

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

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January 20 1993

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 44: A Workshop

We plan to hold a workshop on Saturday, 27 February, devoted to Corpus Christi College, MS 44. This imposing eleventh-century manuscript, the Corpus Canterbury Pontifical, contains episcopal services in Latin, with prefatory texts in Old English.

The rites include the dedication of a church, the ordination of various orders of clergy, the coronation of a king and queen and the enthronement of an archbishop returning from Rome with the pallium. The damaged Old English texts include an account of the significance of church bells. The litanies mention saints especially revered at Canterbury; among them St Alphege provides a *terminus post quem* of 1012 and perhaps 1023. Interlinear Latin glosses are identifiable as the work of a scribe of St Augustine's Abbey. Added musical notation for services of consecrating both a church and an archbishop imply use for particular occasions, perhaps at Christ Church Cathedral. The book may have been made for an archbishop. It belonged to Ely Cathedral at least by the late medieval period. It shows few signs of use until its extensive restoration for Archbishop Parker in the sixteenth century. Its date, place of origin and early history remain open to question.

The manuscript has been the subject of study in our research work at the Parker Library over a number of years. For example, it has been closely examined for a new catalogue of Anglo-Saxon and related manuscripts at Corpus. Its damaged binding calls for repair or replacement, so rebinding may be required. As part of our on-going exploration of the manuscript, the workshop will discuss its character, its problems, its context and related matters. 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 provide an introduction to the manuscript and summarise our research work on it. Ray Page will comment on its Old English texts and Matthew Parker's ownership. Tim Graham will survey its early modern additions and its probable route to Parker from Ely Cathedral. Catherine Hall will examine its layout and its musical notation as evidence for liturgical use. Richard Emms will consider the evidence for its origin at St Augustine's Abbey and its possible ownership by Archbishop Stigand. David Farmer will consider its litanies and its possible ownership by Archbishop Lanfranc. Simon Keynes will be on hand to assess the evidence for its early ownership at Ely through Stigand and for Anglo-Saxon manuscripts at Ely. Andrew Prescott will discuss the transmission of pontificals in the late Anglo-Saxon and early Anglo-Norman periods. We hope that others will contribute to the discussion from their areas of specialisation and interest.

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The manuscript will be available for examination during the workshop, along with others in the collection. They will include Anglo-Saxon manuscripts containing pontificals or pontifical extracts (MSS 146, 163 and 265) and eleventh-century liturgical or other manuscripts produced at Canterbury (for example, MSS 162, 267 and 270). Other manuscripts may emerge for inspection as they occur to us in the course of the session.

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. This time, 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, Simon Keynes, Andrew Prescott, Richard Emms, David Farmer, Christopher Brooke, Nicholas Brooks, Christine Fell, Malcolm Godden, Patrick Wormald, David Wilson, Richard Southern, Martin Brett, Susan Rankin, Tessa Webber.

R.I. Page



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To: The Director, I	Research Group on Manuscript Eviden	ce,
Corpus Christi College, Cambridge		

I □ will □ will no	be able to attend the seminar or	n Saturday, 27 February
Signed		