The Evidence of Manuscripts

We will hold the next meeting of this seminar on Wednesday, 20 April. The subject will be: King Alfred and His Legacy. We will consider aspects of the life, achievement, and writings of King Alfred the Great, together with the transmission of his texts and reputation through later centuries, both medieval and modern.

Speakers will include members of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence and others. R.I. Page will give an introduction, focusing on language, literature and textual transmission from Alfred’s time to the early modern period with the work of Matthew Parker and his circle. Janet Bately will examine texts and manuscripts connected with Alfred. Susan Hitch will consider the manuscript tradition of the Soliloquies. Richard Gameson will survey the art of Alfredian manuscripts and its context. In person or by proxy, Simon Keynes will assess the Asser material for Alfred and its textual transmission, including the early history of British Library, Cotton MS Otho A. xii; and the earliest extant witness to Asser’s text: the sixteenth-century Parkerian transcript in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 100, for which a facsimile is planned. Andrew Prescott will report on the fate of the Alfredian material in the Cotton collection, and aspects of the Burghal Hidage, focusing upon witnesses in the British Library: the badly burnt Anglo-Saxon copy in Cotton MS Otho B. xi; and Lawrence Nowell’s transcript of 1562 in Additional MS 43703. Malcolm Parkes will evaluate aspects of King Alfred and his legacy. There will be a photographic exhibition of relevant manuscripts from the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The meeting will take place in the Meyerstein Room of the English Faculty, in the St Cross Building. Coffee will be served from 10:30. The seminar will begin promptly at 11. A buffet lunch will be provided (including burnt cakes); sadly we will have to ask contributions to cover the costs for this, amounting to between £5 and £6. We expect to end at about 4:30. Space is limited, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are coming.

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☐ will be able to attend the seminar on Wednesday 20 April
☐ will not

Signed ..........................