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978-0-521-03711-2 - Manuscripts and Libraries in the Age of Charlemagne

Bernhard Bischoff

Frontmatter

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Bernhard Bischoff (1906–1991) was one of the most renowned scholars of Latin palaeography in the twentieth century. His major contribution was in the field of Carolingian studies. For several decades he was at work on the catalogue of ninth-century Latin manuscripts which was left unfinished at his death. Many of his articles on manuscripts and early medieval culture have become classics. Michael Gorman has selected, edited, and translated seven of these essays, which are presented here for the first time in English translation. They include general introductions to the manuscript books which were produced from the sixth to the ninth century, and Bischoff's famous studies of the court libraries of Charlemagne and Louis the Pious. One of Bischoff's main concerns was the transmission of the works of Latin antiquity in the Middle Ages, and in the last three chapters of the volume he explores how and why monks copied out classical texts. In all these essays, Bischoff discusses the principal writing centres and libraries associated with monastic and cathedral schools.

This collection of essays is designed to make Bischoff's seminal work on Carolingian culture more widely available.

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Cambridge Studies in Palaeography and Codicology 1

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Bernhard Bischoff (1906–1991) was the third great incumbent, after Ludwig Traube and Paul Lehmann, of the Lehrstuhl für lateinische Philologie des Mittelalters at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. In his seminars between 1953 and 1975, he offered successive generations of students from both Germany and elsewhere the fruits of his immense learning. He taught primarily by example, with an exactitude and erudition that was a constant inspiration. He was Traube's true heir, and maintained the essential link between knowledge of the manuscripts, the texts they contained, and the cultural milieu in which they were produced. He was forbearing with his students. Many of us recall, if somewhat ruefully, the courteous 'Ja, vielleicht' with which he would respond to our suggestions, but will cherish always the memory of the warm welcome he gave us when we came to Munich, and interest he showed in our work and subsequent careers. His generosity as a scholar was renowned and is particularly evident in the copious correspondence he maintained with all who sought his advice or opinion on any matter to do with medieval books and script. He also contributed to many international enterprises, not least the *Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz*, the *Vetus Latina* project, the *Mittellateinisches Wörterbuch* and the work of the Comité Internationale de paléographie.

Bischoff presented his research to the wider world in a remarkable array of articles and books, from an edition of the *Carmina Burana*, the two seminal volumes on *Die südostdeutschen Schreibschulen und Bibliotheken*, his *Lateinische Paläographie* (now translated into French, English, and Italian) and the monograph on Carolingian Lorsch, to his many papers, the bulk of which are collected together in the three volumes of his *Mittelalterliche Studien* and the *Anecdota Novissima*. He provided, furthermore, definitive introductions for a number of facsimile volumes of important manuscripts, notably the Stuttgart Psalter. Rather less well known than it should be is the extent of his labours on the *Codices Latini Antiquiores*. He was in fact largely responsible for the groundwork of volumes V–IX. It was this work, moreover, which laid the foundations for his own catalogue of ninth-century Latin

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manuscripts that he was working on almost to the day of his death. Bischoff knew and understood more about medieval manuscripts than any other scholar of his time; his work has had a special, and remarkable, impact on the study of early mediaeval culture; we shall never again see his like.

Although the seven essays translated in this volume represent only a portion of the immense contribution to Latin palaeography and manuscript studies made by Bernhard Bischoff, they are perhaps his best known works. These studies of the royal libraries of Charlemagne and his son Louis the Pious, the manuscript evidence for libraries serving early medieval schools, and the surveys of pre-Carolingian and early Carolingian manuscripts, writing provinces, scriptoria, and the transmission of classical texts in the early Middle Ages, are central to early mediaeval and Carolingian studies in the topics they address, the theories they adumbrate and the new evidence they make available. But they are also of crucial importance for the methods used and the way Bischoff built up his hypotheses into strong possibilities by drawing on a wealth of evidence hitherto unrealized. In making these studies available in English we hope therefore not only to acknowledge the debt all those working in this field owe to Bischoff, but also to make his vast knowledge and challenging interpretations accessible to a wider audience within the English-speaking world.

Albinia de la Mare

Rosamond McKitterick

Editors, Cambridge Studies in Palaeography and Codicology

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Preface

The idea of presenting Bernhard Bischoff's most frequently cited essays in English, collected together in one volume, first occurred to me in 1981, when the third volume of his *Mittelalterliche Studien* appeared, but it was not until 1987 that the first six chapters of this book had been translated. Later, 'I benedettini e la tradizione classica' was chosen as the concluding chapter. With its index of nearly 1,000 manuscripts, the present volume is intended to serve as a guide to the world of Carolingian manuscripts. Although we are accustomed to consulting Bischoff's books and articles for information about specific manuscripts, a particular hand, or a writing centre, his theories and methods are rarely analysed or debated.

