

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

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CAMBRIDGE CB2 1RH

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12 November 1993

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 41: A Workshop

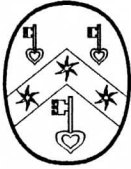
We plan to hold a workshop on Saturday, 11 December, devoted to Corpus Christi College, MS 41: the Corpus Old English Bede. This large-format eleventh-century manuscript principally contains a copy of the Old English version of Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*, with a large cycle of decorated initials, including historiated initials depicting secular and religious subjects. It also has numerous texts added in the margins and other available areas. In Latin and Old English, the additions include liturgical, homiletic, poetic and other texts: portions of a sacramentary, part of a martyrology, metrical and prose charms, a recipe, prayers, the beginning of *Solomon and Saturn I*, six anonymous homilies, two runic inscriptions and the bilingual donorship inscription recording Bishop Leofric's gift of the book to Exeter Cathedral. There are many trials, sketches and drawings, including some supplied, retouched or retraced initials. The multiple additions endow the book with the remarkable character of a combined "commonplace book" and sketchbook, forming a richly layered artifact.

MS 41 has been a focus of our research at the Parker Library over a number of years. It was closely examined for a new catalogue of Anglo-Saxon and related manuscripts at Corpus. As part of our ongoing exploration of the book, the workshop will discuss its nature, its problems and its context. We hope you might attend to give your advice and help.

We aim to run the workshop on informal lines, as a round table. This will give plenty of opportunity to respond to the speakers and ask questions. Mildred Budny will survey the character of the manuscript and summarise our work on it. Raymond Grant will assess the manuscript and its problems. Ray Page will consider some of its linguistic features. Don Scragg will examine the language of some of the marginal texts. Sarah Keefer will examine the liturgical material and its context, both within the manuscript and among surviving sources. Richard Gameson will discuss the decoration and illustration. There might be a report of Richard Johnson's work in progress on the homily on St Michael. Tim Graham will survey the signs of early modern use in the book. We hope that others will contribute to the discussion from their areas of specialisation and interest.

MS 41 will be available for examination during the workshop, along with other books in the collection. They will include manuscripts containing Old English translations of major Latin texts in large format, manuscripts containing texts similar to those added in the margins, manuscripts which Leofric gave to Exeter and manuscripts used as "commonplace books" through acquiring miscellaneous added texts in available blank areas (MSS 12, 162, 190, 191, 201, 326, 357, 419 + 421 and 422). Other volumes may emerge for inspection in the course of the session.

Associates: D. Baker (Texas), C.T. Berkhout (Tucson), D.H. Farmer (Reading), C.E. Fell (Nottingham),
共同研究者 M.R. Godden (Oxford), O. Gründler (Kalamazoo), C.A. Hough (Nottingham), S.L. Keefer (Ontario),
S.D. Keynes (Cambridge), T. Kubouchi (Tokyo), V.A. Law (Cambridge), A.R. Rumble (Manchester),
G. Russom (Providence), S. Sato (Tokyo), T.H. Seiler (Kalamazoo), C.P.E. Springer (Illinois),
P.E. Szarmach (Binghamton), T. Takamiya (Tokyo), D.M. Wilson (Isle of Man), C.P. Wormald (Oxford)

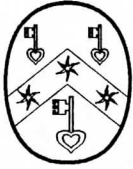


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The workshop will meet in the Parker Library. We will begin at 11 a.m., break for lunch and continue until about 4:30 p.m. Because the College no longer provides lunches on Saturdays we have to adjourn for lunch in town. Alas, we must ask our participants to contribute to the cost of lunch, as our Research Group funds cannot cover it. 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: R.I. Page, Mildred Budny, Tim Graham, Catherine Hall, Nicholas Hadgraft, Nigel Wilkins, Leslie French, Toshiyuki Takamiya, James Carley, Hildegard Tristram, Raymond Grant, Sarah Keefer, Don Scragg, Richard Gameson, Malcolm Godden, Christine Fell, Joyce Hill, Janet Bately, Andrew Prescott, Nigel Ramsay, Tessa Webber, Alexander Rumble, Michael Gullick, Gareth Colgan, Katherine Lowe, Graham Woan, Paul Remley, Richard Johnson, Kurumi Saito.

Mildred Budny



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To: Dr Mildred Budny
The Parker Library
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge CB2 1RH

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

Signed