



## “The Dating Service or the Dating Game?”

### Problems and Potential of Dating Materials from the Early Medieval Period

An Inaugural and Celebratory Workshop

*co-sponsored by the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence and the Early Medieval Forum  
and co-organized by Mildred Budny and Celia Chazelle*

**Saturday 3 November 2001**

**Second Floor, Brower Student Center, The College of New Jersey**  
(Please Note Room Change)

The Early Medieval Forum and the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence announce a workshop on issues in dating early medieval evidence. The occasion will celebrate both the formation of the Early Medieval Forum and the official recognition by the Internal Revenue Service of tax-exemption for the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence as a nonprofit corporation for educational purposes. We hereby launch a series of co-sponsored workshops devoted to subjects significant to our shared interests in the transmission and interpretation of evidence in written and other forms.

For the Research Group, founded in 1990 and now based in Princeton, this event belongs to its long series of workshops devoted to the evidence of manuscripts and other media and organized or co-organized by Mildred Budny. Previously they have taken place in Cambridge, Oxford, London, and Tokyo, principally in connection with the major Research Project on “The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts” at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. As a registered nonprofit organization, the Research Group has expanded its mission to research on manuscripts and texts in other forms across the centuries. Although we focus upon manuscripts, our interests are not confined to them, as they belong to a wider world, both then and now.

Organized by Celia Chazelle and Mildred Budny in 2000, the Early Medieval Forum seeks to stimulate interest in, and to increase awareness of, the current state of research, issues, methodologies, and challenges encountered in the various disciplines involved in studying Western Europe and Byzantium from about 400–1200 C.E. It also seeks to facilitate contacts and exchange of information among students and scholars in many centers. The Forum established its listserv in 2001.

In keeping with our shared aims, this workshop seeks to report findings, pass on information, exchange advice, and gather feedback on methods, approaches, and materials especially from the early medieval period. Our subject will be the problems and potential of dating media of various kinds, ranging from archaeological material to manuscripts and documents. The date-range under consideration extends from about the fifth to twelfth centuries C.E.

The following specialists have agreed to speak at the workshop:

Mildred Budny (*Research Group on Manuscript Evidence, Princeton*) will assess viable approaches to dating media, from manuscripts to textiles, under the heading or direction "Think of a Number."

Celia Chazelle (*The College of New Jersey, Ewing*) will review evidence for dating the controversial *Codex Amiatinus* from Northumbria: Florence, Biblioteca Medicea-Laurenziana, Amiatino MS 1.

Giles Constable (*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*) will examine problems in dating Cluny charters.

Edward James (*University of Reading and Rutgers University, New Brunswick*) will discuss problems of archaeological and related materials.

Michael Kulikowski (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*) will consider, with focus upon early medieval Spain, "Archaeological Chronologies: Do's and Don'ts for Historians."

Lawrence Nees (*University of Delaware, Newark*) will examine methodologies for dating early medieval manuscripts, with special reference to the added colophon in the Lindisfarne Gospels: London, British Library, Cotton MS Nero D.iv.

Philip Rusche (*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*) will report on dating Anglo-Saxon and Early Anglo-Norman glossaries.

Geoffrey Russom (*Brown University, Providence*) will report on the "Distribution of Metrical Patterns as Evidence for Dating Old English Verse Texts."

Other specialists have indicated that they might also be able to attend to report on new findings and reassessments of criteria for dating palaeographic materials. They include Barbara A. Shailor (*Beinecke Library, Yale University*), to reassess the criteria required for dating Visigothic scripts.

We hope that others will join in the discussion from their areas of specialization and interest. As the workshop will be run on informal lines, there will be opportunity to respond to the speakers and to ask questions.

We will begin at 9:30 a.m., break for lunch (not provided), and continue our discussions until about 5:30 p.m. There will be coffee breaks both mid-morning and mid-afternoon, as well as a reception to follow. The attendance fee for the workshop, including refreshment breaks, will be \$18 for registration before 8 October 2001. From that date the fee will include a charge of \$10 for late registration.

To let us know how many we may expect, please complete the enclosed form and return it to Dr. Celia Chazelle, Department of History, The College of New Jersey, Ewing, New Jersey 08628.

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*and*  
Dr. Celia Chazelle

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