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THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES



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# University of Oxford

## Conferences, Seminars and Events in Medieval Studies

Information included from:

English Language and Literature, History, Medieval  
and Modern Languages, Music, Theology and Religion,  
Reading Groups, Societies

**Hilary Term 2025**

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Up-to-date calendar of all events on [torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies)

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The Norman porch at Iffley Church

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# Events

## 21 Jan Medieval Afterlives Season Workshop



Image: 'Serenade to Chaucer', a pop-up version of Chaucer's 'Miller's Tale' by Paul Johnson, runner-up of the Redesigning the Medieval Book competition by the Bodleian Library.

Date: Tuesday 21 January, 13.00-14.00, with lunch provided from 12.30

Location: Colin Matthews Room, Radcliffe Humanities (and online via MS Teams)

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As part of the preparations for annual 'Cultural Seasons' in the new [Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities](#), this is an invitation to brainstorm ideas for a Cultural Programme Season on Medieval Afterlives. From Oxford Medieval Studies, Prof. Marion Turner (English), Prof. Henrike Lähnemann (MML), Prof. Nancy Thebaut (History), and Prof. Elizabeth Eva Leach (Music) are already collaborating with the Cultural Programme on possible opportunities for

the season and John Fulljames, Director of [Oxford University's Humanities Cultural Programme](#), is keen now to extend an invitation to others to join the conversation to explore and test the potential for the season and bring together researchers who could be involved in shaping and delivering it.

The focus of the season will be on contemporary creativity, while also centring Oxford's extraordinary medieval resources where appropriate - our manuscripts, instruments, objects, architecture, and spaces. This season might engage with novelists, poets, musicians, graphic artists, puppeteers, playwrights, actors, composers, designers, children's book writers, textile workers, cartoonists, computer game programmers, AI technology, and more.

We would like the season to be ambitious and international while also engaging grass-roots, local communities, especially schools and young people. It will be wide-ranging, inclusive, accessible, innovative, and fun. We also want to be open about the dark side of medieval appropriations in recent years, especially by the far right (see the previous TORCH OMS workshop on [Medieval Studies and the Far Right](#)), and to examine and counter these narratives. While we want to bring in high-profile writers and artists, we also want to celebrate the creativity of everyone, including students. The season would be likely to take place circa 2028.

One overarching question might be whether this kind of contemporary creativity is an end in itself, or a gateway to the medieval past. Please come along to this initial group meeting for all interested parties, which will be structured around the question: **What has medieval research to do with contemporary creativity?**

If you have something you would like to share or discuss in advance, please feel free to reach out to the researchers who are already involved or the Cultural Programme via [Justine Shaw](#).

Please RSVP to: [Cultural Programmes](#) with 'Medieval Afterlives Workshop' ([culturalprogramme@humanities.ox.ac.uk](mailto:culturalprogramme@humanities.ox.ac.uk)) in the subject line asap.



## 23 Jan & al. The Ford Lectures 2024: 'French in Medieval Britain



Jocelyn Wogan-Browne on Cultural Politics and Social History, c. 1100-c. 1500'

Thursdays at 5pm. Weeks 1-6 Hilary. Examination Schools

French played a major, though not the only role, in the pervasive multilingualism of British history and culture. As Britain's only medieval 'global' vernacular, it was also important to a wide range of people for their participation in external theatres of empire, trade, culture, conflict, and crusade. Displacing the long shadow of nineteenth-century nationalizing conceptions of language and their entrenchment in modern university disciplinary divisions, emerging histories of French in England and increasingly of French in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland offer new ways of understanding language and identity. These lectures trace francophone medieval Britain in a chronological sequence across its four main centuries, interpolating two thematic lectures on areas especially needing integration into our histories, medieval women and French in Britain, and French Bible translation in medieval England.

**23rd Jan:** "Alle mine thegenas ... frencisce & englisce": The Languages of 1066 - And All That

**30th Jan:** Langue des reines: The Importance of Women to French and French to Women.

**6th Feb:** Expansions: 'Everyone knows that French is better understood and more widely used than Latin': Matthew Paris (in French, 1253×59)

**13th Feb:** 'That each may in his own tongue ... know his God' (Grosseteste, in French, 1230s): Bible Translation in Medieval England

**20th Feb:** "Lette Frenchmen in their Frenche endyten"(Thomas Usk, c.1384-87): French in the Multilingual Fourteenth Century

**27th Feb:** "Et lors que parlerez anglois /Que vous n'oubliez pas le François" (manuscript dedication, c. 1445): Off-shoring French?

The Ford Lectures in British History were founded by a bequest from James Ford, and inaugurated by S.R.Gardiner in 1896-7. Since then, an annual series has been delivered over six weeks in Hilary term. They have long been established as the most prestigious series in Oxford and an important annual event in the History Faculty calendar.

More information: <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/james-ford-lectures-british-history>





*Jocelyn Wogan-Browne in her allotment on Osney Island*

## About the speaker

**Professor Jocelyn Wogan-Browne** is Professor emerita of both the University of York, where she held the Chair of Medieval Literature from 2005 to 2010, and Fordham University in New York, where she was the Thomas F.X. and Theresa Mullarkey Chair in Literature from 2010 to 2019.

Her wide-ranging scholarship has most recently focused on the reconceptualization of English medieval literary culture as a multilingual community. She has created a fundamentally new understanding of the importance attached to knowing, speaking, reading and/or writing French in later medieval England: work on the culture of late medieval England is now unthinkable without taking her insights into account. The approach was spearheaded in her *Vernacular Literary Theory from the French of Medieval England: Texts and Translation* (with Thelma Fenster and Delbert Russell) (Cambridge, D. S. Brewer, 2016), which built on the earlier *The Idea of the Vernacular: Middle English Literary Theory c. 1280-1520*, with Nicholas Watson, Andrew Taylor, and Ruth Evans. A book of essays, *The French of Medieval England: Essays in Honour of Jocelyn Wogan-Browne* (2017), speaks to the extensive

influence of her work and the esteem in which she is held by the scholarly community.

Jocelyn came to Oxford from Australia to study for the BPhil in Medieval Language and Literature at St Hilda's

College under the supervision of Elspeth Kennedy, one of Oxford's most inspirational teachers. Her fellow countryman, Bruce Mitchell, another medievalist, became her mentor, and she became established in Oxford at the events he hosted for students from the southern hemisphere. Jocelyn started a DPhil in Old Norse and Old French, but accepted a lectureship in Early Middle English and Anglo-Norman at Liverpool, later receiving a doctorate on the strength of her numerous publications. Liverpool was followed by positions at York and Fordham, where her dedication to students and teaching won her a basket of teaching awards, in addition to her distinguished research profile.

Now living in Oxford and a member of St Edmund Hall, Jocelyn Wogan-Browne remains a dynamo of multi-disciplinary research. Her Ford Lectures will undoubtedly turn our concept of 'English History' on its head.



## 31 Jan & al. Magna Carta 1225: New Discoveries & Repercussions



DISPLAY

# Magna Carta 1215 1225

📅 21 December 2024 – 21 April  
2025

📍 Blackwell Hall, Weston Library

🆓 Free, no ticket required

A series of three lectures accompanying the display, Magna Carta 1225, on view in the Blackwell Hall, Weston Library. Register to attend these public lectures, open to all:

<https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/event/magna-carta>

Friday 31 January, 1-2pm,  
Nicholas Vincent, 'Magna Carta: new discoveries'

Thursday 20 February, 12-1pm,  
Dean Irwin, 'Magna Carta and Jewish communities'

Thursday 27 March, 1-2pm,  
Sophie Thérèse Ambler, 'Magna Carta and England's First Revolution, 1258-1265'



## 6 Feb/6 Mar Compline in the Crypt



Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Oxon. b91, fol. 168-271

Four times this term, there will be the opportunity to experience the Norman Crypt underneath St-Peter-in-the-East, which is now the library of St Edmund Hall, during Compline, the last sung service of the day. It will take place at 9.30pm on

Fridays of week 1 (24 Jan) and 5 (21 Feb) sung by the College Choir in English

Thursdays of week 3 (6 Feb) and week 7 (6 Mar) by the St Edmund Consort, sung in Latin or German.

Complines are open to the public and you are welcome to join but please be aware that the access to the crypt is via an uneven staircase and that there is limited seating - early arrival is recommended since there is a cap on visitors. Please contact Henrike Lähnemann [henrike.laehnemann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:henrike.laehnemann@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) if you are interested in joining the St Edmund Consort for singing at one of the Thursdays; there will be a short rehearsal on the Monday preceding Compline at 7pm and on the day at 6pm.

### 30 Jan & al.: Exeter College Compline Choir

Dates: 30 January, 06 February, 27 February, 13 March, dinner included on these dates

For experienced choral singers with sight singing capability. Those with experience in different medieval forms of chant and polyphony are particularly welcomed.

Within the Office of Compline, this group will explore and present music from the 10<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Including Carolingian and Aquitanian simple polyphony, 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century Parisian schools, and later works that derive from such.

If interested, please contact Annette Rossi at [annette.rossi@reuben.ox.ac.uk](mailto:annette.rossi@reuben.ox.ac.uk) for an interview/audition and for further information.



## 18 Feb CMTC “Work in Progress” colloquium

On 18 February 2025, 5:15pm in the Memorial Room, The Queen’s College, the [Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures](#) (CMTC) hosts the following two speakers:

1. Dr Riccardo Montalto (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II), ‘From manuscripts to history: The reconstruction of the Greek manuscript library of Achilles Staius (1524-1581)’

Achilles Staius was a Portuguese humanist active in Rome in the second half of the sixteenth century. Committed to editorial and propaganda activities and, in particular, in the edition of the texts of the Fathers of the Greek Church, Staius set up one of the largest private libraries in Renaissance Rome, peculiar for its size and intellectual value. Starting from the material data detectable from the manuscripts, compared with the data available from different sources - primarily historical, archival and library science - the research aims to reconstruct a part of Achilles Staius’s library and to identify some methods and working practices of the late Renaissance humanists.

2. Victoria Lansing (Balliol, Oxford), ‘Evidence of Medieval Learning Communities in Manuscripts of the *Consolatio Philosophiae*’

I analyse the evidence of learning communities formed around Boethius’ *Consolatio Philosophiae* through manuscript evidence. My paper employs two case studies: 1) a novel interpretation of an illumination in BL. Harley 4335 and 2) an analysis of Ox.Auct.F.I.15, which contains neumatic notation of a *Consolatio* poem. In both cases, I contend that scribes are responding to reading and worshipping communities which employ the *Consolatio* as an educational text.

## 19 Feb Principal's Research Seminar at St Hilda's College

Wednesday 19 February, 5.30pm, the Pavilion, St Hilda's College.

Professor Wakelin's title is '*The everyday creatives*'. For more information and to book click on [link](#). All are welcome.

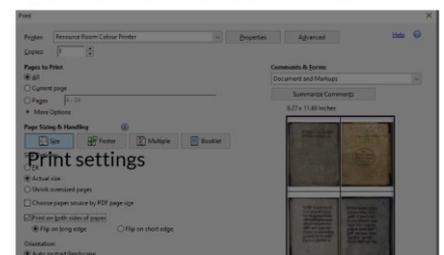
At the end of the Middle Ages, after centuries of using Latin and French, people in England began doing paperwork in English. At the same time, such writing spread beyond the clergy to ever more laymen and some women. This everyday writing is a treasure trove: in private letters, family histories, household accounts and many other modes, people exercised their creative energy and intelligence. That outburst of everyday writing threw light on the growth of English literature, but it also has a brilliance of its own. We can find imaginative storytelling, flamboyant calligraphy and dogged meticulousness and more. (The talk will have many pictures of all this.) As we, in another transition, dream of passing on our paperwork to AI and LLMs, this period reminds us how people can express their human creativity and agency in everyday writing.

