

**Report on EM 1060 to 1220 Project symposium  
Leicester, April 2010**

The second Project symposium was held in Leicester on the 27 and 28 April 2010. Papers were delivered by the Project team, with Elaine Treharne in attendance by Skype--stranded by the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud's cancellation of flights. The following scholars spoke in three superb sessions. The first of these was 'ENGLISH MANUSCRIPTS 1060 TO 1220' AND RELATED PROJECTS', where Aidan Conti spoke about 'Preservation, Representation and Reconstruction' and Kathryn Powell, illustrated the findings of her AHRC-Project on Eleventh-Century English glosses, in 'English After the Conquest: The Evidence of Annotations'. In the second session, 'THE "ENGLISH MANUSCRIPTS 1060 TO 1220" PROJECT AND THE SCHOLARLY MILIEU', Julia Crick discussed 'Being Anglo-Saxon? Norman Imitation of Pre-Conquest English Script: Possibilities and Limitations'; and Michael Gullick gave an overview of 'Languages and Scribes in Romanesque Books and Modern Scholarship: Looking and Seeing'. In the third session, designed to integrate and showcase the work of PhD students associated with the Project and its Directors, Thomas Gobbitt revealed his work on the 'Archaeology of the Book: Codicology, Context-Sheets and Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 383' and Chris Tuckley presented his research on 'The Manuscripts of St Guthlac's Priory, Hereford'.

In the opening paper of the symposium, written by the Project team, the key aspects of the Project's work, illustrated by some case-studies, were highlighted for the audience, all of whom were invited to participate in the symposium because of their work in the field and their knowledge of manuscripts in the post-Conquest period. The in-depth conversation included questions and answers about how transcriptions and descriptions were to be presented in the final version of the website; how data might be made searchable; and what evidence exists for the movement of scribes between languages in the period. The Project's openness, especially to scholars who wished to use the Project's data, was commended. The Project team outlined its experiences: these included the recognition that new research tools need to be developed in order to advance medieval palaeographical and textual studies; and that current terminology--such as that for labelling scripts--is inadequate, poorly understood, and generally too variable. While some participants were interested in the quality of the work produced by scribes in English, the Project was keen to point out that these aesthetic or qualitative concerns can only succeed the identification of the full corpus of manuscripts, which the e-book and the chapter containing the Catalogue might have succeeding in doing.

In the closing paper of an immensely helpful, interesting and engaging symposium, Professor John Thompson from Queen's University, Belfast--a medievalist, and a member of the AHRC Panel for English--presented his thoughts on 'The Future of the "English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220" Project and Working with the AHRC'. In this paper, he discussed cultural mapping as an important way forward for scholars' apprehension of manuscript production in the medieval period; he raised issues of importance tackling research into scribal practises, including the appearance and function of marginalia, the uses of diplomatic hands, and the essential need to work across languages. He concluded by raising pointers to future ways of thinking about medieval studies broadly: the desideratum for 'getting methodological', especially in relation to genuinely inter- or cross-disciplinary research and for linking the medieval with the modern. The imperative to identify further funding opportunities and to facilitate the training of future generations happily pointed the way forward for the Project and its associates, all of whom were thanked for their support of the Project during its five years of funding.