

Kelly, Henry, Ed., *Medieval Manuscripts, Their Makers and Users: A Special Issue of Viator in Honour of Richard and Mary Rouse.*

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Richard H. and Mary A. Rouse need no introduction to those who work with medieval manuscripts. For several decades they have been involved in teaching, writing and editing at all levels of manuscript production and dissemination. This issue of *Viator* has been created by academics whose work has been influenced by the Rouses and in celebration of their generous donation of various manuscripts, *folia* and medieval documents to the Department of Special Collections at UCLA, now called the Rouse Collection. It includes 17 essays, as well as a description of the items within the Collection, a bibliography of the couple and a *Tabula Gratulatia*. Overall, the book's content was satisfying, but I would have preferred more thought in the arrangement of essays.

The essays are grouped under various headings: Manuscript and Text Image; Textual Studies; Medieval England; Italian History and Humanism and a Postscript which focuses on the Rouses, their work and the Collection. From the Table of Contents, one is immediately launched into a discussion of text and image in a particular fifteenth-century manuscript (The Getty *Tristan*) by Keith Busby. It is a detailed analysis of an incomplete text, tracings its origins and its ownership in later centuries and positioning it within a social, codicological and artistic context. Accompanied by fifteen plates, it establishes a standard for detail that is generally sustained throughout the book.

The section on manuscript text and images continues with Anne D. Hedeman's "Laurent de Premierfait and the Visualization of Antiquity"; "The Proactive Reader: Learning to Learn the Law" by Susan L'Engle and "Linking Ancient Troy and Medieval France: Illuminations of an Early Copy of the *Roman de Troie*" by Elizabeth Morrison. Each of these essays was immaculately researched, but the flow between them was jarred. I am not sure why an essay on law and education was positioned between essays which discussed the role of antiquity in medieval literature. I found L'Engle's essay on education and law fascinating.

The second section on Textual Studies (misspelled in the Table of Contents as Texual) boasts six essays of varying themes, from the role of antiquarians in the development of manuscript studies as a legitimate part of historical study (Bonnie Effros) to the transmission of North African texts to Europe in late antiquity (Stacey Graham). There are two essays in French which are conveniently presented with English abstracts. The first provides information on the illuminator Jean le Noir, proposing that a historiated initial be added to his collection of known work. The second analyses a fragment housed in the Sorbonne proposing that it is part of an inventory of books for the Dominican Convent in Basel. The two other essays in this section are "Non-biblical Texts in Thirteenth-Century Bibles" by Laura Light, who uses the added material to suggest ways that these early Bibles were used, and "Private Libraries Privately Made" by Patricia Stirnemann, building on work done by Richard Rouse in the Sorbonne in the period 1967-1973 on the library of Richard de Fournival (d. 1260).

The essays dedicated to English material consider English writers and the dissemination of their works (William Darker is considered by A. I. Doyle while Anne Hudson discusses Wyclif). Ralph Hanna takes a slightly different approach to the

medieval writer Dan Michel of Northgate, looking at his role as scribe and book collector. “The ‘Genealogical’ History and the English Roll” by Margaret Lamont was a fascinating discussion on the way one particular roll should be read as a political tool. It contained a lot of information and I think the essay may have benefitted by the inclusion of some images to support its contention.

“Italian History and Humanism” contains two essays, providing different approaches to manuscripts as study tools. Carrie E. Beneš compared various Italian catalogues of city foundations in the fourteenth century, noting that internal evidence suggest that they were not solely written as an expression of civic pride, but with the knowledge that they would be read elsewhere. Thus they were part of the complex network of socio-politico relationships beyond the city walls. The penultimate essay by Peter Kidd traces a journey of discovery as he has attempted to reconstruct a dismembered Book of Hours, part of which is now part of the Rouse Collection at UCLA.

All of the essays are well-written, with minimal typographical errors. Almost every essay refers to figures or tables. Those that did not provide either of these might have benefitted by their consideration, especially the essays by Lamont and Light. The plates and charts are appended to the individual essays, providing essential details to arguments within relatively easy access. There could have been no clearer way to mark the Rouses’ focus on the material nature of manuscripts as tools for study.

My only gripe with the book is with the structure. As a special edition of *Viator*, it is structured as a journal, with no introduction or index. As a tribute to two celebrated scholars, I think that the final essay on the contents of the Rouse Collection, along with its discussion on the work of Richard and Mary Rouse could have made a fitting

opening and prepared the reader for what was to follow. I also believe a book like this requires an index. It contains so much information on particular individuals and texts from the Middle Ages, that I can only hope that library cataloguing systems provides enough information for students interested in manuscripts to follow up individual essays.

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