

1. Progress Report

1.1 Publishable summary



HERA JRP: **CULTURAL MEMORY AND THE RESOURCES OF THE PAST, 400-1000 AD (CMRP): Report for the period 1 June 2010 – 31 January 2011**



The CMRP group at NIAS, Wassenaar, NL, on 16 October 2010

left to right: Graeme Ward, Desirée Scholten, Walter Pohl, Rosamond McKitterick, Sven Meeder, Clemens Gantner, Robert Flierman, Tim Barnwell, Ricky Broome, Marianne Pollheimer, Ian Wood and Mayke de Jong

Project Leader:

Prof. Walter Pohl, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna

Principal Investigators:

Prof. Mayke de Jong, Utrecht University, NL

Prof. Ian Wood, Leeds University, UK

Prof. Rosamond McKitterick, University of Cambridge, UK

Achievement of the CRP (Collaborative Research Project)

The project explores the eclectic uses of the resources of the past in the post-Roman successor states of Western Europe in the early middle ages. The aims are two-fold:

1. to determine the role played by the resources of the past in forming the identities of the communities of early medieval Western Europe, and
2. to identify the process by which the new discourses, ethnic identities and social models of early medieval Europe have come to form an essential part of modern European national and transnational identities.

The project currently funds 6 PhD students, one of which is going to move on to Post-doc status during the next reporting period, and one post-doc. All 7 researchers have embarked on new projects with the start of their funding and have been working to establish a scientific basis for their project parts. First results and research outlines of the PhD and post-doc researchers were discussed at the first CRP workshop, which was held at NIAS, Wassenaar, NL, on 15 October. To facilitate communication within the CRP, a collaborative online workspace has been set up. To allow dissemination of CMRP research, a website has been created (<http://cmrp.oeaw.ac.at>). The CRP has also been presented by all four PIs at the international conference "Ethnic Identities in Early Medieval Europe", on 10 December 2010 in Vienna, in front of an international expert audience. The statements have been filmed and can be viewed online on www.youtube.com and on <http://cmrp.oeaw.ac.at/events.htm>.

Achievements of the Individual Projects (IPs)

IP 01: LEARNING EMPIRE – CREATING CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR CAROLINGIAN RULE (PI WALTER POHL, AUSTRIAN ACADEMY, VIENNA)

SUB-PROJECT 01A: THE POPES AS CULTURAL BROKERS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IN THE 8TH CENTURY (MMag Clemens Gantner, start of sub-project 1.9.2010).

Throughout the eighth century, the popes increasingly tried to establish themselves as hegemonial 'cultural brokers' for the regions north of the Alps. To a considerable degree, 'learning empire' meant learning from the popes. What cultural resources could the popes offer to the people of the Latin West and where did they originate? In the context of a general interest in positive and negative images of the Other in papal sources of the eighth and ninth centuries (a link to IP 03), the focus has been on the relations of the popes with the Byzantine Empire: Rome was still part of the empire and derived most of its symbolic (one might even say, "imperial") capital from it. The perceptions of the Greeks as 'others' remained in a delicate balance with the largely shared notions of empire. This line of research constitutes a bridge between the study of the papal image of the Other to be completed as a PhD thesis in the first half of 2011. It will also be published as an article under the title 'The label "Greeks" in the papal diplomatic repertoire in the eighth century'.

SUB-PROJECT 01B: LEARNING EMPIRE – THE IMPACT OF CHURCH HISTORY AND EXEGESIS (Mag. Marianne Pollheimer, start 1.1.2011, and Dr. Helmut Reimitz, work contracts)

This project part studies the reception of Late Ancient and Byzantine models of the emperor as a Christian ruler in the West, as provided in exegetical literature and Church history. The focus will be on the Carolingian transmission of the Church History of Rufinus and of the exegetical work of Junillus Africanus. Both projects have just begun.

IP 02: BIBLICAL PAST AS AN IMAGINED COMMUNITY (PI MAYKE DE JONG, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY)

SUB-PROJECT 02A (Post-doctoral project): THE EXCHANGE OF LEARNING IN EARLY MEDIEVAL BAVARIA (Dr Sven Meeder, start of sub-project 1.8.2010).

This project studies the dissemination and reception of scholarship in early medieval Bavaria. Finding itself on the crossroads of different, and sometimes conflicting, traditions of scholarship, and in the midst of turbulent political upheaval, Bavaria's scholars received learned texts in the context of debate and a reappraisal of their (learned) identity.

Goals accomplished:

1. Establishing the corpus of Bavarian manuscripts and compiling a sizable but still incomplete database of manuscripts written in Bavaria or those in the possession of Bavarian libraries in the eighth and ninth centuries.
2. In-depth investigation of a number of manuscripts from ninth-century Salzburg.
3. Completing a working edition of the so-called Collectio 400 Capitulum (surviving in three manuscripts, two of which are Bavarian) has been completed. This text is now central to a case study of the canonistic activities of Bavarian scholars, and their use of material from other learned traditions.

SUB-PROJECT 02B (PhD): 'THE PEOPLE' (POPULUS): DISCOURSES OF INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN THE CAROLINGIAN WORLD' (Robert Flierman Mphil; start of sub-project 1.9.2010).

