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CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES
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October 23, 1981

Herr Professor Doktor Bernhard Bischoff
8033 Planegg-bei-München
Ruffiniallee 27
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Professor Bischoff:

I am taking the great liberty of writing to you at the suggestion of Professors Roger Reynolds and Virginia Brown. I have recently received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the Centre for Medieval Studies, Toronto. My thesis, entitled "Baptismal Instruction in the Carolingian Period: the MS Evidence," was examined and approved by Professor Roger Reynolds (supervisor), Fr. Leonard Boyle, and Fr. Michael Sheehan of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto.

All three have directed me to publish the thesis. They strongly suggest, however, that I publish immediately, independent of the thesis, my inventory of Carolingian baptismal tracts, which I have identified by their MSS. I began the inventory in 1978-79, the year I did research in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (and where I had the pleasure of meeting you briefly). It makes no pretense to be complete, but I hope scholars will call my attention to more MSS after reading this provisional list.

In my thesis I attempt to supply the date and place of origin of each MS, or of the folios containing the baptismal tract. For this information I quote you as far as I am able, or other scholars who communicated with you (such as Hubert Mordek).

Before publishing the inventory, would it be possible to call upon your paleographical expertise regarding four MSS? My first query concerns the date and location of the script on ff. 78v - 81v of Paris, BN lat. 1248. Andrieu labels the MS as generally "s. xi," but Roger Reynolds, Leonard Boyle, and Virginia Brown independently assured me that ff. 78v - 81v are s. ix, perhaps s. ix med. They urged me to write to you.

My second question regards the date of the two hands on pp. 137-139 of St. Gall, SB 222. (The switch of hands occurs in the middle of a baptismal tract on p. 138, line 4.) I have enclosed copies of ff. 78v - 81v of Paris, BN lat. 1248 and pp. 137-139 of St. Gall, SB 222.

My third quest is a more specific dating, and especially a place of origin for pp. 301-357 of St. Gall, SB 40, which Lowe assigns to the ninth century. I am particularly interested in p. 304 and p. 356. (There seem to be a number of different hands between pp. 301-357. I was not able to obtain a print-out of p. 304, but I enclose a copy of p. 356 and p. 329.)

I hope you will forgive my boldness in asking for your expertise in these matters. I know I am only one of thousands who call upon it, and that your time is very limited. If I may, nevertheless, hope to share it, and if I can assist you further by sending more print-outs of specific folios, I will most gratefully await a reply at your convenience.

I have enclosed my summary index of MSS from my inventory of baptismal tracts, because I thought it might be of interest to you, and would of course appreciate any comments you might have on it.

Respectfully yours,

Susan A. Keefe
Mellon Postdoctoral Instructor
in History

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enclosures