

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:

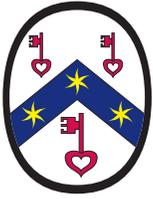
In 2015, the Research Group built upon the accomplishments of the special anniversary year, including the success of its Appeal. After celebrating the 15th anniversary as a nonprofit educational corporation and the 25th as an international scholarly society in 2014, we continued to develop a wide variety of activities. The Research Group joined CARA (Committee on Centers and Regional Associations of the Medieval Academy of America) in March and contributed a Report for the CARA June 2015 Newsletter describing the events of both years. The continuing expansion of interests and activities manifests the dedication to ‘The Evidence of Manuscripts *and Other Evidence*’, which our unofficial name reflects, and which our newly updated website both documents and illustrates.

- This year, we sponsored and co-sponsored five Sessions, along with a co-sponsored Reception, at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in May. For the first time, we held a Business Meeting, open to all, as an official part of the Congress Schedule.
- The Group launched its new official website (in development since 2014) and archived its first website, still available online. The new site makes more widely available the Programs, Abstracts, and Booklets of our sessions, workshops, seminars, and symposia across the years, and to publish more of our archive of photographs of manuscripts and other materials.
- Responding to requests, we issued Version 1.3 of our multilingual digital — and free — font *Bembino* (in which this letter and our redesigned website are set), along with an updated version of our *Style Manifesto*. Work is advancing on the next version of the font, to include support for more languages.
- We launched our new series of blogposts, devoted to *Manuscript Studies* (<http://www.manuscriptevidence.org/manuscript-studies/>), with a succession of reports on a wide range of manuscripts, documents, and fragments. Some present the results of cumulative work (photography, conservation, research) over recent years, as original contributions to the field.

Over its existence, the Research Group has steadily expanded its activities, just as it has widened its scope. In addition to its publications, it organizes scholarly meetings of various kinds, including annual sessions at the Kalamazoo Congress. The Research Group engages in research projects, promotes conservation and photography, integrates research work in a broad range of fields, and serves as a clearing-house of information through its website and internet pages, as well as through its events.

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, and for an endowment, which still stands at \$450. Second, there remains a pressing need for help, even on an occasional ad hoc basis, with tasks like contributing to our *Newsletter*, updating the website, distributing publications, and organizing events, as well as aiding

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the accounting and secretarial work. Finally, contributions in kind are welcome. This year, for example, a generous response to the request for filing cabinets has given two, and we seek more. We also look for a scanner and help with scanning the archives and photographic collection.

Since our previous letter, we record with thanks the support of regular contributors, as well as new contributors, whom we welcome. Continuing the momentum of our Anniversary Appeal, the responses in the past year provided donations of nearly \$8,300, 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 to accomplish activities in several spheres. We gladly celebrate the contributions of supporters throughout the world and across the years.

The Research Group seeks to continue this momentum. The goals are to increase the endowment and the support — funds, time, and expertise — of its running costs as a nonprofit educational corporation, to record its history as an organization, to advance with research projects, to publish their results, and to hold events. Beside the four sponsored and co-sponsored sessions, plus a reception, already set into place for the 2016 Kalamazoo Congress, the Research Group seeks to hold selected events. In planning activities, the Research Group welcomes suggestions for subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and contributors.

Will you please consider assisting the Research Group in one or more of these ways? Perhaps you wish to offer contributions in honor of designated individuals or specific missions? The full value of any donations may be 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.

We thank you for your support.

Giles Constable
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