



Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

THE PARKER LIBRARY
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December 15 1991

The evidence of manuscripts

We will hold the next meeting of this seminar on Saturday, 11 January.

The subject will be: Anglo-Saxon writing materials and practices. We wish to look at the evidence for manuscript production in the Anglo-Saxon period, especially 1) the archaeological record of writing materials, tools, processes and book bindings; 2) the linguistic and literary evidence for writing and making manuscripts from both Old English and Anglo-Latin sources; and 3) the evidence of the manuscripts themselves.

Leslie Webster has agreed to talk about the material evidence in the British Museum collection. Kevin Leahy will describe his finds at Flixborough from this point of view. Christine Fell will talk about the Old English sources, and Vivien Law will discuss the Latin material. Milly Budny will show examples from manuscripts at Corpus in the light of the preceding discussion, with particular attention to sequences of production and representations of scribes and books. We hope that other members of the seminar will contribute to the discussion from their own experience with the sources.

Manuscripts will be available for examination as a focus for discussion. These will include MSS 389 (saints' lives from St Augustine's Abbey, with a scribal portrait of St Jerome), 183 (Bede's *Vita sancti Cuthberti* and other texts, with King Athelstan's presentation frontispiece), 23 (Prudentius' *Psychomachia* with sequences of production in a densely illustrated and glossed text) and 41 (the Corpus Alfredian *Pastoral Care*, with layers of initials and sketches for them). The detailed image of a bound book in MS 286 will be represented by photographs, as the manuscript will still be in the early Anglo-Saxon exhibition at the British Museum. Other manuscripts may emerge for examination 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, Leslie Webster, Mildred Budny, Christine Fell, R.I. Page, Tim Graham, Catherine Hall, Leslie French, Nicholas Hadgraft, Nigel Wilkins, Patrick Wormald, Simon Keynes, Malcolm Godden, Richard North, Richard Gem, Catherine Hills, Vivien Law, Carole Hough, David Parsons, M.H. Brierley.

R.I. Page

Associates: D. Baker (Texas), D.H. Farmer (Reading), C.E. Fell (Nottingham), M.R. Godden (Oxford), C.A. Hough (Nottingham), S.L. Keefer (Ontario), S.D. Keynes (Cambridge), T. Kubouchi (Tokyo), A.R. Rumble (Manchester), S. Sato (Tokyo), C.P.E. Springer (Illinois), D.M. Wilson (London), C.P. Wormald (Oxford)

To: The Director, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence,
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

I will be able to attend the seminar on Saturday, 11 January
 will not

Signed