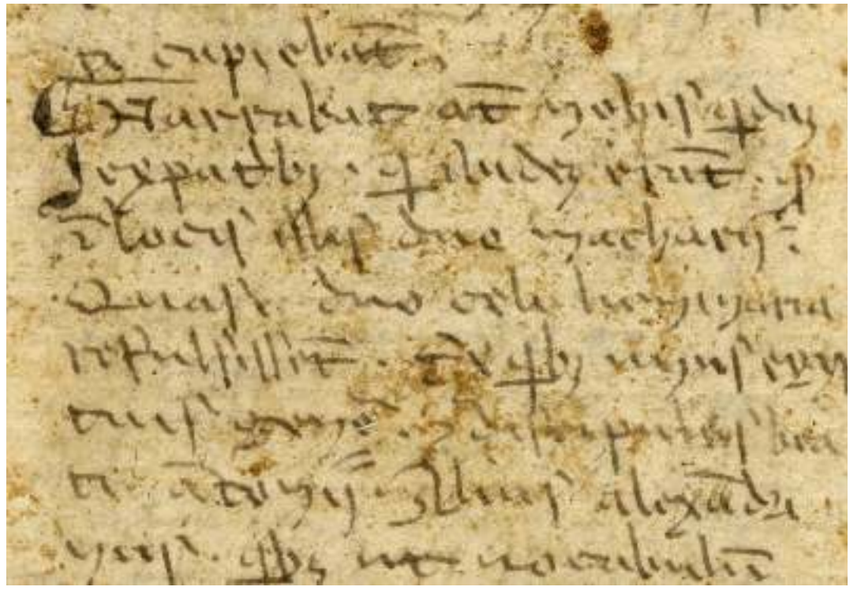


Figure 71. Private Collection, Fragment from a medieval copy on paper of the *Vitae Patrum* ("Lives of the Fathers"), retrieved from reuse in the paper boards of an early-printed Latin *Postilla* (Lyons, 1527). Photography by Mildred Budny. [Budny]

Founded in 1989 in England as an international scholarly organization, and incorporated in 1999 in the United States as a nonprofit educational corporation for the purpose of "lectures, discussions, and other publications", the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence exists to apply an interlinked approach to the study of manuscripts and other forms of the written or inscribed word, in their transmission across time and space. The Research Group is powered mainly by volunteers and volunteer donations.

Information about the activities and publications of the Research Group appears on the official website: **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/**. Our website and our other publications, including **Booklets**, are edited by our Director, Mildred Budny. For assistance with images and permissions for this illustrated booklet, we thank the contributors, Sylvia Faccin of the Biblioteca Capitolare of Vercelli, and Rebecca Cairns of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.

Our multi-lingual digital font **Bembino** is freely available: **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/bembino**; see also **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/multi-lingual-bembino** and **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/bembino-wp-for-word**.

We invite you to follow our blogs, join our activities, subscribe to our mailing list for our Newsletter **ShelfMarks** and information about our activities, and join the **Friends of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence**. Please visit **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/friends-of-the-rgme** and contact ***director@manuscriptevidence.org*** with your questions, suggestions, and contributions.

The Research Group welcomes donations for its nonprofit educational mission, including donations in kind, expertise, advice, and contributions to our work, research, scholarly events, exhibitions, and publications. For our 501(c)(3) organization, your donations may be tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. They are easy to send via **https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contributions-and-donations**.

Published by the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence (Princeton, 28 March 2025). Set in RGME Bembino.

2025 RGME Spring Symposium (Part 1 of 2)

Friday to Sunday, 28–30 March 2025 (online)

"Makers, Producers, and Collectors of Books: From Author/Artist/Artisan to Library"

Launching the 2025 Symposia on "Agents and Agencies" of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence with the Theme of "Thresholds and Communities"

Program Booklet



Information and Registration:
https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2025-spring-symposium/

Image: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Ms-638 réserve, fol. 17v. Angel and Evangelist Matthew as scribe. Book of Hours in Latin, 15th century. Image Public Domain via **https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b55008559f/f38.item**.

