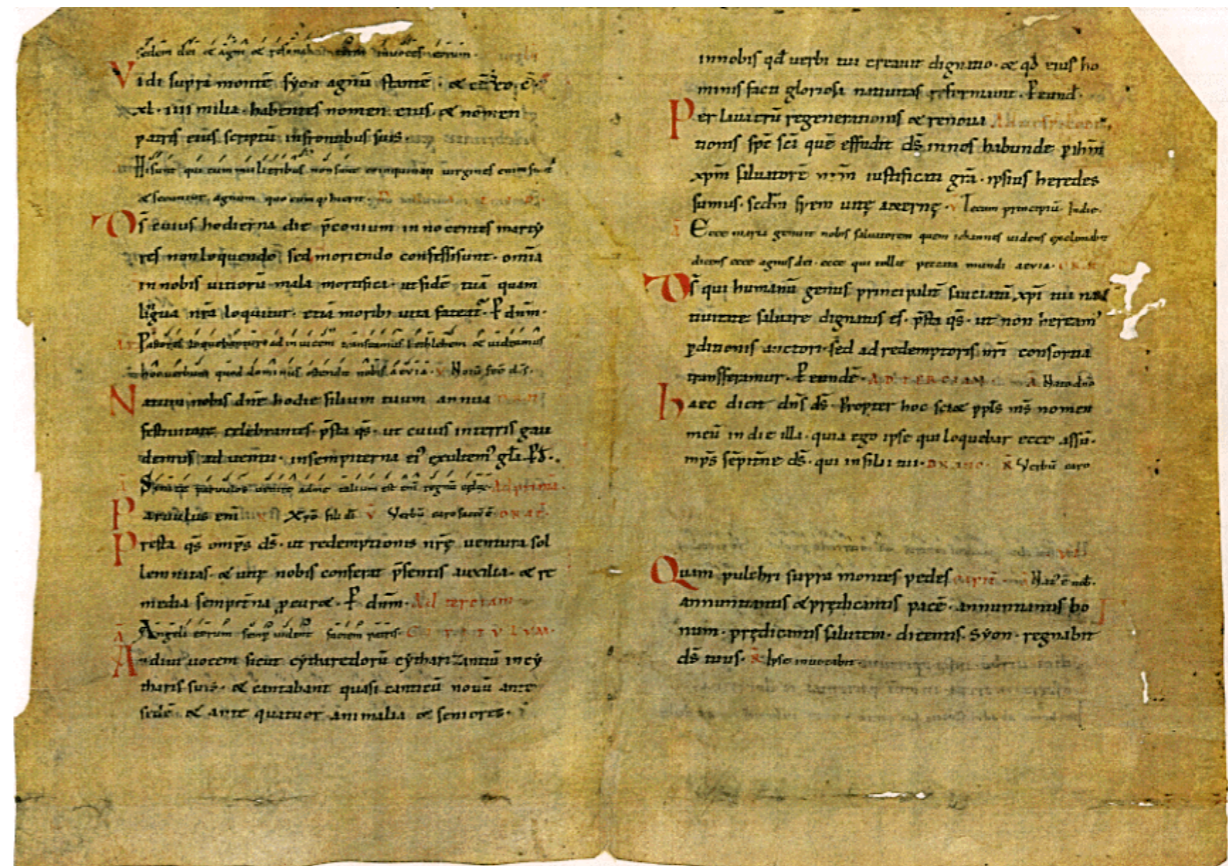
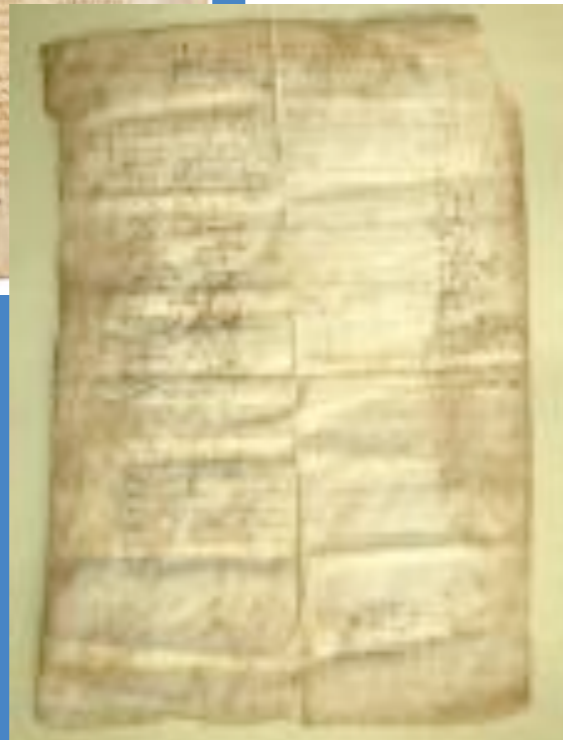




manuscript culture



**History of Information
September 17, 2007**



overview

how we got here

print: what came before

manuscript technology

manuscript culture

where we go next



how we got here

past vs present
"the information age"

history of information
vs
history of communications technology
technological determinism

[course corrections?]



why printing?

