Editor’s Remarks

DEAR COLLEAGUES AND MANUSCRIPT LOVERS: I am happy to report that spring has finally arrived, and that scholarly activities on campus, throughout the country, and abroad are mushrooming and continue to spawn. This is particularly true of events in the field of manuscripts, with what seems to me a record number of pop-up conferences, symposia, workshops, and exhibitions.

Since my query in the last issue brought so much feedback from readers, for which I am extremely grateful—I am very selfishly repeating it, with another image from the same Digestum vetus manuscript, in hopes that its format may ring a bell with someone. It most likely deals with the phrase: “You unwittingly sold me, who did not know the facts, a silver-covered table as solid silver” (Dig. 18.1.41.1). If anyone can convincingly relate this image to a table (or anything else), I will be suitably impressed and eternally in debt. I am especially intrigued by the inner sort of prongs, and the hooks on the outer corners.

I also want to promote an exhibition of our own on this first page, curated by our current graduate research assistant Ben Winter, from the Theology department. Ben assessed our manuscript holdings related to liturgy, and put together a very attractive exhibit for our new exhibition cases in the Vatican Film Library, called “Keeping Time through Prayer: Liturgy in the Middle Ages.”

Each case focuses on a specific liturgical aspect. Case A looks at liturgical rhythm, represented by calendars and the cult of saints; Case B is dedicated to liturgical ritual and its effects on communities. A brochure provides a summary of the topics under discussion, you may download it at:

Notice of projected temporary closing of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary and unavailability of its collection—including its illuminated manuscripts.

The Jewish Theological Seminary is planning a project that will include construction of a new building for the library. While the details and timing of this project are not yet definitive, it is likely that this project will commence sometime during the 2015–16 academic year.

To make room for the new library, the current building will have to be demolished and the Rare Book Room closed during construction. Rare materials such as books, manuscripts, broadsides, and archival collections will be stored safely off-site. If the project proceeds as anticipated, rare materials will be unavailable for research from the winter of 2015–16 through at least the winter of 2018–19. Anything that has been digitized will continue to be available through our digital library and on microfilm through ProQuest, or at the National Library of Israel.

However, we recommend that you anticipate what your research needs might be and make appointments to conduct that research with original materials as early as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Diamant (sadiamant@jtsa.edu), or the Special Reading Room (srr@jtsa.edu).
Shaken by the departure of Dr. Christopher de Hamel, the Department of Western Manuscripts and Miniatures at Sotheby’s has been folded into the Department of Books and Manuscripts. Camilla Previé has retired, and Dr. Tim Bolton has been named Head of Western Manuscripts and Miniatures at Bloomsbury’s London. Dr. de Hamel has joined Les Enluminures Galleries as Senior Vice President. The specialist in charge at Sotheby’s is now Dr. Mara Hofmann. Deus annuit. In advance of these staffing changes, Sotheby’s had a modest sale of 54 lots on 2 December. Many fragments and cuttings struggled to find buyers.

A second offering from the Fackelmann Diplomatic Papyrus Collection (lot 5) achieved £50,000. It has a pre-1970 provenance. A small fragment of the Historiarum Libri XII by Freculph of Lisieux (lot 7) changed hands for £8125, one of only four ninth-century witnesses (not three, as reported). A historiated initial of the presentation of a young Franciscan (lot 20, £15,000) came from a Sienese choir book, ca. 1450. Two initials from the 1490s by the Veronese Girolamo dai Libri (lots 23–24) made £4750 and £9375, respectively. His work is well-represented in the United States, but a lovely cutting at the Cincinnati Museum of Art deserves notice. Miniatures from the dismembered Tarleton Hours by the Master of the Harvard Hannibal (lots 25, £8,125; 26, £5,000) included a folio not seen since 1952, when the manuscript was first broken in London. Fresh and beautiful miniatures from an illuminated missal attributed to the prolific Jean Coene (lot 28, ca. 1525) made £7500. An Ashkenazi Torah scroll of 81 membranes sold on behalf of a shuttered London synagogue for £182,500, below the estimate of £200K-£300K. Radiocarbon analysis cast doubt on the alleged fourteenth-century date and the corresponding claim that this was among “the earliest of Ashkenazi scrolls to survive.” Charming Armenian manuscripts of ca. 1500 bound with ivory plaquettes (lots 38, 40) failed to sell because of recent laws prohibiting the export of ivory without certificates requiring scientific testing.