"Makers, Producers, and Collectors of Books: From Author/Artist/Artisan to Library"

Part 1 (of 2)
2025 RGME Symposia on "Agents and Agencies"

Friday–Sunday, 28–30 March 2025
By Zoom



This Spring Symposium presents the first of the pair of 2025 RGME Spring and Autumn Symposia devoted to "Agents and Agencies" in the realms of books, whether in manuscripts or other forms. We explore the processes whereby the initial inspiration reaches the pages of manuscripts or printed books ready to enter the world. There, perhaps, they might experience additional agents/agencies which respond to them and transform or re-create them.

For the Spring Symposium, we explore the processes which lead, directly or otherwise, from the initial inspiration through the processes of production to the finished product and then to their owners and users. Explorations range across many times and places. We consider original materials in collections both institutional and private. Speakers represent various centers and stages or directions of engagement, including scholars, collectors, teachers, students, and others. Then, as Part 2 of 2, our Autumn Symposium picks up the story from there.

Image: London, Welcome Collection, 45097i. Painting by a follower of Thomas Wijck/Wyck (circa 1616 – 1677). Oil on canvas within frame. Interior with an alchemist-type scholar seated at a large table and desk, accompanied by many books. Image via Public Domain Mark **https://wellcomecollection.org/works/g7kj7b2f/images?id=kkakxfdz**.

Sunday 30 March

Session 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Session 7
"Writing Materials as Agents and Agencies"

Presider/Moderator: * **Hannah Goeselt**

* **David W. Sorenson** (Allen G. Berman, Numismatist)
  "When Watermarks Tell Tall Tales: Watermarks in Exotic Destinations and Why They Can Be Unreliable as Evidence for Dating"

* **Mildred Budny**
  "Paper, Find-Places, and Hybrid Books: Between the Sheets and Covers with a Medieval Fragment of the Vitae Patrum, *an Early-Modern Printed* Postilla *from Lyons, and Reused Printer's Waste from a Glossary"*

Closing Remarks
"From Spring Forward to Autumn Back Again: Preview of Part 2 in the 2025 RGME Symposia on 'Agents and Agencies'"

Thanks To

Contributors:
Speakers, Presiders, Consultants, Advisors, Donors

Supporters:
Technical Support, Interns, RGME Publications

Special Mention:
Phillip Bernhardt–House,
Leslie French, Hannah Goeselt, Richard Kopley,
Beppy Landrum Owen, Maro Vandorou

Saturday 29 March (continued)

*** = Research Group on Manuscript Evidence**
(Trustees, Associates, Volunteers)

Session 1:30–3:00 pm

Session 5
"Books and Written Records as Repositories of Knowledge and Wonder"

Presider/Moderator: ***David Porreca** (Department of Classical Studies, University of Waterloo, Canada)

***Laura Morreale** (Independent Scholar)
"The Crusades Come to Cambridge"

***Phillip Bernhardt–House** (Independent Scholar)
"Ill at "e/é's (Or, what Diference An 'é' Makes):
The Apocalyptic Implications of a Single Acute Accent in 'The Second Vision of Adomnán' "

Michael Ian Hensley (Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg)
"Sold and Traded, Dismembered and Hidden:
The Many Fates of Medieval Ethopian and Eritrean Libraries"

Break 3:00–3:30 pm

Session 3:30–5:00 pm

Session 6. Roundtable Discussion
"Agents and Agencies: Processes, Products, and Inspirations"

Presider/Moderator: ***Mildred Budny**

*** Michael Allman Conrad** (University of Saint Gallen, Switzerland)
"Mechanized Inspiration from Raymond Llull to ChatGPT"

*** Hannah Goeselt** (Intern Executive Assistant, RGME; and Massachusetts Historical Society Library)
"Discoverability and the Pre-Modern Manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society"

*** Justin Hastings**

*** Antony Henk (University of Bochum, Germany)**
"Bishop Leo's Liturgy: Hunting for Insular Links in Vercelli's Manuscripts"

