

## News on conferences

Since the project started, we've presented papers about its work at a number of conferences, and have also sponsored conference sessions on the wider theme of post-Conquest Old English. The project team gave presentations at the International Medieval Congress in the University of Leeds and the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists conference in Munich, in 2005,

and so far in 2006 we've spoken at the Oxford English Postgraduate Seminar, the *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici* Open Meeting at University College London, and the University of Leeds Medieval Group.

At the conference session we organised at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in 2006, 'Bridging the Gap: English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220', Peter A. Stokes spoke on analysing and categorising script, in 'The Problem of Grade in Post-Conquest English Vernacular Minuscule'; Erika Corradini, who won the David R. Tashjian International Travel prize, awarded by the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, gave a case-study of the influences and impetus behind the compilation of some project manuscripts, in 'Old English Homiliaries in Late Eleventh-Century Collections: the Case of Exeter'; and Katie Lowe examined language choice in charters, in 'Heap of Angels, Heap of Sheep: Post-Conquest Bilingual Composition in Memoranda from Bury St Edmunds'. In our session at



Erika Corradini (Tashjian Travel Award Winner)

the IMC in Leeds in 2006, 'Post-Conquest Old English Preaching Texts', Winfried P. Rudolf will discuss more project manuscripts, in 'Text Grouping and Demarcation in Late Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts from Worcester'; Aidan Conti will present a new text for the project, in 'The Taunton Fragments and the Homiliary of Angers: A Recently Discovered Piece of Post-Conquest Old English in its Continental Context'; and Orietta Da Rold will talk about the criteria we're using in our catalogue of manuscripts, in 'Describing Manuscripts in Post-Conquest England'.

Orietta Da Rold and Mary Swan will give a joint paper at the 'Conceptualizing Multilingualism in England, 800-1250' conference at the University of York in 2006, on 'Linguistic Contiguities: English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220', with a focus on Cambridge University Library li. 1. 33 and its implications for language choices in England, and for our cataloguing methodology.

We're planning another IMC session for 2007, and will give more papers on the detailed findings of the project as its work progresses.

Mary Swan

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

The first conference organised by the Project, 'Writing England: Books 1100-1200', will be held at the University of Leicester from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It aims to investigate in detail the cultures of textual production and reception in England in this crucial period. Keynote speakers include Rodney M. Thomson and Ralph Hanna.

This conference will be preceded by the first symposium of our Project, for which numbers will be restricted. Please contact us for further information. Watch out for updates, and for the call for papers, on the project website.

English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220

[www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/](http://www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/)

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



# The Production and Use of English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220

Volume 2, Issue 1

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## Special points of interest:

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## English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220 Newsletter



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## Project progress report



MS 11A,  
by courtesy of University of Leicester Library

This has been an exciting year for the Project. Since May we've been working to set up a foundation for the years to come. We have a website, which is regularly updated and contains preliminary information on the research background to the Project; a list of manuscripts that is updated as new

research throws up new relevant materials; a working bibliography, useful for all scholars in the field; a list of events at which the Project team delivers papers; an electronic version of our Newsletters; and a feedback form for colleagues to offer their views and comments. The template for the catalogue is on its way and we would like to thank the many colleagues who have responded so generously to our not always straightforward questions.

We have also been on the road, as it were, to network with colleagues, and foster a broader research culture in early medieval studies. We are delighted with the response we have had internationally from scholars and we are grateful for their support. We look forward to developing this collaboration further.

This is the second volume of the Project newsletter. We hope it will become a regular window for researchers to publicize their work in progress in our period. Contributions from young scholars are particularly welcomed.

Orietta Da Rold



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## Research in progress

### Focus on St Guthlac's, Hereford

In May 2005 I successfully applied for the 'Anglo-Latin texts and language across the Norman Conquest' studentship, one of three PhD studentships funded by the White Rose consortium of the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, as part of the White Rose 'Reading the Medieval Book' network. I am working on eleventh- and twelfth-century literary culture, with a specific consideration of how it operated at St. Guthlac's, Hereford, an Anglo-Saxon minster foundation that was reformed as a Benedictine priory in 1143. I am supervised by Dr Mary Swan and Dr Philip Shaw (Department of English Language and Linguistics, University of Sheffield), and advised by Dr William Flynn (Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds). I am six months into my PhD programme; getting to grips with the primary sources relating to the obscure history of St. Guthlac's, as well as making preliminary examinations of the numerous survivals from the St. Guthlac's manuscript collection. I hope soon to be in a position to narrow the focus of my research, and to begin to concentrate on elements within the manuscripts that can be situated in the broader context of the literature circulated in the West Midlands both before and after the Conquest.

