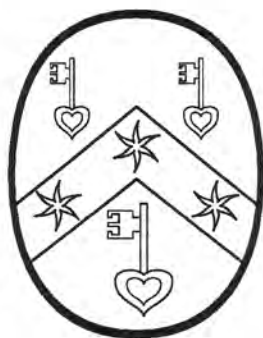


Research Group on Manuscript Evidence



THE PARKER LIBRARY
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
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A Profile of the Research Group and Annual Reports to the Leverhulme Trust

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THE RESEARCH GROUP ON MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE:

A PROFILE

Founded in 1990, the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence comprises Members based at the Parker Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and specialist Associates based at various centres in England, North America and Japan. The Group's objectives are to examine, record and analyse evidence in manuscripts from the late antique, medieval and early modern periods. We publish the results and disseminate information through seminars, workshops and classes. We are committed to developing manuscript studies by integrating expertise in the arts and sciences.

1. Origins

The Parker Library contains over five hundred medieval manuscripts, mainly gathered by Matthew Parker, Master of the College from 1544 to 1553 and Archbishop of Canterbury from 1559 to his death in 1575. It has one of the three largest collections of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, standing alongside the collections of the British Library in London and the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and includes many manuscripts important for medieval English studies.

In 1983, following the recommendations of a detailed conservation report by Dr Nicholas Pickwoad, a specialist conservator, the Library undertook a major conservation programme generously funded by Old Members of the College, the American Friends of Cambridge University and the Wolfson Family Trust.

In 1987 Dr Mildred Budny joined the Parker Library as Senior Research Associate, funded by donors in England, Ireland, the United States, Hong Kong and Japan. Her work led to a major research project on the Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts, based at the Parker Library and funded by the Leverhulme Trust for five years from 1989. The Parker Library is uniquely positioned to form the centre of such research work, given its collection of manuscripts, the conservation programme, the funding for research from outside sources and the presence of specialist expertise within the assembled team.

The Project's interdisciplinary approach to manuscripts required advice and assistance from many different fields. From this arose the Research Group, which extended the range beyond the requirements of the Project.

2. Participants

Both the conservation programme and the research project at Corpus Christi College were launched during the Librarianship of Prof. R.I. Page, who served as Parker Librarian from 1965 to 1991 and as Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Cambridge from 1982 until his retirement in 1991. Prof. Page's expertise includes Old English philology, runic studies and the early history of the Parker Library. He is closely acquainted with the collection through his long service as Librarian. His concern for the scientific preservation of manuscripts and printed books combines with a scholarly understanding of their problems and character. He is Director of both the Research Project funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the Research Group.

Dr Mildred Budny, an American, is Co-Director of the Group and Senior Research Associate of the Leverhulme Trust Research Project. She has engaged in research on Anglo-Saxon manuscripts and their context since 1971, based at University College London until 1984, at Downing College, Cambridge, from 1984 to 1987 and at the Parker Library from 1987. At the Library she has carried out detailed studies of selected Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, continuing her integrated approach drawing upon specialist expertise in many different disciplines. This approach has been adopted for both the Project and the Group. Dr Budny's expertise includes codicology, palaeography, archaeology and art history. She is also a professional manuscript photographer.

Mr Timothy Graham joined the Leverhulme Trust Project as Research Assistant in 1989, after working as Research Assistant for the History of Art Department at the University of Manchester under Prof. C.R. Dodwell from 1980. He is Research Associate of the Group. His expertise includes historical manuscripts, Latin texts, the use of medieval texts in the early modern period and the recovery of readings in damaged texts using advanced lighting techniques.

Dr Nigel Wilkins, Librarian at Corpus from 1991, is a Romance philologist with a special interest in medieval music. His long service as Deputy Librarian under Prof. Page gave him close acquaintance with the Library and its collection. He has recently completed a catalogue of its French manuscripts.

Mr Nicholas Hadgraft is Conservation Officer to the Group, the Leverhulme Trust Project and the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium. Established in 1987, the Consortium includes Corpus Christi College, Kings College, Downing College and Sidney Sussex College. Mr Hadgraft came from the British Library to the Parker Library as Conservation Officer in 1983 at the start of the conservation programme. He has conserved and rebound manuscripts within the Leverhulme Trust Project, and he provides links with other conservators in England and abroad.