## 22 Feb Zine Fair 2025

The Zine Fair 2025 is celebrating zine-making and self-publishing by Oxford students and taking place on Saturday, 22 February in Blackwell Hall, Weston Library. All welcome, please see website for details: <https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/zine-fair>

For examples for make your own medieval/early modern pamphlet see <http://medingen.seh.ox.ac.uk/index.php/2021/07/02/teaching-medingen-manuscripts-as-objects/>

1. Make your own medieval manuscript



## 4 March: Why Medieval Women's Lives Are Still Relevant



Queen Isabella receiving Christine de Pizan's *Le Livre de la Cité des Dames*, c. 1410-1414. BL Harley 4431.

Professor Pragya Agarwal and Professor Diane Watt

4 March 11:00 to 12:15, The Buttery, Wolfson College and Online via Zoom

Registration required

More information here: <https://oclw.web.ox.ac.uk/event/why-medieval-womens-lives-are-still-relevant>



## 5 Mar Daisy Black, Medieval Storytelling Performance of *Yde and Olive*: A Medieval Lesbian Romance

Wednesday 5th March (week 7) at 7pm in the Chapel at University College

Sign up details to follow. Please contact [laura.varnam@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laura.varnam@univ.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

*The baby's first clothes were wide bands of wool. Their small limbs were bound, tenderly and close, to help them grow strong. To help them grow straight.*

*From their cradle, they could hear the uttered prayers of a priest, the rush of poured water.*

*The baby blinked as drops of holy water flicked across their brow.*

*They were given a name. Yde.*

*And with it came flocking other words. 'She'. And 'Her'.*

*Baby Yde scrunched up her nose, and yawned.*

Yde grew up reading of knights, sieges and her own mother's daring deeds. So when faced with an unwanted marriage, she knew she'd rather fly across the frozen sea than sit around and wait for it to happen. Disguising herself as a man, Yde cuts her own paths to freedom, fighting battles, outwitting thieves, winning over monarchs and finding comfort in her new clothing. Until one day, she meets her match in Olive: a woman whose spirit is every bit as courageous as her own...

Storyteller and academic Daisy Black presents a remarkable thirteenth-century tale of disguise, high adventure, public baths, gender fluidity, straight-talking angels, and the power of queer love.

Weaving together medieval narrative with modern folk song, this performance will take you from birthing chambers to military barracks, through moonlit country lanes and woods stained with slaughter, and from quiet chapels to court chambers crackling with gossip.

This show is 90 minutes long, and suitable for ages 13 and up. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

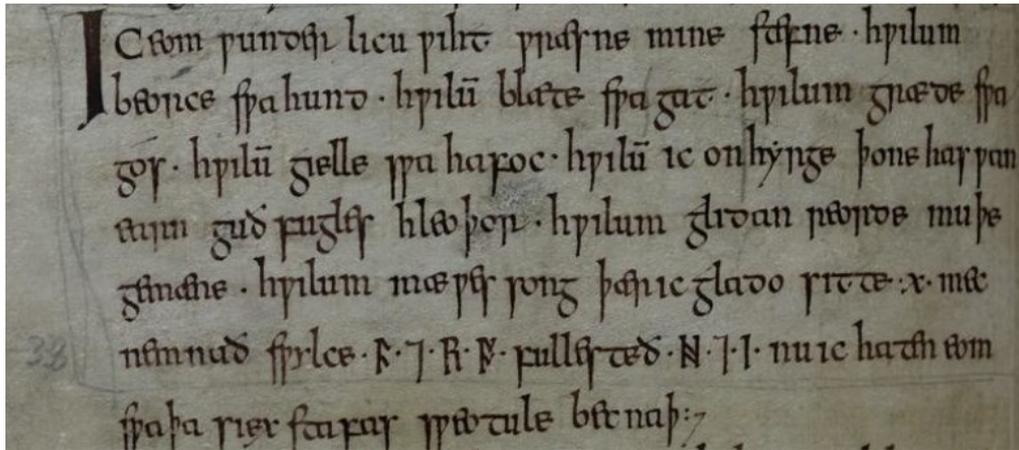
### tbcoxfordmedieval.com

President: [Elizabeth Champion](#); Treasurer: Kat Smith; Chair of the Advisory Board: Conrad Leyser

Calling all ECR and postgraduate medievalists! Oxford Medieval Society is delighted to announce our programme for HT 2024. All our events are free for members, and society membership for the year costs just £5. It is possible to become a member at any of our events, either with cash or bank transfer. For any questions, please email [oxfordmedieval.com](mailto:oxfordmedieval.com)



# 16/17 April Unlocking the Exeter Book Conference



Exeter Cathedral Library MS 3501, fol. 106, Riddle 24

The Exeter Book or Exeter Anthology is a cornerstone of Old English poetry. From saints' lives to wisdom poetry, lyrics and laments to riddles and prayers, this fascinating juxtaposition of genres, styles and themes invites constant re-reading and re-evaluation. The conference will bring together established scholars and new voices to bring fresh insights to this rich and enigmatic manuscript.

**Dates:** 16 - 17 April 2025

**Venue:** Faculty of English, St Cross Building, Manor Road, Oxford, OX1 3UL.

Registration is open until 26 March 2025. [REGISTER NOW >>](#)

**Day One: 16 April 2025**

**09.15: Welcome**

**09.30-11.00: Session 1: Monastic Poetics**

1. Brian O'Camb (Indiana University Northwest), 'The Old English *Rhyming Poem*, *Widsith*, and the Regius Psalter (London, BL, MS. Royal 2.B.V)'
2. Eleni Ponirakis (University of Nottingham), "'When you walk through fire, you shall not burn, and the flames shall not set you afire": A New Reading of the Exeter Book poem, *Azarias*'
3. Giovanni Nichetti (University of Bergamo), 'At the Crossroads: Textual and Cultural Stratification in *Precepts*'

**11.00-11.30: Tea and cake break**

**11.30-13.00: Session 2: Manuscripts and Readers**

1. Jonathan Wilcox (University of Iowa), 'Scribal Craft in the Exeter Book and the Twice-Scripted Riddle 30'
2. Tom Birkett (University College Cork), 'Riddle Solvers and Reformists: Marginalia and the Readers of the Exeter Book'
3. Thomas A. Bredehoft (Chancery Hill Books), 'Limp-Bound Booklets of Old English Poetry and the Exeter Book'

**13.00-14.00: Lunch break**

**14.00-15.30: Session 3: Genre**

1. Mercedes Salvador-Bello (Universidad de Sevilla), 'The Role of the Physiologus in the Exeter Book'
2. Megan Cavell (University of Birmingham) and Jennifer Neville (Royal Holloway, University of London), 'Riddling Despair in *Lone Dweller* (Riddle 5)'
3. Richard North (UCL), 'Elegies as Riddles in the Exeter Book'

**15.30-15.45: Break**

**15.45-17.15: Session 4: Origins and Readership**

1. M. J. Toswell (University of Western Ontario), 'The Exeter Book and the Book of Psalms'



2. Alice Jorgensen (Trinity College Dublin), 'The Exeter Book: Evidence for an "Emotional Community"'
3. Dan Anlezark (University of Sydney), 'The Fitt Divisions in the *Christ* poems and the Origins of the Exeter Anthology'

**17.15-17.30: Break**

**17.30: Keynote:** Elizabeth Tyler (University of York), 'The Exeter Book: The Paradox of Old English between the Local and the Universal'

**18.30: Drinks reception**

**20.00: Conference Dinner**

**Day Two: 17 April**

**09.30-11.00: Session 5: Sequencing and Anthologising**

1. Rafał Boryślawski (University of Silesia), 'Is an Onion Like the Bible? Unlocking Possible Catenations of the Exeter Book Riddles'
2. Ian Shiels (Leeds), '*Vetustate consumptus et nullius valoris*: The Exeter Book Anthologist and the Lost Poetry of Theoderic'
3. Paul Cavill (University of Nottingham), 'Piety and Poetry: three biblical poems in the Exeter Book, *Alms-Giving*, *Pharaoh*, and *Lord's Prayer I*'

**11.00-11.30: Tea and cake break**

**11.30-13.00: Session 6: Landscapes and Ecology**

1. Ann Pascoe-van Zyl (TCD), 'Landscape and the Mind in the Old English Elegies: What Does Place-Name Evidence Reveal?'
2. James Paz (University of Manchester), 'Storm-Thoughts and Ice-Songs: A Creative-Critical Response to Exeter Book Eco-Poetry'
3. Emma Hitchcock (Columbia University), 'The Ocean, the Bird, and the Land: Subjectivity and Dispossession in the Exeter Lyrics'

**13.00-14.00: Lunch break**

**14.00-15.30: Session 7: Biblical poetry**

1. Jasmine Jones (University of Oxford), 'Exegesis of the Exeter Book: *The Descent into Hell* as Vernacular Theology'
2. Gabrielle Cocco (University of Bergamo), 'The Fall of Angels in *Resignation A* 49b-56: A pithy poetic theological insert on angelology'
3. Francisco J. Rozano-García (Universidad de León), 'From the Fire Unscathed: The Place of *Azarias* in the Old English Poetic Corpus'

**15.30-16.00: Break**

**16.00-17.30: Session 8: The Art and Craft of Poetry**

1. John D. Niles (University of Wisconsin-Madison), 'Craft Poetry, Exeter Style'
2. Maryann Pierse (University of Aberdeen), 'Divinely Inspired Poets in the Exeter Book and Beyond'
3. Grace O'Duffy (University of Oxford), 'I bind us together': *The Husband's* enchanted *Message* and Old Norse *manrúnar*

**17.30: Close**



# Seminars

## Medieval History Seminar

HT 2025, Mondays at 5pm. Wharton Room, All Souls College and on Teams

The Teams session can be accessed by logging in to Teams with your .ox.ac.uk account and joining the group “Medieval History Research Seminar” (team code rmpucs). If you have any difficulties please email: medhistsem@history.ox.ac.uk

### Week 1, 20 January

Christian Sahner (New Coll/AMES), ‘A History of Mountains in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages: North Africa, Syria, and Iran’

### Week 2, 27 January

Nora Berend (Cambridge), ‘Stephen I of Hungary: medieval myths and modern nationalism’

### Week 3, 3 February

Alice Rio (KCL), ‘Twelve migrant women and the history of early medieval Europe’

### Week 4, 10 February

Ian Haynes (Newcastle/All Souls) ‘Visualising the Lateran Patriarchium: Recent research by the Rome Transformed Project’

### Week 5, 17 February

Michael Eber (Oxford/Cologne) ‘Re- and mis-gendering St Marina\*us in high medieval Italy’

### Week 6, 24 February

Alexandra Sapoznik (KCL) ‘Economic and cultural connections within Mediterranean ecosystems’

### Week 7, 3 March

Simon MacLean (St Andrews) ‘Listing royal lands in the Carolingian Empire’

