The scholarship and teaching of manuscript studies has been transformed by digitization rendering previously rarefied documents accessible for study on a vast scale. The Cambridge Companion to Medieval British Manuscripts orients students in the complex, multidisciplinary study of medieval book production and contemporary display of manuscripts from c. 600 to 1500. Accessible explanations draw on key case studies to illustrate the major methodologies and explain why skills in understanding early book production are so critical for reading, editing, and accessing a rich cultural heritage. Chapters by leading specialists in manuscript studies range from explaining how manuscripts were stored, to revealing the complex networks of readers and writers which can be understood through manuscripts, to an in-depth discussion of the Wyclifite Bible.

Orietta Da Rold is University Lecturer in the University of Cambridge and Fellow of St John’s College. Her publications include The Dd Manuscript: A Digital Edition of Cambridge University Library, MS Dd. 4. 24 of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales (2013), and Paper in Medieval England: From Pulp to Fictions (2020).

Elaine Treharne is Roberta Bowman Denning Professor of Humanities, Professor of English, and Robert K. Packard University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Historical Society, the English Association, and the Learned Society of Wales. A qualified archivist, she has published more than thirty books and sixty articles on early medieval literature and the History of Text Technologies.
## CONTENTS

*List of Illustrations*  
*List of Contributors*  
*Acknowledgements*  
*List of Abbreviations*

**Introduction: The Matter of Manuscripts and Methodologies**  
Orietta Da Rold and Elaine Treharne  
1

### PART I  HOW DO WE STUDY THE MANUSCRIPT?

1. **Describing and Cataloguing Medieval English Manuscripts: A Checklist**  
   Richard Beadle and Ralph Hanna  
   13

2. **Reading a Manuscript Description**  
   Donald Scragg  
   39

3. **Reading and Understanding Scripts**  
   Julia Crick and Daniel Wakelin  
   49

4. **Working with Images in Manuscripts**  
   Beatrice Kitzinger  
   76

5. **The Sum of the Book: Structural Codicology and Medieval Manuscript Culture**  
   Ryan Perry  
   106

### PART II  WHY DO WE STUDY THE MANUSCRIPT?

6. **Networks of Writers and Readers**  
   Elaine Treharne and Orietta Da Rold  
   129
CONTENTS

7 The Written Word: Literacy across Languages 149
   JANE GILBERT AND SARA HARRIS

8 The Wycliffite Bible 179
   ELIZABETH SOLOPOVA

9 Editing Medieval Manuscripts for Modern Audiences 187
   HELEN FULTON

10 Where Were Books Made and Kept? 214
    TERESA WEBBER

PART III WHERE DO WE STUDY THE MANUSCRIPT?

11 Charming the Snake: Accessing and Disciplining the Medieval Manuscript 237
    SIÂN ECHARD AND ANDREW PRESCOTT

12 The Curation and Display of Digital Medieval Manuscripts 267
    SUZANNE PAUL

13 Medieval Manuscripts, the Collector, and the Trade 284
    A. S. G. EDWARDS

Guide to Further Reading 295
Index 308
General Index 310
ILLUSTRATIONS

1.1 Example of a reconstructed collation 24
3.1 Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 264, fol. 67r 63
3.2 Cambridge, University Library, MS Dd. 14.30, fol. 10r 65
3.3 Cambridge, University Library, MS Gg. 4.27, fol. 457v 70
4.1 Crucifixion, psalter with canticles and litanies, and additional texts (the ‘Arundel Psalter’). Probably Winchester, fourth quarter of the eleventh century (c. 1073) with twelfth-century additions. 320 x 220 mm. London, British Library, Arundel MS 60, fol. 12v 82
4.2 Crucifixion, Arundel Psalter. London, British Library, Arundel MS 60, fol. 52v 83
4.3 Calendar: month of August, Arundel Psalter. London, British Library, Arundel MS 60, fol. 5v 90
4.4 Crucifixion and Psalm 1, Arundel Psalter. London, British Library, Arundel MS 60, fols. 12v–13r 92
4.5 Crucifixion and Psalm 51, Arundel Psalter. London, British Library, Arundel MS 60, fols. 52v–53 94
4.6 Crucifixion, psalter with additional texts (the ‘Tiberius Psalter’). Winchester, third quarter of the eleventh century with twelfth-century additions. 345 x 250 mm (binding). London, British Library, Cotton MS Tiberius C. vi, fol. 13r 99
5.1 Manchester, John Rylands Library, MS Eng. 895 107
7.1 Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 340, fol. 169v 152
7.2 Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS hébreu 113, fol. 2v 157
7.3 Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 328, fol. 195r 160
7.4 Rome, Vatican Library, MS Ottobonianus Latins 1474, fol. 2r 164
7.5 Cambridge, Trinity College, MS R. 17.1, fol. 207r 167
# List of Illustrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Cambridge, University Library, MS Dd. 3. 53, fol. 213v</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 264, fol. 67r</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Stemma for ‘In Praise of Sir Hywel’ (from gutorglyn.net, poem 70)</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University, Gwyneddion MS 4, p. 238</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS 3049D, p. 194</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS 8497B, fol. 43v</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTRIBUTORS

RICHARD BEADLE is Emeritus Professor of Medieval English Literature and Palaeography at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of St John’s College.