In the past half year, this project has increasingly focussed on the consequences of 'empire' for the representation of distinctive peoples in Carolingian texts, with the Saxons as a first case study.

Goals accomplished:

1. An in-depth investigation of Hrabanus Maurus' Commentary on the Four Books of Kings in the Vatican Library in Rome.
2. Intensive background reading, which resulted in the drafting of an introductory chapter on methodology and theoretical framework.
3. A selection was made of texts to be dealt with in the second half of Year I. In addition to the Royal Frankish Annals, Annals of Fulda, Annales Mettenses priores and Einhard, another three authors have been chosen for more extensive investigation: Rudolf of Fulda, Poeta Saxo and Widukind of Corvey.

IP 03 OTHERNESS IN THE FRANKISH AND OTTONIAN WORLDS (PI IAN WOOD, LEEDS UNIVERSITY; Timothy Barnwell, Richard Broome, PhD students; start of project: 1.9. 2010)

The Leeds section is dedicated to examining perceptions and construction of Otherness in the Frankish and Ottonian worlds, covering the period c.500-1000AD, but extending into the fifth and eleventh centuries for comparative purposes. The project is divided into two sub-projects, the first covering the Merovingian and early Carolingian periods, and the second the later Carolingian and Ottonian periods. Between them, these sub-projects will aim to provide new approaches to analysing the ways in which people in the early medieval world changed their perceptions and definitions of the Other as the internal and external borders of Europe shifted between the collapse of centralised Roman authority in the West and the consolidation of the Ottonian Empire. Whilst there will be a particular focus on hagiographical and apocalyptic texts, both sub-projects will focus on a range of available materials in order to show that medieval perceptions of Otherness were more complex than traditional modern distinctions between the peoples of Europe as simply Germanic or Slavic. The first half year for both sub-projects, therefore, has been dedicated to mastering the relevant methodological and theoretical discussions of the Other, from Edward Said, Claude Levi-Strauss and Mary Douglas, Lawrence Hirschfeld, Susan Gelman and Michel Foucault to Stephen Greenblatt, Andy Orchard, and Robert Moore.

The second semester of the year has also seen both researchers begin work on the primary material. In order to provide a common collaborative starting point for research, Timothy Barnwell has begun with the earliest source material for the second sub-project, namely the *Vita Anskarii* and *Vita Rimbertyi*, whilst Richard Broome has commenced with some of the latest material for the first sub-project, specifically the hagiographical texts associated with St Boniface and his followers. This provides both a chronological and thematic point of departure for the project, allowing the researchers to look at the wider picture of how hagiographical texts were deploying imagery of the Other in the late eighth and ninth centuries.

IP 04: MIGRATION OF ROMAN AND BYZANTINE CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF THE CAROLINGIAN WORLD (PI ROSAMOND McKITTERICK, UNIVERISTY OF CAMBRIDGE)

SUB-PROJECT 04A (PhD): THE TRANSMISSION AND TRANSLATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY: THE HISTORIA TRIPARTITA OF EPIPHANIUS-CASSIODORUS (Desirée Scholten; start of sub-project 1.9.2010)

In the past half year this project has involved a systematic reading of the text, analyzing the editing policies of Cassiodorus concerning his Latin translation and compilation from the three fifth-century Greek sources.

Goals accomplished:

1. Identification of three main types of editing, which have been sub-divided and coded in order to facilitate restructuring and analyzing the long list that results from her word-by-word comparison. This analysis will continue during the next half year.
2. Intensive bibliographical research and reading about the context in which Cassiodorus–Epiphanius made their translation.
3. Investigation of the manuscript transmission of Cassiodorus and its implications has pointed to the importance of the Carolingian reception of the text and its dissemination in Bavaria. This will be investigated further in the second half of the year.

SUB-PROJECT 04B (PhD): ROMAN HISTORY EAST AND WEST: THE UNIVERSAL CHRONICLE OF FRECHULF OF LISIEUX IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (Graeme Ward; start of sub-project 1.9.2010)

During the past half year this project has focussed on the representation of the Christian Roman Empire, and its rulers within the *Histories* of Frechulf of Lisieux, which were composed in the 820s and 830s.

Goals accomplished:

1. Work over the past few months has concentrated on identifying and analysing the late antique narrative resources from West and East exploited most extensively by Frechulf.
2. It was established at the outset that Frechulf's style of composition consists chiefly of excerpts from earlier sources and provides an excellent insight on the transmission of Late Roman Christian historiography to the ninth century and how these texts could be read and received in a Carolingian context. The historical and historiographical contexts of particular episodes in the text, such as the presentation of the first Christian Roman Emperor Constantine, were pursued to elucidate this.
3. Intensive reading on the ninth-century context of Frechulf's work will enable further questions to be pursued in the next half year, namely the ways in which Frechulf shifted the emphases of the Late Roman texts he was using to accord with ninth-century concerns and the extent to which they contribute to the imperial ideology articulated during Louis's reign and after.

CRP contact:

Walter Pohl

Institut für Mittelalterforschung

Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Wohllebengasse 12-14

A-1040 Wien

walter.pohl@oeaw.ac.at OR clemens.gantner@oeaw.ac.at