Research Group on Manuscript Evidence <http://manuscriptevidence.org/>

The Research Group on Manuscript Evidence exists to apply an integrated approach to the evidence of manuscripts and other written forms across the ages. It is a small organization, without a building or paid staff, so that, in certain ways, we may devote our attention to activities as we wish, that is, given the constraints of the world we live in, the obligations of nonprofit educational organizations, and the resources we might gather for the purposes, notably including hosts and sponsors for our activities. The flexibility means that, without disappearing into weighty overheads, donations in funds and in kind may principally support the activities. As a sort of university without walls, the Research Group is open to the academic and wider worlds, including established as well as independent scholars and others alike.

In 2014, we celebrated dual anniversaries, to mark 15 years as a nonprofit corporation based in Princeton, New Jersey, and 25 years as an international scholarly society founded in the United Kingdom as part of a collaborative research project at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. For its early years, the Research Group focused on a selected group of Anglo-Saxon and related manuscripts in the course of conservation, photography, and research. Based in Princeton since 1994, the Group has expanded the range of interests and activities, which our newly updated website documents and illustrates. Recognizing this range, the Group has adopted the unofficial name of ‘Research Group on Manuscript *and Other* Evidence’.

During the 2014 anniversary, events took place at Princeton University, with generous sponsorship the [Department of Art & Archaeology](http://artandarchaeology.princeton.edu), the [Medieval Studies Program](http://www.princeton.edu/medieval), the [Index of Christian Art](http://ica.princeton.edu), and individuals:

 1) a symposium in May on
[“Recollections of the Past: Editorial and Artistic Workshops from Late Antiquity to Early Modernity”](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2014-symposium-recollections-of-the-past)

 2) a colloquium in November on [“When the Dust Has Settled, Or, When Good Scholars Go Back . . .”](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2014-colloquium-on-when-the-dust-has-settled-program-accomplished)

 3) and a seminar in December on [“Show & Tell: Medieval Manuscripts & their Photographs”](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2014-seminar-on-manuscripts-and-their-photographs) .

Their Program Booklets publish the Abstracts of papers for the [symposium](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/download/4676) and [colloquium](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/download/4671) .

As customary, we sponsor and co-sponsor sessions at the [International Congress on Medieval Studies](http://wmich.edu/medieval/congress) at Kalamazoo. In [2014](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2014-congress-accomplished/), there were 7 sessions, and 5 sessions in [2015](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2015-international-congress-on-medieval-studies-events-accomplished/) — both with sessions of our own as well as sessions co-sponsored by the [Societas Magica](http://societasmagica.org) and by the [Center for Medieval and early Modern Studies](http://mems.center.ufl.edu) at the University of Florida. In 2014, celebrating anniversaries, the Societas Magica and the Research Group co-sponsored a [Reception](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/events/anniversary-reception-may-2014/). We continued this tradition at the 2015 Congress, with co-sponsorship also by the Index of Christian Art at Princeton University. Our website reports the Programs (with any revisions) and the Abstracts of papers for our [Congress activities](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/congress-activities) through the years — newly with a full index of the Abstracts both [by Author](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/abstracts/abstracts-of-conference-papers-listed-by-author) and [by Year](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/abstracts/abstracts-of-conference-papers-listed-by-year).

At the Congress, as elsewhere, our tradition of integrating multiple aspects of manuscript studies, embracing the material, textual, historical, cultural, and wider contexts, along with collaboration with other organizations, promotes the research work and organizational skills of expert younger (and also Independent) scholars and teachers. These modes of joining forces across different fields of study, levels of experience, and areas of expertise can make it possible to marshal collective abilities, but also to foster rapid contacts between different fields (which might normally take decades), in a positive, shared tradition.

In 2014, we began the upgrade and redesign of our website — itself a donation — which turned out to be a more complex task than expected, but it opens our eyes to the challenges facing almost all organizations (or individuals), as ways of using the internet evolve rapidly. We launched the RGME-newsletter, [**ShelfMarks**](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/shelflife/shelfmarks), available in 2 forms, each with its own ISSN: the online version in [email format](http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a9edc67396cccde79d2e1b259&amp;id=f14e6fe893&amp;e=4df4b9af5f) (ISSN 2377-4118), which functions as a concise form of ‘ShelfTags’, and the downloadable [printed version](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/download/4656/) (ISSN 2377-4096), which uses our own copyright font [**Bembino**](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/bembino) and a precise layout according to our [**Style Manifesto**](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/style-manifesto). You may [subscribe here](http://eepurl.com/6JMcD) for the newsletter and information about our activities.

In 2015, the Research Group attended its first CARA Meeting, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy in March. We are glad for the opportunity to join your organization.

In time for the 2015 International Congress on Medieval Studies, the Research Group launched the new (WordPress) version of its [official website](http://manuscriptevidence.org) and archived its old (Drupal) site, still available [online](http://manuscriptevidence.org/data/). We issued an updated and illustrated version of the **Style Manifesto**, available [here](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/download/4656/). Responding to requests, we now issue the next Version (1.3) of the multilingual digital font **Bembino**, in which are set our website and other publications. This font and its descriptive booklet may be downloaded, for FREE, on our [website](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/bembino).

In planning future activities, the Research Group welcomes suggestions for subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and contributors. We seek [contributions and donations](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contributions-and-donations) of various kinds, along with announcements, reports, questions, and news for the newsletter. Please visit our website and our [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Group-on-Manuscript-Evidence/259443617456668), and [Contact Us](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contact-us) with requests, proposals, and comments.

* Mildred Budny, *Director*