



MANUSCRIPTS ON MY MIND

News from the Vatican Film Library

No. 2 December 2010

Editor's Remarks Manuscript queries News and Postings

Call for Papers 2011 Redux



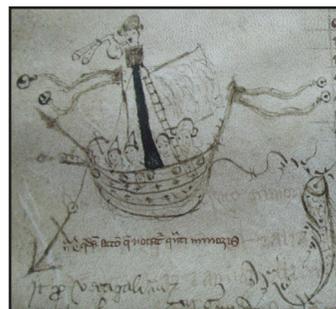
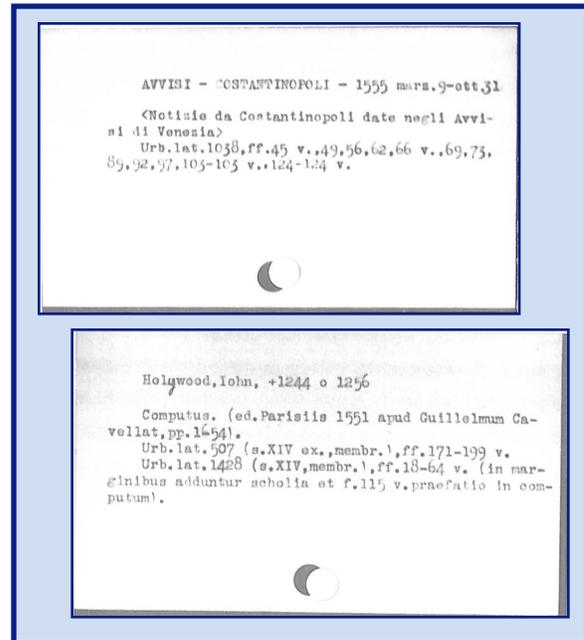
EDITOR'S REMARKS

THANKS TO ALL who forwarded the first issue of "Manuscripts on My Mind" to friends and colleagues; there has been a great response to the newsletter from manuscript lovers worldwide. As a result we have a substantial amount of news to post, including current and forthcoming exhibitions, conferences, and calls for papers. On the subject of calls for papers, let me remind you once more that the deadline for paper proposals (with titles and 300-word abstracts) for the 2011 Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies is January 15, 2011. Please send proposals directly to me at lengles@slu.edu.



I would like to draw your attention to a little known resource available to scholars at the Vatican Film Library. It comprises the [Summary Index of Manuscripts](#) for the collections of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, the result of a huge cataloguing project funded by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace from 1926 through 1946/47. A complete historical account of this project has recently been published: Nicoletta Mattioli Háy, *The Vatican Library and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: The History, Impact, and Influence of Their Collaboration (1927-1947)*, Studi e testi 455 (Vatican City, 2009). The objective of this project was to provide a "quick and dirty" analysis of each manuscript held in the Vatican Library (around 75,000), with separate index cards for subjects, authors, titles of works, and incipits, arranged in alphabetical order. The indexing took place from 1937 through 1946, and the total number of manuscripts actually indexed

was 12,396. The cards occupy 134 drawers in the Vatican Library; the unique photostatic copies in the Vatican Film Library fit into 115 drawers. Each card provides the shelfmark(s) of all indexed manuscripts in its class, indicating the probable century of each manuscript's production and the folio numbers on which the cited work can be found. This Summary Index is especially useful to researchers looking for works by particular authors, or for copies of anonymous texts. In addition, a drawer and a half are devoted to *Avvisi*. See examples below:

