



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

A NEW JERSEY NONPROFIT CORPORATION
46 Snowden Lane, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-3916

Dr. Mildred Budny, *Executive Director*

from the Princeton Trustees

Dear Friend of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence:

In 2016, the Research Group has continued to extend its activities, thanks to your responses to the 2015 Appeal and many volunteer contributions, both on-going and new. The expansion manifests the dedication to ‘The Evidence of Manuscripts *and Other Evidence*’, which our unofficial name reflects, and our website manifests.

- We held a Symposium on “Words & Deeds” at Princeton University in March. Its 24-page illustrated Program Booklet is the longest ever in our long tradition of published Program Booklets (seen on our website).
- We sponsored and co-sponsored four Sessions at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in May — plus a co-sponsored Reception and an Open Business Meeting. The 2016 Business Meeting Agenda (on our website) summarizes our activities, plans, and requests.
- For the first time, we sponsored two Panels, on “Marginalia in Books in North America”, at the Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, held in Saint Louis in November.
- For the second year as an Affiliate of CARA (Committee on Centers and Regional Associations of the Medieval Academy of America), our Annual Report appears in its June 2016 Newsletter.
- Our redesigned website (2015–) continues to publish more of the materials in our archive, and to record the Programs, Abstracts, and Booklets of our sessions, workshops, seminars, and symposia across the years (1989–).
- On the website, we begin to publish Papers from the Kalamazoo Congress Sessions. Also, we launch a series of Interviews, so far with our Director and with our Font & Layout Designer. More are on the way.
- Responding to requests, including for more languages, work advances on the next version of our multilingual digital — and free — font *Bembino*, in which this letter, our website, and our other publications are set.
- Our blog on *Manuscript Studies* (<http://www.manuscriptevidence.org/manuscript-studies/>) reports more discoveries, both new and updated, for a wide range of materials: manuscripts, documents, and fragments.

All these activities require more time and money than can be contributed by a single, unpaid director. Maintaining the work necessitates support in funds, time, expertise, venues, and materials, as you see fit:

- Financial support on an annual basis, for the Research Group’s activities, its running costs as a nonprofit educational corporation, and an endowment, which now stands at \$550.
- Pro-bono assistance with various tasks: organizing events, aiding the accounting and secretarial work, fund-raising, updating the website, contributing to the blogs and book-reviews, preparing

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the e-newsletter, cataloguing and scanning the archives, advancing with conservation and research projects, and writing, editing, proof-reading, and distributing publications.

- Locations and logistics for events: subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and contributors.
- Contributions in kind: for example, filing cabinets, office supplies, equipment, and bookcases.
- Access for our Director to an institutional library with subscription services for publications. Such access is essential nowadays for continued in-depth and up-to-date research (for our blog and other activities). Will you or your institution help to arrange such a provision?

Will you please aid the Research Group in one or more of these ways? Might you wish to offer donations in honor of designated individuals or for specific missions? Information on our website: <http://www.manuscriptevidence.org/contributions-and-donations/>.

The full value of donations may be tax-deductible. The continued existence and activities of the Research Group rest upon contributions in many forms, for which we turn to you.

We thank you for your support.



Giles Constable
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