JULIA CRICK is Professor of Palaeography and Manuscript Studies at King’s College, University of London. Her publications include The Historia regum Britanniae of Geoffrey of Monmouth, IV. Dissemination and Reception in the Later Middle Ages (1991) and Charters of St. Albans (2007).

ORIETTA DA ROLD is University Lecturer in the University of Cambridge and Fellow of St John’s College. Her publications include The Dd Manuscript: A Digital Edition of Cambridge University Library, MS Dd. 4. 24 of Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales (2013), and Paper in Medieval England: From Pulp to Fictions (2020).

SIÂN ECHARD is Professor at the University of British Columbia. Her publications include Printing the Middle Ages (2008), and she is the General Editor, with Robert Rouse, of The Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature in Britain (2017).

A. S. G. EDWARDS, FSA, FEA, is Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Kent and University College, London, and Deputy Editor of The Book Collector.

HELEN FULTON is Professor of Medieval Literature at the University of Bristol. She specializes in literary and political engagements between medieval Wales, England, and Europe, and is the editor of a corpus of medieval Welsh poetry. She has published widely in the areas of medieval literature, manuscript transmission, and urban culture.
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

JANE GILBERT is Senior Lecturer in French at University College London. She has published on medieval French and English literature both separately and comparatively. She is currently completing a co-authored monograph arising from the AHRC-funded research project, Medieval Francophone Literary Culture Outside France.

RALPH HANNA is Professor of Palaeography Emeritus and Emeritus Fellow of Keble College, Oxford. He hangs out a lot in libraries.


BEATRICE KITZINGER is Assistant Professor of Medieval Art in the Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University. She is the author of The Cross, the Gospels, and the Work of Art in the Carolingian Age (2019).

SUZANNE PAUL is the Keeper of Rare Books and Early Manuscripts at Cambridge University Library, and is closely involved in international digitization efforts for manuscripts.

RYAN PERRY is Senior Lecturer in Late Medieval Literature at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He specializes in the material contexts of vernacular manuscript corpora, and especially Middle English religious textual culture.

ANDREW PRESCOTT is Professor of Digital Humanities in the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow. He was formerly a curator in the Department of Manuscripts at the British Library and was one of the collaborators in ‘Electronic Beowulf’, edited by Kevin S. Kiernan. He was AHRC Theme Leader Fellow for the ‘Digital Transformations’ theme from 2012 to 2019.

DONALD SCRAGG is Professor of Anglo-Saxon Studies Emeritus at the University of Manchester, and the founding Director of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Old English homiletic prose, The Battle of Maldon, and, most recently, A Conspectus of Scribes in Anglo-Saxon England.

ELIZABETH SOLOPOVA is Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, and Lecturer at Christ Church College and Harris Manchester College. Her publications include The Wycliffite Bible: Origin, History and Interpretation (2017). She is the Principal Investigator of the ‘Towards a New Edition of the Wycliffite Bible’ Project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (2016–19).
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Elaine Treharne, FSA, FRHistS, FEA, and FLSW, is Roberta Bowman Denning Professor of Humanities and Professor of English at Stanford University, where she also directs the book historical/digital projects – Stanford Text Technologies, Stanford Global Currents, and CyberTexts. She has published widely on Old and Middle English manuscripts and literary culture, and is currently completing The Phenomenal Book.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We should like to extend our thanks to our contributors, who have patiently assisted in the process of getting this volume to press. Our gratitude goes to Linda Bree and our editors at Cambridge University Press.

We should also like to offer heartfelt thanks to the librarians and manuscript curators at Special Collections’ repositories from Cambridge, London, Oxford, Paris, and elsewhere; their professional contribution, support, and kindness enriches the research of all manuscript scholars in fundamental ways. Similarly, thank you to St John’s College for supporting our formative workshop and to the teams of digitizers and image processors in small and big libraries alike, from Trinity College Cambridge, to the British Library, and to Stanford University Libraries: without your collaboration, contemporary scholarship would be much impoverished.
ABBREVIATIONS

BL  British Library

f., fol.  folio
ff., fols.  folios
OE  Old English
OI  Old Irish
MS(S)  Manuscript(s)
r  recto
v  verso