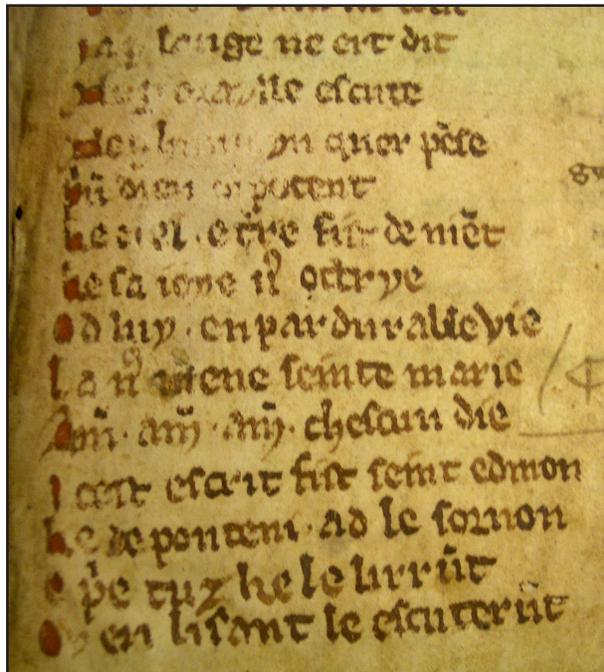


This resource is wonderful for fishing expeditions; come and use it!

Susan L'Engle
Editor,
Manuscripts on My Mind

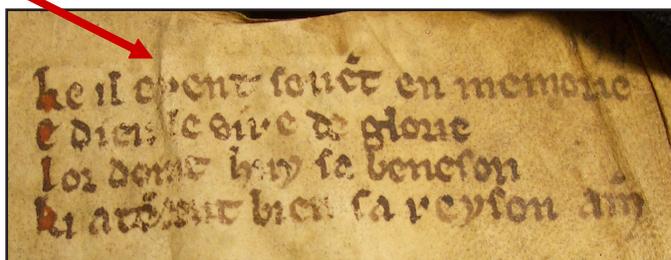
🔗 QUERIES TO THE MANUSCRIPT COMMUNITY 🔗

Lucy Freeman Sandler writes: “I’ve been struggling with an Anglo-Norman transcription problem in a Morgan Library manuscript (M.761), a *Lumere as lais* about which I’m writing. I made a pretty good photo of the page in question, and a stab at a transcription (a few lines) ... but I’d love to circulate it to anyone with potential interest or expertise. Here’s the transcription of the crucial lines:



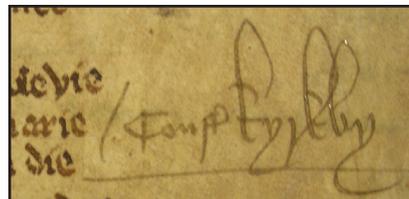
New York, Morgan Library & Museum, MS M.761, fol. 194r

The part of the page with the crease accounts for the question marks.



Fols. 190-194, inc. ‘Ceschun dei estre ame/Par la mesure de sa bonte;’ see Ruth J. Dean, *Anglo-Norman Literature: A Guide to Texts and Manuscripts* (London, 1999), no. 636, 351–52; for text, see Paul Meyer, “Notice du MS. Rawlinson Poetry 241 (Oxford),” *Romania* 29 (1900): 5–21. M. 761 was not known to Meyer. A colophon in M. 761 (fol. 194r) attributes the poem to St. Edmund of Pontigny: ‘I cest escrit fist seint edmon/Ke de ponteni. ad le sornon/E prie tuz ke le lirrunt/Ou en lisant le escuterunt/Ke il eyent sovent en memorie/E dieu le sire de glorie/Lor dorat(?) henry(?) sa beneson/Ki atendent(?) bien sa reyson amen.’

Opposite the beginning of the colophon is a fifteenth century inscription, ‘Constat kyrkby.’ Whether this is a reference to a person, or to a religious institution such as Kirkby Priory, or has no connection at all with the colophon, is uncertain.”



