

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

## **Medieval Manuscripts Seminar: Autumn Term 2019**

Dr Seng T Lee Centre for Manuscript and Book Studies, Senate House Library, London WC1E 7HU

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

22 October 2019

Simon Horobin, University of Oxford

### **Methods of Scribal Identification: What next for Adam Pinkhurst?**

Since Linne Mooney's 2004 identification of Adam Pinkhurst as 'Chaucer's Scribe' there has been much debate about her claims, most recently in Lawrence Warner's *Chaucer's Scribes* (CUP, 2018). In this paper I will revisit these discussions and consider their implications for the identification of scribal hands in multiple manuscripts. What are the methodological challenges and how can they be overcome? Is it possible to develop a methodology that will result in greater scholarly consensus?

12 November 2019

Aditi Nafde, University of Newcastle

### **Scribal Responses to the Printing Press**

This paper 'venture[s]' as Curt Buhler puts it in *The Fifteenth Century Book*, 'into that no man's land which is supposed, quite erroneously, to lie between the worlds of the written and printed books.' It asks what happens to manuscripts and scribal practice after the invention of the printing press. Examining manuscripts copied from printed books, it demonstrates how scribes were rethinking what it was to make a book after print. These books are also witnesses to broader changes in the book trade and to the culture of adaptation and negotiation between book forms.

3 December 2019 – EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER DOUBLE-BILL

Francesco Marzella, University of Cambridge

### **The Manuscript Tradition of the *Vita Merlini***

This paper explores the manuscript tradition of the *Vita Merlini*, a hexametrical poem (1529 lines) written by Geoffrey of Monmouth in c. 1150. Special attention will be paid to ms XVI Q 14 in York Minster Library, a witness that was not used for the most recent critical edition (1973). A description of the manuscript will be followed by the analysis of some of its variant readings that will prove the importance of this witness for a new edition of the poem.

John Hampson, King's College London

### **Some Problems in the Manuscript Tradition of the Letters of Hildebert of Lavardin**

Hildebert of Lavardin (d. 1133), bishop of Le Mans and then archbishop of Tours, was one of the major figures in the twelfth century renaissance of Latinity in northern Europe, the author of letters, poems and prosimetra, sermons and saints' lives. His correspondence provides a fascinating glimpse into the world of a well-connected working medieval bishop, but today he is little known, perhaps partly because there is no modern edition or translation of the letters - the most recent edition dates from 1708. It has long been recognised that collections of the letters, which survive in over 100 manuscripts, fall into distinct groups, but the relationships between these have remained unexplored. This paper sets out an approach to examining this issue in preparation for a new edition.

Organisers: Julia Crick, King's College London, and David Rundle, University of Kent