

Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London

## **Medieval Manuscripts Seminar: Programme 2018/9**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Dominique Stutzmann, Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris

### **Colophons in context**

Colophons are a specific part of the book, between text and accompanying material to the text. Their graphic features (shape, script, formality, layout, color) and their various links to the text (e.g. separated or intermingled with the final rubric) render them very difficult to interpret in a consistent manner. Based on the diverse material from the French catalogues of dated manuscripts, this paper will propose a flexible grid of analysis to take into account the co-presence of other script variations (e.g. for titles, rubrics, and incipits; tables of content; margins) and the hierarchy between the script that they imply, in order to better understand the aims of the scribes.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Daniela Mairhofer, Princeton

### **"Admonter Abrogans": dating and localization of a recently discovered fragment**

The paper presents an attempt at dating and locating a two-piece parchment fragment recently discovered in the Styrian abbey of Admont (Austria), the so-called "Admonter Abrogans". A small fragment with remains of a Latin and Old High German glossary, it provides only a limited number of letter forms, abbreviations and ligatures, thus complicating the dating and localization of the minuscule. Based on a paleographical analysis, the paper proposes provenance and date whilst locating the fragment within the history of transmission of the Abrogans glossary during the eighth and ninth centuries.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Paul Russell, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge

**'Something of a more congenial nature': Henry Bradshaw and transcribing glossed manuscripts**

The Henry Bradshaw archive in the Cambridge University Library has long been known as an important repository of inter alia letters, notes and notebooks on Celtic matters. Henry Bradshaw, University Librarian in Cambridge from 1867 until his death in 1886, was man of many parts: in addition to being an expert on Chaucer and fifteenth-century printing, he was an avid seeker out and transcriber of manuscripts of Celtic interest; much of his work in this area is preserved in his notebooks and his Celtic Papers (CUL Add. MS 6425) and accounts of his trips to search out manuscripts are recounted in his Collected Papers, ed. F. Jenkinson (Cambridge, 1889). In addition, there is a substantial body of correspondence from various scholars (CUL Add. MS 8916), such as Whitley Stokes, John Rhÿs, and others. Despite the fact that Bradshaw published very little himself, one of his interests was the method of presenting glossed texts on the printed page; several experimental lay-outs are found in his papers. However, the materials he sent to Stokes for subsequent publication with philological commentary tended towards the skeletal, and it is that thinner mode of presentation which, until the last few decades, has prevailed in the presentation of texts glossed in Celtic languages.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Kathryn Rudy, University of St Andrews

**A smorgasbord of display scripts and a game of international Twister in fourteenth-century Bruges**

Whether they are as tiny as cigar wrappers or as long as gymnasts' ribbons, rolls demand a particular set of physical gestures to use. Small parchment rolls want to snap back as soon as the reader opens them. Long ones, such as out-of-control microfilms, spill out of machines and over tabletops. In the form of toilet paper, rolls multiply farce in slapstick comedy. Very long manuscript rolls challenge both scribes and readers. Their very inconvenience points to their non-use as legible entities. What, then, is the function of Egerton 3044, a book of hours written as one enormous column on a parchment roll of 11 meters? I will deploy several tools to find out: stratigraphy, palaeography, stylistic comparison, archival trufflehounding, and a Ricoh colour copy machine, with which I have made a 1:1 replica of this unwieldy object in order to test its qualities. I will argue that the roll began as one thing in the mid-fourteenth century (an illuminated, if unconventional, book of hours), but then became something else around 1390, when the Bruges scribe Johannes de Ecclesia doctored it up and turned it into an 11-meter testimony to his fine calligraphic skills. The audience will be able to play medieval Twister during the Q&A. Bring a friend and a bottle of something grapey.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Dmitry Bondarev, University of Hamburg

**Vernaculars between the lines: understanding Islamic manuscripts of West Africa**

There is a distinctive type of West African Islamic manuscripts characterised by wide space between the lines filled by annotations in Arabic and local languages. The annotations in African languages are typically written in specialised registers used for metalinguistic and exegetical purposes. Drawing a correlation between the layout, annotations and content, I will reconstruct stages of Islamic education in precolonial West Africa.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Barbara Bombi, University of Kent

**Examples of practical literacy: the use of diplomatic enrolments and registers in the English chancery and privy seal during the first half of the fourteenth century**

Venue: Dr Seng T Lee Centre for Manuscript and Book Studies,  
Senate House Library, University of London,  
Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

All meetings at 5.30 p.m., Tuesdays, followed by a wine reception.

Organisers: Julia Crick, King's College London

David Rundle, University of Kent