



TOEBI Newsletter

TEACHERS OF OLD ENGLISH IN BRITAIN AND
IRELAND

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TOEBI Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland Annual Conference 2006 *Collaboration*

Saturday 28 October 2006
University of Leicester

PROGRAMME

- 9.30 Registration and Coffee
- 10.00-12.00 Morning session introduced and chaired by Dr Jayne Carroll (Leicester)
- Dr Jennifer Neville (Royal Holloway, London)
Collaboration in the collegiate institution
- Dr Philip Shaw (Sheffield)
White Rose funding — the Yorkshire universities
- Dr Elizabeth Tyler (York)
Collaboration between disciplines: historians and literary scholars
- Dr Richard Dance (St. Catharine's College, Cambridge):
Never mind the bullocks? The many meetings of the etymologist
- 12.00-1.00 Lunch and Committee Meeting
- 1.00-3.00 Afternoon session chaired by [to be announced]
- Professor John Thompson (QUB)
Collaboration and the RAE
- Professor Judith Jesch (Nottingham)
Interdisciplinary, inter-institutional projects: the Viking Identities Network
- Professor Joyce Hill (Leeds)
The lone scholar in a world of collaboration
- 3.00-3.15 Tea, coffee, and biscuits
- 3.15 Annual General Meeting of TOEBI
- 3.45 Coach leaves Leicester for Brixworth lecture

Brixworth Lecture 2006

Saturday 28 October, the day of the TOEBI Conference and AGM, is also the date of the 2006 Brixworth Lecture. This year's speaker is Professor Elaine Treharne (Leicester), and her topic is 'Gluttons for Punishment? The Drunk and Disorderly in Anglo-Saxon Homilies'. The lecture is held in the magnificent Anglo-Saxon church of All Saints at Brixworth in Northamptonshire. This is one of the finest and largest examples of Anglo-Saxon churches in England; it has a stair turret built outside the tower, and many tiles dating from the Roman occupation of England have been found built into the arches. The church also houses the thirteenth-century tomb of John de Verdun.

Provided there is sufficient interest the TOEBI conference organisers hope to organise a coach to transport conference delegates from Leicester to Brixworth and back. Further details from Jayne Carroll, jc237@le.ac.uk.

TOEBI Conference Awards 2006

The TOEBI Conference Award scheme is now in its third year of operation. The successful applicants in the 2006 competition were:

- Abdullah Alger, University of Manchester, £100, to present a paper entitled 'Flourishes and Run-Overs in the "Exeter Book"', at the Leeds IMC, July 2006;
- Maria Artamonova, Linacre College, University of Oxford, £104, to present a paper entitled 'Word Order Variation in Old English Coordinate Clauses: the Rule of St. Benedict vs. the Rule of Chrodegang', at the 14th International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, Bergamo, August 2006;
- Victoria Bristow, University of Nottingham, £200 to present a paper entitled 'Scripts for Preaching in Anglo-Saxon England: The Evidence of Manuscript Layout and the Booklet Format', at the Leeds IMC, July 2006;
- Mark Faulkner, St. John's College, Oxford, £70, to present a paper entitled 'Mapping the Text: Reading, Writing, and Locating Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts', at the Leeds IMC July 2006;
- Lorraine Taylor, Queen's University, Belfast, £75, to present a paper entitled 'O, what a tangled web: the sixteenth-century reception of the Old English Bede

Manuscripts', at the Borderlines conference, National University of Ireland, Galway, April 2006;

- Beth Tovey, University of Oxford, £200, to present a paper entitled 'Masculinity in Anglo-Saxon Literature', at the Leeds IMC, July 2006.

It is likely that the competition for awards for 2007 will be announced earlier in the year than has been our previous practice. Details will be circulated to members electronically and will also be posted on the TOEBI website. Please remind your postgraduate students of the existence of the TOEBI conference awards scheme and encourage them to apply.

TOEBI Award Report

TOEBI kindly granted me £70 towards the cost of attending the International Medieval Congress at Leeds University, where I presented a paper entitled 'Manuscript Layout and the Interpretation of Old English Verse' during a session on 'Mapping the Text: Reading, Writing, and Locating Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts', curated by Dr Alexander Rumble under the auspices of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies.

This was the first time I had attended the IMC, and the funds from TOEBI enabled me to present a paper on a subject tangential to my doctoral research. Recent interpretations of Old English poetry have become increasingly ingenious, and I felt it was important to make an intervention which would reassert the importance of the manuscript witnesses as a control for these interpretations. Examining features like *mise-en-page*, word division, punctuation and accentuation, I attempted to infer the type of reading encouraged by manuscripts of vernacular poetry, and how this reading might differ from other types of text copied in Anglo-Saxon England. The IMC was certainly the most well-equipped conference at which I have presented, and I am grateful to TOEBI for enabling me to experience such conditions.

