this is illuminating, she does not consider the materiality of the book in her interpretation of text; neither is she concerned with that which falls outside the parameters of the text as original inscription. One new theory of textual integrity being worked on by Elaine Treharne is heading towards an analysis of 'text as book' (or whole artefact, however that constitutes itself). Thus, using architectural theory (or the neologism, in this context, 'architextuality'), Elaine is trying to reinterpret the 'text' as constituting every element of a medieval book or page, and would argue that only by assessing the entire physical make-up and materiality of the book can we begin to offer a coherent interpretation of the text in its specific historic and cultural moment.

Similarly, Mary Swan is concerned with two principal issues. The first is how our definition of a 'text' might differ from that of an early medieval scribe, who doesn't conceive of textual integrity in the ways that modern

readers do: we still debate precisely where some Anglo-Saxon texts begin and end. How do we categorise multiple versions of the same text? Our conceptual reference is often an edited version, so that when thinking about what constitutes a single text from Ælfric's *Catholic Homilies* we have in mind a discrete, numbered item from Clemoes' or Godden's edition. This means that when we encounter a different version of that text – one of the excerpts from CH homilies in BL Cotton Vespasian D. xiv, for example – we categorise that as a partial text, not a whole one. But in its manuscript context, that 'part-text' status is meaningless.

The second is how we might define a 'whole artefact'. Many of the manuscripts in our Catalogue have been through a succession of moments which have changed their shape as artefacts: an initial moment when a first layer was created by a single scribe writing one or more texts into a gathering; many have then seen an almost-immediate but separate layer of annotations on that first layer, either by the first scribe or by other(s); many also have later layers of further annotations by others; some have been recontextualised later in the Middle Ages as part of codices including other pages of text; others have been recontextualised in the post-medieval period by Early Modern collectors as part of what we now think of as whole medieval manuscripts.

So in working on the Project material, it's crucial that we continue to refine how we think about texts, their integrity and their embodiment in manuscript form.

Elaine Treharne and Mary Swan

Research in progress

The uses of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, c. 1066-1200: I'm just finishing my doctorate on the twelfth-century afterlives of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, a project which was inspired by the startling additions to the 'Old English Illustrated Hexateuch', BL Cotton Claudius B. iv, and the recognition that relatively little had been written about the use of pre-Conquest manuscripts after 1066. The thesis is based on an examination of about 300 Anglo-Saxon manuscripts and fragments, both English and Latin, and supplements this physical evidence with the anecdotal evidence offered by twelfth-century historians. It is organised by the different uses pre-Conquest books found, and develops a partial chronology for these different uses.

I begin by discussing the evidence for the destruction of manuscripts after 1066, and contrast this with the attempts made to conserve pre-Conquest books. Chapter III establishes that Anglo-Saxon manuscripts circulated for various reasons after the Conquest, and outlines some of the reasons why they were in demand. I then turn to what twelfth-century readers did with pre-Conquest manuscripts, first showing how they overcame features of script, orthography, and textual recension which were unfamiliar to them, and modernised Anglo-Saxon books to accord with contemporary needs. Chapter V examines the different types of glosses and annotations which post-Conquest readers added to manuscripts, both Latin and vernacular. The last two chapters focus on the different ways in which the symbolic capital of

pre-Conquest books was harnessed during the twelfth century, be it to provide an additional veneer of authenticity to documents copied into gospel books, or to emphasise a community's antiquity. I close with some reflections on how my research provides evidence for an empirical account of early medieval reading practices, and for writing the literary history of the 'transitional' period. I hope to begin publishing the thesis next year.

I envisage my research developing to examine English literature and the cultural status of the vernacular between 1066 and 1200, as well as the relationship between early medieval reading practices in Latin and the vernacular.

Mark Faulkner, University of Oxford

The production and use of Old English charters from 1060-1220: I am nearing the end of the first year of my PhD focusing on the use of the vernacular in land charters from 1060-1220. The work I have been doing this year has been on copies of the charters of two cartularies from eleventh-century Worcester; the *Nero Middleton* cartulary (BL, Cotton Nero E. i, pt. ii and Add. 46204) and *Liber Wirgonensis* (BL, Cotton Tiberius A. xiii (I)) now bound to *Hemming's Cartulary*, which were produced fifty years apart. The charters I have chosen for my corpus this year are all those which contain Old English and have

copies in both cartularies (Sawyer number: S 64, S 1280, S 1432, S 1313 and S 1556).

My analysis of these charters is primarily linguistic. The ultimate goal is to find evidence of the effects of textual transmission in the production of charters, treating the extant copies of these texts as data in their own right rather than a means to reconstruct the original text. By comparing the differences between the copies of the charters I hope to determine the influence of different factors on the way scribes treated the texts they were copying. That is, the influence of scribal training and scribes' personal preferences in copying a text; the spoken language, including both temporal and dialectal variations; the standards of scriptoria imposing rules on the texts they produced; scribes' attitudes towards exemplars and the difference between what was considered text to be copied, and elements that were free to be changed. I also hope to re-examine the current belief that the texts of *Nero Middleton* are direct copies of those in *Liber Wirgonensis*.

Upon completing the analysis of this corpus, I intend to repeat my methodology on corpora from different locations and dates to produce a comparative study of the production and use of charters written from 1060-1220.

Kate Wiles, University of Leeds;
Project's AHRC-funded PhD student

Related projects

Matt Townend and Elizabeth Tyler are leading a series of 5 AHRC funded workshops on the topic of 'Crossing Conquests: Literary Culture in Eleventh-Century England' to look at literary culture in the dramatic period which included the marriage of Æthelred and Emma, the Danish and Norman conquests, Domesday Book and, in 1100, the marriage of Henry I to the Anglo-Saxon princess, Edith/Matilda. The workshops will be interdisciplinary and multilingual in their focus, including historians and specialists in French, Welsh and Irish alongside scholars of Old English and Anglo-Latin; and they cover five topics: administration and literacy; classical and scientific learning; courts and their networks; episcopal culture; and history- and life-writing.

At the end of the series will be a postgraduate day conference with sessions led by many of the workshop participants and a roundtable (at the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York on Thursday, 25 Sept). The cost of the conference as well as bursaries towards travel and accommodation for postgraduates have

been generously funded by the AHRC. Please encourage any interested students to attend: details will be circulated early in the summer.

Elizabeth Tyler, University of York

English glosses in eleventh-century Anglo-Saxon manuscripts:

Most readers of this newsletter will be aware of the Manchester database of eleventh-century scripts and spellings,

www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/mancass/C11database/

The initial AHRB funding ended in April 2005, but then a grant from the British Academy enabled the addition of more data. There are now almost a million and a half items uploaded. One area that was excluded from the original survey, however, was late additions and marginalia, and these words and texts are now being addressed in a new AHRC-funded project, headed by Donald Scragg with Dr Kathryn Powell as the researcher. First results will be made known at the Leeds IMC in July 2008.

Don Scragg, University of Manchester