

Studies in Medieval and
Renaissance Book Culture

Erik Kwakkel,

Rosamond McKitterick

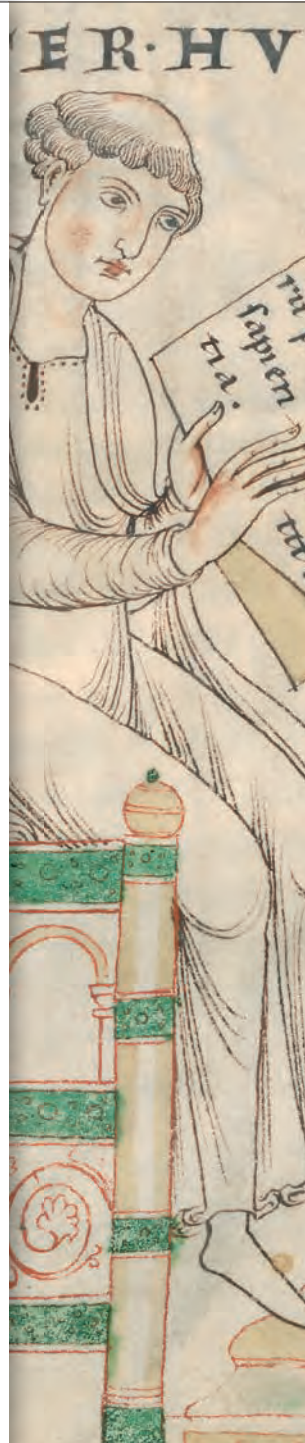
& Rodney Thomson

Turning Over a New Leaf:

Change and Development

in the Medieval Book

Leiden University Press



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Preface

The three studies in this book are devoted to changes and developments in the physical appearance of medieval manuscripts between the ninth and thirteenth centuries, and to the circumstances in which these books were produced. They were originally presented as the inaugural Liefstinck Lectures on the theme of ‘change and development in the medieval book’, but are here greatly expanded. The lectures formed part of the programme organized in Leiden University Library in 2010–11 in relation to the research project ‘Turning Over a New Leaf: Manuscript Innovation in the Twelfth-Century Renaissance’, directed by Erik Kwakkel, Institute for Cultural Disciplines, Leiden University, and in collaboration with Leiden University Library’s Special Collections and the Scaliger Institute. The Liefstinck Lectures are delivered four times a year to commemorate Gerard Isaac Liefstinck († 1994), who held the Chair of Palaeography at Leiden University until 1972 and who made a significant impact on the study of the medieval book, especially the development and nomenclature of script in the Middle Ages.

In Peter Gumbert’s tribute to Gerard Liefstinck, delivered at the first Liefstinck Lecture and included in this volume, Liefstinck’s career as a manuscript scholar in Leiden is described. He worked in various capacities, from September 1939 as keeper of the *Bibliotheca Neerlandica Manuscripta*, an archive containing descriptions of some 20,000 Middle Dutch manuscripts; from 1942 as keeper of manuscripts; from 1948 as lecturer in medieval palaeography and codicology; and from 1963 to 1972 as Professor of Palaeography. Gumbert, who was Liefstinck’s pupil as well as his successor in the Chair, discusses the scope of

Lieftinck's interests and accomplishments, as well as the impact he had on the study of the medieval book, not least in his cataloguing, his pioneering comparative approach to the study of medieval manuscripts in the Low Countries and his contributions to the great enterprise of the *Catalogues des manuscrits datés*.

Rosamond McKitterick's paper addresses the degree of innovation as well as emulation in the production of books and transmission of knowledge in the Carolingian period, and the problem of interpretation these can present for modern scholars. She explores the relationship between Carolingian copies of ancient texts and their exemplars and the ways in which the presentations of the text may form a bridge to the classical past. Her discussion encompasses new kinds of books being produced in the Carolingian period, as well as new genres of texts and is based on close consultation of the surviving manuscripts. For some books, when the earliest extant manuscripts are Carolingian but are certainly or arguably based on older exemplars no longer extant, there is the question of their relationship to these older (or possible) exemplars. How should one think about readers of these manuscripts? What kinds of aids were devised for the reader? How may we eliminate, or at least allow for, our inevitably subjective assessments of manuscript page layout as modern scholars? Such questions are addressed by focusing on history books and world Chronicles from late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, as well as encyclopaedias and glossaries. Both categories are well represented in the extraordinarily rich and important Leiden collections. The compilation of glossaries with their long lists of words presented particular challenges to the scribes, to which they responded in a number of ways. As McKitterick demonstrates, the manuscripts offer interesting puzzles in themselves about

the transmission, not only of knowledge but also of the presentation of this specific kind of information, how scribes coped with the difficulties, how the books functioned and the way the texts were copied and organized.