### Week 8, 10 March

Daisy Livingston (Durham) ‘How to qualify as a notary in the early-16th century Mamluk Sultanate’



## Medieval Church and Culture



Tuesdays, **Wellbeloved Room**, Harris Manchester College

Tea & coffee from 5pm; papers begin at **5.15pm**

Everyone is welcome at this informal and friendly graduate seminar

**Week 1** Mark Williams (SEH)

**21 January** *Magic and its Implications in some early 12<sup>th</sup>-century Welsh Prose Narratives*

**Week 2** Bee Jones (Jesus)

**28 January** *Bernard's barbarians: Bernard of Clairvaux, Malachy of Armagh, and discourses of Irish barbarism*

**Week 3** Lesley Smith (HMC) **\*Horton Room, Weston Library\***

**4 February** *The Repair Shop: how we took apart a manuscript of Henry VIII and how we put it back together*

**Week 4** Emily Guerry (St Peter's)

**11 February** *Gauthier Cornut and the Invention of the Cult of the Crown of Thorns in Paris*

**Week 5** Teresa Barucci (Magdalen)

**18 February** *European Vernaculars at the Medieval University of Paris*

**Week 6** Alex Peplow (Oxford)

**25 February** *Depicting the Unfamiliar: Scorpions in Northern Europe*

**Week 7** Carolyn LaRocco (St John's)

**4 March** *The Cult of Saints in Visigothic Iberia*

**Week 8** Maria Czepiel (University of Warwick)

**11 March** *Hebraist Erudition in Spanish Renaissance Biblical Poetry*

Convenors: Sumner Braund (History of Science Museum), Elizabeth Crabtree (Blackfriars), Bee Jones (Jesus), Lesley Smith (HMC)



## Europe in the Later Middle Ages

Tuesdays 2-3.30 p.m, Hilary Term 2025, in the Dolphin Seminar Room, St John's College. Undergraduates welcome.

### Week 1 Teresa Barucci, Oxford

21 January Academic Mobility in Medieval Europe: between Politics, Policies, and Identities

### Week 2 Susannah Bain, Oxford

28 January 'Disinformation', Communication, and Mediterranean Politics in Italian History-Writing (c. 1250-c. 1350)

### Week 3 Alex Brown, Durham

4 February Surviving the Black Death: Social Connectivity and Disease Modelling in Medieval England

### Week 4 Caitlin John, UCL

11 February Moving Between the City and the Cemetery: Funerary Processions in Late Medieval Cairo and Paris

### Week 5 Aleksander Parón, Warsaw

18 February Nomads or 'Nomads'? Considerations on the Mode of Life of Medieval Populations of the European Steppe. *This meeting is online, but will take place at the normal time in the Dolphin Room*

### Week 6 Meia Walravens, Oxford

25 February tbc

### Week 7 Sylvia Alvares Correa, Oxford

4 March Sacred Connections: The Eleven Thousand Virgins and Family Networks in the Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries

### Week 8 Katy Beebe, North Texas

11 March Movement in the Mind: A Typology, Critique, and New Interpretative Model of Imagined Pilgrimage



Ursula and the 11.000 virgins. Wallraf-Richartz-Museum c. 1413



## Medieval Visual Culture Seminar

Hilary Term, 2025. Thursdays at 5 pm. St Catherine's College, Oxford, Arumugam Building 1.2  
All are welcome!

### Week 4, February 13

Anne-Orange Poilpré, Professor of Medieval Art,  
Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne

*Figuring the Body of Christ inside the Word of God:  
Carolingian Gospel Books and their Images*

### Week 6, February 27

Ana Días, Postdoctoral Research Associate & Fellow,  
Brasenose College, University of Oxford

*Painting the Apocalypse in Medieval Iberia: The  
Making of the Beatus Illuminations*

### Week 8, March 13

Eleanor Townsend, DPhil candidate, History of Art, University of Oxford

*'All the werkemanship and masonry crafte of a frounte': The problem of the Jesse rearedos in St  
Cuthbert's, Wells*

Questions? Contact Nancy Thebaut, Associate Professor, History of Art & Fellow, St Catherine's College  
nancy.thebaut@history.ox.ac.uk



Codex Egberti, Trier, Stadtbibliothek, MS 24, f. 3  
(shared by Anne-Orange Poilpré)



## Seminars in Medieval and Renaissance Music

We are pleased to announce the seminars for Hilary Term 2025. The seminars are all held via Zoom on Thursdays at 5 p.m. (GMT). If you are planning to attend a seminar this term, please register using [this form](#). For each seminar, those who have registered will receive an email with the Zoom invitation and any further materials a couple of days before the seminar. If you have any questions, please send an email to Joe Mason at [all.souls.music.seminars@gmail.com](mailto:all.souls.music.seminars@gmail.com).

### **Margaret Bent (Convener, All Souls College)**

#### **6 February 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT**

Presenter: James Tomlinson (University of Oslo)

Title: A reassessment of Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, MS 512/543 and its Implications for the Production and Transmission of Polyphony in Late Medieval England

Discussants: Peter Lefferts (University of Nebraska) and Karen Desmond (Maynooth University)

Around half of the surviving sources of late thirteenth- and fourteenth-century English polyphony have been attributed to specific institutions in scholarly literature. Those attributions, the evidence for which varies greatly from source to source, seem to suggest that the production and transmission of polyphony before the later fourteenth century was dominated by large Benedictine and Augustinian monasteries. Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, MS 512/543, is one such source, which is traditionally thought to have its origins in the Benedictine cathedral priory of Norwich. Yet the evidence instead suggests that it was compiled within a medieval university. Caius 512/543 is, in fact, one of several sources whose previous provenance attributions have obscured their connections to the medieval university. These manuscripts have never been considered together from this perspective.

This paper re-evaluates Caius MS 512/543 and contextualises it among other sources of polyphony that challenge monastic musical hegemony in the period. Foregrounding issues of ownership, mobility, and the mechanics of musical transmission, Caius 512/543 prompts new understandings of the circulation of polyphony among medieval England's many diverse and interconnected centres of intellectual and artistic engagement.

#### **27 February 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT**

Presenter: Helen Coffey (The Open University)

Title: Music for Dancing in the Empire of Maximilian I

Discussants: Christiane Wiesenfeldt (University of Heidelberg) and Martin Kirnbauer (Schola Cantorum, Basel)

The sketches for the illustrated tale of *Freydal* – one of several pictorial works commissioned by Maximilian I to commemorate the cultural significance of his court – have long been of interest to music historians due to their depiction of diverse forms of dancing accompanied by various combinations of instruments. This paper will explore the extent to which the musicians depicted in *Freydal* might be regarded as representative of the instrumental ensembles that accompanied dances both at Maximilian's court and across his Empire. It will consider the degree to which court and civic society engaged with a shared repertoire of dance music and steps, and how instrumental music for dancing thereby contributed to the representation and interaction of members of the social elite across Maximilian's realm.

#### **13 March 2025, 5pm-7pm GMT**

Presenter: Paul Kolb (University of Leuven)

Title: Contextuality and Irregularity in Late-Medieval Mensural Notation

Discussants: Emily Zazulia (University of California, Berkeley) and Antonio Chemotti (University of Leuven)

While theorists from Johannes de Muris to Johannes Tinctoris insisted that imperfection and alteration could be at work at multiple mensural levels (modus, tempus, prolation) simultaneously, requiring a complex balancing of different rules in context, in practice most mensural usage from the mid-fifteenth century to the early sixteenth century was both simpler and messier. In most cases, there is no more than one level at which musicians need to discern imperfection and alteration, and yet even so notational devices—dots, ligatures, rests, coloration, spacing—were optimized so that singers could rely on local notational context without having to analyze the overall mensural context. By extension, the standard signs of mensuration are not the only indications of mensural structure; sometimes the musical or notational context might lead us to override what we think the signs should mean. Drawing on theoretical and practical examples, this paper examines some of the conflicts and contradictions between mensural theory and notational and compositional practice. For example, irregular bar lengths bear witness to the mensurations holding less force as a structural unifier. Confusion between the concepts of mensuration and proportion lead to instances where a single sign could be followed by music in different mensurations, or a single mensuration could follow multiple signs (or none). Overall, I argue for a more context-dependent understanding of rhythm in fifteenth- and early sixteenth-century music.



## Medieval English Research Seminar

Convenors: Prof. Laura Ashe and Prof. Francis Leneghan

Wednesdays 5.15pm, Weeks 1-6

Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building

**22 Jan:** Alice Jorgensen (TCD), 'The Old English *Apollonius of Tyre* and the Name of the Father'

**29 Jan:** Tamara Atkin (Oxford), 'On Fragments: The Material and Textual Value of Manuscript and Print Binding Waste'

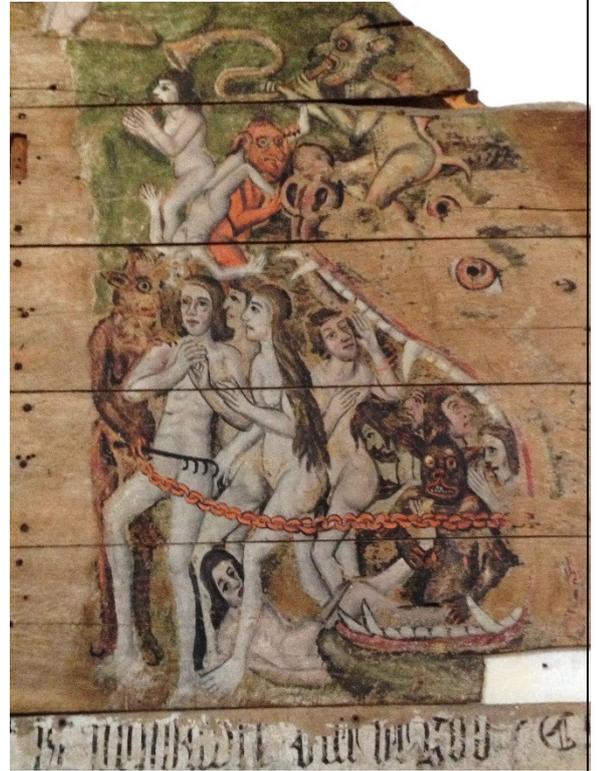
**5 Feb:** Marilina Cesario (Queen's University, Belfast), 'The *windsele* in *Christ and Satan*: Demonic Winds in Medieval Literature'

**12 Feb:** James Sargan (University of Georgia), 'Reading Early Middle English Books'

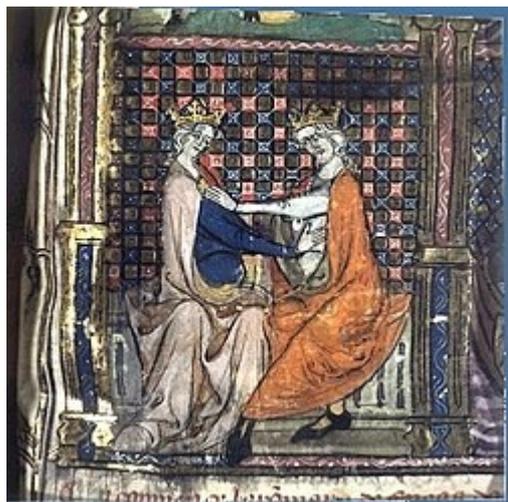
**19 Feb:** Amy Faulkner (UCL), 'Expecting the Worst: *Beowulf* and the End Times'

**26 Feb:** Cathy Hume (University of Bristol), 'Biblical poetry and its place in medieval English culture'

Seminars followed by a wine reception. All welcome!