There have been three revolutions in the history of human thought. The **first** ... when language first emerged. ... The **second** cognitive revolution was the advent of writing ... The **third** ... the invention of a type and the printing press. ... the **fourth** cognitive revolution, which is just about to take place with the advent of "electronic skywriting".

Steven Harnad, "Post-Gutenberg Galaxy: The Fourth Revolution in the Means of Production of Knowledge", 1991

why printing?

Not since Gutenberg invented the modern printing press more than 500 years ago, making books and scientific tomes affordable and widely available to the masses, has any new invention empowered individuals or transformed access to information as profoundly as Google.

David Vise, *The Google Story*. 2005

Not since the landmark institution of the printing press, beginning half a millennium ago, has there been so much excitement over the publishing of words

www.rimric.com on the wiki

Not since the invention of the printing press in the 15th century have we had a greater opportunity to achieve universal literacy worldwide.

<http://insidehighered.com>; Dec 7, 2007

why printing?

Not since the invention of the printing press have the people of the world been privy to so much information. With the invention of the printing press, the Dark Ages was brought to an end. It was the progressive ideas contained in affordable books that also made the Renaissance and the Age of Reason possible.

Amin Sharif, 'Third world cyberactivists' <http://www.nathanielturner.com/>

Now, I want to say a few things about the net. ... This is the most extraordinary invention for empowering ordinary people since the invention of the printing press in the 1400s. It really is. It has re-democratized America.

There is an enormous shift in power. I thought the YouTube/CNN debate was sensational.

Howard Dean, Yearly Kos. Chicago, Aug 4, 2007; <http://howardempowered.blogspot.com>



what oft was thought

He who first shortened the labor of copyists by device of movable types was disbanding hired armies, and cashiering most kings and senates, and creating a whole new democratic world: he had invented the art of printing.

Thomas Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*, 1833



"not since ..."

determinism: hard to soft

necessary and sufficient

necessary but not sufficient

implicated



familiar moves

trivialising the past

or

romanticising the past

"How the ancients loved books"



questioning determinism

- 1. what happened?**
- 2. what came before?**
- 3. what came after?**
- 4. who was involved?**



print

I. What:
Gutenberg

3. What followed:
"print culture", science,
humanism, protestantism

4. Who:
printers, humanists



ms

I. What:
Gutenberg

2. What preceded:
manuscript culture, Catholicism,
monasticism, absolutism

4. Who
monks, priests, kings
but also
bureaucrats and businessmen



"I readily admit my boundless and unceasing love of studies and books. Neither could ever satisfy my desire to know everything which can be known in this world. It is my greatest pleasure to own and to know all books I ever saw or which I knew to have appeared in print To my regret . . . money was always lacking . . . for the satisfaction of my passion for book".

Trithemius

1462-1516

Abbot of St Martin's, Sponheim, 1483-1505

bibliophile

1483, 48 books in the library

1505, 2,000 books

intensive to extensive

troubled reign

Exhortationes ad Monachos, 1486

De Laude Scriptorum, 1492



"The collector of books should beware that his inclination and liking do not become ends in themselves."

"I readily admit my boundless and unceasing love of studies and books. Neither could ever satisfy my desire to know everything which can be known in this world. It is my greatest pleasure to own and to know all books I ever saw or which I knew to have appeared in print . . . To my regret . . . money was always lacking . . . for the satisfaction of my passion for book".

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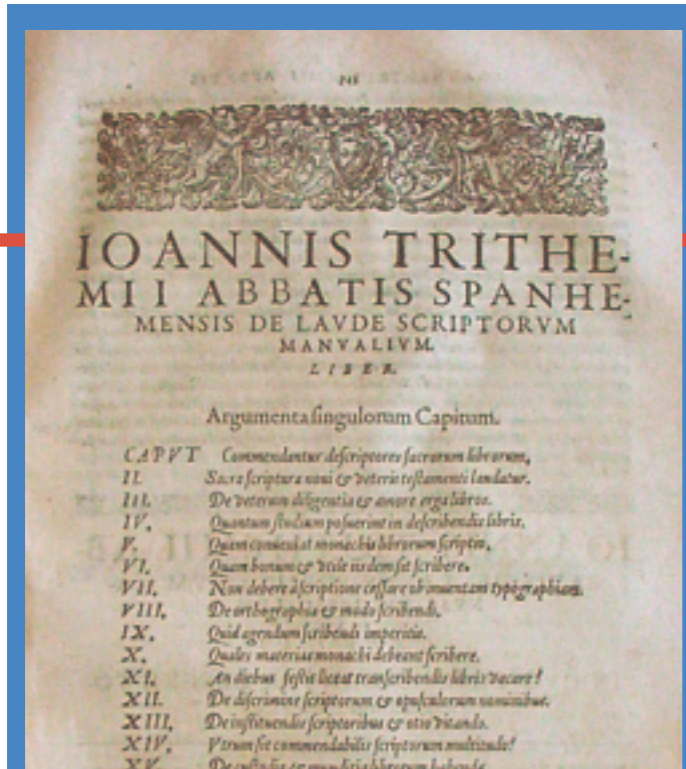
troubled reign