The funds from TOEBI also enabled me to attend the other sessions held on the first two days of the conference. These sessions helped me to keep abreast with current research, as well as to meet other academics interested in the fifty years after the Norman Conquest which are the focus of my doctoral research.

By turns I found the IMC impressive, overwhelming and reassuring (Anglo-Saxonists aren't such a rare breed!), but overall

proved a marvellous experience. I am most grateful to TOEBI for their help in making it possible.

Mark Faulkner
St. John's College, Oxford

Further conference award reports will appear in the Spring Issue.

Changing Faces

Congratulations to the TOEBI Secretary, Elisabeth Okasha, who was promoted to the rank of professor at University College Cork earlier this year. Also in the Department of English at UCC Dr Kenneth Rooney has been appointed to a permanent lectureship in Medieval and Renaissance English, and Dr Carrie Griffin to a one-year temporary lectureship in the same area, replacing Dr Andrew King whilst he takes up a fellowship sponsored by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In Dublin Dr Niamh Pattwell has been appointed to a permanent lectureship in Old and Middle English at University College (UCD), whilst Dr Neil Cartlidge is moving from UCD to the University of Durham. At Trinity College (TCD) Brendan O'Connell has been appointed to a one-year post in medieval literature.

Congratulations to Dr Alison Wiggins who is moving from a post at the Centre for Lives and Letters at Queen Mary University, London, to take up a lectureship in Middle English in the Department of English Language, University of Glasgow.

Please send information about recent appointments or retirements in your department to the Editor. And encourage your new colleagues to become members of TOEBI! Application forms can be downloaded from the TOEBI website.

Palaeography Scheme for Medieval Studies in Wales

Manuscript studies are on the 'up' at the moment, with large-scale projects ongoing around the country, particularly focused on the

dissemination and reception of Old English texts (Leicester), historical literature (Queen's, Belfast), urban culture (York), and regional culture (Birmingham), to name but a few. Similarly, a renewal of interest is notable on the part of postgraduates engaged in research on medieval topics. Various successful training courses have been organised over the years, focusing both on Middle English (Quadrivium project) or Latin (London summer school).

Building on an old tradition in palaeography and codicology training at Bangor and Aberystwyth, Dr Raluca Radulescu organised, with AHRC funding, a new doctoral training scheme designed for students in the broad area of medieval studies. The scheme ran during 2005-6 and involved MA and doctoral students in University of Wales colleges. Some special features made the training scheme unique; on the one hand students from a variety of departments participated (from English, History, Archaeology and Welsh) and shared a common trunk of teaching before moving into their specialist areas, on the other, a cross-disciplinary forum for discussion was established among students and staff through discussion papers. Additional funds were given by AMARC (The Association for Medieval Archives in Research Collections) to support MA students, whose participation was essential for their future study, but who did not fall under the remit of the initial AHRC award.

The scheme consisted in a series of video conference seminars focusing on Old English (given by Prof. Elaine Treharne, University of Leicester) and Middle English (given by Prof. Wendy Scase, University of Birmingham), and an intensive training session was held at the conference centre of the University of Wales, Gregynog (17-20 March 2006). Over 34 students and 10 staff participated, benefiting from the expertise of the main teaching staff, Dr Susan Davies, Aberystwyth (documentary hands), Prof. A.S.G. Edwards, De Montfort (book hands, more specifically Middle English), and Dr Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan, National Library of Wales (Welsh). The programme included additional sessions or discussion papers, given by Dr Helen Phillips (Cardiff), Dr Elisabeth Salter (Aberystwyth), Dr Takako Kato (De Montfort, but at the time, the Quadrivium Project, Glasgow), and Prof. Andrew Prescott (formerly Curator of Manuscripts at the British Library). The social side of the workshop was no less enjoyable, given that Gregynog provides such excellent surroundings; the various informal gatherings, either for the St. Patrick's quiz night or for subsequent bar

nights and the conference dinner, were occasions for students and staff to meet and exchange views. Last but not least the workshop benefited from a last session on Monday morning when all students were required to report on their current research and the place of manuscript work in their projects, as well as to provide in-depth feedback about the workshop and future demand for similar events.

A subsequent day trip to the National Library of Wales also provided students with specialist advice on their current projects, while opening up new areas of interest for future research. Furthermore, the blackboard module set up at Bangor in support of teaching and scholarly debate was enhanced by the generous offer of unique manuscript images from the collection of Prof. Toshiyuki Takamiya. The website for this scheme is available at:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/palaeography-training/index.php?menu=0&catid=0>.

Comments from the students and staff ranged from 'the speakers' enthusiasm made everything such a positive experience' (Chiara, Bangor), 'everything ran so smoothly and successfully' (Tomos, Cardiff), 'I am intensely grateful, as I believe this is a skill that no historian should go without' (Eryn, Bangor).