## Medieval French Research Seminar



*Roman d'Eneas, BnF ms. 60, fol. 148r*

Maison française d'Oxford ([www.mfo.ac.uk](http://www.mfo.ac.uk)), except on week 1. Drinks will be served from 5pm; the presentations will start at 5:15pm. For more information and to be added on the seminar's mailing list, contact [sophie.marnette@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.marnette@balliol.ox.ac.uk). There will be no event in first week. Instead everybody is encouraged to attend the topical Ford Lectures delivered by Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Thursdays 5-6pm of weeks 1-6, starting on **23rd January**: "Alle mine thegenas ... frencisce & englisce": The Languages of 1066 - And All That

**Tuesday Week 3, 4 February 2025**

'Flight, Founding and Foreignness in the Roman d'Eneas',  
Chimene Bateman, University of Oxford

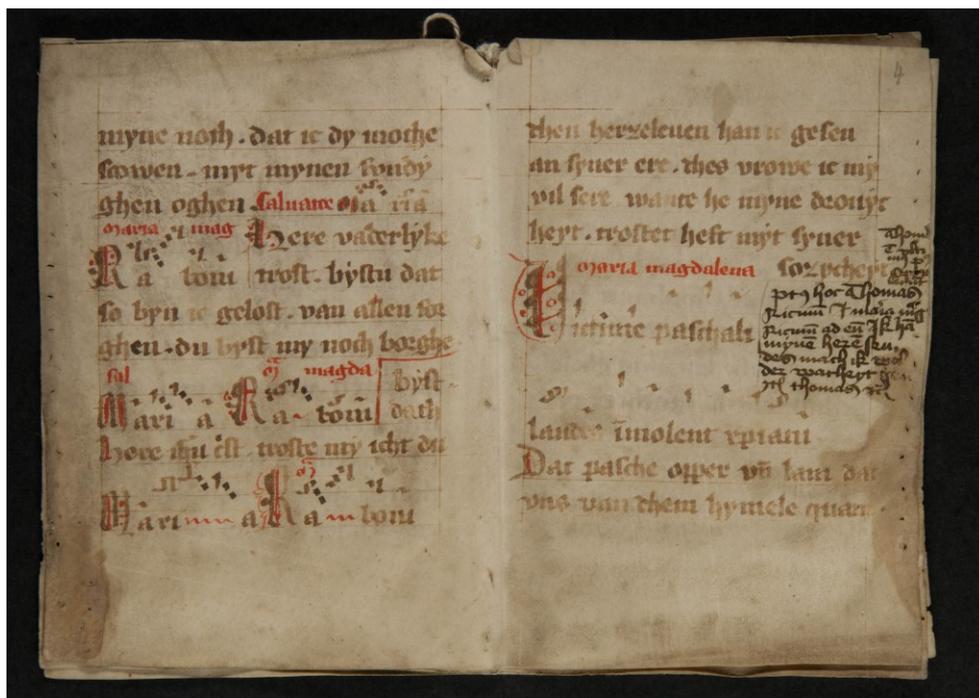
**Tuesday Week 5, 18 February 2025**

'Oath, Song, and the Making of Community in Medieval France'  
Mary Franklin-Brown, University of Cambridge

**Tuesday Week 7, 4 March 2025**

'Consent in Old French Narratives of Female Martyrdom' Charles Samuelson, University of Colorado, Boulder

## Medieval German Graduate Seminar



*Wienhausen Easter-Play, Kloster Wienhausen, Hs. 36, fol. 3v-4r*

The Medieval German Graduate Seminar meets **Wednesdays 11.15am-12.45pm** in the Old Library of St Edmund Hall. The first week will be a shortish planning meeting. The topic for this term are 'Geistliche Spiele'.

If you are interested to be added to the teams group for updates, please [contact Henrike Lähnemann](#).



## Seminar in Palaeography and Manuscript studies, Hilary 2025



*St John's College MS 167 from Syon Abbey*

Seminars take place in the Weston Library, Horton Room, 2.15-3.45pm. Manuscripts will be shown.

Convenors: **Matthew Holford and Peter Toth**

All are welcome. A University of Oxford card or Bodleian reader card is normally required to gain access to the seminar room. Remember to bring a £1 coin for lockers.

Monday 27 January 2025 - **Julia King**, 'Manuscripts In and Out of Syon Abbey'

Monday 10 February 2025 - **Ugo Mondini**, 'Poetry and education in medieval Southern Italy'

Monday 17 February 2025 - **Jo Edge**, 'Working with divinatory texts and manuscripts'

Monday 10 March 2025 - **Lucio del Corso**, 'Greek papyri in the Bodleian Library. A tale of lost texts and forgotten books.'



# History and Materiality of the Book Seminar series

**Organisers:** Matthew Holford, Andrew Honey, Laure Miolo

Wednesdays 2-3.30pm

Venue: Weston Library, Horton room.

Anyone interested in manuscript studies is welcome. No registration required. For questions, please e-mail [laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk)

The series of seminars has been designed to introduce participants to the various material aspects of the book, thereby laying the foundations for the reconstruction of manuscripts' production and history. The objective is to provide the indispensable elements for the analysis of the manuscript.

The seminars also provide a forum for specialists from different fields of manuscript studies to share their expertise. The sessions bring together curators, librarians, researchers and conservators to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various components of the codex from diverse perspectives. These components include the writing surface, ink, binding, decoration, manuscript production in its broadest sense, and its provenance. The seminars thus represent a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the necessity of close collaboration between researchers, curators/librarians, and conservators for a comprehensive consideration of the manuscript in its entirety. Such collaboration facilitates a more profound comprehension of the diverse contexts in which the manuscript was created, copied, and utilised.

**Wednesday 22 January: Manuscript Structures**

**Matthew Holford**

**Wednesday 29 January: Writing supports (parchment and paper) and Bindings**

**Andrew Honey**

**Wednesday 5 February: Inks and Pigments**

**Julia Bearman and Robert Minte**

**Wednesday 12 February: Decoration**

**Martin Kauffmann**

**Wednesday 26 February: Calendars and time-reckoning**

**Laure Miolo**

**Wednesday 5 March: Medieval Libraries and Provenance**

**Matthew Holford and Laure Miolo**

**Wednesday 12 March: Text identification**

**Matthew Holford and Laure Miolo**



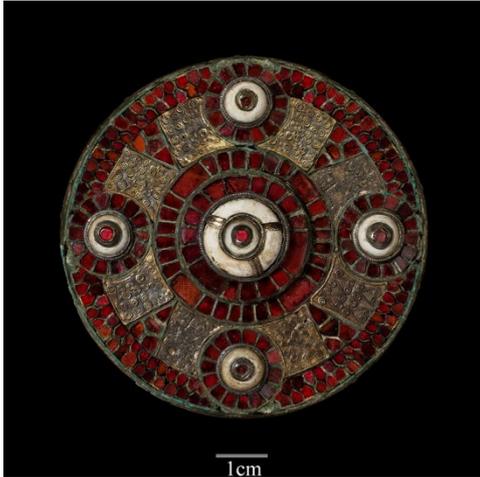
Bodleian Library MS. Laud Misc. 165, fol. 17v



## Medieval Archaeology Seminar

Mondays 3.00, Institute of Archaeology, Lecture Room

Convenors: H. Hamerow/J. Kershaw



**Wk 2 (27 Jan) John Dinges.** Moulding Emotions: Later medieval badges in England and Wales.

+ **Caroline Croasdaile.** Portable Reliquaries? English Late Medieval Containment Jewellery

**Wk 4. (10 Feb) Wendy Scott.** The Lenborough hoard

**Wk 6 (24 Feb) Gabor Thomas, Roland Smith, Darko Maricevic.** Old Windsor: A reassessment

**Wk 7 (3 March) Helena Hamerow.** Feeding Medieval England: A long 'agricultural revolution'

## Early modern diplomacy, 1400-1800

Merze Tate Room, History Faculty, Oxford and online. Tuesday 28 January 16.15-17.45

Meia Walravens (Trinity College, Oxford), 'Bahmani Diplomacy: Correspondence between India and the Islamic world (15th century)'

This paper discusses diplomatic letters sent from the Bahmani Sultanate in India (748-934/1347-1528) to powers in the wider Islamic world. Major correspondents of the Bahmanis included the Mamluks in Egypt and Syria, the Ottomans in Anatolia, the Aq Quyunlu in Iran and Iraq, and the Timurids in Khurasan. Based on a discussion of the letters' content and rhetoric, this paper aims to demonstrate especially the influence of transregional intellectual and family networks over Bahmani diplomacy.

## Late Antique and Byzantine Seminar

Convenors: Marc Lauxtermann and Ida Toth

Time: Wednesdays, 5pm

Venue: Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, 66 St. Giles

Online: Join online via Microsoft Teams by clicking [here](#)

**(W1) 22 January** - Kevin Blachford (King's College London & Defence Academy), 'World Order in Late Antiquity: The "Two Eyes" Rivalry of Byzantium and Sasanian Persia'

**(W2) 29 January** - Phil Booth (Oxford), 'John of Ephesus: Historian on the Edge'

**(W3) 5 February** - Dan Gallaher (Oxford), 'Beyond a Boundary: Armenia and Byzantium in the Ninth Century'

**(W4) 12 February** - Jonathan Shepard (Oxford), 'Soft Power, Old and New: Debating the Byzantine Commonwealth'

**(W5) 19 February** - Olivia Ramble (Oxford), 'Of Scripts and Scribes: Investigating Practices of Writing in Late Antique Iran'

**(W6) 26 February** - Andy Hilken (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften), 'Dialogue and Debate between Syriac and Armenian Miaphysites in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries'

**(W7) 5 March** - Tommaso Giuliodoro (Durham University), 'New Approaches to the Byzantine Army of North Africa in the 7th Century: Organisation, Strategies, and Challenges'

**(W8) 12 March** - Michael Featherstone (Oxford) & Juan Signes Codoñer (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), 'A Team of Palace Historians: the Final Redactions of Theophanes Continuatus and the De Cerimoniis'



## Oxford University Numismatics Society

Wednesday 19 February, 4-5pm, in the Ioannou Centre/Faculty of Classics' Lecture Theatre.

Dr. Mike Shott (Oxford): "*Cuneator ad Rex; Quid tibi vis hic..?*". Design features in the Long Cross issues of Henry III; a research project',

## The Khalili Research Centre For the Art and Material Culture of the Middle East: Research Seminar

Thursdays at 5:15 PM, KRC Lecture Room, 3 St John Street *All welcome*

**Week 1 - 23 Jan** Reintegrating the Empire: taking an expansive view towards "Ottoman" collections - Michael Erdman (The British Library)

**Week 2 - 30 Jan** Anatolian language carved in stone: reading the walls of Ani across Christian and Islamic visual cultures - Beatrice Spampinato (Kunsthistorisches Institut, Florence)

**Week 3 - 6 Feb** Enacting the divine love and remembering the dervish-sultan Murad II: the inscriptions of the Muradiye Mevlevi Lodge in Edirne (1435-36) - Tuğrul Acar (Harvard University)

**Week 4 - 13 Feb** Making medieval Spain: carpentry practices in Nasrid Granada and the Alhambra - Anna McSweeney (Trinity College Dublin)

**Week 5 - 20 Feb** The Pink Qur'ān: a reverse biography - Umberto Bongianino (The Khalili Research Centre)

**Week 6 - 27 Feb** Knowledge and its transmission in Ottoman manuscript culture of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries: observations and propositions - Sinem Eryılmaz (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

**Week 7 - 6 Mar** Epicscapes of medieval Anatolia: geographical imagination and identity in Anatolian Turkish frontier narratives - Zeynep Aydoğan (Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Rethymno)

**Week 8 - 13 Mar** Title TBC - Edward Zychowicz-Coghill (King's College London)



# Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar Hilary Term 2025



The Medieval Women's Writing Research Group meets to discuss everything to do with women's writing in the medieval period. We hold a variety of events throughout the term. All welcome!