Exhortationes ad Monachos, 1486

De Laude Scriptorum, 1492



Trithemius & the press



De Laude Scriptorum

"For all his dislike of mechanical reproduction, 'Trithemius] proved particularly deft at exploiting the printing press. ... He had his book... published in Mainz by Peter von Friedberg, his favourite printer, and ... set the work not in Gothic type normally used in Germany, but in an innovative and attractive Roman font".
Grafton & Williams, *Christianity and the Transformation of the Book*, 2006.

Catologus Scriptorum Ecclesiastorum, 1494





"seismic cultural change"

Gutenberg, ~1450

"brothers, concentrate now all your fervor
on the sacred books, for the salvation of
your souls and the order"

Monks "are so detested that it is considered
bad luck if one crosses your path"
Erasmus, *In Praise of Folly*, 1511

for Trithemius "it is the survival of the
monastery that is key"
James O'Donnell, *Avatars of the Word*, 1999



threats

printing

the university

"In the 700 years between the Fall of Rome and the 12th century, it was the monasteries which enjoyed an almost complete monopoly of book production and so of book culture.... from the end of the 12th century a profound transformation took place ... reflecting in the founding of the universities and the development of learning".

Febvre & Martin, *The Coming of the Book*, 1984

humanism



survival



Hofl MS culture -



survival

LaserMonks
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Products

About LaserMonks

Our Programs

Monastery Links

Customer C

E-Mail:

Password:

Login

Our prayers and blessings go out to the families of those affected by the

Commerce with Compassion

Given the same product at comparable pricing wouldn't you rather purchase from the company whose proceeds support our communities?

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greetings and peace

As Cistercian monks, we have a 900-year tradition of community service and outreach.

our



survival

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Saving you money, Serving those in need

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our



on *scripture*

"scripture, my dear
brothers will serve
many purposes"

scriptoris
copying
writing
scripture

monks should not stop copying because of the invention of printing

"Every word we write is imprinted more
forcefully on our minds"

"Of all manual labour nothing is more in
accord with the state of monks than the
zealous copying of sacred texts ... Ambrose,
Cassiodorus, Bede, Alcuin ..."

"This dispensation does not apply to the
scribe who copies for money."



scribendi

"Printed books will never be the equivalent of handwritten codices, especially since printed books are often deficient in spelling and appearances"

"You can correct what another has written"

"This dispensation does not apply to the scribe who copies for money ... his mind is on worldly riches and his work is therefore to be considered servile"



the book

"All of you know the difference between a manuscript and a printed book. The word written on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? ... two hundred years".



the book

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VELLUM

Google evangelist unveils his Web vision

By Ciar Byrne

Independent: 27 August 2007

Google's chief internet evangelist, Vint Cerf, unveiled his vision of the future of the internet yesterday - and warned that all the information currently stored on the Web could be lost to future generations.

....

He said: "I don't know whether 1,000 years from now information that might have been valuable and could have been preserved if it was written on vellum, won't be preserved because it's written in bits."





the book

liber

impressura

codex



volumen to codex

"the revolution between the second and fourth centuries that changed the very structure of the book by substituting the codex for the roll"

Roger Chartier, *Forms and Meaning* 1995





transition

***membrana* ... thin skin; notebook**

"Roman business people kept accounts on wax tablet notebooks. These probably provided the model for the papyrus and parchment codex."

Homerus ... Vergilius ... Cicero ...

Titus Livy ... in membranus

...quam brevis immensum cepit membrana

Martial (c38 - 103ce), *Epigrams*, book XIV



codex



***codex* ... trunk of a tree**

"A manuscript volume; one of the ancient manuscripts of scripture".

200 ce, codex gaining, scroll losing
500 ce, codex dominating

"The roll continued to serve for ... writing of the sort that goes into files or archives, but the codex took over in literature, scientific studies, technical manuals ... the sort that go onto library shelves".

Casson, *Libraries in the Ancient World*, 2000



technological superiority?

"Dans l'Antiquité tardive, c'est sur ces écrits ... que toute autorité se fondait: au sommet du pouvoir, dans la hiérarchie ecclésiastique ... pour représenter cette autorité, il y avait le codex".

