

**Report, Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature Travel  
Bursary: Visit to Oxford, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cambridge, 14-23rd  
November**

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Thanks to the bursary from the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature, I was able to make a visit from Dublin to several libraries and archives in within the UK. This research was crucial to my current project entitled: 'Old Hands: Ageing and the Handwriting of Medieval Scribes', which I am working on as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Cofund Fellow at Trinity College Dublin. The primary source reviews that I conducted whilst in the UK over the period of this funded research visit will provide material for my monograph, currently in development. I began this particular work while a Molina Research Fellow at the Huntington Library, California and this bursary has enabled me to move towards its completion. It also turned up new material, which will provide the foundations for palaeographical research in new directions.

The primary focus of my book is a study of ageing medieval scribes, including the working lives of scribes experiencing physiological ageing and the paleographical features of their script, as well as a study of the abnormal handwriting features that suggest the onset of age-related health problems. Accordingly, whilst in Oxford, I conducted two full days of palaeographical research into elderly late-medieval scripts in the special collections of the Bodleian Library, before moving on to Stratford-upon-Avon to do a productive day of research at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. As mentioned above, whilst in Stratford, I made certain unexpected discoveries, which I now plan to write up as separate articles. During the second week, I moved to Cambridge to examine manuscripts in the University Library and Trinity College Cambridge. This work in particular was very fruitful, and I was able to take several photographs of manuscripts, to scrutinise in detail upon my return to Dublin.

In summary, the inspection of manuscript material 'in the flesh' is essential for my palaeographical study, and so I am grateful to the Society for providing the opportunity to do this and thus move towards the successful completion of my monograph.