

Newsletter 10: August 2018

New Facilitators

I want to begin this newsletter with thanks from everyone involved with the project for all the work of Dr James Doherty as project facilitator since the beginning of the project. Congratulations to Jamie on his new job, a 1-year lecturing post at Leeds University where he will be teaching Crusades history at all level, from year 1 to postgraduate.

Jamie has been the driving force behind much of the public engagement. He has developed some schools' materials for key stage 2; these will be launched and advertised to schools shortly. He has worked closely with the vicar from All saints Claverley and with the curator of the Bayards Coltsv and developed what we are able to do with them. It is largely due to Jamie's efforts that the Charlemagne project is likely to be an impact case study for Bristol.

We have been able to engage 2 part-time early career colleagues who will share the project facilitator work for the last 7 weeks of the funding: Dr Rebecca Lyons and Dr Philip Booth. Bex has a PhD in medieval English and a 0.5 teaching post in the English department at Bristol University and Phil is a Crusades historian who will be working remotely from Lancaster where he has a 0.2 post.

Claverley Wall Paintings & Bayard's Colts

Leeds IMC 2018

The International Medieval Congress at Leeds is usually a busy affair for all involved. This year was no exception for the *Charlemagne: A European Icon* project. In addition to a panel on the memory of Charlemagne in medieval England, we hosted a wine reception and exhibition in conjunction with the Treasures of the Brotherton and Walsall Leather Museum. This event attracted a considerable number of attendees, and we were able to display the two of the Bayard's Colts collection, including the Charlemagne head (pictured right), currently held in Walsall. We are most grateful to Catherine Lister (Walsall



Leather Museum), who made it possible for us to increase awareness of these mysterious objects among the scholarly community.

All Saints Church, Claverley, Shropshire



Following the success of our Leeds reception, the Charlemagne project held a public-engagement event at All Saints Church in Claverley, Shropshire, on Saturday 21 July. Claverley is home to astonishing wall paintings of battling knights (sometimes referred to as England's Bayeux Tapestry), which cover the entire length of the north wall of the nave. It is likely that the artist, working *c.* 1220, drew on the legends

of Roland and Charlemagne as depicted in the *Pseudo-Turpin* – the presence of a knight blowing a horn and a flowering lance support this interpretation. Over 120 people attended, mostly fairly local, but one family were from as far away as California. Papers were delivered by Matthew Strickland (University of Glasgow), Matthew Bennett (military historian, formerly RMA Sandhurst), Marianne Ailes (University of Bristol) and Christopher Barrett (artist and historian).

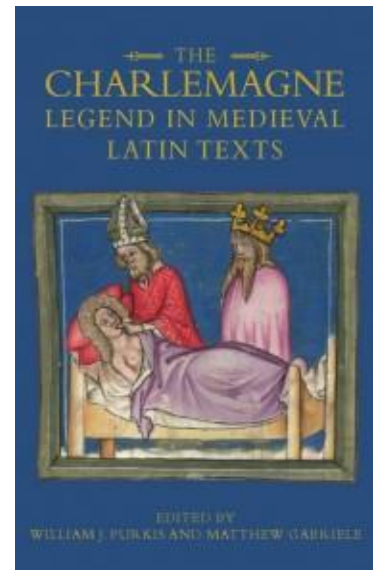
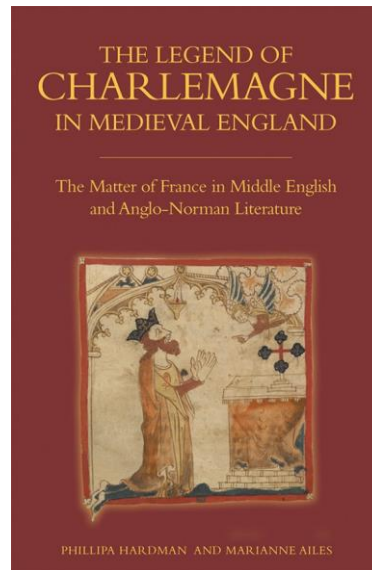
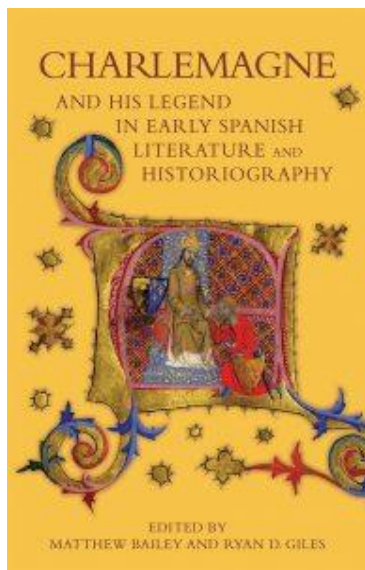
Progress of Remaining Volumes

The first three of our seven volumes are now in print (see below). Of our remaining four, *Charlemagne in the Norse and Celtic Worlds* (ed. Helen Fulton and Sif Rikhardsdottir) is progressing well and is due to be submitted to Boydell and Brewer in September 2018. The volume will bring together new scholarship on the reception, diffusion and impact of the Charlemagne legends in the Norse and Celtic languages. *Charlemagne in German and Dutch* (Albrecht Classen) is being edited. Our volumes on *Charlemagne in Italian Literature* (ed. Jane Everson and Claudia Boscolo), and *Charlemagne in Medieval Francophonia and Occitan* (ed. Philip Bennett and Marianne Ailes) are progressing well; contributors from both research teams will be speaking at the triennial Société Rencesvals Congress in Toronto (13-17 August)

Our three 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*](#)

- [*The Legend of Charlemagne in Medieval England*](#)



Forthcoming Events

On 1 September, we will be hosting a family day at the Walsall Leather Museum. The museum has been picked as it stores all 17 surviving items of the Bayard's Colts collection, including the remarkable Charlemagne Head. It is likely that these staves, some of them measuring over 2 meters in length, were used in the maintenance of law and order in the Walsall area from at least the sixteenth century. They are not, however, well known, even in Walsall, and it is hoped that this event will raise awareness of these items, and their connection to Charlemagne, in the region that created them.

You can keep track of forthcoming events on our [website](#).

Charlemagne Online



Recent additions to our website include [Laura Morreale's article 'Reading Charlemagne in Outremer'](#). We also have three new features on our [exhibition pages](#), including pictures of a genealogical roll held at the Treasures of the Brotherton (University of Leeds) and a commentary on Adam de la Halle's verse about the horse Bayars, 'Or est Baiars'. You can listen to a rendition of this song performed by the Bristol early music group, *Nova*. Finally, and following the event at Claverley church, we now have pictures of the abovementioned wall paintings of fighting knights. At the time of writing, we have 619 followers on Twitter.

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