Following from this successful scheme, the AHRC has allowed the training to run for a second year, with the remaining funds. The interdisciplinary focus of the training scheme contributed to presenting a more integrated perspective on studying manuscripts, whether from the literary or historical view, in English, Latin or Welsh. The students' interest in more than one area, and the evident demand for more training point to the importance of continuing to investigate new avenues for promoting the study of manuscripts.

Raluca Radulescu
University of Wales, Bangor

The Production and Use of English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220

Enclosed with this issue of the *TOEBI Newsletter* is the second volume of the newsletter from the English Manuscripts 1060 to 1220 Project. This five-year project, which is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), began in 2005 and is a collaborative enterprise between the universities of Leeds and Leicester, directed by

Elaine Treharne and Mary Swan, with the assistance of Orietta da Rold. It aims to identify, analyse and evaluate all manuscripts containing English written in England between 1060 and 1220, and to produce an analytical corpus of this material. It will also investigate a series of principal research questions relating to manuscript production, use, and audience. The Project Newsletter gives an account of progress so far, and contains a number of interesting reports of on-going research by younger scholars. There is also a thought-provoking piece contributed by Professor Elaine Treharne on the plethora of periodizing labels that we use for our subject (not just 'Old English', but 'Old', 'Middle', 'Modern', and further 'early Old', 'late Old', 'Standard Old', 'early Middle', etc.) The inevitable fragmentation of our subject which follows from this use of labels leads her to suggest that we should adopt instead an umbrella term such as 'Medieval' or 'Early English', following the example of the founding fathers of the Early English Text Society.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about the project should consult the website www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/ or e-mail the directors at em1060to1220@le.ac.uk.

Medieval Book Found in Irish Bog

In July *The Irish Times* and other sources reported the discovery of an ancient manuscript in a south midlands bog. Dug up by a backhoe was a psalter copied on vellum, with a vellum binding, dated to between 800-1000. Pat Wallace, the director of the National Museum of Ireland, described the discovery as of 'staggering importance'. 'In my wildest hopes, I could only have dreamed of a discovery as fragile and rare as this. It testifies to the incredible richness of the early Christian civilisation of this island and to the greatness of ancient Ireland', he was quoted as saying. Part of Psalm 83 is legible. The volume is currently undergoing restoration and repair in the museum's conservation laboratory at Collins Barracks in Dublin.

Middle English Association!

As trends are moving towards 'early modern studies' across the country, in places leaving behind the Middle Ages altogether, Middle English is increasingly at risk, as much as Old

English used to be (and still is). However, no association of the kind is in place, one that would defend the interests of all those involved in the teaching of the subject in all literature as well as language departments.

On the other hand, more general organisations, created to defend ‘medieval studies’ are currently being discussed. Such an initiative was discussed at this year’s International Medieval Congress at Leeds, with a view to establishing a ‘CARA-Europe’ association, as an extension of CARA, the teaching ‘arm’ of the Medieval Academy of America. While a number of European countries already have different forms of discipline-based or topic-based associations, in the UK the current equivalent for teaching early English is TOEBI. If we are to establish a sister-association to TOEBI, or an independent Middle English one, it is imperative to start a consultation forum soon, so that any funding bodies might be approached for support in the near future.

One such body is likely to be The English Subject Centre, which has already sponsored a series of events related to the teaching of Middle English romance (organised by Raluca Radulescu at the University of Wales, Bangor and Jonathan Gibson from ESC) and will also be funding the ensuing team-produced resource on its website, ‘Teaching Topics: Medieval Romance’. The team for this project includes Prof. P.J.C. Field, Dr Rosamund Allen, Dr Alison Wiggins, Dr Roger Dalrymple and many others, and is under the patronage of Prof. Helen Cooper. Expressions of support have been sent in by Professor Diane Watt, Dr Ad Putter, Dr Rosalind Field, Dr Rhiannon Purdie, Dr Nicola McDonald, and others, and it is envisaged that a network starting from this team project will most likely be considered for funding from the ESC.

How can you get involved? A number of colleagues have already been discussing this opportunity. Your expression of interest or support, comments or suggestions are extremely valuable in the development of this initiative. Please send any items to r.radulescu@bangor.ac.uk. Further details about the romance network/website resource and its team will be sent to all as requested.

Raluca Radulescu
University of Wales, Bangor

New Modernisation of *Pearl*

Pearl, translated by Victor Watts.
Edited by David Fuller and Corinne Saunders,
with a preface by Kathleen Raine.
Enitharmon Press, 2005. 96 pp. hardback isbn
1 904634 20 6 £15.

