

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA
27706

Copy

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

TELEPHONE (919) 684-3234

July 29, 1991

American Council of Learned Societies
228 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017-3398

Dear ACLS,

I am the recipient of a Grant-in-Aid from ACLS with a stipend of \$3,000, awarded to me April 5, 1991. I have now expended the stipend, having just returned from two months of travel to visit manuscripts in European libraries, under the Project stated in my ACLS Proposal ("The Education of a Christendom"). According to the terms of the award, you would like a brief report on my travel itinerary and the work I accomplished and the present state of the Project.

My purpose was to see a pre-determined selection of ninth-century manuscripts which I knew for certain, or in some cases suspected, contain material on the explanation of the creed (expositiones symboli, explanationes fidei). It was important to be able to see the entire volume in which the creedal texts I am studying appear, in order to ascertain the purpose of use of the volume based on its other contents, its physical condition, and its size. The manuscripts I wanted to see have been insufficiently catalogued as to their entire contents.

This list of manuscripts I prepared to see would require visits to libraries in France, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain. I had an extremely ambitious itinerary to get to all the libraries I wished to in two months time, and in fact I expected to meet some disappointments. It is extremely difficult to juggle the hours that each individual monastic, episcopal, municipal, or national library is open with a train itinerary that permitted me to move from one city to the next every day. I had written ahead to all the libraries I planned to visit, asking what were their summer hours, and alerting them that I was coming and was interested in certain manuscripts. This was very useful in some cases, but some of the librarians responded that they did not keep regular hours and that I should arrange a time to meet them!

Considering all the difficulties, I was extraordinarily lucky to see the vast majority of the manuscripts I had wished to, including getting into some impossibly difficult monastic archives in Northern Italy and in Spain. (This was sheer fortuitousness and quite marvelous!) I took notes on a great deal of creedal material, although I will not know the extent to which I have found "new" (unedited) material until I receive microfilm of the complete folios.

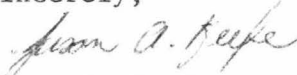
Thus, the trip indeed launched my Project and has given me an enormous amount of material now to be sifted through, analyzed, and categorized. Cataloguing the creed material in the extant ninth-century manuscripts is the first step before actually writing a book describing the teaching of the faith to the clergy and people in the Carolingian empire. The book's completion will take some time because there are still more ninth-century manuscripts to be seen and because the arrival of microfilm is very slow,

and finally because of my limited time for writing while teaching.

Attached is my actual itinerary. I would like to say that my trip was enormously fruitful in other ways besides gaining access to the manuscripts. It has allowed me to communicate new findings to other scholars and has given me friends in these libraries whom I can now write to for future assistance. It has familiarized me with the procedures of a large number of national, university, and local libraries that I will be relating in lecture to colleagues and students here at Duke. I was received astonishingly well at every library I visited. Sometimes there was a good deal of red tape to be gone through before being allowed to see the manuscripts, but always graciousness and cooperation, even at the great national libraries of Paris and Madrid.

I am encouraged by my experience this summer to urge my colleagues and graduate students to go in person to these libraries and make the invaluable contact with their librarians and the manuscripts themselves that cannot be substituted by a letter or microfilm. The ACLS Grant-in-Aid of \$3000, while it could not cover my entire expenses, made it possible to pay for the round trip plane fare to Paris and a two-month Eurorail Pass, as well as some of my per diem expenses.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Keefe

(Assist. Prof. of Medieval Church History)