Cavallo



random access

Chartier

one handed

two-sided

pagination

morcelization

marginalia

footnotes

indexes

Cavallo, "Du Volumen au Codex", 1997

codex ... trunk of a tree

"A manuscript volume; one of the ancient manuscripts of scripture".



technological superiority?



random access
Chartier

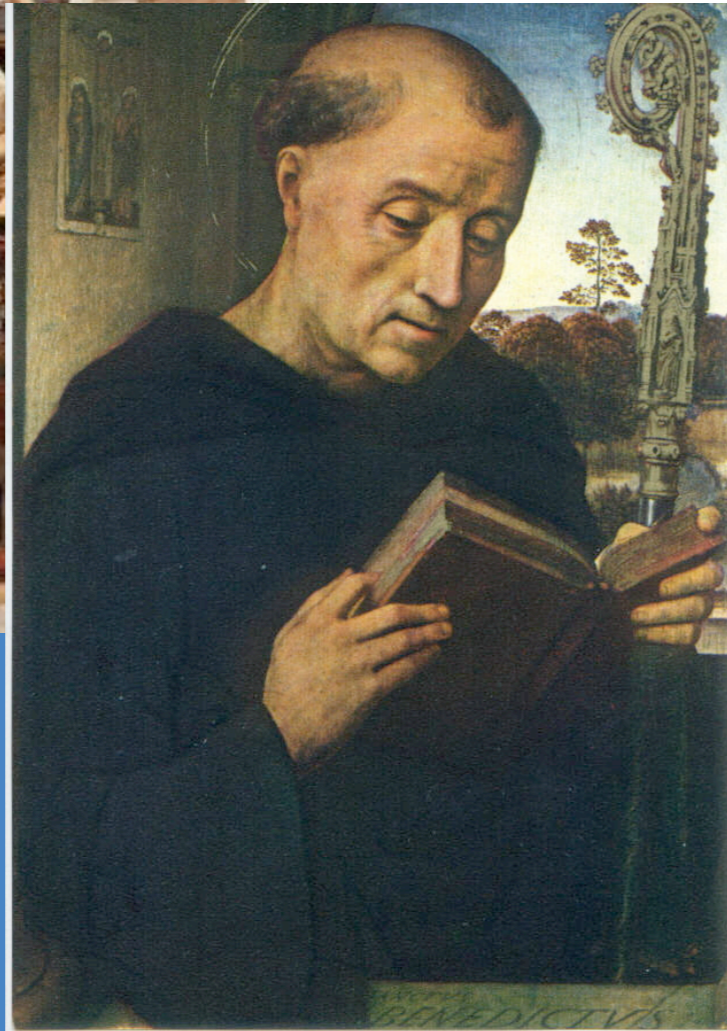
one handed
two-sided
