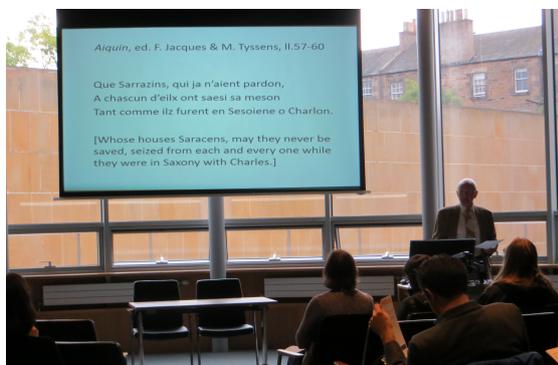


# Newsletter 7: December 2016

## Edinburgh Symposium, 14 October 2016

The *Charlemagne: a European Icon* project held a symposium in Edinburgh on 14 October. Our programme covered almost the full gamut of languages included in the project with



**Above: Philip Bennett speaks about Charlemagne the Warrior in *La Chanson des Saisnes and Aiquin*.**

papers on Charlemagne material in Norse, German, Celtic, French, Italian, Latin and Spanish. We were particularly pleased to include papers by graduate students working on Charlemagne material. We ended the day with a celebration to launch the first two of our seven planned publications, *Charlemagne and his Legend in Early Spanish Literature and Historiography*, ed. Matthew Bailey and Ryan D. Giles (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2016) and *The Charlemagne Legend in Medieval Latin Texts*, ed. William J. Purkis and Matthew

Gabriele (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2016). For those of you who did not attend, it is possible to view the symposium schedule on our website at <http://www.charlemagne-icon.ac.uk/activities/>.

Thanks to exceptional planning and coordination by Professor Philip Bennett, the symposium coincided with a paper in Edinburgh's Northern Scholars Lecture Series. In this case, the visiting scholar was Sif Rikhardsdottir (University of Iceland), lead researcher for the Charlemagne in Scandinavia team, who spoke about 'Poetic Voice and Interior Emotionality in Old Norse Literature' on Thursday 13. Many of our team members were able to attend this stimulating talk.



**Above: Marianne Ailes chairs as the delegates question Phillipa Hardman, Annalisa Perrotta and Giuseppe Mascherpa.**

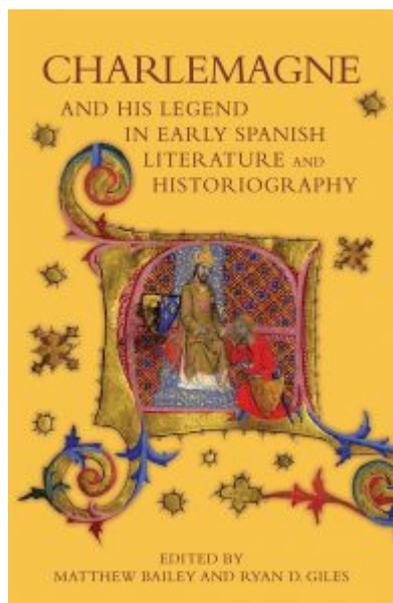
In addition to network members and partners, the symposium was very well attended by staff and students from the University of Edinburgh. It was fantastic to see so many people



**Above: Philip Bennett (out of shot) and Marianne Ailes bring the symposium to a close.**

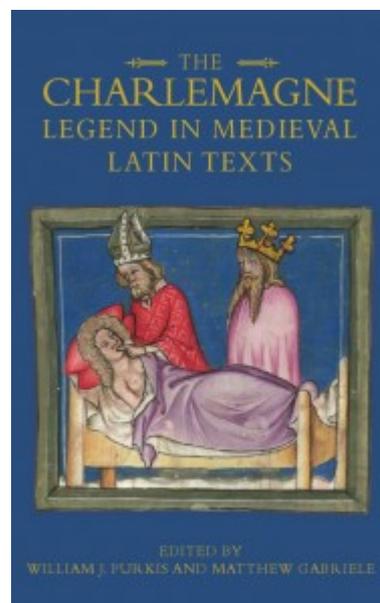
engaging with our project and contributing to the day's discussions. Our thanks go to the Institute of Advanced Studies (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh for allowing us to use their outstanding facilities, and we are particularly grateful to Laura Smith in IASH for working so hard to ensure that our day ran smoothly. Finally, we want to thank all of the outstanding scholars who made the symposium such a success.

