

## Newsletter 8: June 2017

### The Legend of Charlemagne in Medieval England

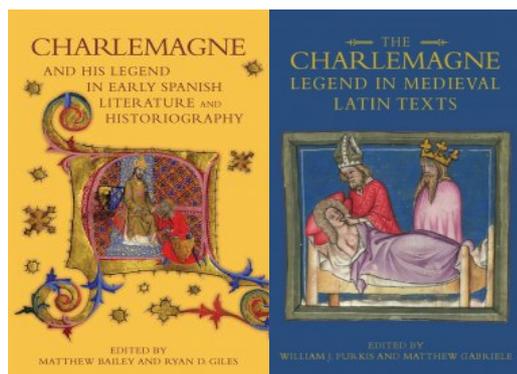
In August, the *Charlemagne: A European Icon* network will publish its third volume of seven. The work, co-authored by Marianne Ailes (University of Bristol) and Phillipa Hardman (University of Reading), is entitled *The Legend of Charlemagne in Medieval England: The Matter of France in Middle English and Anglo-Norman Literature*. It will be published by Boydell and Brewer, and it is already available for pre-order through their [website](#).

*The Legend of Charlemagne in England* is the first full-length study of this subject. It explores the impact of the Matter of France, concentrating on both English and French-language texts. This book sets each text in its cultural and political context; it examines concerns with national politics, religious identity, the future of Christendom, chivalry and ethics, monarchy and treason.

### Progress of Other Volumes

Our other works are progressing well. It is anticipated that *Charlemagne in the Norse and Celtic Worlds* (ed. Helen Fulton and Sif Rikhardsdottir) will be sent to the publisher this autumn. This will be the first volume to examine in detail Charlemagne texts written in Old Norse, Middle Welsh, and Middle Irish, so it will contribute something completely new to Charlemagne literary scholarship.

Likewise, our volumes on *Charlemagne in Italian Literature* (ed. Jane Everson and Claudia Boscolo), *Charlemagne in Medieval Francophonia and Occitan* (ed. Philip Bennett and Marianne Ailes), and *Charlemagne in German and Dutch* (Albrecht Classen) are progressing well.



Our two published volumes are available from Boydell and Brewer for £60 each:

[\*Charlemagne and his Legend in Early Spanish Literature and Historiography\*](#)

[\*The Charlemagne Legend in Medieval Latin Texts\*](#)

## Recent Events

### Société Rencesvals British Branch

Our network partners – the Société Rencesvals British Branch – held their 2017 colloquium in Lichfield. It was a well-attended event, and this year delegates delivered papers on the themes of crusading texts in memory of former president, Professor Peter Noble, and Charlemagne material.



colloquium of the Société Rencesvals British Branch in Lichfield.



William Purkis discusses the materiality of Charlemagne's Iberian crusade

The British branch also welcomed a guest speaker in the person of William Purkis (co-editor of our *Charlemagne Legend in Medieval Latin Texts* volume). Dr Purkis delivered a paper on ‘The Materiality of Charlemagne's Iberian Crusade’.



Those in attendance were treated to a wide variety of papers throughout the rest of the day. Among others, the topics included the practice of translation, Saracen voices in the *Roman de Notre Dame de Lagrasse*, Charlemagne as a model of emperors, the eating habits of knights as depicted in Italian epic, and cannibalism. The final two topics, it should be noted, were unrelated!



Phillipa Hardman speaking about the Ashmole *Sir Ferumbras*

## Upcoming Events

Members of the Charlemagne network will take part in numerous conferences over the next year. You can keep track of forthcoming events on our [website](#). Of particular note, in 2018 we will host several public events. Led by the theme *Charlemagne in England*, several exhibitions of items held in archives across the Midlands and Yorkshire will showcase their important Charlemagne material. The displays are in advanced planning and we are actively in discussion with appropriate venues to mount them.

## Charlemagne Online

Recent additions to our website include an article by [Dagmar Paulus](#) on the important role played by the imperial crown, the creation of which was for many years incorrectly attributed to Charlemagne, in the history of the Holy Roman Empire and more recent German history. Dr Paulus has also provided a commentary for an image of the crown, which it is possible to access on the exhibit section of our [website](#).



Over the next year, we intend to enhance awareness of our project. The website already allows access to peer-reviewed articles, and we encourage all members of the network to consider sending us work for publication. We also have virtual exhibits of Charlemagne iconography from the medieval and post-medieval world. At the time of writing, we have 486 followers on Twitter.