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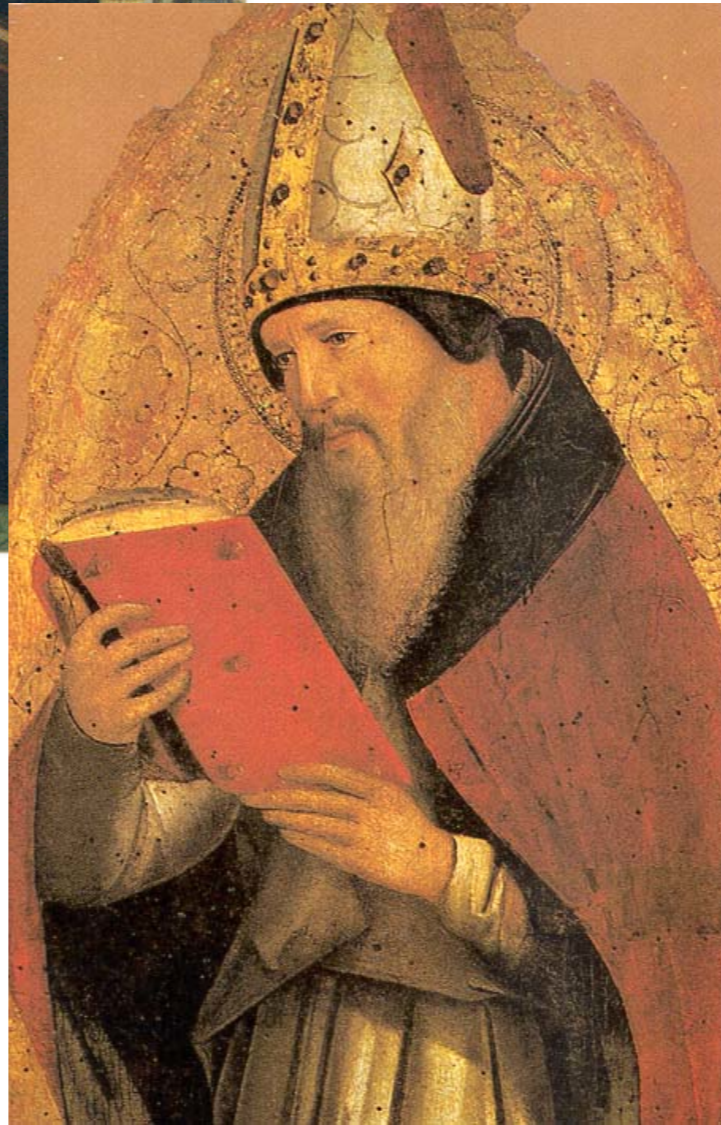
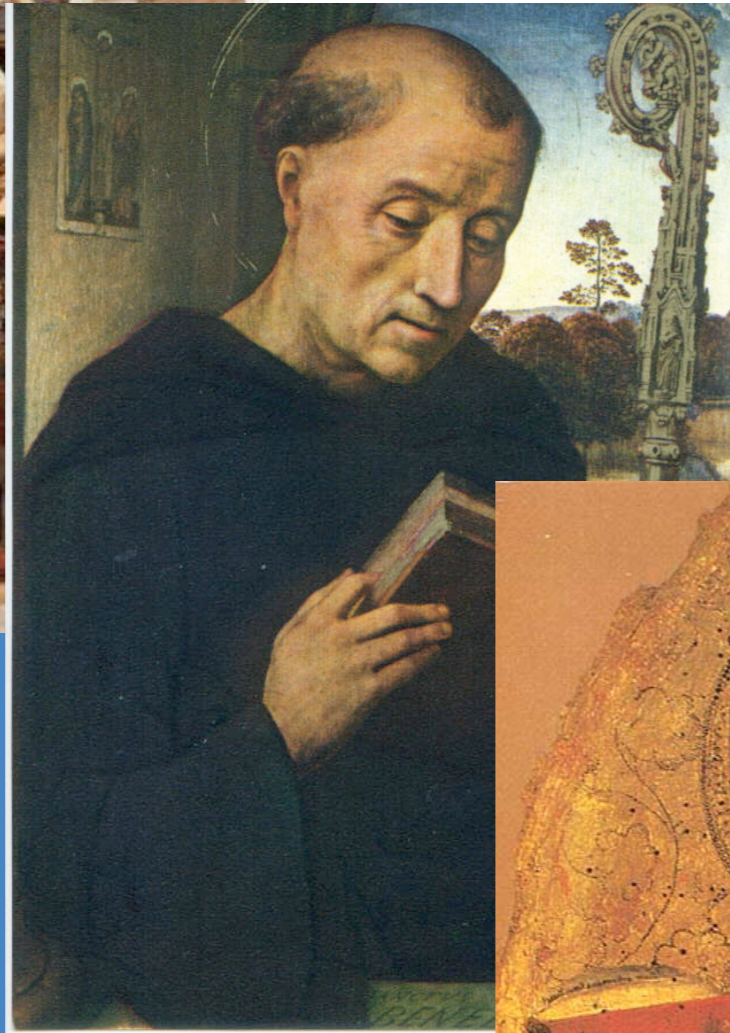
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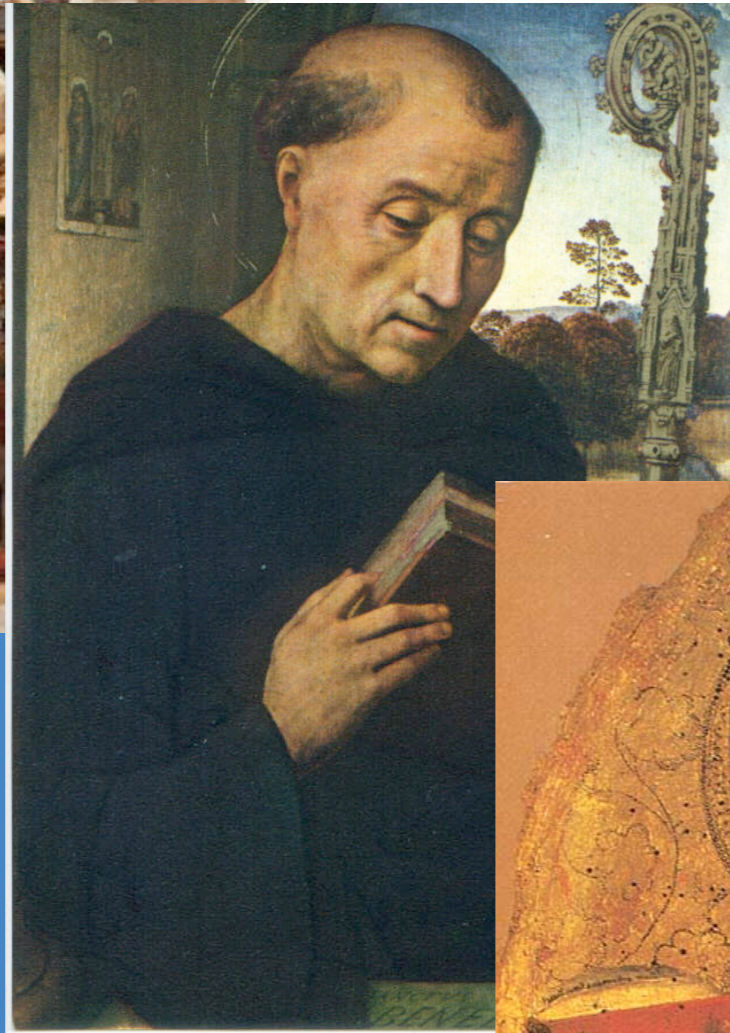
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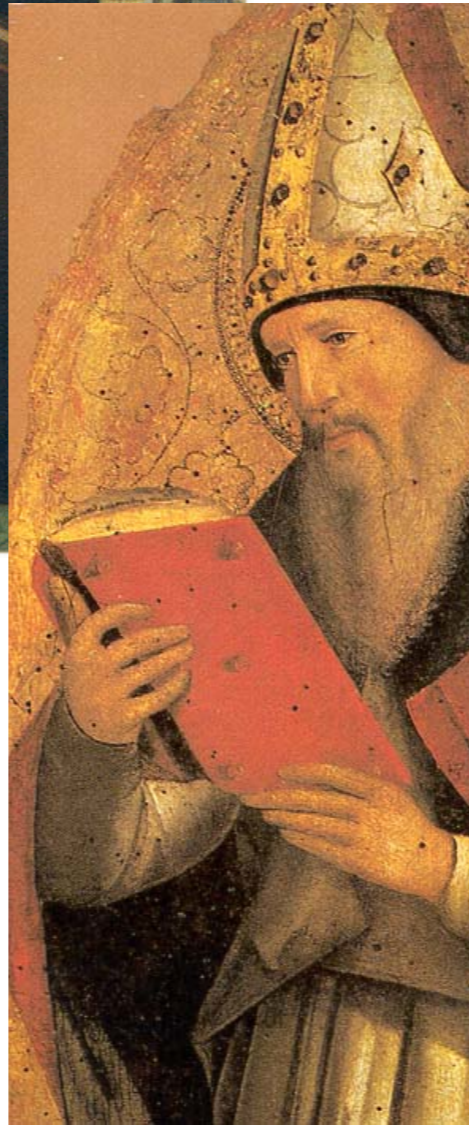
.. **trunk of a tree**
one of the ancient
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Cavallo