Rare and exceedingly desirable was an illuminated marriage certificate dated 1476 for a couple dwelling near Lyon. Few such illuminated certificates survive, the earliest from 1453. Also from Lyon, lot 49 comprised a small, plump, and singular Book of Hours in German, dated ca. 1482 (£37,500). The Sotheby’s cover lot, a five-volume Chronique Françoyse in French verse by Guillaume Crétin, comprised 635 folios. Produced in Paris around 1530, its distinguished owners include Leonore, Princess of Guéméné (d. 1583); Louis César de La Baume Le Blanc, duc de La Vallière (d. 1780); King Louis Philippe I of France (d. 1850); Bertram, fourth Earl of Ashburnham (d. 1878); and the connoisseur Henry Yates Thompson (d. 1928). Given the relative rarity of the text, the fresh state of preservation, and the historic ownership, the cost of £74,500 seems cheap when calculating the price-per-volume at less than £15K. A fragmentary English manuscript of Malmesbury interest, the Eulogium historiarum, achieved £32,500 (lot 47). The text is a chronicle history of England produced at Malmesbury either for the foundation or for a patron of status. The first medieval manuscript of this work to be sold in some 300 years, it belonged to an eighteenth-century book thief but was most recently de-accessioned by Bristol Baptist College. The Rental of Worcester Priory dated 1240 achieved £110,500 (lot 48). Most spectacularly, the manuscript included an unattested charter of King Edgar issued in 964, with wording in Old English. While a fourteenth-century copy survives among the Worcester Cathedral muniments, this document is the preeminent record of the Worcester endowments.

Fig. 1: The first documented “oriental” manuscript in North America, acquired in Isfahan by botanist André Michaux in 1793. (Charleston Library Society, Charleston, SC, MS 353).
Scott Gwara, Review of Sales (cont.)

Christie’s sale of Valuable Manuscripts and Printed Books (19 November 2014) offered multiple treasures. The prize of the sale—a spectacular book by any measure—now belongs to Trinity College Dublin: a compilation of texts, ca. 1325, including a Latin translation of Aristotle’s De natura animalium; Dares Phrygius, De excidio Troiae historia; Geoffrey of Monmouth’s Historia regum Britanniae and Propheciae Merlini; Gerald of Wales Topographia Hibernica and Expugnatio Hibernica; see http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/lost-medieval-manuscript-returns-dublin.

In the fourteenth century the manuscript belonged to St. Mary’s Abbey, Dublin, a Cistercian foundation dissolved in 1539. While Christie’s proposed an English or Irish origin, some of the scripts are clearly Irish. These contents have a transparent unity as literary texts related to invasion, and their historical context recalls the invasion of Ireland by Edward de Bruce, 1315–18. The relevance of this compilation as a reaction to Anglo-Irish warfare, as much as its Arthurian subject matter, focus on prophecy, and secure provenance helped it achieve £206,500. Other manuscripts in the sale included a prayer book and two horae in Dutch (resp. lot 6, £20,000; lot 9, £2750; lot 10, £13,750); a large annotated copy of Carthusian Statutes, ca. 1350, actually prepared for glossing (lot 7, £20,000); and a very fine Book of Hours, Use of Paris, from the 1490s, with four thirteenth-century grants in favor of the Cistercian foundation of Marienthal; all have excellent intact wax seals on silk cords.

Other European auction houses sold good manuscripts last Fall. Reiss und Sohn featured two single leaves from a manuscript of Bede’s commentary on Mark’s Gospel, which was said to be ninth century but seemed quite possibly eighth-century to me (lot 267, €32,000). A fragment from a Speculum humanae salvationis preserved two curious illuminations (lot 338, €7000). It is perhaps not widely known that the first documented manuscript in North America is an English Speculum now at Yale, donated by Elihu Yale in 1714 [fig. 2]. A fragmentary thirteenth-century French Pocket Bible with fine decoration (lot 268) went for €26,000. The works of Dionysius Areopagiticus (lot 272), on a large annotated copy of Carthusian Statutes, ca. 1350, actually prepared for glossing (lot 7, £20,000); and a very fine Book of Hours, Use of Paris, from the 1490s, with fourteen large miniatures by the Master of Jacques de Besançon (lot 11, £43,750). The medieval manuscripts included three thirteenth-century grants in favor of the Cistercian foundation of Marienthal; all have excellent intact wax seals on silk cords.

