



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

A NEW JERSEY NONPROFIT CORPORATION
46 Snowden Lane, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-3916

Dr. Mildred Budny, *Executive Director*

from the Princeton Trustees

Dear Friend of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence:

In 2017, the Research Group has continued to extend its activities, thanks to your responses to the 2016 Appeal Letter, the recent online Appeal, and many volunteer contributions, both on-going and new. The expansion manifests the dedication to ‘The Evidence of Manuscripts and Other Evidence’, which our unofficial name, our activities, and our website demonstrate.

- Again we co-sponsored four Sessions, plus an Open Business Meeting and a co-sponsored Reception, at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in May. The 2017 Business Meeting Agenda (on our website) summarizes our activities, plans, and requests.
- For the second year, we sponsored a Permanent Panel at the Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, held in Cincinnati in November. The 2017 Panel addressed the challenge of “Make It and/or Break It: The Material Evidence of Creating, Using, Disseminating, and Dispersing Manuscripts”, with subjects both medieval and modern.
- Our official website, in its redesigned and expanded form (2015–), continues to publish ever more of the materials in our archive, recording the Programs, Abstracts, and Booklets of our sessions, workshops, seminars, and symposia across the years (1989–), illustrations included.
- On the website, we continue to publish Papers from the Kalamazoo Congress Sessions. Also, our series of Interviews expands, supplementing last year’s on the radio and in printed form.
- Responding to requests, including for more languages, work advances apace on the next version of our multilingual digital — and free — font *Bembino*, in which this letter, our website, and our other publications are set. Version 1.5 is coming soon.
- Our blog on *Manuscript Studies* (<http://www.manuscriptevidence.org/manuscript-studies/>) reports more discoveries, both new and updated, for a wide range of materials: manuscripts, documents, fragments, and more. It includes contributions also by Guest Bloggers.
- In keeping with our nonprofit educational mission and the generosity of volunteers and donors, almost all of our publications are freely available and downloadable. Aided by donations, in funds and in kind, the distribution of our largest co-publication (the *Illustrated Catalogue*) transferred to us by the co-publisher last year, progresses encouragingly.

All these activities require more time and money than can be contributed by a single, unpaid director. Maintaining the work calls for support in funds, time, expertise, venues, and materials. We ask your help for one or more of these supports:

- Financial support on an annual basis, for the Research Group’s activities, its running costs as a nonprofit educational corporation, and an endowment, which now stands at \$650.
- Pro-bono assistance with various tasks: organizing events, aiding the accounting and secretarial work, fund-raising, updating the website, contributing to the blogs and book-reviews, preparing the e-newsletter, cataloguing and scanning the archives, advancing with conservation and research projects, and writing, editing, proof-reading, and distributing publications.

[manuscriptevidence.org](http://www.manuscriptevidence.org)

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- Interns, part-time (with donated funding), to aid these activities, to gather training on-the-job, and to gain skills in multiple areas of expertise, administrative and organational.
- Locations and logistics for events: subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and contributors.
- Contributions in kind: for example, office supplies, equipment, printer, and bookcases.
- Access for our Director to an institutional library with subscription services for publications. Such access is essential nowadays for continued in-depth and up-to-date research (for our blog and other activities). Will you or your institution help to arrange such a provision?

Will you please aid the Research Group in one or more of these ways? Might you wish to offer donations in honor of designated individuals or for specific missions? Information on our website: <http://www.manuscriptevidence.org/contributions-and-donations/>.

The full value of donations may be tax-deductible. The continued existence and activities of the Research Group rest upon contributions in many forms, for which we turn to you.

We thank you for your support.



Giles Constable
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James Marrow
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