Corinne Saunders (University of Durham) has drawn my attention to a new modernisation of *Pearl* made by former TOEBI member Victor Watts who died in 2002. Victor Watts was one of the country’s leading authorities on English place names and a notable linguist. He taught medieval Literature at Durham University where he was also Master of Grey College. His *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*, completed shortly before his death, was published in 2004. He is perhaps best known for his translation of *The Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius, published by Penguin.

The modernised text of *Pearl* is presented with the original Middle English text in parallel, supported with marginal glosses. The volume is edited by David Fuller, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Durham and the University’s Public Orator, and Corinne Saunders, Reader in Medieval English Literature, University of Durham and the English editor of *Medium Aevum*; the volume also has a preface by Kathleen Raine CBE (1908-2003), a distinguished poet and critic who was awarded the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry.

The volume has been very beautifully produced by Enitharmon Press. Corinne reports that this is the publisher’s first foray into medieval poetry (indeed into any territory beyond that of contemporary poetry) and hopes therefore that this new venture may be supported with good sales. Please consider whether you could order a copy for your institutional library. More information about the book can be obtained from the Enitharmon website: <http://www.enitharmon.co.uk>

Pearl is available from Enitharmon Press, 26b Caversham Road, London NW5 2DU, priced £15 (plus £1.50 postage and packing). To order your copy please call 020 7482 5967 or e-mail books@enitharmon.co.uk

Recent Books

Daniel Anlezark

Water and fire: The myth of the flood in Anglo-Saxon England

Manchester UP, 2006. 416pp
hardback 0 7190 6398 1 £60

The story of Noah's Flood is one of the Bible's most popular stories, and flood myths are preserved by cultures across the world. This book presents the first comprehensive study of the incorporation of the Flood myth into the Anglo-Saxon imagination, ranging from the works of Bede to *Beowulf*. Focusing on literary representations, this original study contributes to the understanding of the Anglo-Saxons' perception of their place in a universal history unfolding in the interval between the primeval Deluge and a future - perhaps imminent - flood of fire, which would destroy the world.

This book examines in detail a diverse range of texts which focus on the myth of the Flood, revealing both an imaginative diversity and shared tradition in the interpretation of the myth. On the one hand, the Anglo-Saxons saw in the Flood a climactic event in God's ongoing war with his more rebellious creatures, especially the foolish giants, while on the other they saw in allegory the mystery of redemption through baptism. Most striking of all is their invention of Noah's fourth son, born in the ark, from whom they claimed special descent.

The author carefully studies a range of texts against their historical background, and discusses shifting emphases in the way the Flood was interpreted for Anglo-Saxon audiences. The book concludes with a discussion of *Beowulf*, where the Flood myth constitutes a sustained metaphor across the poem, and the relationship is explored between its presentation of the myth and that found in other Anglo-Saxon texts.

Special Offer for TOEBI Members from Exeter University Press

Included with this issue of the *Newsletter* is a special offer for TOEBI members from Exeter University Press who have recently published *The Exeter DVD: The Exeter Anthology of Old English Poetry*, edited and compiled by Bernard J. Muir. This new resource brings together high-resolution colour facsimile images of the complete manuscript of the Exeter Book and Bernard Muir's two-volume

critical edition, which was published in a revised second edition in 2000.

The press are offering TOEBI members the chance to buy the DVD at the special price of £175, and the DVD package at £199 - a considerable reduction on the list prices. See the enclosed flier for further details, and please note that this offer ends **31 December 2006**.

Book Reviews

If you have a book at press or which has recently appeared, please ask your publisher to send a review copy to TOEBI.

Simon Keynes and Alfred P. Smyth, eds.

Anglo-Saxons. Studies presented to Cyril Roy Hart

Four Courts Press, 2006. 317 pp.
hardback 1 85182 932 6 £50 (75 euros)

This volume consists of seventeen essays and a list of the published works of Roy Hart. The list of works attests to Hart's enormously wide range of interests and the essays also reflect this. They range, for example, from historical studies of East Anglia in general, and of Ramsey Abbey in particular, to discussions of charters, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, and the Bayeux Tapestry, as well of course as medicine. All of the essays are of interest, although obviously certain ones will appeal more to some readers than to others. It seems invidious to pick out a few particular essays for extended discussion and a brief description of each is therefore given.