Mrs Catherine Hall is Archivist to the Group. She is closely acquainted with the medieval and early modern archives in numerous collections, including the University Archives, Corpus Christi College and Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge, in all of which she has worked for a number of years. Among other areas, she specialises in Matthew Parker's practices regarding his books and papers. She has a particular interest in liturgical practices and music.

Dr Leslie French is Research Consultant to the Group. A computer specialist, he works for Olivetti Research Ltd., Cambridge, on high-speed networking and multimedia applications. His expertise includes typography and font-design. He has special interests in palaeography and early mathematics. He advises the Group on developments in computer techniques and image-enhancement. His contributions include harnessing computer technology to explore methods accurately to represent manuscript texts and layout on the printed page.

The work of the Group entails close links with specialists in many fields. Their skills complement our research, and some collaborate with us on specific projects. We invited a number of colleagues worldwide to become Associates of the Group in recognition of their special contribution to our research work. They are, in alphabetic order:

- 1) Prof. Derek Baker, head of Academic Core Programs at the University of North Texas and a renowned expert on medieval Church history, notably the Cistercian Order in the North of England.
- 2) Dr David Farmer, formerly of the Graduate Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Reading, a specialist on William of Malmesbury and other medieval English historical authors; he is best known for his *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*.
- 3) Prof. Christine Fell, head of the Department of English Studies at the University of Nottingham, well known for her studies of Old English philology and the role of women in Anglo-Saxon England.
- 4) Prof. Malcolm Godden, Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford, a leading expert on Ælfric's works and other medieval English texts.
- 5) Prof. Otto Gründler, Director of the Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University, a distinguished specialist on intellectual history, the history of religion in the Middle Ages and Reformation studies.
- 6) Ms Carole Hough, Associate for the five-year Research Project at the University of Nottingham on the Linguistic Evidence of Place-Names, funded by the Leverhulme Trust from 1992; she is preparing *An Introduction to Old English Palaeography*, edited by Dr Budny.
- 7) Prof. Sarah Keefer, at the English Department at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, an Old English scholar with a special interest in liturgy; she is compiling a database on liturgical sources from Anglo-Saxon England.

- 8) Dr Simon Keynes, Reader in Anglo-Saxon History at the University of Cambridge, a renowned expert on Anglo-Saxon charters and other historical sources.
- 9) Prof. Tadao Kubouchi, Director of the Centre for Medieval English Studies at the College of Arts and Sciences in the University of Tokyo and a distinguished specialist on the works of Wulfstan and Ælfric.
- 10) Dr Alex Rumble, Lecturer in Palaeography at the University of Manchester and Deputy Director of its Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, a specialist in medieval history and palaeography, with a special interest in English cartularies.
- 11) Prof. Geoffrey Russom, at the Department of English at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, a leading expert on Old English metre and linguistics.
- 12) Prof. Shuji Sato, at the Department of English Studies at Chuo University, Tokyo; he has unrivalled knowledge of the the structure and layout of the manuscript containing the Parker Chronicle and Laws (MS 173, Part I) through meticulous study over many years.
- 13) Dr Tom Seiler, Managing Editor of Medieval Institute Publications at Western Michigan University, a wide-ranging expert in medieval literature, with a special interest in Dante.
- 14) Prof. Carl Springer, a Latinist at the Department of Foreign Languages at Illinois State University; he is preparing a new edition of Sedulius' works.
- 15) Sir David Wilson, formerly Director of the British Museum, a world expert on Anglo-Saxon and Viking art and archaeology.
- 16) Mr Patrick Wormald, Scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, a leading authority on Anglo-Saxon history, law and literacy.

Many other scholars also contribute greatly to our work, allowing us to access a span of expertise extending from linguistic studies and technical aspects of Old English metre, through palaeography and textual studies to advanced image-enhancement and forensics.

