

Final Report: Faith Wallis
Slater Visiting Fellow, Easter Term 2015
University College, Durham University

I wish to thank the Master and Fellows of the College, and the Director and members of the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies for awarding me this prestigious Fellowship. My term in Durham was not only highly productive, but also extraordinarily pleasant, thanks to Richard Lawrie and Alison Howe at Castle, and to Dr John O'Brien, Elizabeth Alpass and Kelly Guy at the IMEMS. The Palace Green Library staff, and notably Richard Higgins, not only welcomed me on an almost daily basis, but made it possible for the Hunter 100 team to work with Durham's 12th century manuscripts in a seminar setting. The Cathedral Library staff and Lisa di Tommaso were generous and accommodating. Many members of the Durham academic community lent me support and shared their expertise, especially Lynda Rollason, Margaret Harvey, and Richard Gameson. I greatly enjoyed interacting with Durham postgraduate students Barbara Hargreaves, Curtis Runstedler, Caroline Yeldham, and Kathleen Reynolds. Finally, in the context of the Cathedral Study Day on "Bede and the New Testament" (23 May) I delivered a paper on "Bede's Commentary on Revelation: Timelines without Deadlines." I thank Canon Rosalind Brown for including me in the Study Day, and for inviting me to read a lesson at Evensong that afternoon.

The principal focus of my work during the period of tenure of the Fellowship was Durham Cathedral Library, MS Hunter 100, a compilation of scientific and medical texts and images created at Durham around 1100. In my Slater Fellowship Lecture (University College SCR) on 1 May, entitled "Durham's 'web of science' at the dawn of the 12th century: Durham Cathedral Library MS Hunter 100 and its Context", I introduced the manuscript to a large and diverse audience. By that time, Dr Giles Gasper had already assembled a team of academics and students for me to work with – the "Hunter-Gatherers", as we dubbed ourselves. These included Dr Gasper, Dr Helen Foxhall Forbes, Dr Eric Niblaeus, and Dr Tom McLeish; postgraduate students Sarah Gilbert, Ana Dias, Jon Turnock, Stephanie Britton, and Megan Cavell; and recent graduates Charles Rozier and David Burke.

My core responsibility was to produce detailed descriptions, transcriptions and translations of each of the approximately 45 textual units within the manuscript; to unravel the physical structure of the codex and to identify the scribes; and to set out some parameters for contextualizing the manuscript within the culture of Durham Cathedral Priory at the beginning of the 12th century. I posted my work to a Dropbox site accessible to the team, and wrote an almost daily blog documenting my progress. These materials constituted the platform for three seminars. The first (20 April) allowed me to introduce the manuscript's scientific architecture, and Charlie Rozier to comment on the annals in the Paschal tables. During the second seminar (5 May) Sarah Gilbert presented on the medical material, particularly the Latin-Old English glossary; and David Burke deciphered the enigmatic Old Irish "charm". Richard Higgins demonstrated the MIRADOR platform for the digitized Durham manuscripts, and generously agreed to test how a transcription or translation of one of the texts might be incorporated into this digital presentation. The final seminar (9 June) was held in Palace Green Library, in the presence of Hunter 100 itself and several other Durham codices of the early 12th century. This allowed us to establish the identities of the five principal scribes who created Hunter 100, and to compare their hands with those in the contemporary volumes. At a follow-up meeting (16 June), Sarah Gilbert and I presented a full collation of the volume, tracking the activities of the scribes and confirming that Hunter 100 was planned and executed as a single, integrated project. In addition to these three seminars, the group hosted a full-day workshop on 26 May in St John's College, entitled "Context, Compilation and Community: Hunter 100 and the World of Science in Medieval Durham". There were informal

presentations with discussion (Faith Wallis on the calendar, Ana Dias with Sarah Gilbert and David Burke on the illustrations) as well as formal papers by Charlie Rozier ("Symeon of Durham and the Study of History"), Lynda Rollason ("The Durham *Liber vitae* in the 12th Century"), David Rollason ("Inventing the Past in Twelfth-century Durham: the Evidence of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 139 and its Relations") and Jonathan Turnock ("Architectural and Sculptural Schemata in Durham at the Turn of the 12th Century"). The day culminated in a wide-ranging discussion, with significant input from Richard Higgins, on issues concerning digital presentation of the manuscript. We were especially thrilled to see Richard's experiment in overlaying the digital images of one of the constellation catalogues with transcriptions of the texts.

Dr Gasper, Dr Foxhall Forbes and I have laid plans for future stages for our work, and eventual products. Our intention is to hold a workshop in 2016, immediately following my Jarrow Lecture on Friday 27 May of that year. The members of the team, and particularly the postgraduate students who contributed so significantly to the project, will be invited to give papers; in addition, we hope to secure the presence of scholars specializing in areas such as 12th century calendar reform, illustrated astronomical manuscripts, and music. The proceedings of this workshop will be published as a volume of essays. In addition, we are investigating the possibility of producing a print facsimile or near-facsimile of a scholarly character, as well as a trade publication comparable to *Manuscript Treasures of Durham Cathedral Library* for the general reader. Our ultimate goal, however, remains a full digital facsimile with hypertext commentary and an apparatus of transcriptions and translations. Such a digital facsimile would demonstrate the scholarly potential of the DCL digitization project to the academic world (and to financial supporters), and provide an innovative teaching resource for university and even pre-university audiences. Hunter 100 is not only beautiful and engaging, but it highlights Durham's long scientific tradition – an important complement to its religious and political influence. I have only one regret concerning my tenure as Slater Fellow, and that is that my meeting with the Library Development Board had to be cancelled and could not be re-scheduled. However, I know that my Durham colleagues will be able to demonstrate to the Board that our work can add exceptional value to the digitization project. I took part in the filming of a video on the digitization project (8 May) which conveys a similar message.

Once again, allow me to express my gratitude to the College and the IMEMS for awarding me the Slater Fellowship. It was a privilege to spend two months in such a dynamic academic environment, and in such a splendid medieval city.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Wallis, PhD FSA