The essays are printed in roughly chronological order according to their content. The volume opens with a lively account by Fiona and Richard Gameson of the 'developing presentation' (p. 32) over the centuries of the life of St Augustine. The story moves from Bede to Caxton, taking in hagiographers, historians and literary figures, such as Goscelin, Geoffrey of Monmouth and Layamon, culminating in the account by Parker, who was himself also Archbishop of Canterbury but of course a Protestant. The second paper, by Janet Bately, discusses some specific examples of vocabulary contained in Ohthere's account of Norway presented to King Alfred. With her usual meticulous attention to detail, Bately points out instances of multiple shades of meaning in the vocabulary items discussed. This is followed by a comparison by Paul Szarmach of the

Latin and Old English versions of Bede's *Historia Ecclesiastica*, with particular reference to the poetic epitaph of Pope Gregory (*HE* II, i). Janet Nelson's interesting discussion of the role of queen in ninth-century Wessex concludes that it was rare for the king's wife to have real queenly power at that date, and that even in the tenth century queenship was only 'weakly institutionalised when set ... alongside kingship' (p. 77)

Harold Fox's paper discusses, by means of four meticulously detailed case studies, the custom of some manors in south Devon to own detached portions on Dartmoor. The main rationale for such a fragmented manor, Fox suggests, was to facilitate seasonal movement of animals, and seasonal occupation by those who looked after them. This is followed by an interesting paper on the minster of Lyminge by Susan Kelly. Kelly surveys the archaeological evidence before discussing in detail the early charters that throw light on the minster's foundation and its subsequent history. Emma Mason's paper argues that Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester became, in the immediate post-Conquest period, a father-figure not only to his own monks but more generally to the laity both within his diocese and outside it. Audrey Meaney's paper on legal and penitential penalties against heathenism follows on from some of her earlier work on this subject. It contains a comprehensive collection of material followed by an interesting discussion of it.

D.M. Metcalf discusses the circulation of coins into and out of the Danelaw in the period 973-1083, using the evidence of stray finds, both of whole and of half coins. He concludes that the Danelaw at this period had an open system, with coins both entering and leaving the area; in the case of the latter, their destination was not only to the rest of Anglo-Saxon England but also to Scandinavia. This paper is followed by Susan Oosthuizen's which examines the holdings of freemen in the Bourn Valley, Cambridgeshire, in the eleventh century. She concludes that some land-holding practices in the area were conservative, in particular in the quantity of 'warland' that still existed. Pauline Stafford's paper discusses part of the entry for 1067 in the D MS of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, concentrating on the mention of women in the entry. She concludes that, if we read the chronicler's account with gender issues in mind, this 'gives us access to the full complexity of a specific English voice' (p. 223). Peter Sawyer's paper could be seen as complementary, dealing as it does with

English influence in Norway in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

Gale Owen-Crocker's interesting and well-illustrated paper gives some possible sources for selected images from the Bayeux Tapestry. She suggests that it may be 'possible to augment the brief and factual Latin captions provided' (p. 264) by being aware of the underlying quotations that come from the manuscript contexts of these suggested source images. Susan Edgington's witty account of Abbot Herbert Losingu of Ramsey demonstrates that he was both an eleventh-century business man and a cleric, having fully grasped the importance of commerce for the economic well-being of ecclesiastical institutions. Ann Williams examines the term *antecessor* as it is used in Domesday Book, with particular reference to Suffolk. She suggests that even though the term may well have been a legal fiction, it had a clear practical function in eleventh-century England. The final paper in the book deals, fittingly in the light of Roy Hart's interests, with the later history of Ramsey Abbey, up to its sixteenth-century dissolution.

There is hardly a paper in the volume that this reviewer begrudged having to read - perhaps not the standard reaction to a *Festschrift*, and a testament to its contributors, its editors, and not least to Roy Hart himself. The paper that this particular reviewer found most interesting of all, however, is that by Debby Banham on the differences between tenth- and eleventh-century medicine. Banham notes that in the eleventh century, medical texts could be in Latin as well as in Old English, and that they tended to be more theoretical and were more concerned with diagnosis and cause. She demonstrates that in the later texts a greater variety of herbs are mentioned and that more precise quantities are stated. In summary, the medical texts of the eleventh century are more sophisticated and more international than those of the tenth century. She concludes that the practitioners of the tenth century were likely to have been literate only in Old English, while the eleventh century, even before the Conquest, saw an influx of more highly educated and Latin-reading practitioners. This paper, combining historical scholarship with medical content, is a particularly fitting tribute to a man who has, throughout his working life, combined the practice of medicine with that of historical research.

Elisabeth Okasha
University College Cork

Francesca Tinti, ed.
Pastoral Care in Late Anglo-Saxon England
Anglo-Saxon Studies 6
Boydell Press, 2005. viii + 152 pp.
hardback 1 84383 156 2 £45 (\$80)

This volume, the fruit of four sessions held at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds in 2002, examines the provision of pastoral care in late Anglo-Saxon England. A particular focus is the growth in the number of local churches in the tenth and eleventh centuries: what kind of pastoral care did this emergent parish system provide?

