What has fifteenth-century England to do with the Renaissance? By challenging accepted notions of ‘medieval’ and ‘early modern’, David Rundle proposes a new understanding of English engagement with the Renaissance. He does so by focusing on one central element of the humanist agenda—the reform of the script and of the book more generally—to demonstrate a tradition of engagement from the 1430s into the early sixteenth century. Introducing a cast-list of scribes and collectors who are not only English and Italian but also Scottish, Dutch and German, this study sheds light on the cosmopolitanism central to the success of the humanist agenda. Questioning accepted narratives of the slow spread of the Renaissance from Italy to other parts of Europe, Rundle suggests new possibilities for the fields of manuscript studies and the study of Renaissance humanism.

David Rundle is Lecturer in Latin and Manuscript Studies at the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent. His previous publications include, as co-author with Ralph Hanna, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Western Manuscripts, up to c.1600, in Christ Church, Oxford* (2017).
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DAVID RUNDEL

University of Kent
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Acknowledgements

Palaeography is a hard task-master, demanding not years but decades of apprentice-
ship. It requires both time and financial support to be able to travel to the libraries,
escattered across Europe and beyond, to join together the pieces of evidence that
history has put asunder. This has its countervailing advantages, not least the
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does not give a sense of the human faces that make these organisations breathe.
At the Paul Mellon Centre, I was lucky to be in contact with Mary Smith. The BSR
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The Index of Manuscripts lists their institutions. When you read those names,
think of all the curators, the desk staff, the janitors, the photographers, the
administrators. If I were able to list every one of them, perhaps the world itself
could not contain the pages that would be required. I will confine myself by saying
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to all of them: you are the heroes of scholarship, without whom a book like this could not even begin to be created.

In addition to the libraries who have allowed the reproduction of images from manuscripts in their care, I would like to thank both the Paul Mellon Centre and the University of Kent for generous grants which have assisted in defraying the costs of reproduction.

My formation as a scholar of manuscripts was moulded by three figures who are no longer with us: A. C. (Tilly) de la Mare, Malcolm Parkes and Andrew Watson. I would like to think that, even if they did not agree with everything they read here, they would have enjoyed at least some of what follows. Tilly had a long-standing plan to publish a catalogue of English humanist scribes, and Christopher de Hamel and the late Anthony Hobson encouraged me to do something similar. This book has grown out of that research and superseded that project but it is one to which I still harbour a hope of returning. More recently, I have been grateful for the encouragement and acute eye provided by the editors of the series in which this appears. In addition, I wish to acknowledge a particular debt to Dan Wakelin, who read and commented in a thoughtful and supportive manner on a draft, gently coaxing me towards a more urbane style. Many more scholars have assisted my work, among whom are Stefano Baldassarri, James Carley, Jeremy Catto (may he rest in peace), Julia Crick, Nick Davidson, Teresa De Robertis, Richard Gameson, Daniela Gionta, James Hankins, Marie-Pierre Lafitte, Kate Lowe, Holly James-Maddocks, Antonio Manfredi, Oren Margolis, Charles de Miramon, Antonio Pineda (who took the photos reproduced in Chapter 6 of the record books of the English Hospices in Rome), Clémence Revest, Hester Schadee, Bill Sherman, Bill Stoneman, Maaike van der Lugt, Richard Sharpe, John Watts, James Willoughby and Stefano Zamponi. If any of them cares to read this book, I hope they will take into consideration less its shortcomings and more the sincerity of gratitude with which it comes.

I have not found the process of composition painless but I now realise that the most difficult paragraph to write lies not in any of the chapters but right here. How is it possible to do justice in a few words to the depths of support, encouragement, patience and, frankly, tolerance shown by those closest? Of course, it is not. The most that can be said is: you have made this book what it is because you have made me what I am, and so, in giving it to you, I give back — only in some small part — what is by rights yours already. It is nothing and I am nothing without you. My love, my thanks.