Erik Kwakkel's study of the transformation of script during the long twelfth century explores the theme of change and development by tracing how one physical dynamic of the medieval book, script, evolved over the course of the period c. 1075 to c.1225. During this century and a half the physical book received a number of new features. This chapter focuses on script exclusively and shows how the handwriting of scribes slowly changed as the book evolved from one prolific book format to another – from Caroline minuscule to Gothic. Based on a source that has not hitherto been used to this end, the *Catalogues des manuscrits datés*, the development of eight palaeographical traits is mapped in order to determine when the characteristic features of Gothic writing replaced those of Caroline minuscule. He is able, for the first time, to place 'time stamps' on each of these developments.

Rodney Thomson focuses on a further aspect of this relationship between book production and intellectual culture during the same crucial period of change and development as that examined by Erik Kwakkel. He does so from the perspective of the contributions to book production made in Germany during the long twelfth century. In seeking to describe and account for the 'Twelfth-Century Renaissance', historians have generally concentrated upon northern France and Paris in particular, on the rise of scholasticism and on brilliant individual figures such as Peter Abelard. The German-speaking areas of Western Europe have been comparatively neglected, with the implication that they were conservative and backward-looking. Thomson reconsiders the work of German scribes using as

evidence the twelfth-century library catalogues as well as the surviving manuscripts themselves. He draws attention to the remarkable expansion of existing libraries and the creation of new ones, the prodigious quantity of new books produced to a very high standard and the ways in which the impact of the reform and intellectual innovation of this transformative period can be charted in the libraries of the German empire. The libraries reflect a burst of book copying activity, not only of the staple patristic works and books related to the seven liberal arts, but also of the texts of the new learning emanating from Paris and elsewhere.

The authors wish to thank Steven Vanderputten (Ghent) and Marco Mostert (Utrecht) for their very useful and constructive comments on an earlier draft of this book, Peter Gumbert for his introduction to Gerard Lieftinck, the University Library for their generosity of waiving much of the cost for the images in this book as well as their reproduction rights, Jenny Weston (Leiden) for her meticulous copyediting and the staff of Leiden University Press for their help in seeing this book through the press.

EK, RMK, RT
Leiden, November 2011

List of Figures and Plates

Black and white images presenting details of these manuscripts, referred to as 'Figures', are placed within the text. Colour images depicting the full pages, referred to as 'Plates', are to be found at the back of this book.

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2. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLQ 9, fols 24v-25r
3. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS BPL 114, fols 38v-39r
4. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS BPL 48, fols 8v-9r
5. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLQ 60, fols 8v-9r
6. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLF 82, fol. 120v
7. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLF 30, fol. 22v
8. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS Scaliger 28, fols 17v-18r
9. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLQ 110 A, fols 1v-2r
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26. Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, MS Guelf. 204 Helmst., fol. 3v
27. Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, MS Clm 22009, fol. 4v
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Photograph of Gerard Isaac Liefstinck at page 14:
Academic Museum Leiden

Cover image: Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek,
MS Vulcanius 46, f. 130r (detail)

Enlarged details at outset of chapters

- p. 20: Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS VLF 73, fol. 133v (= fig. 16)
 p. 78: Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, MS Vulcanius 46, fol. 130v (= fig. 21)
 p. 126: Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, MS Clm 22059, fol. 1r (= fig. 28)

Abbreviations

BAV	Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana
BL	London, British Library
BM	Bibliothèque municipale
BNC	Biblioteca nazionale centrale
BnF	Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France
Bodl.	Oxford, Bodleian Library
BPL	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Bibliotheca Publica Latina
CUL	Cambridge, University Library
KB	Koninklijke Bibliotheek
ÖNB	Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
Scaliger	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Scaliger
SB	Stiftsbibliothek
UB	Universiteitsbibliotheek
UBi	Universitätsbibliothek
VGQ	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Vossianus Graecus Quarto
VLF	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Vossianus Latinus Folio
VLQ	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Vossianus Latinus Quarto
VLO	Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Vossianus Latinus Octavo
WLB	Württembergische Landesbibliothek

Gerard Isaac Liefstinck

(† 1994)