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Cavallo



competing technology



technological triumph

"the move from scroll to codex was accompanied by a move from papyrus to parchment"

parchment

animal skin

"the skins of wethers blackened with ink"

--Bishops of Henry I

papyrus

processed plant

rival sites

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria



res papirea



200 bce? - 105 ce, **China**
Ts'ai Lun, Emperor Ho-ti, Hunan
bark, rags, bamboo

300 ce, **Korea** (Koguryo dynasty)

5th century, 'domestic' uses

610, **Japan**

750, **Samarkand** ... 795, **Baghdad** ... ? **Spain**

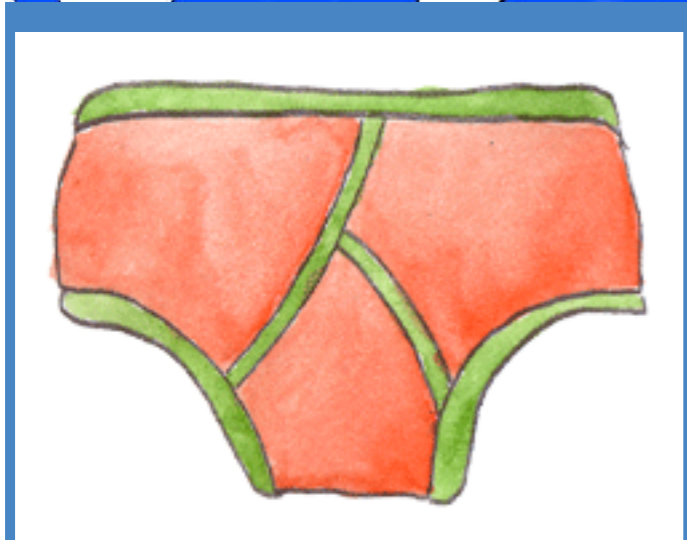
12th century **Genoa, Nuremberg**

1145, Roger of **Sicily** ordered all charters on paper
to be copied to parchment then destroyed

1248, used by the notaries of **Languedoc**



res papirea



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"from the 12th century"

factions and heresies

Dominicans, Franciscans, Cistercians

Rome, Avignon

"Men began to think of facts not as recorded
in texts but as embodied in texts, a
transition of major importance ... help[ing]
to isolate what man thought about from his
process of thinking."

