

End of Fellowship Report
Matthew Hoskin, Barker Priory Library Research Fellow

My time as Barker Priory Library Research Fellow was well spent and very productive for me and my career. The beginning of my time as a fellow was spent gaining greater familiarity with Durham's collections and history, during which time I began to see even more clearly than before how impressive Durham's canon law collection is, with the major sources for canon law in England from Lanfranc to the sixteenth century all represented, sometimes in multiple copies, themselves a matter of interest. This research was greatly facilitated by the project, one great benefit of which was the prioritisation of digitisation. Thus, not only was I able to view the manuscripts in person at Palace Green Library, I was able to have them digitised. This digitisation of the manuscripts that I used in my articles meant that I could go back to them time and again whenever I wanted, doing so from the comfort of my own office with all of my reference works (and a cup of coffee!) at hand. This project has meant that my use of Durham manuscripts in all research is at the same level of ease and quality as other major European libraries, such as the Vatican Library and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

The main academic direction my research took during the fellowship was two conference outputs, both of which are undergoing revision for publication. Before I discuss these further, however, I would like to highlight my other activities during my time at Durham University. The first of these was my ongoing participation on the project blog. This blogging provided me with three different kinds of outlets. First, it gave me a forum to discuss ideas and discoveries directly related to my research outputs. As a result, I was able to try out ideas on a different sort of audience and less formally. Second, as I studied these manuscripts, sometimes I would find matters of interest that arose but were unrelated to my formal research queries. I could blog about these. Third, I was able to write blogs about manuscripts in Durham's collection that are unrelated to my research but of intrinsic value and interest in and of themselves. Few academics have a formalised way of producing such output as the project blog, and I found this very helpful as I worked through the many things passing through my mind during my research. I was also able to give a lecture to Hatfield College about medieval themes of kingship in the figure of Aragorn in *The Lord of the Rings*. This opportunity presented itself through my holding of a Hatfield College Junior Research Fellowship, a position I could not have held without already being a post-doctoral fellow at Durham. I had hoped to incorporate some of the Durham manuscripts into the presentation, but, sadly, was unable. Nonetheless, I am grateful for the opportunity to have given that seminar.

As I have said, my two conference papers, and the resulting articles, were the main focus of my research at Durham. The first of these was a discussion and analysis of canon law manuscripts from before 1140 and their relationship to education. For this paper, I made extensive use of Durham's digitised manuscripts, and focussed on two current Durham manuscripts as well as a third that is now in Cambridge. The goal was not to consider authors and scribes but readers and learners—what would the person seeking to learn canon law from these manuscripts encounter? How would the presentation of the material in these manuscripts influence the reader's experience and learning of the law? I delivered this paper at the

Ecclesiastical History Society's Winter Conference in January 2018. In my initial revisions, I made extensive use of Durham's excellent libraries resources. I have been given some very helpful feedback for this article, and I will be submitting it to *The Bulletin of Medieval Canon Law* in early 2019 after revisions under the title, 'Canon Law Education Before Gratian: The Case of Durham Cathedral Priory.' I could not have conducted this research that deepened my knowledge of both the manuscripts of eleventh- and twelfth-century canon law and the law itself, feeding into my other research activities, without the time and access to manuscripts provided by this fellowship.

My second conference paper was a study of Durham's very excellent collection of late twelfth- and early thirteenth-century canon law manuscripts in light of how a non-lawyer such as Robert Grosseteste would have learned the law. I presented it at *Science, Imagination, and Wonder: Robert Grosseteste and His Legacy*, Pembroke College, Oxford, in April 2018. In this paper, I put alongside each other the contents of Durham's manuscripts in a way that they are rarely presented, confronting the reader with the varieties of canonistic information that a medieval reader would have met. Moreover, I also compared Durham's canon law manuscripts of the period with Lincoln and Hereford Cathedrals', showing how many more survive from Durham, thereby highlighting this collection's importance for ongoing research into many fields of medieval history, canon law among them. I have submitted a revised and expanded version of this paper for inclusion in a book of conference proceedings that will come out in 2019.

I hope to have a third research output that will look even more broadly at Durham's canon law manuscripts, bringing in those from the gap between these two papers up to the time of the 1392 catalogue. I had hoped to present this at the North American Conference on British Studies this month, but circumstances have required my presence in Vancouver. Besides these outputs explicitly on Durham manuscripts, this research has been feeding into my other work, such as the revision of my PhD thesis into a book. My understanding of the canon law collections and their manuscripts in Durham has deepened, thus meriting the introduction of a new chapter into the thesis as I revise it. I have no doubt this influence will repeat itself.

Finally, besides providing me with a venue to pursue such rewarding research so thoroughly, I am extraordinarily grateful to Joanna Barker and the ZKS Foundation because I am confident that this year with its related research outputs was incisive in helping me get my current position as Assistant Professor without Review in Latin Language and Literature at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. My sincere thanks cannot be expressed enough.