



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

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CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1RH

Director: Prof. R.I. Page
Co-Director: Dr M.O. Budny
Research Associate: T.C. Graham
College Librarian: Dr N. Wilkins
Conservation Officer: N. Hadgraft
Archivist: Mrs C.P. Hall
Research Consultant: Dr L.J. French

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Manuscript Fragments: A Seminar

We plan to hold a Research Group seminar on Monday, 15 August, devoted to medieval manuscript fragments at the Parker Library and elsewhere, in both public and private collections. This will consider the myriad problems and challenges of manuscript fragments: their discovery, rediscovery and recovery; their present contents, both original and acquired; their states and locations, both present and past; their contexts (present, intermediary and original); their handling and conservation; the identification of their texts; assessment of their dates, origins and provenance; and reconstruction of their original manuscripts. For the seminar Toshiyuki Takamiya will bring from Japan some examples of Western-manuscript fragments in his own collection. Beforehand these will be deposited in the Parker Library for a period of consultation, photography and image-enhancement of damaged and mostly illegible passages by members of the Research Group and other speakers.

We aim to run the seminar on informal lines, as a round table. This will give plenty of opportunity to respond to the speakers and ask questions.

Nigel Wilkins will speak about musical manuscript fragments at Corpus and elsewhere (for example in Corpus MSS 8 and 223), including some new discoveries. R.I. Page will consider an Anglo-Saxon fragment from Westminster. Mildred Budny will survey Anglo-Saxon and Irish manuscript fragments at Corpus, including those comprising MSS 197B, 214 and 557 and those contained in MSS 111, 144, 270 and 321, together with the burnt or displaced fragments in the British Library from the same manuscript as MS 197B (Cotton MS Otho C.v plus two leaves in Royal MS 7 C.xii, folios 2–3). David Ganz will remark on the surviving fragments of a glossed Anglo-Saxon or Continental manuscript of the Aeneid, including its portion discovered in an early printed book at Corpus (EP–0–6). Nicholas Hadgraft and Tony Parker will assess the problems of handling and conserving manuscript fragments. Toshiyuki Takamiya will speak about the joys and challenges of collecting manuscript fragments. Richard Marsden will discuss the early biblical fragments in the Takamiya collection. Andrew Prescott will consider a pontifical fragment in the same collection. Simon Keynes might be able to attend to discuss the challenges of rediscovering, examining, deciphering, identifying and assessing manuscript fragments, focusing upon British Library, Cotton MS Otho A.i (badly damaged by fire in 1731), from which another (undamaged) leaf survives in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Arch Selden B.26 (3340), folio 34.

Besides the Takamiya fragments, a group of volumes in the Corpus collection will be available for examination during the seminar. Among them will be fragments of various kinds considered by the speakers. Other volumes may emerge for inspection in the course of the session.

Associates: D. Baker (Texas), C.T. Berkhout (Tucson), D.H. Farmer (Reading), C.E. Fell (Nottingham),
共同研究者 D.M. Ganz (Chapel Hill), M.R. Godden (Oxford), O. Gründler (Kalamazoo), C.A. Hough (Nottingham),
S.L. Keefer (Ontario), S.D. Keynes (Cambridge), T. Kubouchi (Tokyo), V.A. Law (Cambridge),
A.E. Parker (London), A. Prescott (London), N. Ramsay (London), A.R. Rumble (Manchester),
G. Russom (Providence), S. Sato (Tokyo), T.H. Seiler (Kalamazoo), C.P.E. Springer (Illinois),
P.E. Szarmach (Binghamton), T. Takamiya (Tokyo), D.M. Wilson (Isle of Man), C.P. Wormald (Oxford)



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The seminar will meet in the Parker Library. We will begin at 11 a.m., break for lunch in College and continue until about 4:30 or 5 p.m. Alas, we must ask our participants to contribute to the cost of lunch, as our Research Group funds cannot cover it. But because we are able to take lunch in College on a Monday, the cost, depending upon individual choice, should be between £2-3 only. To let us know whom we may expect, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Mildred Budny



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To: Dr Mildred Budny
The Parker Library
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge CB2 1RH

I will be able to attend the seminar on Monday, 15 August
 will not

Signed