Please see the individual dates for time and place of the session.

Stay up to date with events by [joining our mailing list](#) or following us on X [@MedievalWomenOx](#).

## Week 1, Saturday 25th January

Medieval Women's Writing Research Group Trip to the British Library's exhibition "Medieval Women" (London) - The registration period for subsidised tickets has passed but if anyone wants to purchase their own tickets for the same time slot and join our group, please get in contact with Kat Smith: [katherine.smith@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.smith@lincoln.ox.ac.uk)

## Week 3, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Special Event: Medieval recipe books at the Oxford Bodleian Libraries. A collaboration between Critical Food Studies Network, Medieval Women's Writing Research Group and the Bodleian Academic Engagement - Place tbc

## Week 6, Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February

Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar: Dr Carolin Gluchowski (University of Hamburg) - Breaking Walls, A Graphic Novel: Reflections on Public History (provisional title) - Time & place tbc

## Week 7, Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March

Medieval Women's Writing Research Seminar: Ved Prahba Shama (Independent Researcher) - Medieval Indian Women's Writing (provisional topic) - Online 12.30pm (GMT), registration details tbc

## Date and time tbc

Special Event: Medieval recipe books at the Oxford Bodleian Libraries. A collaboration between Critical Food Studies Network, Medieval Women's Writing Research Group and the Bodleian Academic Engagement - Time & place tbc



## Celtic Seminar

The Celtic Seminar is held jointly by Oxford and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), Aberystwyth. All Oxford seminars will be at 5.15 pm on Thursdays either hybrid (online and in person) or online-only via Microsoft Teams. When in person, they are in Jesus College (Memorial Room). Please contact [david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk) if you need a link to join online. All CAWCS seminars will be held online at 5.00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom, and, for hybrid seminars, in person at CAWCS. Please contact [a.elias@wales.ac.uk](mailto:a.elias@wales.ac.uk) for the link.

**23 January:** Oxford (online only): Brendan Kane (Connecticut): Message and audience in Irish bardic poetry: the case of the Mac Sweenys

**30 January:** CAWCS (hybrid): Abdul-Azim Ahmed (Cardiff): The story of Islam in Wales: Findings from the Islam in Wales History Project

**6 February:** Oxford (hybrid): Laura Arman (Cardiff): "Dw i YN!" Constructing a case for contact-induced change in contemporary Welsh yn

**13 February:** CAWCS (hybrid): Iwan Edgar: Llysieulyfr Salesbury ac enwau planhigion cysylltiedig 1400-1700

**20 February:** Oxford (hybrid): David Callander (Cardiff): Merlin, Gwenddydd, and the End of our Age

**27 February** - no meeting

**6 March:** Oxford (hybrid): Peadar Ó Muirheartaigh (Edinburgh): In search of the nineteenth-century Gaelic Caribbean

**13 March:** CAWCS (hybrid): Kathryn Jones (Swansea): Rhwydweithiau cudd a chodi llais: Cefnogaeth Cymry i Lydawyr ar ffo wedi'r Ail Ryfel Byd

**20 March** - no meeting.

**27 March:** CAWCS (hybrid): Conchúr Ó Giollagáin (University of the Highlands and Islands): Language dynamics in society: A new analytical framework for ethnolinguistic vitality

## Lectures of Medieval Poetry

The TORCH Network [Poetry in the Medieval World](#) invites you to attend our lecture series featuring international researchers working on medieval poetry.

For more information about the events and registration links for online attendance, please visit our website or contact Ugo Mondini at [ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk).

**6 February 2024, 5 pm**

Rachel Burns (University of Oxford), Building Nations on the Page: Old English Verse Layout in the Ninth and Nineteenth Centuries

Location: t.b.d.

**18 February 2024, 5 pm**

Ramunė Markevičiūtė (Freie University of Berlin), \*\*\*

Location: t.b.d.

**4 March 2024, 5 pm**

Zuzana Dzurillová (Czech Academy of Sciences), Late Byzantine Romance. On the Wings of Repetition

Location: t.b.d.

**24 April 2024**

Wiebke Denecke (MIT), t.b.d.

Location: online



# Celtic Research Seminar HT25

**Convenors:**  
**Professor David Willis,**  
**Jenyth Evans**



**23 January**  
**Oxford (online only)**

**Brendan Kane (Connecticut)**  
'Message and audience in Irish bardic poetry:  
the case of the Mac Sweenys'

**30 January**  
**CAWCS (hybrid)**

**Abdul-Azim Ahmed (Cardiff)**  
'The story of Islam in Wales: Findings from the  
Islam in Wales History Project'

**6 February**  
**Oxford (hybrid)**

**Laura Arman (Cardiff)**  
'"Dw i YN!" Constructing a case for  
contact-induced change in contemporary Welsh  
yn'

**13 February**  
**CAWCS (hybrid)**

**Iwan Edgar**  
'Llysieulyfr Salesbury ac enwau planhigion  
cysylltiedig 1400-1700'

**20 February**  
**Oxford (hybrid)**

**David Callander (Cardiff)**  
'Merlin, Gwenddydd, and the End of our Age'

**6 March**  
**Oxford (hybrid)**

**Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh (Edinburgh)**  
'In search of the nineteenth-century Gaelic  
Caribbean'

**13 March**  
**CAWCS (hybrid)**

**Kathryn Jones**  
'Rhwydweithiau cudd a chodi llais: Cefnogaeth  
Cymry i Lydawyr ar ffo wedi'r Ail Ryfel Byd'

**27 March**  
**CAWCS (hybrid)**

**Conchúr Ó Giollagáin (University  
of the Highlands and Islands)**  
'Language dynamics in society: A new analytical  
framework for ethnolinguistic vitality'

National Library of Scotland, Advocates MS 14850, f. 29 r3

The Celtic Seminar is held jointly by Oxford and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS), Aberystwyth. All Oxford seminars will be at 5.15 pm on Thursdays either hybrid (online and in person) or online-only via Microsoft Teams. When in person, they are in Jesus College (Memorial Room). Please contact david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk if you need a link to join online. All CAWCS seminars will be held online at 5.00 pm on Thursdays via Zoom, and, for hybrid seminars, in person at the National Library of Wales. Please contact a.elias@wales.ac.uk for the link.



## Ancient and Medieval Seminar

21 January 2025, 4:30 PM

Vladimir Olivero (Harvard), From Jerusalem, through Alexandria, to the Caucasus: observations on the translation technique in the Armenian Psalter

Location t.b.d.

## Oxford Centre for Early Medieval Britain and Ireland

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan (Week 2): Lunch and Launch

**12.30pm - 2pm: Massey Room, Balliol College**

An opportunity for people to discuss their current research and celebrate the launch of the Centre's new website over a free buffet lunch.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February (Week 5): Visit to Silk Roads Exhibition

**8pm: British Museum**

A fieldtrip to visit the Silk Roads exhibition and see early medieval finds from Britain in a global context. A limited number of subsidised tickets will be available; please email [tristan.alphey@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:tristan.alphey@stx.ox.ac.uk) if you would like to join us. We will meet by the finds from Sutton Hoo at 17.15 in Room 41.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (Week 8): Silk Roads at the British Museum: A co-curatorial journey  
Dr Sue Brunning

**4pm: Gillis Lecture Theatre, Balliol College**

Sue is Curator of European Early Medieval Collections at the British Museum and author of *The Sword in Early Medieval Northern Europe*. She will talk about her experience of curating this smash-hit exhibition.



# Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures



**5 February 5.30pm WMTTC Termly Lecture**

Memorial Room, Queen's College

Elizabeth Frood (St Cross, Oxford), *An Unexpected Script for an Unexpected Text: the tomb autobiography of the Egyptian Royal Secretary Tjay*

**18 February 5.15pm: Work-in-Progress Colloquium**

Memorial Room, Queen's College

Riccardo Montalto (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II): *From manuscripts to history: The reconstruction of the Greek manuscript library of Achilles Statius (1524-1581)*

Achilles Statius was a Portuguese humanist active in Rome in the second half of the sixteenth century. Committed to editorial and propaganda activities and, in particular, in the edition of the texts of the Fathers of the Greek Church, Statius set up one of the largest private libraries in Renaissance Rome, peculiar for its size and intellectual value. Starting from the material data detectable from the manuscripts, compared with the data available from different sources - primarily historical, archival and 10 Oxford Medieval Studies Hilary Term 2025 library science - the research aims to reconstruct a part of Achilles Statius's library and to identify some methods and working practices of the late Renaissance humanists.

Holly Dempster-Edwards (University of Liverpool): *Emotions, Gender and Crusading in Fifteenth-Century Burgundian Prose Epics and Chronicles*

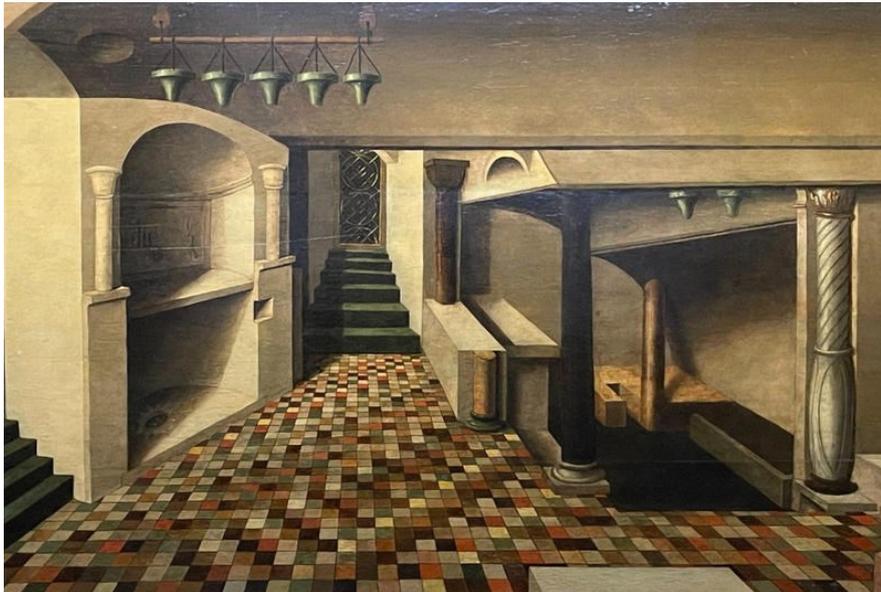
I shall examine the social function of emotions at the fifteenth-century court of Duke Philip the Good of Burgundy (r. 1419-1467), using the methodology of 'emotional communities' (Barbara Rosenwein), which has been highly influential within Medieval Studies. The paper will consider emotion words in three Burgundian mises-en-prose *Les Croniques et Conquestes de Charlemaigne* by David Aubert, *La Belle Hélène de Constantinople* by Jehan Wauquelin, and *Mabrien* (attrib. Aubert). I have built on Rosenwein's framework by employing quantitative analysis of the gendered and 'racial-religious' distribution of emotions within each text, alongside qualitative textual analysis and examination of text-image relations.