In a most helpful essay, Jonathan Wilcox investigates how the works of Ælfric - 'pastoral care in action in late Anglo-Saxon England' - were used in practice. Dr Wilcox suggests three local contexts in which Ælfric's sermons could have been delivered: large minster churches, such as Sherborne; reformed monasteries where villagers worshipped in the monastery chapel, as at Cerne Abbas; and the numerous dependent chapels of minster churches. In the last of these contexts, where the clergy were probably less well educated, the Catholic Homilies would have been particularly useful. This explains their large circulation, apparently organized centrally from Canterbury: the proliferation of local churches encouraged the dissemination of 'a universal pastoral system of preaching'.

Helen Gittos views the Red Book of Darley, a compilation of liturgical material that contains 'almost everything that the putative parish priest required', as complementary to Ælfric's work, providing for the liturgy what he had provided for preaching. Its extensive treatment of the occasional offices - especially baptism and the visitation of the sick - emphasizes their importance in a priest's work; and its more than occasional use of the vernacular suggests the high status of Old English in the period.

Confession and the visitation of the sick and dying are central to the compilation of texts found in Bodleian MS Laud Miscellaneus 482, which Victoria Thompson analyses in a most rewarding essay. In the confessional material, the 'pastoral contract' between penitent and priest culminates in the pastor's leading his flock to judgement, where he will both intercede for his people and be judged himself. Hence the emphasis, in the vernacular rubrics to the *visitatio infirmorum*, on the priest's need for gentleness and humility; for his own sake, as well as that of his parishioners, he must avoid judging them presumptuously and viewing his own spiritual state complacently. Material from the

prophets, psalms and gospels is used to emphasize God's mercy in an important example of vernacular theology.

Elsewhere in the volume, Sarah Hamilton provides an authoritative survey of material relating to penance and excommunication in the period. Julia Barrow explains how clergy were appointed, noble patronage being particularly important in the case of the new churches. Francesca Tinti, the book's editor, examines church dues: there are some indications of a reciprocal relationship between the laity's paying dues and their receiving pastoral care. Finally, Dawn Hadley and Jo Buckleberry survey the variety of burial practices in the period, in which local custom was evidently important.

The surviving evidence of how pastoral care functioned in practice in late Anglo-Saxon England is far from complete. Nevertheless, this volume shows that in some contexts, at least, the provision envisaged was both systematic and humane.

Brendan Biggs
Oxford

Lucien Musset
The Bayeux Tapestry
(translated by Richard Rex)
Boydell Press, 2005. 272 pp.
hardback 1 84383 163 5. £25.

The Bayeux Tapestry is a unique representation of a key event of eleventh century European history. Its uniqueness can be ascribed, in part at least, to a survival which is almost miraculous. Had it been destroyed in the iconoclasm of the mid-sixteenth century like much medieval art, it would have been known only from an inventory reference. Had it been used to cover army wagons after being confiscated by the revolutionary regime in 1792, it would only have survived, like numerous paintings and hangings, in sketches made by antiquarians. As late as the 1940s the tapestry's survival was a matter of fortune as war passed through Normandy. The dearth of comparative material and the fascination of its subject for generations of French, English and other scholars has led to the tapestry attracting an enormous volume of comment and a considerable layer of mythology. Every panel and aspect seems to have gathered its own debate and controversy.

For this reason this volume, first published in France as *La Tapisserie de Bayeux* in 2002, is extremely valuable. The

claims made in the foreword seem modest. The book 'seeks merely to take stock of the more reliable findings' of recent scholarship. Instead of 'advancing theories' or seeking to form a 'comprehensive' record of research, 'it is intended as an introduction to the interpretation of a unique ... cultural artefact' (p. 11). The book's caution and reluctance to speculate or accept speculation is, indeed, apparent throughout, but it is to be valued as both a survey of work on the tapestry and an extremely well presented and coherent analysis of a medieval masterpiece.

The book is organised into two parts. The first of these comprises ten thematic essays dealing with topics like the tapestry's history, the buildings, captions and characters in the work and the fascinating subject of the borders, the brief discussion of which is a slight disappointment. The historical background provided is also rather terse, though this is amended in the more detailed discussion of the individual panels. The most interesting of these sections is that on the artistic context which, whilst suggesting contacts with numerous contemporary works, highlights the special character of the tapestry. However, the key part of the book comes in section two, when the tapestry is discussed panel by panel. This both illustrates the volume of study to which the tapestry has been subjected and, more importantly, Musset's ability to synthesize this research to produce a clear and informative consideration of the narrative. If, once again, clear conclusions are missing, what Musset stresses is the relationship between the brief, almost deliberately bland captions and the hugely suggestive and intriguing embroideries. In a story of perjury and heroism the pictures remain worth the many thousands of words expended on them but the clarity of Musset's discussion are a valuable and enjoyable addition to the pile.

