

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-58345-9 - The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain: Volume I c. 400–1100

Edited by Richard Gameson

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THE CAMBRIDGE
History of the Book in Britain

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VOLUME I
c. 400–1100

This is the first comprehensive survey of the history of the book in Britain from Roman through Anglo-Saxon to early Norman times. The expert contributions explore the physical form of books, including their codicology, script and decoration, examine the circulation and exchange of manuscripts and texts between England, Ireland, the Celtic realms and the Continent, discuss the production, presentation and use of different classes of texts, ranging from fine service-books to functional schoolbooks, and evaluate the libraries that can be associated with particular individuals and institutions. The result is an authoritative account of the first millennium of the history of books, manuscript-making and literary culture in Britain which, intimately linked to its cultural contexts, sheds vital light on broader patterns of political, ecclesiastical and cultural history, extending from the period of the Vindolanda writing tablets through the age of Bede and Alcuin to the time of the Domesday Book.

RICHARD GAMESON is Professor of the History of the Book at Durham University. He has published over seventy studies of medieval manuscripts, book culture and art history, including *The Early Medieval Bible* (1994), *The Role of Art in the Late Anglo-Saxon Church* (1995), *St Augustine and the Conversion of England* (1999), *The Manuscripts of Early Norman England* (1999), *Codex Aureus: An Eighth-Century Gospel-Book* (2001–2) and *The Earliest Books of Canterbury Cathedral* (2008).

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History of the Book in Britain

The history of the book offers a distinctive form of access to the ways in which human beings have sought to give meaning to their own and others' lives. Our knowledge of the past derives mainly from texts. Landscape, architecture, sculpture, painting and the decorative arts have their stories to tell and may themselves be construed as texts; but oral tradition, manuscripts, printed books and those other forms of inscription and incision such as maps, music and graphic images, have a power to report even more directly on human experience and the events and thoughts which shaped it. In principle, any history of the book should help to explain how these particular texts were created, why they took the form they did, their relations with other media, especially in the twentieth century, and what influence they had on the minds and actions of those who heard, read or viewed them. Its range, too – in time, place and the great diversity of the conditions of text production, including reception – challenges any attempt to define its limits and give an account adequate to its complexity. It addresses, whether by period, country, genre or technology, widely disparate fields of enquiry, each of which demands and attracts its own forms of scholarship.

The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, planned in seven volumes, seeks to represent much of that variety, and to encourage new work, based on knowledge of the creation, material production, dissemination and reception of texts. Inevitably its emphases will differ from volume to volume, partly because the definitions of Britain vary significantly over the centuries, partly because of the varieties of evidence extant for each period, and partly because of the present uneven state of knowledge. Tentative in so many ways as the project necessarily is, it offers the first comprehensive account of the book in Britain over one and a half millennia.

JOHN BARNARD · DAVID MCKITTERICK · I. R. WILLISON
General Editors

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Frontispiece: The Durham Gospels: incipit to John's Gospel (DCL, A.II.17, fol. 1r)

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Acknowledgements

Colophons in medieval manuscripts sometimes allude in more or less explicit terms to the vast amount of labour that the production of the volume has entailed and to the burden that it has represented. Some provide information that permits the reader to deduce how long the volume took to write. Others helpfully outline the respective contributions of co-workers, even occasionally commenting on their application to the task. Like most collaborative volumes of this kind, the present one has taken longer than was once hoped.

Of all those who have been involved, I wish first to thank the general editors of this series, John Barnard, David McKitterick and Ian Willison. They have provided crucial support in guiding this volume towards completion. At Cambridge University Press, Linda Bree and Maartje Scheltens have been of quite exceptional help. Then, Kirsty Bennett provided invaluable assistance with the time-consuming business of processing the indices. Above all, it is to my wife that I owe the continuous support that alone has made a Sisyphean task sustainable. Sisyphus' labour was, of course, unending: the volume that you have in your hands marks an end in itself, though far from an end to the study of the subject. To borrow another topos that runs from ancient author, through medieval scribe, to modern writer, 'scripsi ut potui non ut volui'.