## GAPS - Slade Lectures 2025

5-6pm, St John's College auditorium.

Medieval art historian Beate Fricke will be giving a set of lectures this term. Attendees must [book](#) their place ahead of time.



In writing history, the things that we do not know rarely play a starring role. These gaps in documentation about the past - blank spots in the material record and the archival apparatus - might all too easily be taken as indexes of moments in which nothing much happened. But from another perspective they are the sea surrounding what are truly infinitesimal islands of knowledge or the connective tissue that forms the basis for historical arguments about the fragmented forms of the past. These lectures attempt to recast the gap in this way, reframing assumptions and speculation as the normative condition of history writing rather than its aberration. And it seeks to expand from historical and historiographic notions of the gap to see the chasm, separation, schism, absence, and void within the objects of the past that we study and as central to their visual and material operations.



**Beate Fricke** is Professor and Chair of European Medieval Art at the Institute of Art History at the University of Bern. Previously, she was professor for Medieval Art at the Department of History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on the history of sculpture, image theory and the objects as archives of a history of applied arts, materiality, knowledge transfer and trade in the global "Middle Ages". Among her publications are *Holy Smoke. Censers across Cultures*, 2023, *Fallen Idols, Risen Saints: Sainte Foy of Conquest and the Revival of Monumental Sculpture in Medieval Art*, 2015, and together with Finbarr Barry Flood *Tales things Tell. Material Histories of Early Globalisms*, 2024. She is leading the research project *The Inheritance of Looting. Medieval Trophies to Modern Museums* (SNF - <https://looting.ch>). She is founder and Editor-in-chief of the

journal *21: Inquiries into Art, History, and the Visual*. Beiträge zur Kunstgeschichte und Visuellen Kultur (link: <https://21-inquiries.eu/en>).

January 22: Gaps in Writing

January 29: Gaps in Archives

February 5: Gaps in Images

February 12: Gaps in Space

February 19: Gaps in Origins

February 26: Gaps in Artefacts



# Reading Groups and Societies

## French Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group

This group is open to anyone with an interest in Old French, Middle French and Anglo-Norman manuscripts. We study and read manuscripts from the 12th century to the 16th century with a special focus on palaeography. We meet every Monday between 10.30am-12pm in the Weston Library.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please write to Laure Miolo:

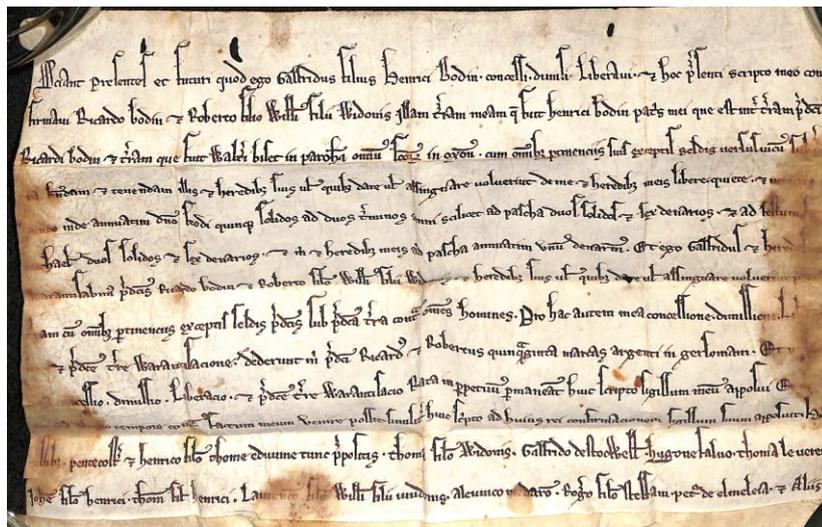
[laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk)



Oxford, St John's College MS 164, fol. 1r



## Exploring Medieval Oxford through Lincoln & Magdalen Archives



Lincoln College/EL/OAS/D1

**Every Fridays 2-3pm**, Seminar Room 1, EPA Centre, Museum Road, OX1 3PX

Following the focus on medieval documents from Lincoln College last year, the seminar will now also include documents from Magdalen College in collaboration with Richard Allen (Magdalen College's archivist). Both Colleges holds an outstanding collection of archives predating the Colleges' respective foundations. A part of those documents relates to several parishes of Oxford, such as All Saint's, St Michael's at the Northgate and others.

This weekly one-hour seminar aims to investigate these unpublished documents, mostly deeds, dating back to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, that bear witness to everyday life in Oxford at the time. Anyone interested in analysing primary sources and conducting a comprehensive examination of the documents are welcome to attend. Working in pairs on a self-selected source, the research will entail the examination of the record's external characteristics (such as writing surface, layout, marks of use) as well as transcription, translation, and identification of locations and individuals mentioned in the records to establish a context. Special importance will be given to the seals attached to these documents.

As well as collaborating on unpublished sources, attendees will gain experience in digitisation of sources and publish their analysis online. Students will prepare their item for exhibition, and a one-day workshop on these sources will be held in Trinity Term.

Those who are interested can contact the convenor, Laure Miolo via email:

[laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk)



## **Latin Palaeography Manuscript Reading Group (advanced beginner, intermediate and advanced levels)**

For those wishing to develop, deepen or maintain their skills in Latin palaeography, we meet every Tuesday between 2pm and 3.30pm in the Weston Library (Horton Room or Visiting Scholars Centre). We explore a wide range of medieval manuscripts and documents from the 9th to the 15th centuries. The session includes analysis of different scripts, abbreviations and codicological features. Practice is the key to developing palaeographical skills and becoming more comfortable with different scripts, including the more cursive and abbreviated ones. The aim of this group is to teach the basic elements of each script and abbreviation in order to help in the direct reading and analysis of the manuscripts.

Those who are interested can contact the convenor, Laure Miolo via email:  
[laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laure.miolo@history.ox.ac.uk)



# Course: Introduction to Arabic Palaeography

Convened by [Umberto Bongianino](#), Samir Shamma Associate Professor of Islamic Numismatics, Epigraphy and Material Culture



Venue: St Cross College, Sybil Dodd Room

Time: Mondays, 10:30-12:30

Eight weekly reading and discussion sessions (2 hours each) on Islamic manuscripts, calligraphy, and the scribal traditions of the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries).

These sessions are aimed at students and researchers affiliated with the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Medieval and Modern Languages, Theology and Religion, Classics, and History. A basic grounding in classical Arabic is required.

## Objectives:

- Acquire the ability to read, understand, and contextualise selected excerpts of medieval Arabic manuscripts (Quranic codices, papyri, different types of religious and secular works, chancery documents, etc.);
- Understand Islamic manuscripts in their material aspects (supports, quires, pigments, binding, etc.) as well as the processes and techniques behind their production (parchment- and papermaking, mise-en-page, quire numbering and sowing, illumination, collation, etc.);
- Familiarise oneself with standard Islamic formulae, frequent Quranic quotations, royal titulature, dating systems, book colophons and marginalia, reading notes, transmission certificates, ownership marks, stamps, etc.;
- Learn to describe effectively the main Arabic scripts and calligraphic styles, gain an overall understanding of palaeographic terminology and methodology, explore the principal calligraphic techniques;
- Date and identify a selection of manuscript material based not only on its textual content, but also on its stylistic, palaeographic, and codicological features.



## Medieval Manuscripts Support Group



Bodleian Library, MS. Bodl. 264, f. 96r

We are pleased to trial a new format, once or twice a term, in which readers of medieval manuscripts can pose questions to a mixed group of fellow readers and Bodleian curators in a friendly environment. Come with your own questions, or to see what questions other readers have!

<https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/2024/07/15/medieval-mss-support-group/>

The sort of questions you might bring are:

- What is the place and date of origin of this MS?
- What is the place and date of origin of this binding?
- What does the decoration of this MS suggest?
- What does this semi-legible inscription say?
- Whose bookplate is this, or how could I find out?

Meetings will typically be held in the Horton Room (just across the corridor from the manuscripts reading room on the 1st floor). If you wish to pose a question, please order the relevant manuscript to the issue desk, and email the details to [Matthew Holford](#), Tolkien Curator of Medieval Manuscripts, the day before, so that he can arrange for it to be transferred across to the Horton Room for the session. Alternatively, provide a good quality digital image that we can display on a large monitor.

In the expectation that many readers will be at the Weston Library on Fridays for the [weekly Coffee Morning](#) in the Visiting Scholars' Centre, the next such sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

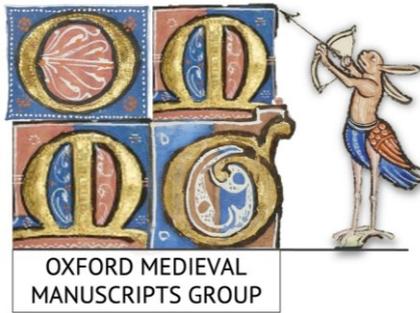
- Friday, 17 January (Horton Room) 2.00-3.00pm
- Friday, 7 February (Horton Room) 2.00-3.00pm



# Oxford Medieval Manuscript Group

Fridays 5 pm (unless otherwise stated). For all enquiries, please write to:

elena.lichmanova@merton.ox.ac.uk



## **Week 1, 24 January, 15:00**

Balliol Historic Collections Centre Visit

Previous experience of handling medieval manuscripts is desirable

Limited places, write to the email below by 22/01/2025

## **Week 3, 7 February, 17:15**

The Queen's College Library Visit

Limited places, write to the email above by 1/02/2025

## **Week 4, 14 February, ONLINE**

Reading Group: Interpretation and Meaning

Beatrice Kitzinger, 'Working with Images in Manuscripts' (2020)

Paula Mae Carns, 'Making and Unmaking Love in the Macclesfield Psalter' (2023)

Michael Camille, 'Introduction', in *The Medieval Art of Love* (1998)

Write to the email above to join

## **Week 5, 21 February, Merton College, Hawkins Room**

Work-in-Progress Session

Emma Nelson | University of Manchester

Book Owners and Donors in Twelfth-Century Lincoln

Blanche Darbord | University of Cambridge

Alexander the Great and Chivalry in Plantagenet England

## **Week 7, 7 March, Merton College, Mure Room**

Nancy Thebaut | Art History Department and St Catherine's College, Oxford

Learning to Look: (Mis)reading the *Visitatio sepulchri*, ca. 900-1050



## Middle English Reading Group (MERG)



# Middle English Reading Group

## HILARY TERM 2025: TROILUS AND CRISEYDE

Thursdays / 4-5pm / Weeks 1-8

Lincoln College, Beckington Room\*

Join us to read the 'double sorwe' of Troilus and Criseyde in a weekly reading group. We will be reading from Book III.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email [rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).

\*In Weeks 7 and 8 we will be in Lincoln's Lower Lecture Room - reminders will be sent out via the mailing list.

Image: Bodleian, MS Arch. Seld. B. 24, fol. 1r: the opening of Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde.

