

RGME 2025 Annual Appeal

RESEARCH GROUP ON MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE A NEW JERSEY NONPROFIT CORPORATION

Dear Friend of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence (RGME),

We write to you to ask for your support for our nonprofit educational corporation for the future.

In 2024, for our Anniversary Year, we undertook a variety of activities in support of our mission. They included:

- Holding our Spring & Autumn Symposia “Between Past and Future”, including the invited Spring Symposium at Vassar College (hybrid), plus an Anniversary Symposium “Manuscript (HE)ART”, with published booklets
- Hosting episodes 15–18 of our online presentation series, “The Research Group Speaks”
- Sponsoring and co-sponsoring three sessions at the 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies (ICMS)
- Sponsoring an Inaugural RGME Session at the 31st International Medieval Congress at Leeds (IMC)
- Co-sponsoring a pair of webinars for “Medieval Women’s Networks”
- Launching the series of RGME Workshops on “The Evidence of Manuscripts”
- Conducting our 2024 “Between Past and Future” project, funded by The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

Your generous donations for our 2024 Annual Appeal, Anniversary Endowment Appeal, and events (totalling \$22,000) helped greatly to support our work and on-going projects and to grow our endowment. In anticipating 2025, in addition to funding such ongoing programs as “The Research Group Speaks”, symposia, conference sessions, research projects, publications, and invited visits to public and private collections, we have five main goals:

- Expanding our very modest endowment (now up to \$4,750) to stabilize our ability to cover ongoing costs
- Building “The Constable Fund” (so far \$3,850) for work by the RGME on manuscript and related studies, to honor Giles Constable (†2021), medieval historian, Honorary Trustee, and long-time mentor for our organization
- Augmenting donations (normally about \$5,000 in a good year) so as to meet annual operating expenses, which have risen to about \$17,000, including urgent needs now for our website hosting and management
- Supporting our overworked, unpaid Director with funded administrative assistance, needed now more than ever

For details, please see <https://manuscriptevidence.org/2025-annual-appeal/>.

The RGME retains no full-time staff and uses no professional fund-raisers. We are run almost entirely by volunteers. Given our lean operating budget and low overheads, your donations can make a large impact directly on our work and mission. We hope that you would consider contributing whatever amount of funds you can, such as on a regular basis or perhaps from Qualified Charitable Distributions or bequests. For our 501(c) (3) charitable organization, your donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. With your help, RGME can become better able to develop a sustainable platform, to continue our mission for years to come.

To donate, please fill out and return the enclosed form by mail, or visit our web page here:

<https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contributions-and-donations/>

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