Finally, of particular interest last Fall was the sale Bücher und Handschriften des 12.–18. Jahrhunderts, held by Moirandat (Basel). A diminutive, complete Romanesque French copy of Paschasius Radbertus’s De corporre et sanguine Domini achieved 78,880 CHF (lot 1). It had two multi-line initials on blue grounds and an excellent script of the early twelfth century. The text spawned the Carolingian Eucharist controversy, while this manuscript seems to have been copied in reaction to the re-emergence of heresy as promulgated by Berengar of Tours (d. 1088). A late fourteenth-century Italian copy of John of Freiburg’s Summa confessorum in grand format had excellent Bolognese decoration but went unsold (lot 3, est. 250,000 CHF). However, a glossed copy of Pope Clement’s Constitutiones (lot 4) achieved 220,400 CHF against an estimate of 80,000 CHF. It had good decoration, although the major illumination showing Clement V surrounded by figures presumably advising him on the text was slightly damaged. Lastly, a bright miniature of St. Benedict from late thirteenth-century Spain made 23,200 CHF (lot 2). Formerly in the Breslauer Collection, the miniature first appeared in the hands of Robert Forrer who self-published his exceptional collection of illuminations, now dispersed (Strasbourg, 1902); see http://lib.slu.edu/files/special-collections/publications/vfl-newsletter-no-08.pdf.
Renaissance Splendors of the Northern Italian Courts
March 31–June 21, 2015, GETTY CENTER

Ongoing at the Getty, a splendid exhibition co-curated by Bryan C. Keene and Christopher Platts

The Renaissance courts of northern Italy, among the wealthiest and most sophisticated in Europe, attracted innovative artists who created objects of remarkable beauty. Princes and courtiers offered painters and illuminators favorable contracts and social prestige in return for lavishly decorated panels and books. These works prominently displayed their owners’ scholarly learning, religious devotion, and elite status. Drawn primarily from the Getty Museum’s permanent collection of manuscripts, this exhibition celebrates the magnificent illuminations that emerged from this courtly context—an array of visual riches fit for the highest-ranking members of Renaissance society.

Accompanying the show is an online virtual exhibition, produced in collaboration with institutions in Ferrara, Mantua, Milan, Venice, and Verona, that allows visitors to view additional illuminated manuscripts by artists active in the northern Italian courts as well as items owned by various patrons who lived there. Several of the collaborating institutions will call attention to the virtual exhibition in their galleries by highlighting objects related to the exhibition’s three themes: Artists at Court, Court Patrons, and Courtly Style. Learn more about the main exhibition and access the virtual exhibition at http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/renaissance_splendors/.

In tandem, two important and complementary exhibitions are taking place in Milan. The first, Splendori rinascimentali nelle corti dell’Italia settentrionale, organized by the Biblioteca Trivulziana and on display in the Castello Sforzesco, Sala Castelliana, is organized in parallel to the Getty exhibition, and also runs from 31 March to 21 June. This link will lead you to a guide to the exhibition and works on display: http://graficheincomune.comune.milano.it/graficheincomune/bacheca/SplendoriRinascimentali. The second exhibition runs from 12 March to 28 June at the Palazzo Reale: Arte lombarda dai Visconti agli Sforza: Milano al centro dell’Europa. It is a huge remake of the famous 1958 exhibition by Roberto Longhi, with a greater interest in patronage and historical context. On display are some masterpieces of Italian late medieval illumination, such as the Liber Pantheon (Paris, BnF, MS Latin 4895); Gian Galeazzo Visconti’s Book of Hours, illuminated by Giovannino dei Grassi (Florence, Bibl. Naz., MSS Banco Rari 397 and Landau Finaly 22); the Sermo in exequiis Johannis Galeatii (Paris, BnF, MS Latin 5888); and the Bodmer Book of Hours (New York, Pierpont Morgan Library & Museum, MS M.944), illuminated by Michelino da Besozzo, together with paintings, sculptures and objects dating from the end of the thirteenth to the beginning of the sixteenth centuries. For more information, see http://www.viscontisforza.it/.