Please send any comments or suggestions to Lucy at lucy.sandler@nyu.edu

POSTINGS FROM READERS

A conference on “Nuns’ Literacies in Medieval Europe” will take place at the University of Hull from 20–23 June 2011. It is designed to bring together specialists working on diverse geographical areas to create a dialogue about the Latin and vernacular texts nuns read, wrote, and exchanged, primarily from the late eighth to the mid-sixteenth centuries. To date, there has been significant research in this field but little in the way of cross-cultural study. For this reason twenty-five international experts (from Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, the United States, and Wales) will address these issues in Hull. The resulting papers from this conference will form the chapters of a published volume. For further details, please contact the organisers: Dr Veronica O’Mara, University of Hull (V.M.OMara@hull.ac.uk), Dr Virginia Blanton, University of Missouri-Kansas City (blantonv@umkc.edu), and Dr Patricia Stoop, University of Antwerp (patricia.stoop@ua.ac.be). A conference website on “Nuns’ Literacies in Medieval Europe” will be available early in the New Year.

Query

Ben Zweig, a Ph.D. candidate at Boston University, asks that anyone who has come across images of suicide produced between ca. 1100 and 1400—of Judas, Saul, Lucretia, Herod, the Vices, or others—contact him via email at bzweig@bu.edu.

POSTINGS FROM READERS

Exhibitions:



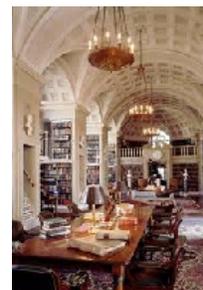
You are invited to attend the New York Public Library's latest exhibition, *Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam*, in Gottesman Hall at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. The exhibition runs through February 27, 2011. Three Faiths explores the complementarities and differences between the three faiths with 200 of the most inspiring sacred texts from the Library's collections. Accompanying the exhibition is a specially created Scriptorium, where you can learn about the amazing traditions of creating sacred books and scrolls. Admission is free. Learn more about it at <http://www.nypl.org/events/exhibitions/three-faiths-judaism-christianity-islam>



Nancy Shawcross, Curator of Manuscripts at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Pennsylvania, directs us to the University of Pennsylvania's Web site for medieval and Renaissance manuscripts: <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/medren/>. The site provides full facsimiles of their 900-plus holdings. Although the project will not be completed until July of 2011, the site is fully operational and already provides access to complete facsimiles of approximately 650 western European manuscripts dated up to 1600.



Massimo Bernabò informs us about a forthcoming exhibition at the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence, running from February 14 through June 25, 2011. Its preliminary title is *Voci d'Oriente: Miniature e testi classici da Bisanzio alla Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana*, and it will feature around 40 of the library's Byzantine manuscripts, displayed in three sections: Byzantine manuscripts of classical Greek authors (including some of the most famous copies of Thucydides, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Ptolemy, Homer, Plato, Aristoteles, and Demostenes); Byzantine illuminated manuscripts of the Old and New Testament; and Renaissance editions of Greek authors.



Gilding the Lilly, A Hundred Medieval and Illuminated Manuscripts in the Lilly Library

October 1– December 18, 2010

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Lilly Library, Bloomington, Indiana, this exhibition highlights one hundred of the Lilly's most important and interesting manuscripts written in the medieval and Renaissance eras. It is guest-curated by noted medievalist Christopher de Hamel, Gaylord Donnelley Fellow Librarian, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Visitors will be able to view many items rarely seen on exhibit, from a Roman tombstone to gleaming and delicate Books of Hours. As noted by Dr. de Hamel, "The Lilly is one of the few university collections in North America which can comfortably represent every century from the late seventh to the high Renaissance, with examples of major medieval texts and languages and an impressive range of Romanesque and Gothic book illumination, some of it outstanding. It includes specimens of Latin scripts as diverse and important as uncial and insular minuscule from the Dark Ages through to the hand of the greatest Renaissance scribe, Bartolomeo Sanvito himself, and two manuscripts signed by Nicolas Jarry." The Lilly has also published Dr. de Hamel's book of the same title, available for purchase at perfoste@indiana.edu.



A video on a new exhibition at the Vatican Library can be accessed at <http://www.romereports.com/palio/Vatican-library-opens-doors-for-exhibition-of-their-oldest-manuscript-english-3049.html>

Exhibitions (continued)



Imagining the Past in France, 1250–1500

November 16, 2010—February 6, 2011, at the
J. Paul Getty Museum.

