



MANUSCRIPTS ON MY MIND

News from the Vatican Film Library

No. 1 August 2010

Welcome New Resources Manuscripta Conference 2010

New Acquisitions Call for Papers 2011



EDITOR'S WELCOME

I AM VERY PLEASED TO LAUNCH the first issue of "Manuscripts on my Mind," produced by the Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University. For those of you already acquainted with the VFL, this newsletter will update you on our current activities and describe new resources to be found on our website. For newcomers, the link below will introduce you to the history of our library, its collections and activities, and the many opportunities and resources for manuscript studies available both on site and online. They include the largest holdings outside Vatican City of manuscripts on microfilm from the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (around 37,000); Jesuit historical documents on microfilm; the Manly-Rickert collection of 85 Chaucer manuscripts on microfilm; approximately 12,000 titles of printed books from the Vatican Library's Biblioteca Palatina on microfiche; as well as other microfilms of rare and out-of-print books. Make a virtual visit and learn more:

<http://libraries.slu.edu/special/vfl/index.html>

Susan L'Engle

Editor



NEW RESEARCH RESOURCES

The **Resources** page on our website now offers a series of finding aids for locating specific authors and texts in our microfilm collections.

1. An extensive master topical bibliography lists scholarly publications and gives shelfmarks of all Vatican Library manuscripts discussed, described, or mentioned therein.

2. Complementing the microfilm database that includes shelfmarks of our copies of non-Vatican manuscripts on microfilm, a new research guide lists these manuscripts in order of holding institution and further classifies each manuscript by author, title, date, and language.

3. A research bibliography on Hebrew manuscripts in the Vatican Library (from the Borgiani ebraici, Urbinati ebraici, and Vaticani ebraici collections), provides references to publications that supply codicological, paleographical, or decorative information.

4. *Microfilm Resources for Various Disciplines* identifies manuscripts of biblical, historical, and classical texts, and manuscripts written in various vernacular languages, along with their shelfmarks and microfilm roll numbers. [All these research tools will be updated periodically.](#)

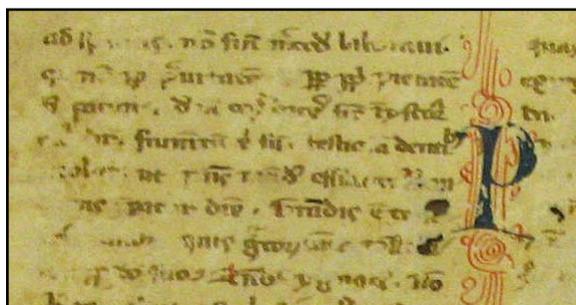
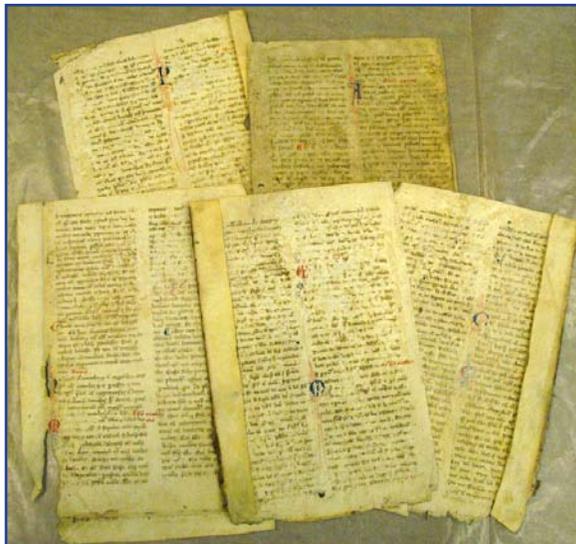
2010 SAINT LOUIS CONFERENCE ON MANUSCRIPT STUDIES, OCTOBER 15-16



The program and abstracts for the Thirty-Seventh Annual Saint Louis Conference are now available online at <http://libraries.slu.edu/special/vfl/conference/index.html>. The Lowrie Daly Lecture (15 October) will be delivered by **Lawrence Nees** from the University of Delaware. Please see page 4 of the newsletter for this year's poster, which we hope you will print out, display, and circulate, along with the 2011 Call for Papers on page 3.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference, and in forthcoming years!

Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library
Pius XII Memorial Library Saint Louis University
<http://libraries.slu.edu/special/vfl/>

NEW ACQUISITIONS 

The newest addition to Saint Louis University's medieval and Renaissance manuscript collection (curated by the Vatican Film Library) is a series of ten leaves from a copy of Jacobus de Voragine's *Legenda aurea*. They have received the shelfmark numbers MS 57a–j. Rescued from bindings, it is interesting that, not only do they all come from the same, previously unknown manuscript, but two pairs of leaves run consecutively in their texts.

Written in two columns of 40 lines, the vellum folios measure an average of 221 x 154 mm. 2–3-line penwork initials, alternating red and blue with delicate flourish in the opposite color, open the individual saints' lives. Although the leaves have been dated to ca. 1300, the script and decoration may indicate a later date. We welcome input from readers as to date and place of production, and would be interested to learn if anyone has seen other leaves from the same manuscript. Please contact the Editor directly (lengles@slu.edu) with any information, ideas, or conjecture.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 

Two fellowship programs are available to support research by qualified scholars in the collections of the Vatican Film Library. The Vatican Film Library Mellon Fellowship is offered through the Vatican Film Library for research of periods between two and eight weeks in length. The NEH Research Fellowship is offered through the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University for scholars resident during the fall or spring terms. This fellowship encompasses research conducted in both the Vatican Film Library and in the rare book and manuscript collections of Pius XII Memorial Library. Consult the website for more details about these programs, instructions on how to apply, and application dates.

 SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE TO *MANUSCRIPTA*

Some of you may not be acquainted with our journal *Manuscripta*, dedicated to research on medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and published through Brepols twice a year. We encourage you to submit articles on topics including but not limited to paleography, codicology, illumination, library history, reading and literacy, and manuscript cataloguing—in short, information relating to the physicality of the codex. A special section called “Manuscript Notes” is a place to share significant preliminary observations or speculations with the manuscript community, aiming to foster comments and discussion.

Submissions are peer reviewed by the double-blind method, in which author and reviewer are unknown to each other. For more information, please visit the *Manuscripta* page on our website.

Call for Papers

Thirty-Eighth Annual Saint Louis Conference
on Manuscript Studies 📖 October 14–15, 2011

The keynote speaker for 2011 will be **Michelle P. Brown** (University of London). We invite scholars to submit paper proposals for the three conference sessions described below. Please send titles and abstracts of no more than 300 words to Susan L'Engle (lengles@slu.edu).

Deadline for Submissions: January 15, 2011

Writing the Scribe

Recent work in paleography and history has assessed the cultural identities of the scribe as a stenographer, historian, copier, visual programmer, and creative compiler of new texts. By following recognized or recognizable scribes as they “figure out” their books within regional schools, within discrete scriptoria, or when facing unique organizational challenges, this session seeks methodologically innovative approaches to the problem of writing the scribal biography. Particularly welcome would be papers that move beyond a straightforward assessment of regional styles. We anticipate works that investigate how period, culturally specific scripts, and codicological choices inform modern viewers about various historical moments and courtly or monastic identities.



The Peripatetic Codex

A book as a moveable entity to be carried, gifted, sent, collected or otherwise transported is the focus of this session. When examined as products of a material culture, peripatetic books provide insight into both social and economic valuing of these objects of information. This session is open to scholars who wish to explore the nature of the material movement of books, whether focusing on evidence of information passed, scribal or artistic influence, provenance, the financial value of the object itself, or any other aspect of these intrinsically portable objects.

Utilitarian Texts

Cooking, cleaning, animal husbandry, personal hygiene, and comportment are, perhaps, not the most romantic of topics. Yet these subjects were the focus of both scholars and household managers and deemed worthy enough for compilation in manuscript format. How were these books used? Were they truly the equivalent of a modern Good Housekeeping®-style attempt at practicality or, rather, were they top-down treatises intended for idealized behavior of specific social classes or genders? What role did any visual illustration, such as diagrams, sketches, or illuminations serve for readers? This session invites papers dedicated to a broad range of “useful” manuscripts, both illustrated and non-illustrated.



Thirty-Seventh Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies

15-16 October 2010



Keynote Lecture:
Lowrie S. Daly, SJ, Lecture on Manuscript Studies

LAWRENCE NEES

University of Delaware

“Reading and Seeing: The Beginnings of Book
Illumination and the Modern Discourse on Ethnicity”

Registration, accommodations and program information:

<http://libraries.slu.edu/special/vfl/conference/index.html>; for inquiries, contact
Barbara Channell: tel: (314) 977-3090; fax: (314) 977-3108; email: channellbj@slu.edu

MANUSCRIPTA