### Thursdays / 4-5pm / Weeks 1-8

Lincoln College, Beckington Room.\*

Join us to read the 'double sorwe' of *Troilus and Criseyde* in a weekly reading group. We will be reading from Book III.

\* In Weeks 7 and 8 we will be in Lincoln's Lower Lecture Room - reminders will be sent out via the mailing list.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email [rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).



## Germanic Reading Group

Thursday, 23 January, 4:00–5:00. Extracts from the Old English and Old Saxon Genesis (Elliot Vale leading - [handout attached](#)).

Thursday, 6 February, 4:00–5:00. Extracts from the Old High German Pariser Gespräche (Howard Jones leading).

Thursday, 20 February, 4:00–5:00. Extracts from Chaucer showing switches between London and Northern dialects (Simon Horobin leading).

Wednesday, 5 March, 4:00–5:00. Extracts from Old Icelandic/Old Norse showing biblical style in sagas and saga style in Bible translations (Siân Grønlie leading - her recent book on the topic is [here](#)).

Please contact **Howard Jones** [Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Howard.Jones@sbs.ox.ac.uk) to request the handouts and to be added to the list.

## Old Norse Seminar

5<sup>th</sup> February (Week 3), 12.15

English Faculty's History of the Book room

Our speaker is Ela Sefcikova (Berlin), who will be speaking on '*læ*, *lygð* and *slóggð*: Loki in Old Norse Literature'.

The seminar will be followed by a sandwich lunch in the Graduate Common. All are welcome!

## Old Norse Reading Group

The Old Norse Reading Group will take place at 5.30pm in the English Faculty Graduate Common Room, on Mondays of even weeks. This term we will be reading Hrafnkels saga. If you have any queries, please contact Mary Catherine O'Connor ([mary.oconnor@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mary.oconnor@balliol.ox.ac.uk))

## Anglo-Norman Reading Group

The Oxford Anglo-Norman Reading Group will meet on Fridays of odd weeks: 24th Jan, 7th & 21st Feb, 7th March, at 5.00. We finish at 6.30. All are welcome, at whatever level (or none!) of French. We read a text together, helping one another as necessary, translating and discussing.

Meetings are hybrid: on Zoom, or in person at The Farmington Institute in Harris Manchester College (top floor), thanks to our host Professor Lesley Smith.

Wine and soft drinks are available, thanks to TORCH, to help our studies along.

Texts will be provided in advance of each meeting (please bring your own copy, on paper or on screen, as we cannot provide photocopies).

Please contact me for further details, Jane Bliss ([jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org](mailto:jane.bliss@lmh.oxon.org)).



# GREEK AND LATIN READING GROUP

**HILARY TERM 2025: GREEK AND LATIN SCI-FI**



Image: *The Universe According to Macrobius*. Copenhagen, Det Kongelige Bibliotek, ms. NKS 218 4<sup>o</sup>

**Thursdays at 2:30pm, Weeks 1-8 / Exeter College, Stapeldon Room.**

Odd weeks (1, 3):  
Cicero, *Dream of Scipio*

Odd weeks (5, 7):  
Macrobius, *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio*

Even weeks (2, 4, 6, 8):  
Lucian, *A True History*

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email  
[ugo.mondini@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@exeter.ox.ac.uk) and [rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).

All are warmly welcome to GLARE (Greek and Latin Reading Group). In Hilary Term we will meet on Thursdays at 2:30pm (a revised time from last term), at Exeter College, Stapeldon Room.

The theme this term is 'Greek and Latin Sci-Fi'. In odd weeks we will read Cicero's *Dream of Scipio* (*De Re Publica* 6.9, weeks 1&3) and Macrobius' *Commentary on the Dream of Scipio* (weeks 5&7). In even weeks (2,4,6,8) we will read Lucian's *A True Story*.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email [ugo.mondini@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@exeter.ox.ac.uk) and [rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.menmuir@lincoln.ox.ac.uk).



## The Medieval Latin Documentary Palaeography Reading Group

The Medieval Latin Documentary Palaeography Reading Group continues to meet every Wednesday at 4pm for an hour or so on Teams when we read through and translate a variety of documents from the medieval archive at New College, giving an opportunity to engage with documents ranging from papal bulls to manorial and college accounts, from royal letters patent to manorial court rolls, from college statutes to deeds of title, and from letters to receipts. The document(s) to be studied will be circulated the day before. To join and/or to find out more, please contact [michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.stansfield@new.ox.ac.uk).

## Celtic Teaching

Introduction to Middle Welsh (Dafydd ap Gwilym)	T. 9-10	Mark Williams	St Edmund Hall (meet in lodge at 8.55)	Graduate Advanced, FHS English
Introduction to early Irish ( <i>Buile Suibne</i> )	T. 10-11	Jenyth Evans	St Edmund Hall	Graduate Advanced
Post-beginners' Irish language	W. 9-10	Nora Baker	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Beginners' Irish language	W. 3.30-4.30	Nora Baker	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Beginners' Old Irish language class	Th. 9-10	Jenyth Evans	St Edmund Hall	Graduate Advanced
Topics in Celtic linguistics	Th. 10-11 (wks 1, 3-7)	David Willis	Seminar Room A, Jesus	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Early Modern Welsh text editing	Th. 11-12 (wks 1, 3-7)	David Willis	Seminar Room A, Jesus	Graduate Advanced
Advanced Irish language	Th. 1-2	Nora Baker	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Advanced Welsh language	F. 11-12	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Intermediate Welsh language	F. 1-2	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced
Beginners' Welsh language	F. 2-3	Hanna Hopwood Griffiths	Teams	FHS F, Graduate Advanced

Please contact the relevant lecturer ([mark.williams@ell.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mark.williams@ell.ox.ac.uk), [david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk), [nora.baker@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nora.baker@jesus.ox.ac.uk), [hannaghopwood@gmail.com](mailto:hannaghopwood@gmail.com)) with any questions.



## The Medieval Poetry Reading Group

We explore medieval poetry across regions and languages, with the guidance of an expert. Texts in the original language and their translation are shared in handouts, read aloud, explained, and discussed. The aim is to gain a global vision of medieval literature through poetry. Since we are driven by curiosity, the reading group evolves according to participants' interests and interaction. We warmly welcome academics and students of any level and with any background. Coffee, tea, and biscuits are offered to participants.

11 February 2024, 4:30 PM: Michael Angerer on Old English Poetry. Location: t.b.d.

The Reading Group is part of the activities of the TORCH Network Poetry in the Medieval World. For more information, see <https://torch.ox.ac.uk/poetry-in-the-medieval-world> or write an email to Ugo Mondini ([ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ugo.mondini@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk))

## Oxford University Heraldry Society

Emir Filipović - 'The Development of Heraldry in Medieval Bosnia' - 6pm on Thursday 13th February - on Zoom

Peter Lindfield - Thomas Barritt and other manuscripts - c. 1pm on Saturday 1 March - in person (Bodleian Library)

Themba Mabaso - on Friday 21st March at 6.30pm

José Guillén - 'Mirror of Heroism: Heraldry, Virtue, and the Discourse on Nobility in 17th-Century Europe' - Thursday 27 March - on Zoom

Steen Clemmensen - 'Imaginary arms, centring on the romances of the knights of the Round Table' - Saturday 26th April - in person

María Castañeda - 30<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm

## Medieval Hebrew Reading Group

Weeks 1-4, 6-8 Thursdays

10:00-11:00 am

This reading group is an opportunity to practise reading directly from images of medieval Hebrew manuscripts in an informal setting. No advance preparation is required and all skill levels are welcome! This year we will look at documents and manuscript excerpts from a broad range of the many genres found in medieval Hebrew texts, including scientific, literary, and legal. We will consider their palaeography, language, and historical context, and learn practical skills for reading unfamiliar handwriting, dealing with damaged texts, and interpreting dates and unusual vocabulary. There will be coffee, tea and cake from 11am in the Common Room of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies for those attending in person.

Please note that in Week 5 the Medieval Hebrew Reading Group will join the Medieval AngloJewish Texts and History seminar (please see further information below); this will not be available for online participants.

For further information about this reading group or for any other queries, please email Dr Joseph O'Hara at [joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk). In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xxbFantGTrifTi1mS-4P7g>

## Medieval Anglo-Jewish Texts and History

Week 5 Thursday, 20 February 2025, from 9:30 am to 5.00 pm

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

This group convenes once a term to read together unpublished Hebrew and Latin documents from Medieval England as sources for the history of the Jews before the expulsion of 1290



# Opportunities

## OMS Small Grants Now Open!

The TORCH [Oxford Medieval Studies Programme](#) invites applications for small grants to support conferences, workshops, and other forms of collaborative research activity organised by researchers at postgraduate (whether MSt or DPhil) or early-career level from across the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford.

The scheme has a rolling deadline. **Closing date for applications: Friday of Week 4 each term** for activities taking place during that or the following term. An additional deadline for summer activities and Michaelmas Term is **last Friday of July**.

Grants are *normally* in the region of £100-250 and can either be for expenses or for administrative and organisational support such as publicity, filming or zoom hosting. They can also be used to support staging a play for the [Medieval Mystery Cycle](#), e.g. for buying props or material for costumes. Recipients will be required to supply a report after the event for the [Oxford Medieval Studies blog](#) and will be invited to present on their award at an OMS event.

Applicants will be responsible for all administrative aspects of the activity, including formulating the theme and intellectual rationale, devising the format, and, depending on the type of event, inviting speakers and/or issuing a Call for Papers, organising the schedule, and managing the budget, promotion and advertising.

Applications should be submitted to Prof. [Lesley Smith](#) using either the [word grant application form](#) or fill out the [online form](#). Informal enquiries may also be directed to Lesley. The Oxford Medieval Studies Programme money is administered by [The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities \(TORCH\)](#) and the money will be paid out via their expenses system.

## Old Frisian Summer School announcement/taster session

The Oxford/Groningen 2025 Old Frisian Summer School (OFSS25) will take place in Groningen (Netherlands), 7th-11th July. This will be a fun way to learn Old Frisian in a week, to view original Old Frisian manuscripts and to see the world heritage landscape of old Frisian 'terps' or dwelling mounds.

Theme of the OFSS25 : Old Frisian : A Gem within the Old Germanic Languages.

The OFSS25 should be of special interest to students (UG and PG) and Early Career Researchers of Old English, Old Norse, Old High German or Gothic who are interested in learning Old Frisian. You will be taught grammar and practice translation in hands-on workshops. Invited speakers will give lectures by on the Old Frisian text corpus and history to provide historical and cultural context. Library visits to view the manuscripts are on the programme and a tour around the 'terps' will be organised on 12th July.