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Conventions and Abbreviations

CONVENTIONS

When a manuscript is undatable, the Ker system of signifying approximate date is used. It is expressed succinctly at N. R. Ker, *Medieval Manuscripts in British Libraries*, 5 vols (Oxford, 1969–2002), ii (1977), p. vii:

‘s. xiii in’, ‘s. xiii’, ‘s. xiii med.’, ‘s. xiii ex.’, ‘s. xiii/xiv’ denote respectively the beginning, first half, middle, second half, end, and turn of the thirteenth century. ‘s. xiii ex.–xv in.’ indicates that part of the manuscript is late thirteenth-century and part of it early fifteenth-century, or of various dates up to the early fifteenth century.

As codicological method requires close scrutiny of the relevant manuscripts, consultation in person is at a premium, even in the world of online fascimiles. There are, inevitably, a few cases where that is not possible, and it is always important to alert the reader to those. Therefore, in this volume, the following sigla are used:

* = a manuscript not yet consulted in person (usually meaning that only images of individual folios have been seen)
+ = a manuscript seen in full but only in microfilm or digital format

ABBREVIATIONS

List of Conventions and Abbreviations

ASV
Archivio Segreto Vaticano

Autenrieth
J. Autenrieth ed., Renaissance- und Humanistenhandschriften (Munich, 1988)

AVCAU
Archivum Collegii Anglorum de Urbe = Rome: Venerable English College Archive

BAV
Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana

BL
London: British Library

Black et al. ed., Palaeography, Humanism and Illumination in Renaissance Italy: Studies in memory of A. C. de la Mare (London, 2016)

BodL
Bodleian Library Record

BNC
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale

BnF
Paris: Bibliothèque nationale de France

BRUC
A. B. Emden, A Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500 (Cambridge, 1963)

BRUO
A. B. Emden, A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to A.D. 1500, 3 vols (Oxford, 1957–59)

Caldelli, Copisti
E. Caldelli, Copisti a Roma nel Quattrocento (Rome, 2006)

CBMLC
Corpus of British Medieval Library Catalogues

CHBB
Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, volumes cited by number:

i (c.400–1100), ed. R. Gameson (2011)


Clarke, Cambridge

CPR
Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Papal Letters, 20 vols to date (London and Dublin, 1883–)

Colophons
[Bénédictins du Bouveret,] Colophons des Manuscrits Occidentaux, 6 vols (Fribourg, 1965–82)
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Contemporaries of Erasmus


D&D BAV Vat. lat. I

E. Caldelli, I codici datati nei Vaticani latini, i–2100 (Vatican City, 2007)

D&D Camb


D&D Oxford


DBI

Dizionario biografico degli italiani, available freely online at www.treccani.it

de la Mare,

A. C. de la Mare, The Handwriting of the Italian Humanists, i (Oxford, 1973)

de la Mare, ‘New Research’


de la Mare, ‘Vespasiano as Producer’


de la Mare and Nuvoloni, Sanvito

A. C. de la Mare and L. Nuvoloni, Bartolomeo Sanvito. The Life & Work of a Renaissance Scribe (sl, 2009)

Derolez, Codicologie

A. Derolez, Codicologie des manuscrits en écriture humanistique sur parchemin, 2 vols (Turnhout, 1984)

Derolez, Gothic


DH&EH

List of Conventions and Abbreviations

**DHL**  

**EHR**  
*English Historical Review*

**English Hospice**  
The *English Hospice in Rome* (Leominster, 2005), a reprint with preface of *The Venerable*, xxi (1962)

**Epistolae Erasmi**  

**Frenz, L’introduzione**  

**Harvey**  

**Ill MSS in Cambridge**  

**IMU**  
*Italia Medioevale e Umanistica*

**ISTC**  
Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, available online at http://data.cerl.org/istc/_search

**Iter**  

**JWCI**  
*Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*

**L&P**  

**MLGB3**  
Medieval Libraries of Great Britain, available online at http://mlgb3.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/

**MSS at Oxford**  

**Mynors, Balliol**  

**ODNB**  
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, available online at www.oxforddnb.com
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