*** Laura Morreale**

Part 2: RGME 2025 Autumn Symposium (Hybrid)

"Readers, Fakers, and Re-Creators of Books: From Page to Marketplace and Beyond"

Part 2 (of 2)
2025 RGME Symposia on "Agents and Agencies"

Friday to Sunday, 17–19 October 2025
By Zoom and Partly In-Person



As Part 2 of 2, the 2025 Autumn Symposium continues our explorations of processes due to the work of "Agents and Agencies" in the realms of books of many kinds. Picking up the story from the Spring Symposium (with some overlap) at the points where the completed books in some form enter the world, we examine how they might encounter additional agents/agencies which effect responses, transformations, or re-creations. Such transformations may widely range (sometimes in conjunction with each other) from readers' reactions to their texts and other contents, through structural interventions which might deconstruct the book into fragments thereof, to recreations in a variety of forms, which might involve reassembly in portfolios or albums of specimens, imitations or emulations, or outright forgery.

Thus, we channel the purposeful momentum for the Spring Symposium in a follow-up to continue the engagement between original sources — medieval and more, across centuries, styles, and languages — and the people who study and care for them, teach from them, and learn from them, then and now.

Image: Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University, Houghton Library, MS Typ 947, recto. Fragment of a Medieval Leaf on vellum: Gouache drawing added to one side of the leaf by the "Spanish Forger" with scene of a sword-wielding man encountering a lion before spectators watching within a walled structure (ca. 1900). Image via **https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:6517512$1i**.

Friday 28 March

*** = Research Group on Manuscript Evidence**
(Trustees, Associates, Volunteers)

Session 1:30–3:00 pm EDT (GMT-4)

Session 1
"Books Come to Life, Part I: Authorship"

Presider/Moderator: ***Justin Hastings** (Independent Scholar)

***Mildred Budny** (Director, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence)

Opening Remarks
"Welcome and Introduction: Observing When, Where, and/or How 'Agents and Agencies' Meet Their Books"

Richard Kopley (Penn State University, DuBois, Emeritus)

"Poe in Richmond in 1836"
— presentation and informal interview celebrating the newly published biography *Edgar Allan Poe: A Life* (University of Virginia Press, 2025)

Break 3:00–3:30 pm

Session 3:30–5:00 pm

Session 2
"Books Come to Life, Part II: Artistry from the Creator's Perspective"

Presider/Moderator: ***Beppy Landrum Owen** (Council Member, Grolier Club; Trustee, Rare Book School; Graduate Student, Master of Liberal Studies Program, Rollins College)

Maro Vandorou (Visual Artist, Dublin, California, and Athens, Greece)

"Creating a Letter Across Time to the Minoan 'Priestess of the Winds' in Linear B"
— interview/conversation with Beppy Landrum Owen exploring the creation of Maro's art book *a-ne-mo-i-je-ri-ja* (Maro Vandorou, 2023)



Saturday 29 March

Session 9:00–10:30 am EDT (GMT-4)

Session 3
"Life, Death, Afterlife, and Rebirth of Books"

Presider/Moderator: ***N. Kıvılcım Yavuz** (Lecturer in Medieval Studies and Digital Humanities, Institute for Medieval Studies / School of History, University of Leeds)

***Justin Hastings** (Independent Scholar)
"This is a Female Text: Latinity, Gender, Space, and Place in the Whitby Life of Gregory the Great"

***Beppy Landrum Owen**
"Life After Life: Tales from the Making of the Vesalian Icones Anatomicæ"

Break 10:30–11:00 am

Session 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Session 4
"Picture This: Books into Being"

Presider/Moderator: ***Anna Siebach-Larsen** (Director, Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center for English Studies, University of Rochester)

Eve Kahn (Independent Scholar)
"The Irish–American Imagemaker: Anna Frances Levins (1871–1941)"

Mildred Budny
"Last or Best Resort: When Authors Turn Publishers"

Lunch Break 12:30–1:30 pm