For the English version of these essays Bischoff made several improvements.¹ It was tempting to update the footnotes with references to recent publications, but in the final analysis there was no way to know which articles Bischoff himself might have cited.²

Several of the studies translated here were originally papers read at conferences; footnotes were added later in order to document spoken comments and complete shelf marks were not always given for the specific manuscripts discussed. In the original version of chapter 1, for example, only CLA numbers were provided. In other chapters, manuscripts in CLA were cited, but their CLA numbers were sometimes omitted. In this English version, the complete shelf mark is given for every manuscript mentioned; when a manuscript included in CLA is cited, its CLA reference number is given immediately afterwards.³ The systematic treatment of

¹ Bischoff prepared two lists of manuscripts: a list of the classical manuscripts actually copied at Tours with his corrections of E.K. Rand, and a list of the grammatical manuscripts written in the ninth century. These two lists appear as appendices to chapter 5 and chapter 6; see p. 113 & p. 133. Bischoff also refined his classification of the groups of manuscripts from the court scriptorium of Charlemagne; see p. 65, n. 45 & p. 83. Finally, Bischoff added several manuscripts to those of the biblical commentary he had attributed to Helisachar and Louis the Pious in 1972; see p. 112, n. 93. See now my article, 'Paris lat. 12124 (Origen on Romans) and the Carolingian Commentary on Romans in Paris lat. 11574', *Revue Bénédictine* 117 (2007), forthcoming.

² The few bibliographical additions made have been enclosed within square brackets.

³ Reading over the translation, Bischoff noticed that some shelf marks and CLA references were

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shelf marks made it possible to compile an accurate index to Bischoff's comments on the manuscripts cited in these articles.

This translation could not have been carried out without Bischoff's cooperation, and I record here my gratitude to him. A few months before his death, he made the final corrections to this English version of his essays. In 1988 Bischoff went through the text carefully with Jerry Roth, to whom I am indebted for many suggestions which improved the text. Many of the phrases that remain in the translation reflect Bischoff's explicit wishes.

In 1986, when Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, David Ganz and I were searching for a publisher for our translations of Bischoff's works, Rosamond McKitterick came forward and championed our cause with Cambridge University Press. Her support is greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to Kevin Taylor and the staff of Cambridge University Press for seeing the book through the press, especially to Malcolm Barnes, who created the map of writing provinces and writing centres. The present volume was conceived and executed as a companion to *Latin Palaeography: Antiquity and the Middle Ages*. Bischoff was pleased that this volume had been chosen to launch the new series, Cambridge Studies in Palaeography and Codicology.

A NOTE FOR THE 2007 EDITION

Two volumes of Bischoff's *Katalog* have been edited by Birgit Ebersperger and constitute the standard reference that must be given for any Carolingian manuscript,⁴ just as the CLA number is an essential part of the shelf mark of any pre-800 manuscript.

These translations were intended to stimulate the re-examination and revision of various theories advocated or supported by Bischoff,⁵ a process which is not yet complete.

Michael Gorman

incorrect. For example, Bamberg Class. 44 was cited instead of Bamberg Class. 45 on p. 130, n. 62, and CLA 6.762 (Épinal 149) was cited instead of CLA 6.764 (Laon 68) on p. 28, n. 37. Mistakes of this kind in the original versions have been silently corrected throughout. In other cases, shelf marks are provided for the first time; for example, see p. 103, n. 54a.

⁴ Bernhard Bischoff, *Katalog der festländischen Handschriften des neunten Jahrhunderts (mit Ausnahme der wisigotischen)*. Teil I: Aachen - Lambach, ed. Birgit Ebersperger (Wiesbaden, 1998), and *Katalog der festländischen Handschriften des neunten Jahrhunderts (mit Ausnahme der wisigotischen)*. Teil I: Laon - Paderborn, ed. Birgit Ebersperger (Wiesbaden, 2004). On this project, see my article, 'Bernhard Bischoff's Handlist of Carolingian Manuscripts', *Scrittura e civiltà* 25 (2001), p. 89-112.

⁵ On 'Charlemagne's court library', see my article, 'The Oldest Lists of Latin Books', *Scriptorium* 58 (2004), p. 48-63 + pl. 14-16 & 24-25. See also 'The Myth of Hiberno-Latin Exegesis', *Revue Bénédictine* 110 (2000), p. 42-85.