Chris Tuckley, University of Leeds

### Reappraising the Benedictine Reform

I am currently revising for publication (with Ashgate) my thesis which, adopting an interdisciplinary approach, examines the construction and depiction of sanctity in the hagiography associated with the late tenth-century English monastic reformers Dunstan of Canterbury, Æthelwold of Winchester and Oswald of Worcester. Whereas previous scholarship has studied these texts independently, with the hagiographical texts being read in isolation of each other; this study reads the sources against and across each other to provide a detailed analysis of the way that texts and ideas were negotiated and manipulated to promote particular political and ecclesiastical interests; particularly those associated with the monastic reform movement known as 'the Benedictine Reform'. My future research con-

sists of an analysis of a variety of sources, including homiletic, liturgical and cartulary texts, produced or copied at Worcester between the tenth and thirteenth centuries. Furthermore, I am developing a methodology for identifying reform across different genres and applying it to the corpus of texts in question in order to define what constituted reform in late Anglo-Saxon England, particularly the period known as the Benedictine Reform.

Nicola Robertson, University of Leeds

### Leofric and Continental Connections

The medieval book, when studied in its broadest cultural context, yields critical information about the political and religious ideologies behind the manuscript's compilation. My contribution to this developing field will be an innovative examination of the book collection assembled during the important (but under-estimated) episcopacy of Leofric at Crediton and Exeter, 1046-72. My intention is to bring to bear Leofric's Lotharingian connections upon the activities that underpinned the formation of his library. The reassessment of the Exeter manuscripts, so ably completed by Elaine Drage, provided an excellent foundation, but there is much to do on investigating the influences that Leofric's Lotharingian training exerted on the formation of his book collection and on the organisation of his diocese. I will seek to assess what the collection can tell us of Leofric's pontificate at Crediton and Exeter, and continental influences upon it. Partly due to the scanty historical evidence, but mostly due to the lack of attention given to his manuscripts, Leofric's role within the late Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman church has remained largely unrecognised and underestimated. This research will enable me to place his pontificate in the context of the eleventh-century English church and in that of a wider Christian community, one where Lotharingian ecclesiasts occupied prominent positions like that of Pope Leo IX, previously bishop of Toul. By examining the influences that Leofric's continental background had on the administration of his bishopric, my project will shed new light on the relations between England and Lotharingia in the eleventh century.

Erika Corradini, University of Leicester

## Related projects

England within the chronological range of our Project is a multilingual society with complex social relationships and interactions. There are a number of Projects germane to ours which address these issues from different perspectives.

A new project has been set up to identify twelfth-century manuscripts containing French disseminated all over Europe: 'Illustrated Catalogue of Twelfth-Century French and Occitan Literature'. ([http://www.irht.cnrs.fr/recherche/programme\\_catlitfr\\_english.htm](http://www.irht.cnrs.fr/recherche/programme_catlitfr_english.htm)). Together with 'The French of England' project, such projects will help to re-assemble the complex multilingual jigsaw that Britain is between 1060 and 1220, which still remains incomplete.

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The World Universities Network interdisciplinary research programme on Medieval Multilingualism also considers 'the purposes and effects of 'code switching', the functional and territorial distribution of languages, multilingual writings and manuscripts' (<http://www.wun.ac.uk/multilingualism/index.html>).

The Anglo-Norman On-Line Hub (<http://www.anglo-norman.net/>) is another important project which has recently published its findings on-line, providing scholars with a very important resource: a new updated dictionary of Anglo-Norman terms.

Orietta Da Rold

## Issues and debates: Turning back the clock

Increasingly, and globally, the area of expertise in earlier literature and its contexts seems to be being subsumed under the subject area of 'Medieval Studies' or 'Medieval Literature(s)', and this more comprehensive rubrication is useful and to be encouraged: 'Medieval' includes a lengthy chronology of up to 1000 years of history, literature and language. It encompasses, welcomes even, under its broad remit 'Old' and 'Middle' English, so unhelpfully and frequently fragmented in other contexts. 'Early English' might well be regarded as an equally useful umbrella term.

The chronological demarcation of English has been an issue for occasional comment since at least 1930 when Kemp Malone published his 'When did Middle English begin?' Roger Lass's piece, 'Language Periodization and the concept "middle"', tackles precisely this issue with a challenge to scholars in the field to re-think the taxonomy that permits the boundaries of 'Old', 'Middle', and 'Modern': the 'Triadomany'. Such a threesome doesn't include, of course, the complicating and commonly-used additional labels of 'early Old', 'late Old', 'classical Old', 'Standard Old', 'transitional', 'early Middle', and 'late Middle'. Lass effectively demonstrates the

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truly arbitrary nature of the labels assigned to the evolution of English during the nineteenth century, by influential scholars such as Henry Sweet and Thomas Wright. Despite subsequent attempts by linguists and anthologists to particularise moments in the development of the language, successive generations of scholars have effectively chosen to concretise the demarcations postulated by Sweet.

I'd like to turn the clock back to 1864 and the original conception of Frederick Furnivall, the Reverend Richard Morris, and W. W. Skeat, in founding not the Old or the Middle or even the Medieval, but rather, the *Early English Text Society*. Their aim was 'to bring the mass of unprinted Early English literature within the reach of students', and this indispensable series now includes texts from the eighth to the sixteenth centuries. If labels provide exclusivity, then I would advocate abandoning labels. Given that such an ideal is entirely utopian, then at the very least let us use inclusive labels that reflect reality: if Old and Middle English can't be 'Early', then let them be, as of course they are, jointly Medieval.

Elaine Treharne