In the Middle Ages, history played such an integral role in French culture that some of the greatest imagery of the period is found within the covers of historical manuscripts. Illuminations enabled heroic figures of the past—the biblical King David, Alexander the Great, the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne—to come alive before the eyes of medieval readers. Serving as both exciting narratives and propaganda, such images were immensely successful at the French court. On view exclusively at the J. Paul Getty Museum, this major international loan exhibition features rare manuscripts drawn from the collections of more than twenty-five of the world's most famous museums and libraries. The books are supplemented with ivories, tapestries, and metalwork that demonstrate how historical tales leapt from the illuminated page into other artistic forms.

The exhibition was jointly organized by Dr. Elizabeth Morrison, curator of manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum and Dr. Anne D. Hedeman, Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Visit the exhibition website: http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/imagining_past_france/

A symposium complements the exhibition:

The Future of the Past: History in the Medieval Francophone West

February 3-5, 2011, 9 am-7 pm
Museum Lecture Hall, Getty Center

Medieval scholars from across North America and Europe will gather in Los Angeles to present papers on Latin chronicles and vernacular histories from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, and on the illuminations that grace their pages. The symposium will be hosted jointly by the Manuscripts Department at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Center for Medieval and Re-

naissance Studies at UCLA, and with the support of the Ahmanson Foundation. Symposium fee \$15 (includes parking). For more information, go to http://www.cmrs.ucla.edu/programs/calendar_feb11.html#2-3 or to http://www.getty.edu/museum/programs/lectures/future_of_the_past_symposium.html.



Hidden Treasures: Illuminated Manuscripts from Midwestern Collections December 18, 2010– February 27, 2011

Curated by Maria Saffiotti-Dale, this exhibition in the Meyer Gallery at the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, Wisconsin will bring together approximately forty manuscripts and single leaves, dating from the ninth to sixteenth centuries, loaned from university libraries, museums, and private collections in seven states. A preview lecture on the exhibition by the curator (5:30 p.m.) and Reception (6:30–8p.m.) will take place on Friday, December 17, 2010. For more details and information on related events, consult the website:

<http://www.chazen.wisc.edu/exhibitions/PressRelease.asp?PID=155&date=December18,2010,throughFebruary27,2011&loc=MayerGallery>.



Announcements

THE PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES, TORONTO presents the inaugural year of its new “Diploma Programme in Manuscript Studies” at the American Academy in Rome, from 13 June to 22 July 2011. The application deadline is 15 January 2011 (see further details on the website:

<http://www.pims.ca/academics/diploma.html>



Historians of Medicine and Latin Paleographers held their first landmark symposium at the National Humanities Center in early October. With the support of the Humanities Center, the group, organized by Monica H. Green (Arizona

State) and Eliza Glaze (Coastal Carolina) has undertaken to examine a database of more than 450 Latin medical manuscripts that survive from the “long twelfth century,” and has already made several crucial discoveries and identifications. They are currently writing up their findings for publication and seeking further grant support for the next team meeting. Ultimately, the Medical Paleography team hopes to create an open-access visual database and inventory of dated, localized manuscripts to help advance our understanding of the history of medicine and health care during the transformative period between c. 1075 and 1225, when the first wave of translations from Greek and Arabic sources were assimilated into the Western tradition. For more information, see: <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/news-rel2010/prrevmedicine.htm> .



The Department of History of Ghent University is seeking to fill the following position:

Full-time collaborator (m/f) for the FWO-research project “Monastic leadership in the post-charismatic age: constructing a new paradigm for the study of reforms before the emergence of the Great Orders (Western Europe, tenth-early twelfth centuries)” (1/1/2011-1/1/2015)

Profile

- # master’s degree in history or an equivalent degree/diploma
- # motivated to start a career in research
- # capable of reading Latin sources
- # capable of reading publications in English, German, and French
- # interested in interdisciplinary approaches
- # at least some knowledge of the religious and general history of the Central Middle Ages

Job contents:

- # To prepare, and finish within the four-year time limit, a doctoral dissertation relating to the theme of the project

- # To publish at least two articles in international scientific journals
- # To present papers at international conferences and workshops
- # To provide limited assistance (max. 1 day per week) to the promotor of the project

Specifics

- # Full-time, four years, beginning at the earliest on 1 February 2011.

