

Call for Papers: Form and Function in the Late Medieval Bible

The Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh, 12-14 July 2010



Edinburgh University Library MS 4, fols. 170v-171r

At the beginning of the thirteenth century a new type of Bible emerged from Paris and southern England and spread rapidly throughout Western Europe. Innovations in script and parchment enabled the creation of single-volume Bibles, some of which could easily fit a modern pocket; other features, such as the modern chapter division, introduced unprecedented ease of usage. These Bibles became the template for Gutenberg's celebrated 42-line version and have had an influence on printed Bibles ever since. Today, hundreds of these manuscripts survive, bearing witness to one of the most popular books of the Middle Ages. The ubiquity of these Bibles has only recently been met by scholarly interest, and questions remain regarding their evolution as well as their place within the medieval university, pulpit and priory.

Hosted by the University of Edinburgh and the National Library of Scotland, 'Form and Function in the Late Medieval Bible' will bring together experts in medieval liturgy and sermons, art, religion and manuscripts, to examine the material culture of the Late Medieval Bible and its setting. Presentations, discussions and two workshops would draw on the wealth of manuscripts in the University Library and the NLS in analysing variants of text and layout, imagery and addenda.

Papers are invited on any aspect of the Late Medieval Bible (c.1230-c.1450) and its place within medieval religion, culture and society; sessions will address the evolution of the Late Medieval Bible, its layout, addenda and art, as well as its connection to exegesis, preaching and liturgy. Proposals (up to 300 words) should be emailed to L.M.B@ed.ac.uk or sent to the Centre for the History of the Book, 22a Buccleuch Place, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH8 9LN, by **December 20**. A small number of postgraduate bursaries will be made available towards defraying costs of travel and registration. The date of the conference is planned to enable attendees to take part in the CHB's *Material Cultures 2010* conference, 16-18 July.

Tentative List of Speakers:

- Nicole Bériou (Université Lumière Lyon 2)
- Laura Light (Independent Scholar, Boston)
- John Lowden (Courtauld Institute of Art, London)
- Eyal Poleg (CHB, University of Edinburgh)
- Diane J. Reilly (Indiana University, Bloomington)
- Paul Saenger (The Newberry Library, Chicago)
- Paul Antonio (Calligrapher, London)