



MARGINS AT THE CENTRE – PRACTICES OF ANNOTATION

SCHOLARLY NETWORKS, TEACHERS AND AUDIENCES IN NINTH-CENTURY EAST FRANCIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, VIENNA | 23-24 MAY 2022

Carolingian scholars regarded the study of Latin and the Bible as an essential activity not only for the education of monks and clerics, but also more generally for the achievement of moral perfection and for the salvation of the entire Christian community. This ideal led them to remarkable intellectual efforts and to the production of an extensive corpus of exegetical texts, which ranges from the extensive commentaries of the most renowned intellectuals to the sporadic glosses of teachers unknown to us.

In the context of this common and varied intellectual endeavour, the teachers of the eastern part of the Carolingian Empire faced an additional difficulty compared to most of their colleagues: they themselves and their audience spoke a language in everyday life which was completely different from the Latin of the grammarians and the Bible. In order to achieve their pedagogical and pastoral goals, they sometimes made use of the ‚language of the people‘, the *theudisca lingua*, both for individual words and for entire poems. In the vast majority of the cases, however, they stuck to Latin in order to produce their interpretations.

Can we recognise an effort on the part of East Frankish teachers to adapt their production in Latin to an audience that had more difficulties with this language? Is there distinctive content or linguistic features of the exegetical and grammatical output in Latin in East Francia? Can we trace parallels with the methods and purposes of Insular teachers? Are there observable differences from contemporary scholarly production in the Romance-speaking areas of the Empire? Can we identify a network of East-Frankish intellectuals guided by the common in-

tervention of creating interpretative tools in Latin that were tailored to meet the particular needs of their local audiences? Did an alleged „cultural programme“ of the political elite somehow support their purposes?

The conference **Margins at the Centre – Practices of Annotation. Scholarly Networks, Teachers and Audiences in ninth-century East Francia** aims to address these questions by analysing the characteristics and the intended audiences of grammatical and biblical interpretations in Latin produced in the eastern part of the Carolingian Empire during the ninth century. Particular attention will be paid to the so-called „commented editions“ of the Bible, which mostly feature a three-column layout of the page to contain both the biblical text and an apparatus of pertinent annotations. This book format was particularly widespread in ninth-century East Francia; yet the reasons leading to its success have not been investigated. Moreover, the workshop will focus on the annotation practices associated with Priscian’s *Ars Grammatica*, on the features, functions and interplay of the concerned Latin and vernacular glosses, and on both advantages and challenges of a digital edition of this material. Finally, the conference aims at tracing the intellectual networks linking East Frankish scholars by taking the manuscript evidence into account.

The conference takes place in the framework of the research project „**Margins at the Centre**“ with the aim of starting a dialogue between scholars working on East Frankish evidence about results and perspectives of their current research work.

Contact & Information
Pre-registration is requested for participating online
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