

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

THE PARKER LIBRARY
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
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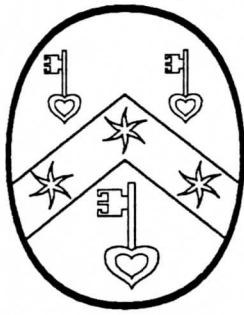
The Research Group at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, plans to hold a series of one-day workshops on the production, make-up and handling of medieval manuscripts. The Library receives many readers — both beginners and experienced scholars — who have had little training in how a manuscript is formed and so in how it should be handled. Few of our younger visitors have been instructed on this subject. Many of our visitors and colleagues have expressed strong interest in workshops which might provide such training.

We will hold a trial workshop to see if it serves a purpose, and answers scholars' questions. We propose to hold it on Saturday, 5 October. It will take place in the Parker Library, beginning at 11:00 a.m. After a break of about one hour for lunch, it will continue through the afternoon until about 4:00 or 4:30 p.m.

We would very much like you to join this experiment. Numbers are limited, so we hope that you could fill in the accompanying slip and return it to us as soon as possible.

R.I. Page

Associates: D. Baker (Texas), D.H. Farmer (Reading), C.E. Fell (Nottingham), M.R. Godden (Oxford),
C.A. Hough (Nottingham), S.D. Keynes (Cambridge), A.R. Rumble (Manchester), S. Sato (Tokyo),
C.P.E. Springer (Illinois), D.M. Wilson (London), C.P. Wormald (Oxford)



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Workshop on the production, make-up and handling of medieval manuscripts

This workshop is intended for research workers and supervisors, for librarians and keepers of early manuscripts and for students intending to work on such sources. It aims to define good library practice by examining the materials used and the methods by which they are brought together into manuscript form. The workshop will be organised by the Conservation Officer to the Cambridge Colleges Consortium, in association with the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where meetings will be held.

We hope to encourage teachers of medieval studies to direct their students in the proper treatment of manuscripts, so that they can come prepared when they wish to work in libraries which contain these source materials. We wish to examine both theory and practice, and to give an opportunity to those attending to learn the difficulties and special circumstances of manuscript production and conservation.

The themes will include:

1. A general introduction to medieval binding structures, and how they differ from most modern structures. This will provide guidance on how to handle various types of manuscripts, for example by using modern models in place of originals. It will also examine methods of storage in medieval and modern times.
2. A guide to the various materials used for manuscripts. This will demonstrate how to handle them safely, and what their conservation means in practice. We intend to mount a small exhibition from the holdings of the Parker Library.
3. The sewing structures of medieval bindings. We will discuss and demonstrate different types of sewing. Everyone will be given a chance to try his or her hand at sewing.
4. Revived medieval types and techniques in modern bindings. We will consider their revival by great modern binders like Roger Powell and Douglas and Sandy Cockerell, and the handling characteristics of newly-bound manuscripts.
5. Book-coverings in different ages. We will demonstrate specific types, with a running commentary.
6. A question-and-answer session. Both practical and theoretical questions can be put to a small group of technical experts.

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To: The Director, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence,
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

I will be able to attend the workshop on Saturday, 5 October
 will not

Signed