The evidence of manuscripts

We will hold the next meeting of this seminar on Saturday, 12 October.

The subject will be: sixteenth-century transcripts of Anglo-Saxon texts. Those of us engaged in editing Anglo-Saxon texts find them an important source for our subject. They appear within a number of manuscripts at the Parker Library, in the hands of Matthew Parker, others within his circle and other scholars and antiquaries. Simon Keynes will speak about his examination of the manuscript transmission of Asser’s Life of King Alfred. Patrick Wormald will address the patterns of transmission and recovery of vernacular legal texts. We hope that other members of the seminar will contribute to the discussion from their own experience with sixteenth-century or Anglo-Saxon sources.

Manuscripts will be available for examination as a focus for discussion. These will include MSS 100 (containing the earliest surviving modern transcript of Asser’s Life of Alfred), 111 (containing some of Talbot’s and others’ transcripts of charters), 178 and 188 (eleventh-century homily collections with Parkerian supplied leaves), 197A (containing a transcript of Alfred’s Preface to the Pastoral Care), 383 (a twelfth-century collection of Anglo-Saxon Laws with supplied leaves), and 449 (an eleventh-century copy of Ælfric’s Grammar and Glossary with supplied text). Other manuscripts may also emerge as they occur to us in the course of the session.

As usual, the seminar will meet in the Parker Library. We will begin at 11 a.m., break for an informal lunch in College and continue until about 4 or 4:30 p.m. To let us know whom we may expect, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Invitations are sent to: David Wilson, Mildred Budny, Christine Fell, R.I. Page, Patrick Wormald, Simon Keynes, Tim Graham, Leslie French, Patrick Collinson, Nigel Wilkins, Catherine Hall, Della Hooke, Robin Alsten, Nigel Ramsay, Bill Stoneman, Malcolm Godden, Stuart Lee and Nicholas Vincent.

R.I. Page