Brian Stock, *Implications of Literacy*, 1893



rising class

business and the bureaucratic state

"The oldest writings to survive to our time were inscribed five thousand years ago by temple bureaucrats recording economic transactions ... crops, animals, manufactured goods"

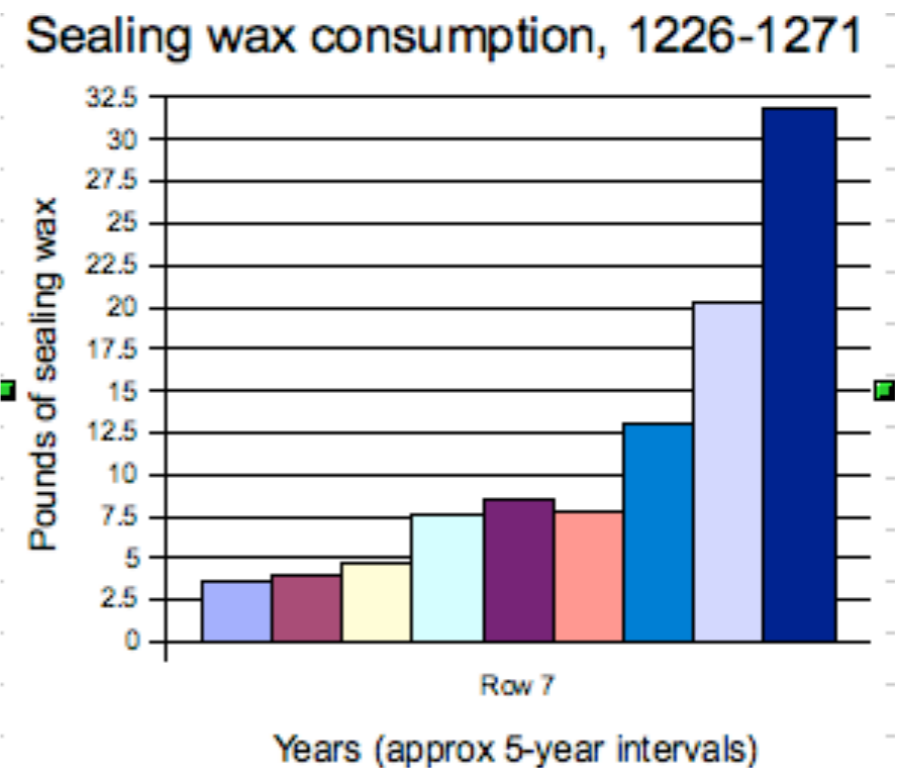
Lerner, *The Story of Libraries*, 1998

"In the twelfth century... magnates used documents occasionally ... In the thirteenth .. laymen began to convey property to each other by charter; in the latter half ... this practice extended below the gentry class to some peasants.

Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993



bureaucratic state



"[B]y the mark of a single impress the mouths of the pontiffs may be opened."

