



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

THE PARKER LIBRARY
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Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MSS 23 and 223: A Workshop

We plan to hold a workshop on Friday, 5 June, concerning Corpus Christi College, MSS 23 and 223, which contain collections of works by Prudentius, with many glosses. MS 223, a medium-format copy made in Northern France in the late ninth century, apparently belonged to the Abbey of St. Bertin. It reached England by the late tenth century, to judge by entries by various Anglo-Saxon hands. MS 23, Part I, a luxurious large-format copy made in Southern England in the late tenth or early eleventh century, apparently belonged to Malmesbury Abbey by the mid-eleventh century. It contains a magnificent cycle of illustrations for the *Psychomachia*, rendered in coloured outline drawing and accompanied by some Latin and Old English titles. Both its place of origin and function, whether as a 'classbook' or *meodu-borde* book, remain controversial.

Both manuscripts have been the subject of detailed study in the course of our research at the Parker Library. We hope to produce a facsimile of MS 23, and we are preparing studies of particular aspects, to analyse its texts, layout, language, codicology, palaeography and art. As part of this exploration, the workshop will discuss the problems of both manuscripts and related subjects. We hope you might attend to give your advice and help.

We aim to run the workshop on informal lines, as a round table, with the following main speakers. Gernot Wieland will discuss these two collections of Prudentius' texts and their glosses. Patrick Wormald will examine the possible connection between MS 223 and Grimbold of St. Bertin. Mildred Budny and I will comment on the structure, layout, illustrations, glosses and titles of MS 23. Richard Gameson will report on the evidence which its decorated Type II initial holds for the place of origin. Jane Rosenthal will comment on the cycle of illustrations in the light of its Continental and Anglo-Saxon context. We hope that others will contribute to the discussion from their areas of specialisation and interest.

Both manuscripts will be available for examination during the workshop. Others too will be on hand to illustrate various points: MSS 57, 198, 326, 356, 389 and 411 with outline drawings, Type II initials and/or monumental display capitals; MS 173, Part B, as an example of an Anglo-Saxon 'classbook'; MS 193 as a Continental import to England with added flyleaf sketches; and MSS 44, 178 and 383 with sixteenth-century entries and restorations comparable to those on the first, confected 'bifolium' of MS 23. Other manuscripts 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 10 a.m., break for an informal lunch in College and continue until about 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, Mildred Budny, Leslie French, Tim Graham, Nigel Wilkins, Nicholas Hadgraft, Catherine Hall, Jane Rosenthal, Gernot Wieland, David Farmer, Patrick Wormald, Richard Gameson, Malcolm Godden, Vivian Law.

R.I. Page

Associates: D. Baker (Texas), D.H. Farmer (Reading), C.E. Fell (Nottingham), M.R. Godden (Oxford), O. Gründler (Kalamazoo), C.A. Hough (Nottingham), S.L. Keefer (Ontario), S.D. Keynes (Cambridge), T. Kubouchi (Tokyo), A.R. Rumble (Manchester), G. Russom (Providence), S. Sato (Tokyo), T.H. Seiler (Kalamazoo), C.P.E. Springer (Illinois), D.M. Wilson (Isle of Man), 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 Friday, 5 June
 will not

Signed