## Progress of Volumes



It is a great pleasure to announce the publication of the first two of our seven volumes. [\*Charlemagne and his Legend in Early Spanish Literature and Historiography\*](#), edited by Matthew Bailey and Ryan D. Giles, includes six chapters that address the diversity and importance of the Carolingian legends in the literary, historical, and imaginative spheres of Spain during the Middle Ages, Renaissance and into the seventeenth century. Contributors include Frederick A. de Armas, Matthew Bailey, Aníbal Biglieri, Ryan D. Giles, Lucy K. Pick and Mercedes

Vaquero. [\*The Charlemagne Legend in Medieval Latin Texts\*](#), which is edited by William Purkis and Matthew Gabriele, is comprised of eight chapters, contributed by an international team of Matthew Gabriele, Jace Stuckey, Sebastián Salvadó, Miguel Dolan Gómez, Jeffrey Doolittle, James Williams, Andrew J. Romig and Oren Margolis. It examines the ‘many lives’ that Charlemagne was believed to have lived by successive generations of medieval Latin writers, for whom he was not only a king and an emperor but also a saint, a crusader and even a necrophiliac. Both works are available for purchase from Boydell and Brewer.



All other volumes are well under way: *Charlemagne in German and Dutch* is going through the editing process; *Charlemagne in Italian Literature* is well planned and a deadline for submission of copy has been set of January 2017; all the contributors of *Charlemagne in Medieval Francophonia* have given in papers on their research; *Charlemagne in Celtic Cultures and Scandinavia* is planned; *Charlemagne in England*, the main output from the AHRC project which preceded the network, is with the publishers.

## Recent Events

In September 2016 Marianne Ailes spoke at a conference in Cambridge on ‘Rebellious Barons in the *chanson de geste* in England’. This conference was to complement the international Romance in Medieval Britain conference which had been held in British Columbia earlier in the year and to allow those who had been unable to attend to benefit from a gathering of scholars. As a direct result of speaking at this event Marianne has been invited to speak on Charlemagne at a conference on 'Medieval Texts in Transit: Continuities and Shared Spaces' which will be held in Berlin in July 2017.

## Upcoming Events

The next meeting of the Société Rencesvals British Branch will take place in Lichfield on 25 March 2017. There will be one session focusing on Charlemagne material and another on crusading texts. Additionally, the co-editor of our Latin volume, Dr William Purkis, will be speaking as an invited guest. Those interested in presenting or attending should send the registration form that can be found on our [website](#) to Professor Françoise Le Saux (f.h.m.le-saux@reading.ac.uk) by Friday 15 December.

Planning has also started for a substantial Charlemagne exhibit in 2018. We are at an early stage of development, but will keep everyone up to date with information as we make arrangements.

## Charlemagne Tweets!: Our Online Presence

The big drive over the next year is to grow awareness of our project. With this in mind, two important goals are to expand the resources on our website and increase our social media following.

The website already allows access to peer-reviewed articles, and we encourage all members of the network to consider sending us work for publication. Moreover, we have virtual exhibits of Charlemagne iconography from the medieval and post-medieval world.

At the time of writing, we have 395 followers on Twitter – a figure that has been growing steadily since the emperor first took to tweeting one year ago.

We are keen to publicise the work of our network members. Please feel free to offer blogs and/or tweets about any of your activities.