The exhibition L’arte di Francesco at the Galleria dell’Accademia in Florence (31 March–11 October 2015) is devoted to Franciscan patronage in the Late Middle Ages and Early Renaissance, and includes a rich section on illuminated manuscripts, especially liturgical choirbooks.

Visit http://www.chateaudeblois.fr/?Exposition-Tresors-royaux-la bibliothèque de François 1er/ for an exhibition taking place 4 July–18 October at the Château Royal de Blois: Trésors royaux la bibliothèque de François 1er/. Cette exposition est organisée avec le partenariat exceptionnel de la Bibliothèque nationale de France, à l’occasion des 500 ans de l’accession au trône de François Ier ainsi que l’anniversaire de la bataille de Marignan. A cette occasion seront réunis pour la première fois des livres et des objs qui faisaient partie de la collection de François Ier.
MORE EXHIBITIONS

IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016, three Boston-area institutions (the Houghton Library at Harvard University, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the McMullen Museum of Boston College) will mount a major exhibition entitled Pages from the Past: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston-Area Collections. Visitors will encounter approximately 260 outstanding examples of the book arts in western Europe from Late Antiquity to the rise of printing prior to the Reformation. Reflecting the consortial character of the project, the manuscripts will be displayed concurrently from approximately September through January 2016, but with somewhat different dates at each of the three venues: the McMullen Museum at Boston College (“The Art of Illumination”), the Houghton Library at Harvard University (“Cloister and Cathedral: The Church and the Book in the Middle Ages”), and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (“The Italian Renaissance Book”). Eighteen institutions in the greater Boston area are participating as lenders, among them the Armenian Museum and Library of America; the Boston Athenaeum; Boston College; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Boston Public Library; Brandeis University; Harvard University Law School; Houghton Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Harvard University; Divinity School, Harvard University; Baker Library, Harvard Business School; Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Northeastern University; Tufts University; Wellesley College. The exhibition will be accompanied by a website with digitizations of many, if not all, of the manuscripts to be exhibited. The exhibition, which will be accompanied by a catalogue with full entries on all the exhibits, will be published by the McMullen Museum, has been organized by Jeffrey F. Hammer, William Stoneman, Lisa Fagin Davis, Anne Marie Eze, and Nancy Netzer.

Don’t miss this exhibition at the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel:

[HAB]: GEDANKEN AM RANDE
Marginalien in Bild und Text 800 – 1800
Running 3 May through 15 November 2015, it presents textual and pictorial marginalia present in manuscripts and printed books, and is curated by Dr. Patrizia Carmassi and Dr. Christian Heitzmann
For more details, see the explication flyer at http://www.hab.de/files/2015-04-16_flyer_hab_low.pdf

Bill Monroe (Brown University Library) has put together a small exhibition—A Garland of Flowers—for the occasion of a recent talk by Lisa Fagin Davis. Running April 9–June 1, it features a selection of medieval manuscripts from the University collections. For more information, see http://blogs.brown.edu/libnews/exhibit-garland-of-flowers/.

COMING SOON:

A first-time exhibition in Troyes, held at the Hôtel-Dieu-le-Comte between 5 June and 15 November: Clairvaux: L’aventure cistercienne. Aspects of monastic, political, economic, artistic, and intellectual life in Clairvaux from the 12th to the 18th century will be illustrated through the more than 150 objects on display, including renowned historical treasures from all over Europe. For more information, go to http://www.clairvaux-2015.fr/847-presentation.htm

Chirographe scellé de saint Bernard © Conseil général de l’Yonne / Archives départementales
NEW PUBLICATIONS

**A Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library at Holkham Hall** by Suzanne Reynolds

I am pleased to report that the first part of Volume 1 in the *A Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library at Holkham Hall*—Manuscripts from Italy to 1500, Shelfmarks 1-399—is scheduled for publication by Brepols in May. This is the first in the series *Manuscripta Publications in Manuscript Research* (Series Editor Susan L’Engle), a subsidiary of *Manuscripta: A Journal for Manuscript Research*.

The manuscript library at Holkham Hall is among the most significant private collections in the world, yet beyond Seymour de Ricci’s handlist published by The Bibliographical Society in 1932—compiled from the notes of William Roscoe and Frederic Madden rather than the manuscripts themselves—no published catalogue exists. The volumes in this series will cover all the Holkham manuscripts and open up these hidden treasures to scrutiny for the first time.