3. *Activities*

Our research applies an integrated holistic approach which considers the varied aspects of manuscripts: as carriers of text, as archaeological artefacts, as works of art, as layers of history and as monuments of culture. The aspects encompass a wide range of disciplines, including codicology, palaeography, art history, archaeology, textual studies, linguistics and history. When taken in combination, these aspects can illuminate connections between seemingly disparate elements and provide a fuller picture of the whole.

This approach proves remarkably fruitful especially when applied alongside conservation, which frequently reveals further evidence. The process resembles an archaeological excavation, but it aims to leave the monument intact. Specialist research can guide conservation and analyse the evidence as it emerges. In this way scholarship can continue to refine interpretations based on an expanding body of evidence of many kinds.

A major tenet of the Group is the desire to distinguish evidence from interpretation. This distinction is especially important where interpretation from one field, for example palaeography, serves as evidence for another, for example textual studies. The Group is defining its methodology based on representing this layering and making such dependencies explicit. By aiming to record evidence as directly as possible (by photography and accurate recording at all stages), information is being accumulated to aid future scholars.

Much of the Group's work is linked with the Leverhulme Trust Research Project. The Project is examining in detail a broad but coherent group of manuscripts. The central group comprises: MSS 23, 41, 44, 57, 111, 139, 140, 144, 162, 178, 183, 192, 197B, 201, 223, 383, 389, 411, 419, 421, 422 and 557. The texts include the Corpus Glossary (MS 144), both surviving copies of the Old English Dialogues of Solomon and Saturn (MSS 41 and 422), the Corpus Old English Bede (MS 41), the "West-Saxon

Gospels" from Bath Abbey (MS 140), a Canterbury pontifical with prefatory Old English texts (MS 44), a Wulfstanian Ecclesiastical Handbook (MS 201), the bilingual Rule of St Benedict (MS 178 Part II), collections of homilies by Wulfstan, Ælfric and others (MSS 41, 162, 178 Part I, 419 and 421), and glossed Latin texts by authors ranging from Prudentius to Bede (MSS 23, 183, 223 and 389). By examining and comparing individual manuscripts, we can apply discoveries from one to others, achieving a greater body of knowledge. Together they shed much light on the Anglo-Saxons' richly varied cultural experience and its transmission.

The Project links this examination to the process of conservation. When a manuscript is to be conserved, we first survey it to determine its characteristics and context, the problems it presents to the conservator and the range of scholars needed to work on it. During conservation we monitor the process and revise plans as emerging evidence directs. If the manuscript has to be disbound, we can then examine the individual leaves or sheets for evidence of structure and sewing patterns and binding and library history; and study features which rebinding will hide. The flat sheets can be inspected microscopically or set side by side to compare directly features which, in the bound book, would stand distant from one another. This is an ideal time to microfilm or photograph for facsimile. After conservation, groups of scholars report on various aspects of text, language, layout, script, decoration, sequence of production and signs of use to set the manuscript in its wider context. By photographing manuscript evidence, we make it accessible for inspection, study and evaluation by a wider audience.

The Group regularly holds seminars on *The Evidence of Manuscripts*, which usually take place at the Parker Library and explore specific themes. Examples include "Manuscript Illustrations as Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Daily Life"; "Facsimiles, Diplomatic Texts and Editions"; "Technical Literature and its Form and Layout in Early Medieval Manuscripts"; "Early Modern Transcripts of Anglo-Saxon Texts"; and "Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Materials and Writing Practices". The seminars offer the opportunity to discuss problems in the presence of the manuscripts themselves. By gathering a team of specialists to consider the manuscripts, the seminars provide a unique opportunity to promote advances in manuscript research.

The Group also holds workshops which focus on particular manuscripts or groups of manuscripts undergoing detailed examination. The workshops bring together various specialists, inform them of recent discoveries, gather their advice for research and conservation and plan with them how further work might best proceed. Workshops have been held on MSS 139, 383, 23 and 223; others are planned for MSS 44 and 201. The complex and controversial character of the cases so far examined highlights the need for an integrated, collaborative approach.

