

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 Honorary Trustees

Dear Friend of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence:

In 2014, the Research Group celebrates its 15th year as a nonprofit educational corporation and its 25th year as an international scholarly society.

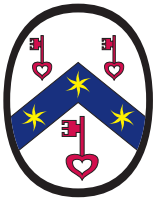
Over its existence, the Research Group has steadily expanded its activities. In addition to publishing *ShelfLife* and other works, it also organizes scholarly meetings, particularly annual sessions at the Kalamazoo congress on medieval studies. The Research Group engages in research projects, promotes conservation and photography, and serves as a clearing-house of information through its website and internet pages. Among the activities is the creation of the multilingual digital font Bembino, in which the above letterhead is set.

These activities require more time and money than can be contributed by a single, unpaid director. To maintain its work, the Research Group requires support in various forms. First, and perhaps foremost, financial support both on an annual basis, of which there are about twenty regular contributors (up from ten in recent years), and to develop an endowment, which now stands at \$450 (up from \$200). Second, there is a pressing need for help, even on an occasional ad hoc basis, with tasks like distributing publications, mailings, and organizing meetings, not to mention accounting and legal advice. Finally, contributions in kind are also welcome, such as office supplies and equipment, especially filing cabinets.

Since our previous letter, we record with thanks the support of regular contributors, as well as new contributors, whom we welcome. The responses in the past year provided donations of nearly \$2,500, as well as contributions of facilities, refreshments, and services. With this renewed and increased support, both in funds and in kind, it has been possible this year to accomplish activities in several spheres.

The Research Group has begun the upgrade and redesign of its official website, to include galleries of images and publications of research results, to respond to advances in the internet world, and to reflect its growth as an organization. The Research Group sponsored and co-sponsored seven sessions at the Kalamazoo congress in May 2013 — a larger number than any year before. The 2-day symposium in March at Princeton University on “Identity & Authenticity: Creating, Preserving, & Transmitting Identities Across Time & Place” offered papers on a wide range of subjects and demonstrations of original materials as well as new databases devoted to written and other sources.

The Research Group seeks to continue this momentum, and to build upon it, for the anniversary year of 2014. The goals are to increase the endowment and the support — funds, time, and expertise — of its running costs as a nonprofit educational corporation, to begin to digitize its records and photographic collection, to preserve and document its history as an organization, to advance with selected



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research projects, and to hold celebratory events for this landmark anniversary. In addition to the five sponsored and co-sponsored sessions set into place for the 2014 Kalamazoo congress, the Research Group seeks to organize a symposium, and workshop, along with the launch of the redesigned website. Especially it celebrates the contributions and collaboration of supporters through the years, throughout the world, as an integral part of marking the years so far as an organization.

Will you please consider assisting the Research Group in one or more of these ways? The full value of any donations is tax deductible, since the Research Group is a registered non-profit corporation. The continued existence and activities of the Research Group rest upon contributions in many forms, which we ask you to join, renew, or augment especially for this celebratory year.

Giles Constable
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James Marrow
Princeton University