Parker Library

Harrassowitz has the pleasure to announce that Version 1.0 of Parker Library on the Web will be available for purchase from October 1, 2009.

Parker on the Web is an interactive, web-based workspace designed to support research and teaching associated with the manuscripts in the world-famous Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. When the full site is available in October 2009, users will have access to high-resolution copies of every imageable page in the Library’s remarkable collection of 538 manuscripts spanning the sixth to the sixteenth centuries; a fullytagged version of M. R. James’ well-known catalogue (A Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library of Corpus Christi College Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1912) updated and expanded by a project team at work since 2005; and bibliographic entries for more than 6,000 secondary works and more than 18,000 citations linking those works to individual manuscripts. The site will also offer access to digital copies of some editions and secondary works. The site relies on a combination of commercial, open source and custom built technologies to support image viewing and information retrieval. Users can easily zoom, pan and rotate the high-resolution images, and can examine the scale and color bars used when each image was captured. The application supports keyword and sophisticated fielded searching on the amplified manuscript descriptions, “abstracts” of each manuscript created by the project team, and the bibliography. Parker on the Web is the product of more than five years’ work by Corpus Christi College, the University of Cambridge and Stanford University, generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Most features and approximately 130 complete manuscripts are available now, on a beta version of the site.  

![Illustration from Matthew Paris (d. 1259) Chronica Maiora](image)

http://parkerweb.stanford.edu

This preview of the full site, which also includes background information about the project and five short tutorials which explain how the site is used, is currently available without charge to any user who registers and accepts an agreement covering permitted uses. From 1 October 2009, in order to generate income sufficient to ensure that the resource can be maintained, enhanced and forward-migrated as necessary, access to the full site will be available via institutional licenses only. (A “basic” version of the site consisting of limited image viewing and simple browsing by manuscript number and name only – and no access to the bibliographic apparatus and digitized secondary materials – will remain available without charge.) Parties interested in institutional licenses or wishing other information are asked to contact OTTO HARRASSOWITZ – the sole worldwide agent for Parker on the Web – at service@harrassowitz.de.

![An opening from the beginning of the Gospel of St. Luke from the St. Augustine Gospels (MS 286, 6th century)](image)
The Project

Parker on the Web is the product of a partnership between Corpus Christi College and Stanford University.

CORPORUS CHRISTI COLLEGE was founded in 1352. It bears the distinction of being the only college in Oxford or Cambridge to have been founded by local citizens. Its greatest benefactor was the one time Corpus undergraduate and later Archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker, whose library, still today, is the pride of the college. The College continues its work of education and high-level research. It is one of the smaller colleges in Cambridge.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY was founded in 1885. Ever since its beginning high priority was given to the development of library collections. Today, placing a strong emphasis on effective use of digital as well as paper resources, the Stanford University Libraries & Academic Information Resources is a global leader in embracing new technologies and services in pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning, and research.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY whose Imaging Service is charged by Corpus with the digital photography for Parker on the Web, is one of the oldest institutions in the University of Cambridge. For more than 600 years it has been central to the support of teaching and research at Cambridge, and a major resource for scholars around the world. Since 1710 the Library has been a legal deposit library, entitled to claim a copy of every book and periodical published in Great Britain and Ireland.

Distribution

OTTO HARRASSOWITZ GmbH & Co. KG was named the sole distributor for Parker on the Web. HARRASSOWITZ is a book and serials vendor for the academic and research library community, specializing in the distribution of scholarly books, periodicals, e-resources, and music scores. Founded in 1872 in Leipzig, the company soon gained international acceptance in the academic library market. It was moved to Wiesbaden after World War II, from where it serves its customers worldwide, with a special emphasis on quality service.

For further information about Parker on the Web please contact HARRASSOWITZ at service@harrassowitz.de

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Matthew Parker (1504 – 75) was a powerful figure of the English Reformation who was largely responsible for the Church of England as a national institution. Parker’s talents were sought after by both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. He served as a chaplain to Anne Boleyn and proved himself a capable administrator, becoming Master of Corpus Christi College (1544 – 53), Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, and Archbishop of Canterbury (1559 – 75).

A benefactor to the University of Cambridge, Parker’s greatest tangible legacy is his library of manuscripts and early printed books entrusted to Corpus Christi College in 1574. He was an avid book collector, salvaging medieval manuscripts dispersed at the dissolution of the monasteries. He was particularly keen on preserving materials relating to Anglo-Saxon England, motivated by his search for evidence of an ancient English-speaking church independent of Rome. To ensure the safekeeping of his collection, Parker included a clause with his donation to Corpus Christi College. It required an annual inspection of the completeness of the collection. Should there be more than twelve items missing, the entire collection would revert to Gonville and Caius College. In the case of a similar event in the new location, the collection would be moved to Trinity Hall and then back to Corpus Christi College. There was no need ever to invoke this clause. The extraordinary collection of documents that resulted from Parker’s efforts has been continuously housed at Corpus Christi College since 1574.

It includes items that span more than a thousand years, from the St. Augustine Gospels (sixth century) to sixteenth century records of the English reformation. The Parker Library’s holdings of Old English texts accounts for nearly a quarter of all extant manuscripts in Anglo-Saxon, including the earliest copy of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (c. 890), the Old English Bede and King Alfred’s translation of Gregory the Great’s Pastoral Care. Other subjects represented are music, medieval travelogues and maps, bestiaries, royal ceremonies, historical chronicles and Bibles. The Parker Library’s magnificent collection of English illuminated manuscripts provides invaluable resources to scholars in a variety of disciplines—including art, music, science, literature, politics and religion.
Pricing

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VAT and GTS will be applied as applicable.

For more information please contact HARRASSOWITZ at service@harrassowitz.de.

Beta Version of the Site available without charge

Interested in the manuscripts? For a free demo version and several tutorials of Parker on the Web please visit

http://parkerweb.stanford.edu

or contact OTTO HARRASSOWITZ at

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The frontispiece to the Bury Bible, MS 2, f. 1v.