**Margaret Connolly
St. Andrews**

The spring issue of the *Newsletter* will carry reviews of:

Helen Gittos and M. Bradford Bedingfield ,
The Liturgy of the Late Anglo-Saxon Church
(Brewer, 2005)

Readings in Medieval Texts, edited by David Johnson and Elaine Treharne (Oxford UP, 2005)

Caedmon's Hymn: A Multi-media Study, Edition and Archive, edited by Daniel Paul O'Donnell (Brewer, 2005)

Katherine O'Brien O'Keeffe and Andy Orchard, eds. *Latin Learning and English Lore: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Literature for Michael Lapidge* (University of Toronto Press, 2005).

New reviewers are always welcome. If you would be interested in reviewing for the *TOEBI Newsletter* please let the Editor know.

Erratum

The Editor apologises to Peter Jackson (Oxford) for an error which appeared in his review published in the Spring Issue of the *Newsletter* of **Peter Hunter Blair's *An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon England*** (3rd edition, with a new introduction by Simon Keynes; Cambridge UP, 2003. xxxv + 384 pp. hardback 0 52183 085 0 £55 (\$75); paperback 0 52153 777 0 £19.99 (\$29.99). A copying mistake arose due to the presence of two 'will stills' in the fourth sentence (a classic case of eyeskip! Nice to see that those old scribal traditions are still very much alive!) The correct version of the review's final paragraph is reprinted below:

'Any textbook goes out of date here and there, and to observe that the clock has moved on does no discredit to Hunter Blair's remarkable undertaking. But can it still be recommended to undergraduates? With qualifications, yes. Those looking for an historical overview will still find it one of the most lucid, stimulating and accessible guides available, even though they will still want to keep other general surveys, especially Campbell, John and Wormald's *The Anglo-Saxons*, by their side. Those whose interests are mainly in the literature are, however, now better served elsewhere (e.g. by Godden and Lapidge's *Cambridge Companion*). This is hardly surprising, for Hunter Blair's was the last generation to believe that it was possible, or even desirable, for one scholar to produce a book that covers the entire field like this. In more than one sense, then, it remains a heroic achievement.'

Forthcoming Conferences 2006/2007

Exploring Pilgrimage Department of History University of Sheffield 25 November 2006

A one-day interdisciplinary symposium on pilgrims and pilgrimage. Possible subjects include: religious practices, political processes, social and economic dynamics, landscape study, illness and healing, travel, support structures, hostels, shipping, armed protection, literary and artistic culture. Further details and programme available from the organisers:

Morn Capper and Geoff Little
Department of History,
University of Sheffield
387 Glossop Road
Sheffield S10 2TN
m.capper@sheffield.ac.uk
hip99gl@sheffield.ac.uk

MANCASS 3rd Annual Postgraduate Conference 5-6 March 2007

Call for Papers: We are inviting all postgraduates to submit proposals for 20-minute papers for this interdisciplinary conference. Past presentations have discussed a wide variety of topics such as palaeography, history, literature, editing, and art, to name a few. Selected papers will be published in the third issue of our online journal: The Proceedings of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies Postgraduate Conference. Proposals (no more than 300 words please) should be sent by **18 December 2006** to the organiser:

Abdullah Alger
English and American Studies
School of Arts, Histories and Cultures,
Humanities Lime Grove Building
The University of Manchester
M13 9PL
abdullah.alger@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

***Anglo-Saxon Landscapes* MANCASS Easter Conference University of Manchester 11-13 April 2007**

The MANCASS Easter Conference on the topic 'Anglo-Saxon Landscapes' will be directed by Nick Higham. Proposals (title +

50-100 word summary) by **1 November 2006** should be sent to:

Nick.J.Higham@manchester.ac.uk
or tel. 0161 275 3114.

***Making an Audience* First International Making Books, Shaping Readers Conference University College Cork 18-20 April 2007**

Papers might focus on the audiences texts invite; on how shifts in methods of production record a shift in the role of the reader from medieval to contemporary times; on how the act of reading is inscribed in a book; or on how a text's transmission over time affects how it is read. We are also concerned with tracing the actual reader/audience of a text through marks and annotations. Scholars in all disciplines are invited to submit proposals (300-500 words) on any aspect of how audiences are made via various forms of textual materialities. Accepted abstracts will be published on the MBSR website; selected essays may be published in conference proceedings. Abstracts to be sent by **27 October 2006** to:

Making Books, Shaping Readers Conference
Department of English
University College Cork
Republic of Ireland
or (preferably) by e-mail to mbsr@ucc.ie
All queries can be directed to the organizers, Siobhán Collins, Carrie Griffin, and Mary O'Connell at mbsr@ucc.ie.
Website: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/mbsr>.

