Words & Deeds
Inter-Relating in Form & Function

From Late-Antique Theater to the Legacy of Otto Ege,
By Way of, *inter alia*, Saint-Denis and Gutenberg

A Symposium of the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

Friday, 25 March 2016
Princeton University

Sponsors

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
The Department of Art & Archaeology
The Index of Christian Art at Princeton University
James Marrow & Emily Rose

Our theme engages with the realms of manuscripts, documents, seals, inscriptions, and other means of authentications or attestations, regarding deeds in material forms as well as deeds in action. Narratives (both real and imagined) have their part in the story, too, along with illustrations in a variety of media. The interrelationship, tensions, or outright conflicts between words and events, actual or planned, may come into focus as well. The span for consideration welcomes a range of dates, languages, regions, materials, forms of activities, and interactions.

Likewise, we address some issues of objects which carry within the confines of their present borders most of the evidence, apparently, to reveal their purposes through words and/or images. Such is the case, poignantly, given the vagaries of history (from whatever causes, natural or not), with fragments dispersed from former whole objects or groups of objects, as with collections or individual monuments.

Our sessions will focus on these and other predicaments, challenges, and opportunities. For example, we celebrate the research and discoveries facing the study and recovery of manuscript remnants from the collection of Otto F. Ege. Some original materials from other collections may be on view.

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Program (Provisional)

Friday, 25 March 2016
106 McCormick Hall

Welcome & Introduction 8:50–9:00 am
Mildred Budny (Research Group on Manuscript Evidence)

Session 9:00–10:30 am

1. "Strategies for Acting, Re-Enacting & Redeeming"
Moderator: Charles E. Barber (Department of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University)

Andrew Walker-White (Stratford University, Woodbridge, Virginia)
“Modes of Presence, Modes of Authenticity:
The Interaction of 'Artifact' and Persona in Late Antiquity”

Karl Morrison (Rutgers University Emeritus)
“Oscar’s Paradox: Deadly Love in Western Christian Liturgy”

Sarah Celentano (University of Texas at Austin)
issues of fragmentation in the complex transmission of the Hortus deliciarum

Eric White (Firestone Library, Princeton University)
“Good Words for Misdeeds: Gutenberg’s Typographic Indulgences of 1454–55”

Break 10:40–11:00 am

Session 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

2. “Records of Moments & Monumentality”
Moderator: Alan Stahl (Firestone Library, Princeton University)

Genevra Kornbluth (Kornbluth Photography)
“When Words Act, Objects Can Replace Words: Sixth-Century Amulets With and Without Inscriptions”
Nino Zchomelidse (John Hopkins University)  
“The Marriage Charter of Empress Theophanu (972)”

Brigitte Bedos-Rezak (New York University)  
“Contact and Contract: Sealing the Deed in the Central Middle Ages”

Lunch 12:30–1:30 pm (? by own arrangement or for Speakers, Moderators, Spice?)

Session 1:30–3:00 pm

3. “Texts, Inscriptions & Intentions at the Abbey of Saint-Denis”
Moderator: Catherine Fernandez (Index of Christian Art)

Papers:

Paula Gerson (Florida State University Emerita)  
“When a Door is More than a Door: The Bronze Valves for Abbot Suger’s Central Portal”

Thomas Waldman (University of Pennsylvania)  
‘The Date of Bibliothèque Mazarine, MS 2013, and Why Does It Matter”

Elizabeth A.R. Brown (Brooklyn College Emerita)  
“The Contents of Mazarine MS 2013 (and also Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS latin 12,710) and Why They Matter”

Break 3:00–3:30 pm

Session 3:30–5:00 pm

4. “Words and Misdeeds: The Ege Family’s Commitment to Manuscript Studies”
Moderator: Barbara A. Shailor (Yale University)

Papers:

Raymond Clemens (Beinecke Library, Yale University)  
"The 'Family' Portfolio: A Key to the Ege Collection"
Katherine Philbin (Simmons College)
"Picking Up the Pieces: How Fragmentology Saved the Day"

Lisa Fagin Davis (The Medieval Academy of America)
"IIIF, Mirador, and Otto Ege: The Pedagogical Possibilities"

Round Table Discussion 5:00–5:30 pm
“Fragments as Essence in the Recovery of Evidence”
Moderator: Beatrice E. Kitzinger (Department of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University)

Panelists:

Barbara Shailor (Yale University)
Pamela Patton (Index of Christian Art)
Celia Chazelle (The College of New Jersey)

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Exhibition: ‘Words and Deeds of Charles Rufus Morey at the American Embassy in Rome (1945–1950)’
A new exhibition, curated by Jessica Savage (Index of Christian Art), of materials in the Charles Rufus Morey archive at the Index of Christian Art

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Demonstration/Display 5:30–7:00 pm
Seminar Room, Index of Christian Art

Reception 5:30–7:00 pm
Index of Christian Art

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? Dinner for Speakers and “Spice” (Spouses, Partners)