List of Abbreviations

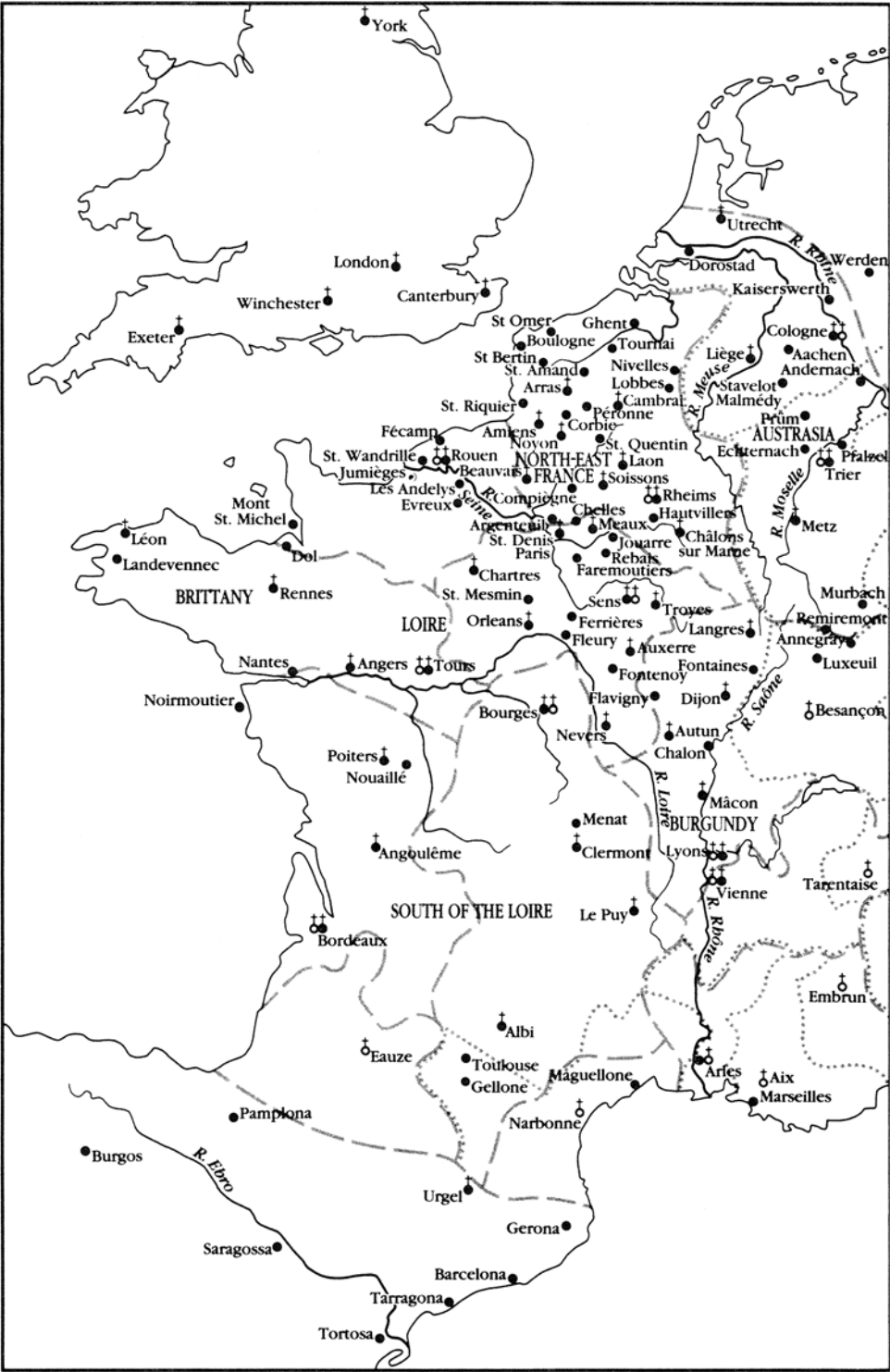
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Alexander | J.J.G. Alexander, <i>Insular Manuscripts 6th to the 9th Century</i> , A Survey of Manuscripts Illuminated in the British Isles 1 (London, 1978) |
| Becker | Gustav Becker, <i>Catalogi bibliothecarum antiqui</i> (Bonn, 1885) |
| Bischoff, <i>Lorsch</i> | Bernhard Bischoff, <i>Lorsch im Spiegel seiner Handschriften</i> (Munich, 1974); 2nd ed., <i>Die Abtei Lorsch</i> (Munich, 1989) |
| Bischoff, <i>LP</i> | Bernhard Bischoff, <i>Latin Palaeography: Antiquity and the Middle Ages</i> , trans. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín & David Ganz (Cambridge, 1990); <i>Paläographie des römischen Altertums und des abendländischen Mittelalters</i> , 1st German ed. (Berlin, 1979); 2nd German ed. (Berlin, 1986) |
| Bischoff, <i>MS 1–3</i> | Bernhard Bischoff, <i>Mittelalterliche Studien</i> 1 (Stuttgart, 1966); 2 (Stuttgart 1967); 3 (Stuttgart, 1981) |
| Bischoff, <i>SS 1–2</i> | Bernhard Bischoff, <i>Die südostdeutschen Schreibschulen und Bibliotheken in der Karolingerzeit</i> , 1: <i>Die bayerischen Diözesen</i> , 3rd ed. (Wiesbaden, 1974); 2: <i>Die vorwiegend österreichischen Diözesen</i> (Wiesbaden, 1980). |
| Bruckner 1–2 | Albert Bruckner, <i>Scriptoria medii aevi Helvetica</i> 1 (Geneva, 1935), 2 (Geneva, 1936) |
| CCSL | <i>Corpus Christianorum Series Latina</i> |
| Chatelain | Émile Chatelain, <i>Paléographie des classiques latins</i> , 2 vols. (Paris, 1884–1892) |
| ChLA | Albert Bruckner & Robert Marichal, <i>Chartae Latinae Antiquiores</i> , 2 vols. (Olten & Lausanne, 1954–1956) |
| Chroust | Anton Chroust, <i>Monumenta palaeographica</i> , 1st Ser. (Munich, 1902–1906), 2nd Ser. (1907–1917), 3rd Ser. (Leipzig, 1931–1940) |

