

Bulletin Report

FIRST INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE NETWORK FOR THE STUDY OF CAROLINE
MINUSCULE

23 MAY 2014

CAMBRIDGE, UK

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Scholars, especially students, have few resources or tools available to study Caroline minuscule, especially in its regional manifestations, beyond several seminal but increasingly out-of-date and out-of-print works. Dialogue between the historians, art historians, and linguists working with this script is impeded by distance and language barriers. There is currently no means of knowing the current state of research, no specialized forum for the discussion of the script.

Yet it is a propitious time for advancing the study of Caroline minuscule. The third volume of Bernhard Bischoff's catalogue of ninth-century manuscripts is soon to be published. Digitisation and open-access efforts across the globe have provided new opportunities for research, as scholars no longer need to obtain isolated palaeographical samples from microfilm or rare publications in order to teach and study the script. And the possibilities provided by online publication and networking are considerable.

For this reason, we have formed the new *Network for the Study of Caroline Minuscule*, aimed at research students and established scholars directly interested in the joint study of Caroline minuscule and in developing new tools and approaches for working with the script. Our website (carolinenetwork.weebly.com) will maintain a free mailing list and current database of scholars

interested in the topic, as well as their research interests and contact details, to facilitate networking. Those interested in joining the *Network* may provide their details by visiting the 'Contact us' page. The website will soon provide a more permanent base of information regarding new projects coordinated between members, such as *Littera Carolina*: a forthcoming bibliographical guide to the varieties of Caroline minuscule, the most distinctive features of particular Carolingian scriptoria, and a summary catalogue of manuscripts that scholars have associated with these scriptoria. The guide intends to collect information now scattered in dozens of rare publications.

We recognize, however, that online networking and publications cannot replace the rich conversations that develop in person. The *Network for the Study of Caroline Minuscule* thus aims to bring together an international body of scholars to address all aspects of the script. Our multi-lingual international colloquium will be held for the first time in Cambridge, UK, 23 May 2014, and annually thereafter, acting as a springboard for the more permanent network represented by the website and members list. The full Call for Papers is available on our website, but an abbreviated version follows below.

Our first colloquium marks the imminent publication of the final volume of Bernhard Bischoff's *Katalog der festländischen Handschriften des neunten Jahrhunderts*. A welcome address at the Cambridge University Library will be given by Rosamond McKitterick, Professor of Medieval History. The colloquium will address the current state of research on Caroline minuscule from the late eighth to the tenth centuries and explore questions related to studying the script today, including but not limited to:

- the emergence and development of Caroline minuscule and its varieties
- peculiar features of script or style in certain manuscripts or groups of manuscripts
- comparisons between different codices, regions, scriptoria or scribes
- proposals for new palaeographical tools, methods or terminology
- the means and challenges of dating and localizing manuscripts written in Caroline minuscule
- opportunities for the palaeography of Caroline minuscule in the digital age
- useful but neglected aspects of Bischoff's research

Paper proposals are now open. These should be sent to Anna Dorofeeva (ad529@cam.ac.uk) or Zachary Guiliano (zmg20@cam.ac.uk) as PDFs of c. 500 words, together with a brief CV (one A4 page). The deadline is 31 March but early submission is strongly encouraged. Small bursaries may be available for travel and accommodation expenses, and responses from postgraduates and in languages other than English are especially welcome.

More news and details about both the *Network* and the colloquium will follow during the course of 2014. Please bookmark our website, join our Facebook group, and fill in our contact form to join the members roll and official mailing list. If you own a site, blog, Twitter account, or Facebook page dedicated to the Early Middle Ages, please link to us. Send us your information as well, and we will add it to our website.