***Writing England: Books 1100-1200* University of Leicester 6-8 July 2007**

This conference aims to investigate the writers, compilers, manufacture and reception of books in England between c. 1100 and 1200. It will also question the manuscript culture pragmatically, searching for the implicit agendas and responses of writers and audiences, and problematizing responses within a wider cross-disciplinary approach which draws on history, literature and languages, material culture, history of the books and textual studies. Keynote speakers include Rodney M. Thompson and Ralph Hanna. Proposals from scholars working on 12th century writers, book production and use of and responses to texts in Latin, Insular French, and English are welcome. Please send a title and abstract (maximum 150 words) for a

20-minute paper, with contact details, to Professor Elaine Treharne, Department of English, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, or e-mail: emt1@leicester.ac.uk by **31 October 2006**. Further details are available on the website: www.le.ac.uk/ee/em1060to1220/index.htm.

International Medieval Congress 2007
University of Leeds
9-12 July 2007

The Institute for Medieval Studies of the University of Leeds will host the thirteenth annual International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds July 9-12 2007. In addition to the regular IMC strands, the special theme of the 2007 Congress will be 'Medieval Cities'. Keynote speakers include Chris Wickham (University of Oxford) and David Palliser (University of Leeds). Full details of the IMC can be found on the website: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims>.

The French of England: Linguistic Accommodation and Cultural Hybridity c.1100-c.1500
University of York
13-16 July

This conference will explore linguistic, literary and cultural inter-relations of the French of England with Middle English and continental French, and includes attention to the question of training graduate medievalists in this field. Further details from the organiser: Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, jwb502@york.ac.uk.

Lost in Translation?
The Tenth Cardiff Conference on the Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages
Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
17-22 July 2007

Papers will cover traditional aspects of the translation of texts with reference to any of the classical, Middle Eastern or vernacular languages of the medieval world, and also the modern translation of medieval texts, and those that interpret the idea of translation more broadly, examining the translation of ideas, images, cultural perceptions, or objects of material culture. Keynote speakers include Piero Boitani, Roger Ellis, and Alastair Minnis.

Papers will be given in English and in any of the national languages of Switzerland. Further details from the organisers:

Christiania Whitehead,
Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies,
University of Warwick,
Coventry CV4 7AL
christiania@christiania.freeseerve.co.uk

Denis Renevey,
Chair in Medieval Literature
English Department, Faculty of Letters,
University of Lausanne, BFSH 2,
CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.
Denis.Renevey@unil.ch

Lectures and Seminars of interest to TOEBI members

University of St. Andrews
Medieval Studies Research Seminar

Yossi Ziegler (Haifa)
'Physiognomy and heredity: On the biological transmission of individual and group characteristics, 1200-1500'
16 October, 5.15pm

Yolanda Plumley (Exeter)
'New Years songs and lyrics in late medieval France and Italy'
30 October, 5.15pm

Alexander Murray (Oxford)
'The *Disperata*'
20 November, 5.15pm

Simon Yarrow (Birmingham)
'Marriage *à la mode*? Perceptions of personal conduct and political order in the family histories of Orderic Vitalis'
27 November, 5.15pm

Tasha Vorderstrasse (Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten)
'Chinese descriptions of Antioch and Alexandria'

All meetings are held in the Old Class Library, St. John's House, adjacent to the Department of Medieval History, South Street. For further information contact Dr Michele Mulchahey, Michele.Mulchahey@st-andrews.ac.uk.

TOEBI Committee

The dates refer to when members of the committee are due to retire or to stand for re-election.

President: Professor Don Scragg (2006)
Chair: Professor Elaine Treharne (2007)
Secretary: Dr Elisabeth Okasha (2006)
Newsletter Editor: Dr Margaret Connolly (2007)
Awards' co-ordinator: Dr Jennifer Neville (2006)

Committee members:

Dr Jayne Carroll (2006)
Dr Richard Dance (2006)
Professor Clare Lees (2006)
Professor Hugh Magennis (2007)
Dr Mary Swan (2007)
Dr Gale Owen-Crocker (2008)
Mrs Sara Pons-Sanz (2008)

For membership details and general enquiries contact the secretary:

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Send submissions for the next Newsletter by 31 March 2007 to the Editor:

Dr Margaret Connolly
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Cupar Road
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Fife KY15 5LP
Scotland

✉ e-mail: mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk

Action points for Members

- **For information about the October 2006 TOEBI meeting** please contact the Secretary or Dr Jayne Carroll jc237@le.ac.uk
- **Contribute to the Newsletter:** responses to this issue; book reviews; short articles on your Old English courses or assessment procedures; material about professional practice; student howlers
- **Please send information about the following items for inclusion in the Newsletter:**
 - Conferences on Anglo-Saxon Studies
 - Special Lectures by Anglo-Saxonists
 - Postgraduate Courses and Opportunities in Old English in your Department
 - News about promotions, or general (non-salacious) news about lecturers in your Department
 - The publication of new books or articles useful for teaching Old English
 - Useful websites for teaching Old English

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www.toebi.org.uk

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