This first volume in the *Catalogue* is devoted to the heart of the collection at Holkham Hall: manuscripts made in Italy in the Middle Ages and the age of humanism. This first part of Volume 1 covers one hundred and twenty-seven Italian manuscripts: biblical and liturgical codices (notably a lavishly illuminated Book of Hours made for Lorenzo de’ Medici), patristic texts, and the exceptional collection of Latin classical authors collected by Thomas Coke (1697–1759). There are new attributions to illuminators, and significant discoveries in textual history and provenance. Every manuscript catalogued is generously illustrated, and a full bibliography and indices are also included, along with a concordance establishing the correct location and shelfmark of all former and current Holkham manuscripts. A substantial historical introduction, drawing on unpublished archives at Holkham and elsewhere, reconstructs in detail the formation and development of the Holkham manuscript library in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, exploring for the first time the contributions of Coke’s Grand Tour governor Thomas Hobart and his librarian Domenico Ferrari, and reappraising fundamentally the impact of William Roscoe on the Holkham manuscript collection. Publication details can be found at:

http://www.brepols.net/Pages/ShowProduct.aspx?prod_id=IS-9782503529004-1

Suzanne Reynolds
Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts and Printed Books,
Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge
(Curator of Manuscripts at Holkham Hall until 2014)

Prof. dr. J.P. Gumbert draws our attention to an important new volume:


As catalogued on WorldCat, this volume is the main achievement of the Research Networking Programme “Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies,” funded by the European Science Foundation in the years 2009–2014. The chapters reflect the state of the art in such fields as codicology, paleography, textual criticism and text editing, cataloguing, and manuscript conservation as applied to a wide array of language traditions including Arabic, Armenian, Avestan, Caucasian Albanian, Christian Palestinian Aramaic, Coptic, Ethiopic, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Persian, Slavonic, Syriac, and Turkish. It includes bibliographical references (pages 583–654) and indexes. It is available in paperback, hardback, and as a downloadable ebook; for further information see:

http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/COMST/handbookonline.html

- The fourth edition of Christine Jakobi-Mirwald’s very useful book on manuscript terminology, with a glossary in German, English, French, and Italian, has just been published: see http://www.reimer-mann-verlag.de/pdfs/101499_1.pdf
- Beverly Boyd, *Chaucer and the Taverners of Ipswich: Their Influence on Some of the Portraits in the General Prologue* (New York and Lampeter, Wales, 2014)
- The latest issue of *Digital Philology* is devoted to studies of a single manuscript, the Dartmouth Brut: see http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/digital_philology/toc/dph.3.2.html
David Lyle Jeffrey, Distinguished Professor of Literature and the Humanities and Senior Fellow, Institute for Studies in Religion at Baylor University shares some institutional news:

- Michelle Brown will be giving lectures and her annual fall workshop on medieval paleography and codicology at Baylor University during November 9–13, 2015. Her public lecture, title to be announced, will be at 3:30 pm on Nov. 9.
- Prof. Dirk Obbink, hitherto a Visiting Professor of Paleography (Classics), will make Baylor his regular academic address as of July 1, 2015.
- Prof. Jeffrey Fish (Classics), having this year been Associate Director of the Baylor Manuscript Research Collegium, will take over from David Lyle Jeffrey as Director as of June 1, 2015.

MANUSCRIPT NEWS

Three papers on Bolognese Trecento illuminated manuscripts held in the library of the Collegio di Spagna were presented April 20–21 in an international conference to celebrate the 650th anniversary of the Collegio in Bologna. Massimo Medica spoke on a manuscript of Giovanni d’Andrea’s Hieronymianus (MS 273), dated 1346, arguing that it may be the original copy of his treatise on St. Jerome, commissioned by Giovanni himself. Robert Gibbs dealt with MSS 282–286, a complete set of the Corpus iuris civilis—dating, in his opinion, to the early fourteenth century—and discussed the different illuminators working on the manuscripts.

Gianluca del Monaco presented a paper on a Bible (MS 2) dating to ca. 1315–1320, comparing its decoration with thirteenth-century Bibles lavishly illuminated in Bologna, and considering Medica’s hypothesis that the manuscript might also have been commissioned by Giovanni d’Andrea. Paleographer Giovanna Murano was in the audience and suggested that one should search for autograph annotations by Giovanni in MSS 2 and 273. See the complete conference program at [http://informa.comune.bologna.it/iperbole/media/files/programa_provisional_congreso_domus_hispanica.pdf](http://informa.comune.bologna.it/iperbole/media/files/programa_provisional_congreso_domus_hispanica.pdf). All the conference papers will be published in a volume expected to be issued next year.

