

Advent, 1993

Dear Roger!

With what joy I received your latest article in Mediaeval Studies, "Baptismal Rite and Paschal Vigil in Transition in Medieval Spain: A New Text in Visigothic Script"! As I read it I realized once again that this is what excites me. You are always so close to the raw data, to new discoveries, to what research is all about in my mind. I want to take off for European libraries every time I read one of your articles.

I am extremely grateful to you for citing me, even though it is you who taught me about the fusion of the Spanish and Roman rites in the Carolingian period. I am also grateful for some further bibliography I have not seen. What was the connection in 1090 with the form of the script and the content of the liturgy? Was it because copyists simply copied form without always having a knowledge of content, and thus if copying Visigothic script was forbidden, the old Visigothic liturgical manuscripts would not get perpetuated?

I am in regular contact now with Jeannette Morgenthal, my copy-editor at Notre-Dame, and we have a tentative schedule for type-setting and my proofing the galleys over this winter and spring, beginning with the editions of the texts. (It is going to be quite a back and forth process, since after they set the texts and assign line numbers to them, then I must string up the apparatus criticus under each, then they will type-set that.) I rejoice to have someone as enthusiastic and intelligent as Jeanette with whom to work.

I am striving to get out a major article before next Fall on creed commentaries in ninth-century manuscripts. It will be essentially an incipit list, simply notifying readers of everything I have found to date and soliciting help with further discoveries. If you come across any in mss I am not familiar with, please let me know! I am, however, confining my report to Carolingian mss, because my ultimate purpose is to know what Carolingians had at hand and did with the creeds.

Did you know that David Ganz's wife died out in Colorado this Fall? It happened very suddenly-- an asthma attack. He was not there, and the whole thing was a terrible blow to him.

I don't know if I told you that I am directing the dissertation of a graduate student over at Chapel Hill on the ninth-century rite of the consecration of a church. He will offer a translation and analysis of a liturgical commentary on this rite, beginning "Quid significat duodecim candelae?" It is edited in the **PRG** I, nr. XXXV, but Vogel and Elze used only late mss. Salmon

found the text in Vat. Reg. lat. 598 (s. IX ca. med., according to Bignami-Odier, who sees the hand of the school of Florus of Lyons in it) and edited it. This ms proved for Salmon that the text could not have been written by Remigius of Auxerre (to whom it is attributed in the PL because in Rouen, BM 1343, s. XI, it is beside other authentic works of Remigius). Remigius was born in 841 and died in 908. I had my student write to the Vatican for photographs of Vat Reg. lat. 598, because if the hand could be dated later ninth-century, Remigius might be the author. I was hoping to send you some folios to get your opinion. Would you mind just giving them a look? (In fact, the minute I saw the hand I knew I had seen it before. I just haven't found where yet. Actually, since then I recalled embarrassingly belatedly that the text is in my Troyes, BM 804 ms, on folios which are s. IX 2/4 (2/3), making it almost impossible that Remigius was the author. But it would still be nice to have your opinion on the Vatican ms, because Madame Bignami dated it mid s. IX on the basis of its "allure Lyonnaise.")

Well, these are the things that are up front in my mind at the moment-- articles, doctoral dissertations, the usual flood of recommendations students want at this time, plus correcting 60 exams and research papers-- and so life goes merrily along. It really does, because I enjoy the students and my colleagues so much.

I hope you are in the same boat-- I mean, happiness-wise. Has PIMS straightened itself out at all? I ache when I think that you have to actually contend with people for whom you have done immortal-size work in keeping the entire place alive. I hope you are able to devote more time to all that you want to write. Do you plan any more trips abroad in the near future?

Thank you for your magnificent Christmas card. Every year I hang yours up right in front of me at my desk, because they are always so beautiful. You and Ruth know truly how to honor the Birth of our Lord. (The enclosed card is from my stop at **Vich**.) My deepest wishes to you and Ruth and Michele and James and Persis, Nathan, and Caleb for a joyous Christmas and a fruitful 1994.

All my love,