Since 1987 we have held classes on manuscript studies at the Library for undergraduates and others. Students have attended from disciplines ranging from palaeography and archaeology to linguistics. The classes are planned to meet their particular interests and needs. Thus classes for archaeology students focus on the layered character of the manuscripts (the animal skins, original production and additions and alterations over the centuries), but also introduce aspects of textual and linguistic studies. Similarly, classes for philologists centre on linguistic matters, ranging from dialect variations in manuscripts to the compilation of word-lists and glossaries, but yet provide an account of manuscript production, layout and history of use.

In 1991 the Group began to hold a series of classes for postgraduate students, librarians and others involved with the handling of manuscripts. Given by Prof. Page, Dr Budny and Mr Hadgraft, the classes provide accounts of the various stages in the production of manuscripts, from the initial preparation of the animal skins, through the copying and correcting of the text and the binding of the finished volume, to its use by readers and owners. The classes offer the opportunity to see and handle the materials and tools of manuscript production, to observe expert demonstrations of sewing and binding techniques and to try out these techniques at first hand. Such an experience impresses upon the participants the challenges which the materials and tools present as well as recreating the effects which emerge from medieval methods and equipment.

Monitoring developments in relevant fields is important to maintain our integrated approach. We are able to identify such developments both through researchers' visits to the Parker Library and through our journeys or contacts elsewhere.

The Research Group has strong connections with other projects and centres. In this way we are able to maintain a reciprocal relationship with many parallel activities ensuring flow of information into and out of the Group. Prof. Page, Mr Hadgraft and Dr Budny serve (since 1987) on the Steering Committee for Medieval Binding Structures to A.D. 1500 Preserved in the British Isles. The Parker Library provided the base for its pilot project and we continue to assist in planning its progress. This work feeds directly into our research, as we collaborate in developing the study of binding history and apply its results to particular cases. Prof. Page (since 1989) and Dr French (since 1991) act as Advisors to the Leverhulme Trust Place-Names Research Project at the University of Nottingham. Dr Budny (since 1989) and Mr Graham (since 1991) serve on the Steering Committee of the Seminar in the History of the Book to 1500.

Dr Budny is closely involved in planning and administering two related projects. She is a Principal Associate of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in Microfiche Facsimile, formed in 1991 to reproduce in microform all manuscripts containing Old English; she is Director of the issues devoted to manuscripts at Corpus Christi College, to which Members and Associates of the Group will contribute. Dr Budny is Co-Administrator of the Corpus of Insular and Anglo-Saxon Illuminated Manuscripts (CORPUS), dedicated since 1982 to recording photographically and verbally all manuscript illustration and decoration made in the British Isles to *circa* 1100. In 1992 this project expanded to include an Advisory Committee and Specialist Consultants worldwide. Work of the Research Project and the Group feeds directly into it. Mr Graham and some Associates of the Group are Specialist Consultants.

The Group works closely with the Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University. Since 1985 Dr Budny has regularly attended its annual International Congress on Medieval Studies and Mr Graham has begun to attend in 1992. Medieval Institute Publications are jointly publishing some of our works and acting as distributor for others. Dr Budny and Mr Graham are organising sessions for next year's Congress; Prof. Page and Dr French will also present papers. The Congress offers a valuable meeting-point for Members and various Associates of the Group to confer regularly and to plan future work.

The Group has joined with other academic bodies to form Academia, a non-profit corporation registered in the United States. Academia will produce the in-house publications of the Research Group, the Texas Medieval Association and the Haskins Society. Its Directors include Dr Budny, Prof. Baker and Prof. Page. Members of the Advisory Board include some of our Associates.

4. Publications

We are preparing publications of various kinds. They range from facsimiles of manuscripts with commentaries to editions and essays on particular themes. Authors include Members and Associates of the Group as well as others. One of the first results of the research was Dr Budny's colour photographs and detailed study of the decoration of MS 144, the Corpus Glossary, which accompany its full monochrome facsimile in volume 22 of *Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile*, edited by Bernhard Bischoff and others (1988).