News from Les Enluminures

Recent Publications:

- **The Idda Collection: Romanesque Biblical Manuscripts c. 1000 to 1240.** Text by Laura Light and Christopher de Hamel. Preface by Sandra Hindman

- **Primer: Diplomatics.** Text by Christopher de Hamel and Ariane Bergeron.


- **The Latest Exhibition** at Les Enluminures closed May 2, 2015 but you can learn about it in a video featuring Sandra Hindman and Christopher de Hamel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzmHVSSz4lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzmHVSSz4lw)

- **The Bibliothèque nationale de France** recently acquired an unknown Life of St. Francis manuscript from Les Enluminures. There was an extensive feature in *Le Monde*: [http://www.lesenluminures.com/enlu-assets/media/press/2015-01-le-monde-le-monde-01.24.2015.pdf](http://www.lesenluminures.com/enlu-assets/media/press/2015-01-le-monde-le-monde-01.24.2015.pdf) and Jacques Dalarun dedicated his latest publication to a study of this important manuscript: [http://www.amazon.fr/La-Vie-retC3%A9e-Fran%C3%A7ois-dAssise/dp/2850203734](http://www.amazon.fr/La-Vie-retC3%A9e-Fran%C3%A7ois-dAssise/dp/2850203734)
Over the last two decades, cartularies have been seen as an object of study in themselves, not only for the wealth of information they provide or for the problems of authenticity, but as organized “deposits” of memory and of control of property. This meeting aims at creating an opportunity for all those involved in medieval cartularies to discuss concrete experiences of studying and editing European cartularies from the 12th and 13th centuries. Without dismissing a global overview of this phenomenon, we aim at approaching the topic through specific case studies and by taking into account the different ways in which medieval institutions built their own memory. Therefore, it is also essential to pay attention to non-diplomatic texts copied in or written in close relation to the cartularies (e.g. hagiography or historiography), and to the codices in terms of paleography, codicology, and decoration.

Programme:

- 14:00 Jaakko Tahkokallio (KCL) “Scribal Collaboration – the Rule or Exception? A Quantitative Overview of some Contexts of Book Production”
- 14:15 Sarah Läseke (Leiden) “Fifteenth-Century Scribal Collaboration in Middle English Manuscripts: A Quantitative Approach”
- 14:45 Frieda van der Heijden (Royal Holloway) “Filling in the Blanks: A Discussion about Unfinished Manuscripts and What They Tell us about Book Production”
- 15:00 Holly James-Maddocks (York) “The Illuminators of the ‘Hooked-g’ Group of Middle English Literature: Questions of Origin, Chronology, and Collaborative Practice”
- 15:15 Questions, tea & coffee
- 16:00 Henrike Lähnemann (Oxford) “Collaborative Nuns: Devotional Text Production in Late Medieval Northern Germany”
- 16:30 Leonor Zozaya (Coimbra) “Early Modern Collaboration amongst Town Council Scriveners”
- 17:00 Questions
- 17:15 Closing remarks & discussion

This is one of the most important sources for the works of Guillaume de Machaut, and thanks to the generosity of its owners, James E. and Elizabeth J. Ferrell, it has gone from being the most secret and enigmatic of the Machaut sources to the most accessible, and is the first to be produced in facsimile. The sumptuous and extremely large manuscript (784 colour pages) is currently on loan to the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; it has been reproduced in two volumes, introductory study (vol. 1, 218 pp. colour and b/w) and facsimile (vol. 2, 787 colour images) in a slipcase. The introduction is a multi-author work, with extensive new content and contextual study by Prof. Lawrence Earp revealing hitherto unknown information about the provenance of the book in the library of the Duc du Berry, Domenic Leo provides a detailed discussion of the art-historical aspects of the book (reproduced in colour), and Carla Shapreau contributes an explosive chapter about the history of the book in the Nazi era. In the preface Christopher de Hamel, Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge discusses the recent history of the book and its acquisition by the Ferrells. See http://www.diamm.ac.uk/
The Morgan Library & Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Joshua O’Driscoll as its new Assistant Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts.

