



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

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Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 383: A Workshop

We plan to hold a workshop on Saturday, 16 November, concerning Corpus Christi College, MS 383, a collection of legal and other texts. Dating from the late eleventh or early twelfth century, it is one of the most important Anglo-Saxon legal codices. It apparently belonged to St. Paul's, London. Recently it has been conserved and rebound for display at the major Anglo-Saxon exhibition to be held by the British Museum and British Library from early November to March.

Before, during and after conservation we examined it in detail. It has been photographed extensively in its former binding and while disbound. We are now preparing a short monograph on the manuscript, to analyse its texts, language, codicology, palaeography and layout, and to place it in its context of legal and other studies. As part of the planning for this monograph, the seminar will discuss the problems of the manuscript and related subjects. We hope you might attend to give your advice and help.

Our main speaker will be Patrick Wormald. He will start the discussion of MS 383 with an examination of its corrections and structure. Mildred Budny will be present to comment on the nature of the codex and its scripts. I will add some remarks on the language of the texts and the competence of the main scribe. Patrick will also present his recent work on the Lambarde transcripts now in California and their implications for sixteenth-century studies of Anglo-Saxon legal history. We hope that others will join in the discussion. As the workshop will be run on informal lines, there is plenty of opportunity to respond to the speakers and to ask questions.

As MS 383 will be part of the London exhibition at the time, it will not be available for examination during the seminar. Nor, for the same reason, will our other major Anglo-Saxon legal manuscript, MS 173A, containing the Parker Chronicle and Laws. Photographs of them will be available to illustrate various points. Other manuscripts, including sixteenth-century transcripts, may emerge for inspection as they occur to us in the course of the session.

The workshop will meet in the Parker Library. We will begin at 11 a.m., break for an informal lunch in College and continue until about 4 or 4:30 p.m. To let us know whom we may expect, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Invitations are sent to: David Wilson, Christine Fell, R.I. Page, Patrick Wormald, Simon Keynes, John Baker, Janet Batley, Carole Hough, Tim Graham, Mildred Budny, Leslie French, Barry Dobson, Paul Harvey, Nigel Wilkins, Catherine Hall, Malcolm Godden, Richard North and Tessa Webber.

R.I. Page

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

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

I will be able to attend the workshop on Saturday, 16 November
 will not

Signed