Further info: <https://www.rug.nl/education/summer-winter-schools/old-frisian/>

Questions?? Attend as a taster session a lecture by Johanneke Sytsema (as part of Henrike Lähnemann's lecture series 'Topics in Historical Linguistics') on

**Strong Verbs Across English, Frisian, Dutch, Low German, High German,**  
an introduction to the crucial place of Frisian in the history of Germanic Languages

**Venue: Taylor Library, room 2, Date: Friday week 5 (21 Feb), 2-3pm**

Or email Johanneke Sytsema on [oldfrisian@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oldfrisian@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk)



## JRF in Manuscript Studies at the Queen's College

The Queen's College in the University of Oxford is offering a three-year Junior Research Fellowship in Manuscript and Text Cultures as part of its [Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures](#). Specialisations considered are the ancient and early medieval Near and Middle East, the ancient and early medieval Mediterranean, the ancient and early medieval East, South, and South-East Asia, or early medieval Europe. Candidates' research should reflect the methods and concerns of the Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures, i.e., candidates should have a research agenda examining material aspects of writing and text-production, as well as transmission and the interface between the oral and the written, before the widespread adoption of printed texts and across the literate societies within their area of expertise. Candidates researching areas that are underrepresented in UK universities are particularly welcome to apply, as are those combining traditional humanities research with innovative use of information technology or AI, and those who seek to enhance their research by collaboration with colleagues from other disciplines.

Further particulars: [Junior Research Fellowship in Manuscript and Text Cultures - The Queen's College](#)  
The closing date midday (UK time) 17 February 2025.

## Publishing with the Journal Manuscript and Text Cultures

Are you interested in submitting to the journal [Manuscript and Text Cultures](#)? Please review the [About the Journal](#) page for the journal's section policies, as well as the [Author Guidelines](#). Authors need to [register](#) with the journal prior to submitting or, if already registered, can simply [log in](#) and begin the five-step process.

## CfP The Sorrowful Virgin. Medieval and Early Modern Devotion

When: Monday 24 March 2025

Where: St Hugh's College

Images of the Sorrowful Virgin, whether in the form of Michelangelo's *Pietà*, or Mary at the foot of the Cross on the Isenheim altarpiece are ubiquitous in medieval and early modern culture. Liturgically this was explored through the *Stabat Mater*, while vernacular writers found in the Marian lament a vehicle through which the Virgin could speak, offering a route for affective engagement with Mary's suffering. The Reformation and Counter-Reformation inflected the ways in which the Sorrowful Virgin was presented, as devotions such as the Seven Sorrows served as spiritual models for more standardized monastic environments in the post-Tridentine period. Moreover, with colonisation of the New World, Marian devotion took on new emphases.

This interdisciplinary workshop will investigate the Sorrowful Virgin in medieval and early modern culture, in which we aim to engage with some of these questions. The workshop will include a hands-on session with material objects and a performance of an early modern lament. We have entitled this workshop 'The Sorrowful Virgin' to encompass the many manifestations of this devotion, from the Seven Sorrows to the *Mater Dolorosa* and welcome broad interpretations of the theme.

We are looking for proposals for 20-minute papers on all aspects of this devotion in medieval and early modern culture, and encourage submissions from those in the fields of History, Music, Medieval Languages and Literature, Theology, and Art History including but not limited to:

- Vernacular poetry
- Musical Settings
- Performativity
- Liturgy
- Iconography
- Material Culture
- Theological development
- Affective piety
- Reformation
- Counter-Reformation
- Monastic devotion

Please send proposals of 250 words along with a short bio to [Anna Wilmore](#) and [Taro Kobayashi](#) by 24th January 2025. We aim to respond by the 1st February.



## London Rare Books School Short Course on Digital Editing

Time: 14:00-16:00, 29 January 2025 & 31 January 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

This short course surveys the traditions and principles of scholarly editing and textual scholarship, complemented with hands-on workshops on the fundamentals of creating digital editions, including a rigorous overview of the Text Encoding Initiative guidelines.

This short course is part of the London Rare Books School

Course Fees: · Standard: £90 · Concession\*: £60 (\*student/unwaged)

This course will be delivered via a mix of asynchronous video tutorials and live Zoom sessions on Wednesday and Friday, we will offer basic instruction in encoding text editions in TEI using a standard XML editor.

The course is limited to 15 delegates and bookings must be made by the 21st January 2025. Registration link: <https://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/digital-editing>

## Create a Digital Edition using LEAF Commons

Time: 12:00-17:00, 13 February 2025

Location: MakerSpace, Second Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Are you interested in encoding texts for literary and linguistic study? Do you want to publish your data but are not sure how? Are you about to embark on a text analysis project and are unsure of the tools available to you? Do you want to follow the FAIR principles of data? Do you have some familiarity with XML and TEI and want to experiment with new workflows? Anyone with these questions and more is welcome at the 'Creating a Digital Edition using LEAF Commons' Workshop.

LEAF Commons is a suite of independent but interoperable tools created as part of the LEAF-VRE to provide a web-based environment for researchers who want to create, encode, and publish cultural and scholarly materials. In this workshop, James Cummings (Newcastle University), one of the team behind LEAF-VRE, will walk us through how to use LEAF-Writer and other LEAF Commons tools and their benefits.

Although using LEAF-Writer needs only basic XML and TEI familiarity, this workshop is predominantly aimed at those with some experience in both, or looking to use LEAF-Writer as part of a team interested in conducting research using textual data. Both researchers of all levels - including postgraduate students - are welcome.

This is a joint event held between the School of Advanced Study's Digital Humanities Research Hub and the Oxford Text Archive, the UK repository for literary and linguistic data, based at the University of Oxford.

Lunch will be provided. Please do join us!

All welcome

This event is free to attend, but booking is required. This event is in-person only at Senate House in London. Registration link: <https://www.sas.ac.uk/news-events/events/create-digital-edition-using-leaf-commons>

## Getting Started with Transkribus (title TBC)

Time: 12:00-17:00, 24 February 2025

Location: Room 2.20, Edinburgh Futures Institute, 1 Lauriston Pl, Edinburgh EH3 9EF

Do you work with handwritten documents and need a tool that can perform automatic text recognition? Are you interested in automated methods but do not know where to start, or if they are worth your time? Come join us for this workshop with Joe Nockels (University of Sheffield) to learn more about automatic text recognition, machine vision, and how to use Transkribus.

This is a joint event held between the Oxford Text Archive, READ-COOP, and the Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture, and Society.



Lunch will be provided. Please do join us!

This event is free to attend, but booking is required. This event is in-person only at the Futures Institute at the University of Edinburgh.

Registration link: TBA

## MLD Biblical Studies Symposium (14th edition)

Iași, Romania, 5th-7th June 2025

Romanian Association of Philology and Biblical Hermeneutics (AFHBR) and Centre for Biblical and Philological Studies “Monumenta linguae Dacoromanorum” (ICI-DSU, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași) are pleased to invite you to the “Investigations into Romanian and European Biblical Traditions” International Symposium (14th Edition), Iași, Romania, 5-7 June 2025.

Started in 2010, this annual symposium aims to encourage multi- and interdisciplinary debates on the issues raised by the publication, translation, interpretation, dissemination and reception of sacred texts into Romanian and other ancient and modern languages. Over the years, our special guests have included Emanuel Tov, Sebastian Brock, Michael Metzeltin, Natalio Fernández Marcos, Claudio García Turza, Martin Meiser, Jose Krasovec, to name but a few.

Main sections:

1. Philological Challenges
2. Translation Challenges
3. Biblical Hermeneutics
4. Sacred Texts’ Historical Reception

Presentations should be 30 minutes in length (including 5-10 minutes for questions and discussion). After a peer-review process, the selected papers will be published in *Reception of the Holy Scriptures: at the crossroads between philology, hermeneutics and translation studies* (“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Press, Iași).

Please send paper proposals to: [simpozionmld@gmail.com](mailto:simpozionmld@gmail.com) by 15 February 2025. Proposals should include a title, an abstract (150-200 words) and bibliography. Please also mention your institutional affiliation and academic degree.

February 15th, 2025 - abstract submission

March 1st, 2025 - notification of acceptance

March 20th, 2025 - fee payment (40 EUR; for AFHBR members: 20 EUR)

June 5th - 7th, 2025 - conference days

July 30th, 2025 - full paper submission for the proceedings of the conference

For details see: [https://mld.uaic.ro/simpozionMLD\\_en.html/](https://mld.uaic.ro/simpozionMLD_en.html/)



## MAA/GSC Grant for Innovation in Community Building & Professionalization

The MAA/GSC Grant will be awarded annually to an individual or graduate student group from one or more universities. The purpose of this grant is to stimulate new and innovative efforts that support pre-professionalization, encourage communication and collaboration across diverse groups of graduate students, and build communities amongst graduate student medievalists. Examples of such projects include: a graduate student conference; an online journal; a lecture or workshop series; a collective excursion to an archive, museum, architectural or archaeological site; performances (of medieval music, medieval drama, etc); or the creation of collaborative digital humanities projects, to name but several possibilities. This grant is therefore intended to support a wide range of activities by investing in the merits of innovative new approaches that simultaneously build professional communities and promote research, publication, and teaching.

Awards will be based on detailed grant proposals adjudicated by the Academy's Committee on Professional Development in consultation with the GSC Chair. Recipients will be required to submit a progress report to the Academy and to the GSC and will be invited to present their activities and findings at a special MAA GSC panel at Kalamazoo, Leeds, or the MAA Annual Meeting. Preference will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate a level of practical professionalization, contributing in some form to the development of skilled research, teaching, or publication that prepares graduate students for success and advancement in academic careers. The feasibility of implementation within 12 months, the promotion strategy, and a demonstrated need for the grant in order to complete the project successfully are also important factors in the evaluation. In general, one (1) grant of \$2,000 will be awarded, but the award may be divided among multiple projects at the discretion of the adjudication committee.

The deadline to apply for this grant of up to \$2,000 is February 15th, but applicants should be advised that you must be a member of the MAA by January 15th to be eligible. Membership information may be found [HERE](#).

Interested folks may submit their application materials online [HERE](#), and I'd be happy to address any questions directly via my email address ([lel7qsf@virginia.edu](mailto:lel7qsf@virginia.edu)) or via the GSC's email address ([gsc@themedievalacademy.org](mailto:gsc@themedievalacademy.org)).



# Accessibility and Updates

Inside is the full programme of medieval events taking place in Oxford in Hilary Term 2025. The booklet does not claim to be comprehensive. It only includes such entries as were submitted. If you wish to have further information for the seminars listed in this booklet, please consult the name of the convener of the seminar (where given) or the appropriate Faculty.

Please send any entries for next term's booklet to Tristan Alphey at [medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:medieval@torch.ox.ac.uk). Any further suggestions: get in contact with Henrike Lähnemann, Lesley Smith or Tristan Alphey, either via email or teams.

What is happening:

- A shared calendar on the website on <https://medieval.ox.ac.uk/> and [torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies)
- Regular email updates via the mailing list [medieval-news@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:medieval-news@maillist.ox.ac.uk); if you are not on the list, you can also **sign up on the website** [torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies). Should you know of any medievalist new to Oxford - whether student, staff, or academic visitor - please also alert them to the list.
- Podcasts and videos about medievalists and medieval projects on the podcast and itunes server of the University [podcasts.ox.ac.uk](https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk)
- And finally: weekly coffee mornings in the Visiting Scholars Centre of the Weston Library! If you have an exciting Special Collections related theme you would like to talk about, get in contact with Dr Chris Fletcher, Keeper of Special Collections.



**OxMedievalStudies**

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OxMedievalStudies is the interdisciplinary platform for medieval studies across Oxford supported by @TORCHOxford Follow us for events & knowledge exchange across disciplines

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**Medievalists  
Coffee Morning!  
Friday 10:30-11:30**

**Visiting  
Scholars Centre  
in the Weston Library.**

Access via the Readers Entrance on Museum Road  
All medievalists working in Oxford welcome!