Dr. O’Driscoll received his doctorate this spring from Harvard University. His dissertation, “Image and Inscription in the Painterly Manuscripts from Ottonian Cologne,” was supervised by Jeffrey Hamburger. Dr. O’Driscoll’s curatorial experience includes assisting with the forthcoming “Pages from the Past” exhibition in Boston; the Handschriften-census Rheinland-Pfalz in Mainz, Germany; and the recent “Royal Manuscripts: The Genius of Illumination” show in London; additionally, he interned at the Bode Museum in Berlin, and worked as a curatorial assistant at the Houghton Library of Harvard University.

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Charlotte Denoël, Conservateur, chef du service des manuscrits médiévaux, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des manuscrits has shared some interesting sites she organizes that deal with manuscript studies:


http://www.enc.sorbonne.fr/stage/le-catalogage-des-manuscrits-medievaux-en-ead


There are also several seminars and training schools that are organized at the École nationale des chartes on paleography and heraldry:

http://www.enc.sorbonne.fr/seminaires


A further important resource is Biblissima, an observatory for the written cultural heritage of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, developed through the French government programme Équipements d’excellence, part of the Investissements d’avenir (2013-2019). The Bibliothèque nationale de France is one of the main partners of this project, and many manuscripts of the BnF have been digitized as part of this program.


Biblissima also recently posted on line a virtual reconstitution of a manuscript of the Grandes chroniques de France, that is today dispersed between the libraries of Châteauroux and the BnF. See http://demos.biblissima-condorcet.fr/chateauroux/

I am grateful to Ms. Denoël for making all this important information available to the manuscript community.
Medieval Identity Theft:
Using X-Ray Polarization to Read an Erased Ownership Inscription in a Thirteenth-Century English Pocket Bible*

by Carl Garris and Aaron Sanders, University of South Carolina

IN 2010 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA acquired a thirteenth-century English Pocket Bible, now called the “Breslauer Bible” after Bernard H. Breslauer, the bookseller whose foundation helped purchase it. It has an erased inscription on its first page with the legible words “de dono Fratris Ricardi (“by gift of Brother Richard”). This phrase suggested a monastic or mendicant context for the manuscript, confirmation of which would make it a rare example in the United States. In 1943 Neil R. Ker alleged that fewer than 100 English monastic manuscripts exist in North America.

In order to read the abraded text, we employed the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Light-Source (SSRL), which generates high-energy X-rays for use in imaging technology. This is the same technique used to read the Archimedes Palimpsest. Our team ran multiple analyses at SSRL in 2014, and the resulting “zinc map” enabled us to decipher the text.

The inscription reads:

“Liber Fratris Ade de Asford inter <...>inores de dono // Fratris Ricardi de c. sannford” (“the book of Brother Adam of Asford among the Minorites by gift of Brother Richard of c, Sannford”). This reading revealed the place-names “Asford” and “Sannford” and the phrase inter minores (“among the Minorites”). Brother Adam, the recipient of the Bible, is identified as a Franciscan friar, while the donor, Brother Richard, is a Franciscan as well, because his order is not otherwise noted. Among mendicants, de dono inscriptions did not record manuscripts as “gifts” but instead conferred the use of them.

Based on the date of the script, we propose that “Ricardus de c” is the Oxford Regent Master of Franciscans, Richard of Conyngton (Ricardus de Conyngton). Appointed Provincial Minister in 1310, he was famous enough to be styled “Ricardus de c.” He likely bestowed the Breslauer Bible on Adam for use at the Templar Commandery at Sandford-on-Thames, following the arrest of its priest in 1308. Sandford lies only three miles from Oxford. Immediately after the Templar arrests, the Sheriff hired two anonymous chaplains to lead divine service at Sannford. These priests were plausibly friars enlisted from Oxford.

While the culprit responsible for the erasure of an ancient mendicant inscription will doubtless remain an eternal mystery, the Breslauer Bible inscription identifies this South Carolina manuscript as a rare example of a medieval book owned by English mendicants.

*We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Scott Gwara, Dept. of English, USC; Dr. Christine Ames, Dept. of History, USC; Professor Helen Nicholson, Cardiff University (UK); Dr. Sam Webb, SLAC; and the staff and administration of the Irvin Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections, USC.