How to apply for this position: By e-mail before 1 January 2011, with a CV and an accompanying letter as attachments. For more information, write to:

Prof. dr. Steven Vanderputten

Department of History

Ghent University

email: Steven.Vanderputten@ugent.be

<http://www.monastic-communication.ugent.be>



The Margaret Cavendish Society is pleased to announce the Ninth Biennial International Margaret Cavendish Conference

THEME: The Cavendishes and Anglo-European Cultural Exchange: 17th-Century Dutch, Flemish and French Influences

HOSTS: Professor Sandro Jung, The University of Ghent, Ghent, Belgium; Dr. Ben Van Beneden, Curator, The Rubenshuis, Antwerp, Belgium

DATES: 5th to 7th July 2011; **SPEAKERS:** Dr. Ben van Beneden, Curator, The Rubenshuis, Antwerp; Dr. Rudolf Dekker, The University of Amsterdam

20-MINUTE PAPERS are invited on topics related to the theme of the conference. **ABSTRACTS** of 150 to 200 words should be emailed to the conference organizers. **DEADLINE** for submission of abstracts: 1 January 2011. Early modernists from all disciplines (e.g. art history, history of music, history of science, etc) are invited to submit proposals for papers related to the theme of the conference.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS: Dr. Sara Mendelson: mendelso@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca; Dr. Brandie Siegfried: Brandie_Siegfried@byu.edu; Dr. James Fitzmaurice: J.Fitzmaurice@sheffield.ac.uk

QUERIES about the conference or about the Margaret Cavendish Society should be directed to Sara Mendelson at mendelso@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca.

Call for Papers Redux

Thirty-Eighth Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies 📖 October 14–15, 2011

The keynote speaker for 2011 will be **Michelle P. Brown** (University of London). We invite scholars to submit paper proposals for the three conference sessions described below. Please send titles and abstracts of no more than 300 words to Susan L'Engle (lengles@slu.edu).

Deadline for Submissions: January 15, 2011

Writing the Scribe

Recent work in paleography and history has assessed the cultural identities of the scribe as a stenographer, historian, copier, visual programmer, and creative compiler of new texts. By following recognized or recognizable scribes as they “figure out” their books within regional schools, within discrete scriptoria, or when facing unique organizational challenges, this session seeks methodologically innovative approaches to the problem of writing the scribal biography. Particularly welcome would be papers that move beyond a straightforward assessment of regional styles. We anticipate works that investigate how period, culturally specific scripts, and codicological choices inform modern viewers about various historical moments and courtly or monastic identities.



The Peripatetic Codex

A book as a moveable entity to be carried, gifted, sent, collected or otherwise transported is the focus of this session. When examined as products of a material culture, peripatetic books provide insight into both social and economic valuing of these objects of information. This session is open to scholars who wish to explore the nature of the material movement of books, whether focusing on evidence of information passed, scribal or artistic influence, provenance, the financial value of the object itself, or any other aspect of these intrinsically portable objects.

Utilitarian Texts

Cooking, cleaning, animal husbandry, personal hygiene, and comportment are, perhaps, not the most romantic of topics. Yet these subjects were the focus of both scholars and household managers and deemed worthy enough for compilation in manuscript format. How were these books used? Were they truly the equivalent of a modern Good Housekeeping®-style attempt at practicality or, rather, were they top-down treatises intended for idealized behavior of specific social classes or genders? What role did any visual illustration, such as diagrams, sketches, or illuminations serve for readers? This session invites papers dedicated to a broad range of “useful” manuscripts, both illustrated and non-illustrated.

