

I come to you today wearing many hats:

- 1) as Director of this new Rawlinson Center;
- 2) as Associate Professor-to-be in the History Department of this University;
- 3) as emissary from the Parker Librarian and the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; and
- 4) as Director of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, currently based at Corpus.

This dedication today embodies the fruits of many forms of mutual, international collaboration, from which the Center has come into being, and from which, I confidently hope, the long-term flourishing of the Center will grow. This occasion represents, and acknowledges, many people's care for the Center, through acts of intellectual, financial, and administrative generosity, within the community of the University and the wider world. All this offers tremendous promise for the future.

The gifts, both concrete and symbolic, augment the generous donation by the Tashjians, which enabled the Rawlinson Center to be established, through the vision of Professor Otto Gründler and others in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in the University as a whole.

I wish to thank all who have helped to bring this Center to fruition, including those not present today. Among them should also be named Lord Butterfield and Sir David Wilson, former Director of the British Museum; they are my mentors and sponsors of the Research Group.

The Research Group already has many links through its world-wide network of invited Associates in Europe, North America, and Japan. A number of our Associates and colleagues are here today, including Professor Gründler and Doctor Tom Seiler of the Medieval Institute. Professor Malcolm Godden, the current Rawlinson Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford and a Research Group Associate, cannot be here today, but sends his good wishes, and seeks to establish links with the Rawlinson Center.

From the Parker Library, at Corpus Christi College, where I have worked for the past seven years, the Parker Librarian, Doctor Nigel Wilkins, a Romance philologist, has generously donated to this new Center, as an expression of goodwill for its dedication, an elegantly-bound copy of a rare eighteenth-century catalogue of the manuscripts at Corpus. Corpus has one of the three largest and greatest collections of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts in the world, along with the British Library in London and the Bodleian Library in Oxford. The Corpus collection mostly came from Archbishop Matthew Parker, who died in 1575.

Doctor Wilkins has also presented to me, as Director of the Center, a hand-tinted limited-edition print of the interior of the Parker Library, for my new office.

He also sends a letter from the Master and Fellows of the College expressing, their congratulations and appreciation for the Center, and their wish to "maintain ... this fruitful transatlantic link, between the New World and the Old, in the years to come."

Neither Doctor Wilkins, nor his predecessor as Parker Librarian, Professor R.I. Page, are able to attend today. Both of them hold offices within the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, as do Mister Timothy Graham and Doctor Leslie French here today.

From the Research Group, I bring a series of gifts. I bring a copy of M.R. James's catalogue of Corpus manuscripts published in 1912, which is now out of print and hard to find; and a copy of an important scholarly Cambridge publication about the printing of Matthew Parker's *Testimonie of Antiquitie*, which has the first Anglo-Saxon text to be printed with Anglo-Saxon type. This is the sixteenth-century volume purchased, to honor the founding of the Center, by the Golliards, the graduate-student organization of the Medieval Institute; by the University Libraries; and by a private donor.

From the Research Group, I also bring a framed photograph from one of the most important Anglo-Saxon manuscripts at Corpus, showing the tenth-century presentation of a volume by King Athelstan to the community of St. Cuthbert.

This picture stands alongside the portrait of Richard Rawlinson, made from a slide donated by Mister David Vaisey, Director of the Bodleian Library, where the Rawlinson collection of manuscripts is kept. By bringing together Rawlinson's portrait, and books from Matthew Parker's great collection and printing efforts, we might make some distant amends for Rawlinson's own pangs at having to sell his books, expressed poignantly in his lament that "our last Matthew Parker takes its fate," referring to one of Parker's other printed works about the history of the medieval English Church.

Many people from around the world have sent their good wishes for this dedication, and colleagues have kindly provided computer demonstrations for display here, showing current computer-based projects on Anglo-Saxon manuscript studies. These reflect our commitment to interdisciplinary approaches to Anglo-Saxon and manuscript studies, integrating the arts and the sciences.

Professor Thomas Ohlgren of Purdue University is displaying the newest revision of the CORPUS of Anglo-Saxon Illuminated Manuscripts, of which he and I are joint Directors.

Doctor Andrew Prescott of the British Library in London has prepared a demonstration of selected Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in which members of the Research Group have special interests. He, Professor Kevin Kiernan of the University of Kentucky, and Professor Paul Szarmach of Binghamton University are showing the Electronic Beowulf Project. It is a testimony of their generosity that they are willing to give us a preview of a major project which will be more fully unveiled at next year's Congress.

I have brought an exhibition of my photographs, laid out by Doctor French, showing aspects of our work on Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts and other media, at Corpus and elsewhere. By such means we endeavor to transmit the rich legacy of the past to the future.

As Director of the Center and soon as Associate Professor in History, I extend a warm welcome to Anglo-Saxonists, medievalists, manuscript scholars, students and many others, not only during the International Congress on Medieval Studies every May, but also throughout the year.

I greatly look forward to building the Center from these initial gifts, signs of goodwill, and international links. Although the Center now has an admirable building space and a Director, I am very aware that one person alone does not make a Center. In order to set up its operations both now and long-term, the next steps will involve finding the funding for trained research staff, to continue and expand our collaborative work in this new, welcoming, friendly and helpful environment; setting the aims and goals of this new opportunity; and working together to realise the full potential of its splendid achievement.

Mildred Budny
4 May 1994: Dedication Ceremony
Rawlinson Center for Anglo-Saxon Studies and Manuscript Research
Western Michigan University