Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
<http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/>

The Research Group continues to expand the range of its interests and activities — as reflected by its recently adopted unofficial name: Research Group on Manuscript [and Other] Evidence. The Group exists to apply an integrated approach to the evidence of manuscripts and other written forms across the ages. Without buildings or paid staff, the organization is powered by volunteers, donors, and contributors, so that donations both in funds and in kind principally support the activities themselves. As a sort of university without walls, the Group is open to the academic and wider worlds, including established as well as independent scholars and others alike.

In 2015, the first year of its [Affiliation](http://www.medievalacademy.org/?page=CARA_Affiliates) with [CARA](http://www.medievalacademy.org/?page=CARA), the Research Group marked 16 years as a nonprofit educational corporation based in Princeton, and 26 years as an international scholarly organization founded in England. After the many activities of our landmark anniversary year in 2014 (described in last year’s [Report](http://192.168.1.1:8181/http%3A/www.themedievalacademyblog.org/pdfs/June2015CARANews.pdf) to CARA), we focused in 2015 upon the upgrade and expansion of our official website, as well as upon other publications.

As customary, we sponsor and co-sponsor sessions at the [International Congress on Medieval Studies](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/congress-activities/). In 2015, there were 5 sessions, and 4 sessions in 2016, both with sessions co-sponsored by the [Societas Magica](http://www.societasmagica.org) and by the [Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmili%5CDesktop%5CCARA%20Report%202016%5Cmems.center.ufl.edu%5C) at the University of Florida. Both years, we co-sponsored a Reception with the Societas Magica (2015) and the [Index of Christian Art](http://ica.princeton.edu) at Princeton University (2014‒2015). Also, we produced an illustrated and downloadable Program Booklet with the Abstracts of Papers for one or more of our Sessions. See <http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2015-international-congress-on-medieval-studies-events-accomplished/> and <http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2016-international-congress-on-medieval-studies-report/>.

In time for the 2015 Congress, the Group launched its upgraded and redesigned website (in WordPress), with the old site (Drupal) archived online. In tandem, we issued our revised and illustrated **Style Manifesto** (<http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/style-manifesto/>), incorporating our own multilingual digital font **Bembino**. Responding to requests for additions, we then issued **Version 1.3** of this font, available for FREE via <http://manuscriptevidence.org/bembino/>. The next Version will soon appear, with Runes, Armenian, and more. We welcome requests, corrections, and improvements for the font, the most popular download on our website.

Begun in 2015, our blog on **Manuscript Studies** (<http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/manuscript-studies>) reports and illustrates a variety of manuscripts, fragments, and documents, sometimes with seals attached. Some ground-breaking posts are article-length. The **Contents List** (<http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/manuscript-studies-contents-list>) groups the subjects of the posts by category — with more to come. Guest-bloggers are welcome.

In 2016, after a year’s interval following its anniversary activities, the Group resumed its Symposia, starting at Princeton University in March with a focus on “Words & Deeds: Actions Enacted, Re-Enacted & Restored, from Late-Antique Theater to the Legacy of Otto Ege, by way of, *inter alia*, Saint-Denis and Gutenberg”. Speakers included the Executive Director of the Medieval Academy. See <http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2016-symposium-on-words-and-deeds/> and the illustrated 24-page Program Booklet, [downloadable in PDF format](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/download/6991/).

The Group continues its long-term work of research, photography, conservation, and discussions of manuscript and other evidence. It prepares published reports from our sessions at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. The Group also begins to plan sponsored sessions at other conferences as well, starting with a pair of [Panels](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/marginalia-in-manuscripts-and-books-for-2016-m-mla/) at the Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association (M-MLA) to be held in November 2016.

In developing its activities, the Research Group seeks suggestions for subjects, venues, hosts, sponsorships, and collaborations. We invite announcements, reports, questions, comments, news, and editorial support for our [e-Newsletter](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/shelflife/shelfmarks-newsletter/), [FaceBook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Research-Group-on-Manuscript-Evidence-259443617456668/), and website. Proposals, donations, and [contributions](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contributions-and-donations/) of many kinds are welcome.

— Mildred Budny, *Director*