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Abbreviations

ANS	<i>[Proceedings of the Battle Conference for] Anglo-Norman Studies</i>
ASC	<i>Anglo Saxon Chronicle</i>
ASE	<i>Anglo-Saxon England</i>
BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City
BHL	<i>Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina Antiquae et Mediae Aetatis</i> , ed. Socii Bollandiani, 2 vols. (Brussels, 1898–1901), <i>Supplementi</i> (Brussels, 1911), <i>Novum Supplementum</i> (Brussels, 1986), cited by item number
BL	British Library, London
BM	Bibliothèque municipale
BnF	Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris
BodL.	Bodleian Library, Oxford
BR	Bibliothèque royale Albert I, Brussels
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich
CBMLC	Corpus of British Medieval Library Catalogues
CCCC	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge
CCCM	Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis
CCCO	Corpus Christi College, Oxford
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum Series Latina
CIL	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum</i> , ed. T. Mommsen <i>et al.</i> (Berlin, 1869–), cited by series and entry number
CL	Cathedral Library
CLA	<i>Codices Latini Antiquiores</i> , ed. E. A. Lowe, 11 vols., plus Supplement (Oxford, 1934–71); 2nd edn of vol. II (Oxford, 1972)
<i>Colophons</i>	[Bénédictins du Bouveret], <i>Colophons de manuscrits occidentaux des origines au XVII^e siècle</i> , 6 vols. (Friburg, 1965–82)
CMCS	<i>Cambridge/Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies</i>
CSASE	Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England
CUL	Cambridge University Library

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DCL	Durham Cathedral Library
EEMF	Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile
EETS	Early English Texts Society
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
ep.	epistola
<i>ES</i>	<i>English Studies</i>
facs.	facsimile
HBS	Henry Bradshaw Society
<i>HE</i>	Bede, <i>Historia ecclesiastica</i> , ed. Colgrave and Mynors (Oxford, 1969)
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KB	Kongelige Bibliotek; Kungliga Bibliotek
LB	Landesbibliothek
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
New Pal. Soc.	New Palaeographical Society, <i>Facsimiles of Ancient Manuscripts</i> , 1st and 2nd series (London, 1903–30)
NLS	National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
NLW	National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
n.s.	new series
ÖNB	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
o.s.	old series
O.S. facs.	<i>Facsimiles of Anglo-Saxon Charters</i> , 3 vols. (Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1878–84)
Pal. Soc.	Palaeographical Society, <i>Facsimiles of Ancient Manuscripts</i> (London, 1874–94)
<i>PBA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the British Academy</i>
<i>PL</i>	<i>Patrologiae Latinae Cursus Completus</i> , ed. J.-P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–64)
PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
q., qq.	quire(s)
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue bénédictine</i>
RIA	Royal Irish Academy, Dublin
<i>RIB</i>	<i>Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> (Collingwood and Wright 1990–5, 1995)
RS	Rolls Series
s.a.	sub anno

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SB	Staatsbibliothek
SC	Summary Catalogue (BodL.)
<i>Settimane</i>	<i>Settimane di Studio del Centro Italiano di studi sull'alto medioevo</i> (Spoleto)
s.n.	no number
s.s.	supplementary series
<i>Tab. Sulis</i>	Tomlin 1988
<i>Tab. Vindol.</i>	Bowman and Thomas 1994
TCBS	<i>Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society</i>
TCC	Trinity College, Cambridge
TCD	Trinity College, Dublin
UB	Universitätsbibliothek; Universiteitsbibliotheek
UL	University Library

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Few of the books that are the subject matter of this volume are dated or datable on internal grounds; in most cases the dates assigned to them are informed estimates based on their appearance. In the footnotes and certain listings, such estimated dates are generally indicated by the use of a formula consisting of a Roman numeral, which denotes the century, plus a superscript number, fraction or word, which signals the part thereof. Thus 'x' means the tenth century as a whole, 'xⁱⁿ' the beginning of the tenth century, 'x^{1/4}' the first quarter of the tenth century, 'x¹' the first half of the tenth century, 'x^{med}' the middle of the tenth century, 'x²' the second half of the tenth century, 'x^{3/3}' the last third of the tenth century, 'x^{ex}' the end of the tenth century, 'x/xi' the end of the tenth or the beginning of the eleventh century; and so on. The use of two superscript qualifiers indicates that the likely date straddles the periods in question: thus 'xi^{med-3/4}' signifies the middle to the third quarter of the eleventh century. Correspondingly, 'viii-ix' denotes eighth to ninth century. *s.* (= *saeculum*) means 'century'.