Abbreviations

CLA	ed. E.A. Lowe, <i>Codices Latini Antiquiores</i> , 12 vols. (Oxford, 1934–1971)
CSEL	<i>Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum</i>
Hermann	H.J. Hermann, <i>Die frühmittelalterlichen Handschriften des Abendlandes</i> (Leipzig, 1923)
Homburger	Otto Homburger, <i>Die illustrierten Handschriften der Bürgerbibliothek Bern: Die vorkarolingischen und karolingischen Handschriften</i> (Berne, 1962)
Karl der Große	<i>Karl der Große: Lebenswerk und Nachleben, II. Das geistige Leben</i> (Düsseldorf, 1965)
Keil 1–6	Keil, <i>Grammatici Latini</i> , 6 vols. (Leipzig, 1874)
Koehler 1	Wilhelm Koehler, <i>Die Schule von Tours</i> , Die karolingischen Miniaturen 1 (Berlin, 1930)
Koehler 2	<i>Die Hofschule Karls des Großen</i> , Die karolingischen Miniaturen 2 (Berlin, 1958)
Koehler 3	<i>Die Gruppe des Wiener Krönungs-Evangeliars – Metzger Handschriften</i> , Die karolingischen Miniaturen 3 (Berlin, 1960)
Koehler 4	Wilhelm Koehler & Florentine Mutherich, <i>Die Hofschule Kaiser Lothars, Einzelhandschriften aus Lotharingen</i> , Die karolingischen Miniaturen 4 (Berlin, 1971)
Lehmann, MBDS	Paul Lehmann, <i>Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz</i> 1 (Munich, 1918)
Lehmann, EM 1–5	Paul Lehmann, <i>Erforschung des Mittelalters</i> , 5 vols. (Leipzig, 1941; Stuttgart, 1959–1962)
Lowe, PP 1–2	E.A. Lowe, <i>Palaeographical Papers</i> , 2 vols. (Oxford, 1972)
MGH	<i>Monumenta Germaniae Historica</i>
Micheli	G. L. Micheli, <i>L'Enluminure du haut moyen âge et les influences irlandaises</i> (Brussels, 1939)
Neff	Karl Neff, <i>Die Gedichte des Paulus Diaconus</i> (Munich, 1908)
NPS	<i>New Palaeographical Society</i> , 1st Ser., 2 vols. (London, 1903–1912), 2nd Ser., 2 vols. (1913–1930)
Pächt–Alexander	Otto Pächt & J.J.G. Alexander, <i>Illuminated Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library</i> (Oxford, 1970)
PL	<i>Patrologia Latina</i>
PS	<i>Palaeographical Society</i> , 1st Ser., 2 vols. (London, 1873–1883), 2nd Ser., 2 vols. (1884–1894)
Rand 1	E.K. Rand, <i>A Survey of the Manuscripts of Tours</i> , Studies in the Script of Tours 1 (Cambridge, Mass., 1929)

Abbreviations

Rand 2	E.K. Rand, <i>The Earliest Book of Tours</i> , Studies in the Script of Tours 2 (Cambridge, Mass., 1934)
Schramm–Mütherich	Percy Ernst Schramm & Florentine Mütherich, <i>Denkmale der deutschen Könige und Kaiser: Ein Beitrag zur Herrschergeschichte von Karl dem Großen bis Friedrich II, 768–1250</i> (Munich, 1962)
Traube, VA 1–3	Ludwig Traube, <i>Vorlesungen und Abhandlungen</i> , 3 vols. (Munich, 1909, 1911, 1920)



Map: Writing Provinces and Writing Centres in the Age of Charlemagne