We aim for publications of high quality but low cost, to be accessible to scholars and students as well as to institutions. We intend to publish some works ourselves within Academia. Under the title *Texts and Studies*, these publications fall into four series: *Parkerian Studies*, *Manuscripts in Facsimile*, *Manuscripts and Contexts* and *Bibliographia*.

The publications first to appear in this way include Prof. Page's 1990 Sandars Lectures in Bibliography, *Matthew Parker and His Books*, and Dr Budny's *Insular, Anglo-Saxon, and Early Anglo-Norman Manuscript Art at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge: An Illustrated Catalogue*. Both of these will be published by the Group in association with Medieval Institute Publications. For both works Dr Budny has carried out the photography. Prof. Page's study examines the work of Matthew Parker and his associates in collecting, studying and annotating medieval manuscripts, thus providing a notable case-study of the activity of an early modern collector. Dr Budny's two-volume Corpus catalogue encompasses fifty-six manuscripts and fragments, including most of those covered in the Research Project. The plates in the catalogue reproduce 747 black-and-white and 19 colour photographs from the manuscripts, mostly showing full pages. The entries give detailed descriptions of the manuscripts and their contents, incorporating many results of our research.

Future publications will include full-colour facsimiles of selected manuscripts at actual size, with accompanying commentaries. The first to appear should be those of MSS 139, 173 and 23, Part I. The facsimile of MS 173 will have a transcription, edition, notes, glossary and commentary by Prof. Sato, based on his meticulous work on the manuscript over many years. Other publications in preparation include Prof. Kubouchi's study and variorum edition of *Wulfstan's Revisions in Six Ælfrician Texts*. This work, based on detailed examination of the manuscript context of the homilies, will pay special attention to lexical, syntactic and rhythmic patterns.

Dr Budny and Dr French, assisted by Prof. Page and Mr Graham, are preparing *Pages from Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: A Palaeographical and Textual Handbook*, for students and teachers. This handbook presents an in-depth treatment of manuscripts demonstrating our integrated approach. It examines selected pages in a series of stages from photographic facsimile, computerised depiction of the layout and contents, transcription, semi-diplomatic edition, normalised edition and translation to commentary. All our Associates and many other specialists have contributed advice to this work.

5. Prospects

The Leverhulme Trust Project will run for another two years, during which time the focus of the Group will remain on Corpus Christi College manuscripts. At the same time the scope of the Group continues to widen.

Prof. Godden invited us to hold a seminar in Oxford in June 1992 to describe the work of the Group and to explore ways of linking it with research on manuscripts at Oxford. An exhibition of our photographs and computerised image-enhancement accompanied the seminar. More seminars at Oxford are planned.

Prof. Sato and Prof. Kubouchi invited Prof. Page, Dr Budny, Dr French and Mr Graham to visit Japan in November and December 1992. The visit will include a seminar on manuscripts at Tokyo University at Komaba; a workshop at Chuo University; and lectures at several locations. It will culminate in a symposium of the Japan Society for Medieval English Studies on "The Integrated Approach to Manuscript Studies: A New Horizon". An accompanying exhibition will illustrate the papers and the work of the Group with Dr Budny's high-definition photographs of manuscripts and Dr French's computerised image-enhancement.

Dr Budny and Prof. Godden are intending to hold summer courses for students, teachers and specialists from around the world. To be shared between Cambridge and Oxford, the courses will offer an introduction to manuscript studies and intermediate and advanced instruction. They will provide sessions over selected manuscripts; sessions demonstrating techniques of manuscript production and of correctly handling manuscripts; and lectures by distinguished specialists on a range of subjects. There will be guided visits to important centres in Cambridge, Oxford and elsewhere in England, including libraries, museums, buildings and other sites.

The Group has formed links with numerous centres throughout the British Isles. The Group continues to strengthen its links with North America, notably through participating in the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo; planning publications with Academia and Medieval Institute Publications; and contributing to the work of both the CORPUS project and Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts in Microfiche Facsimile. The visit to Japan in 1992 opens the way to building further links with colleagues in the Far East. The prospects for expansion of expertise and areas of interest are thus extremely favourable.

*Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
The Parker Library
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge*

Mildred Budny

October 1992