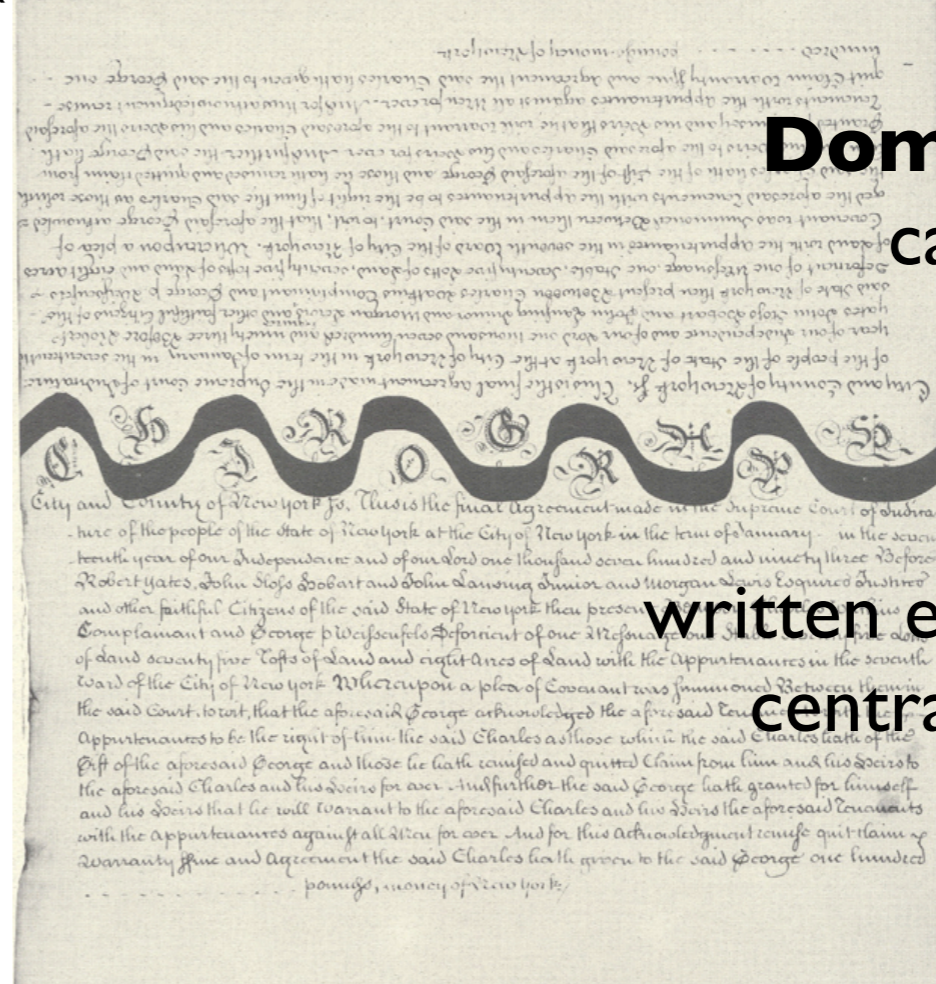
-- Theobald of Canterbury in Clanchy

37



preparing the ground

the informization of England
(v. Latour, *The Pasteurization of France*)



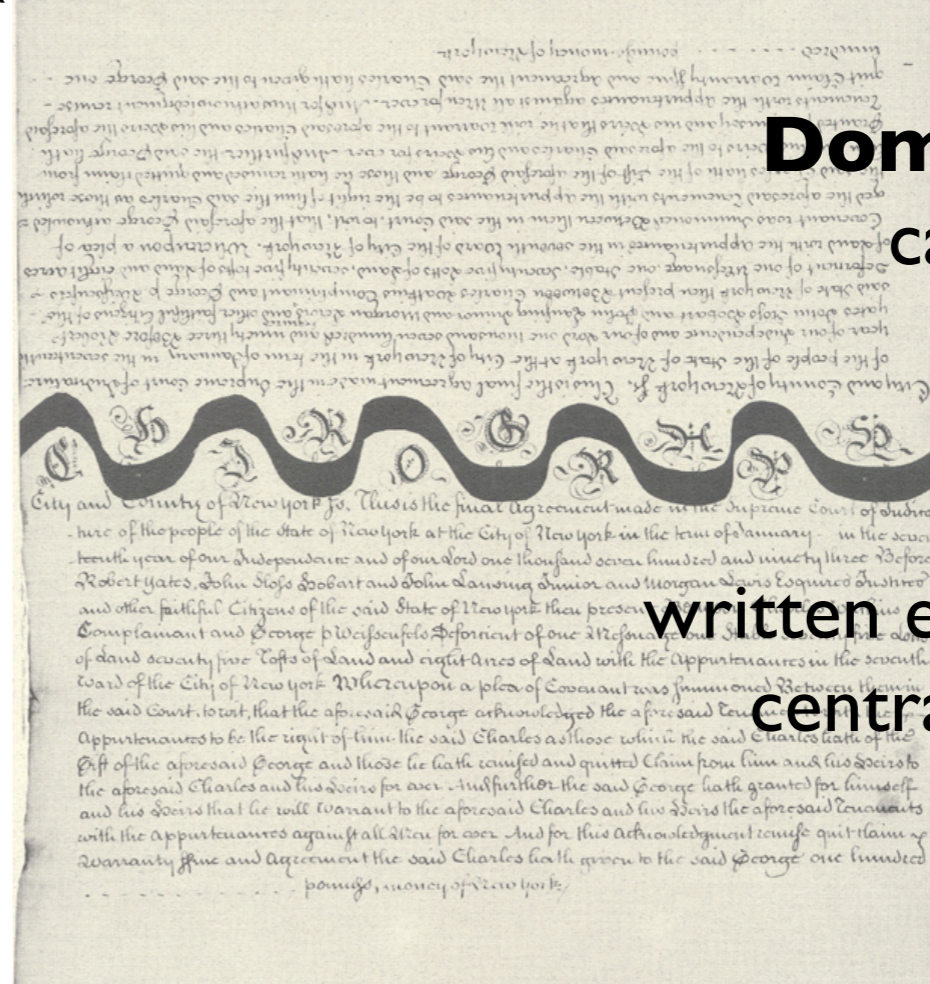
Domesday
cadastras
dates
names
spelling
written evidence
centralization



preparing the ground

evidence?

the informization of England
(v. Latour, *The Pasteurization of France*)



Domesday
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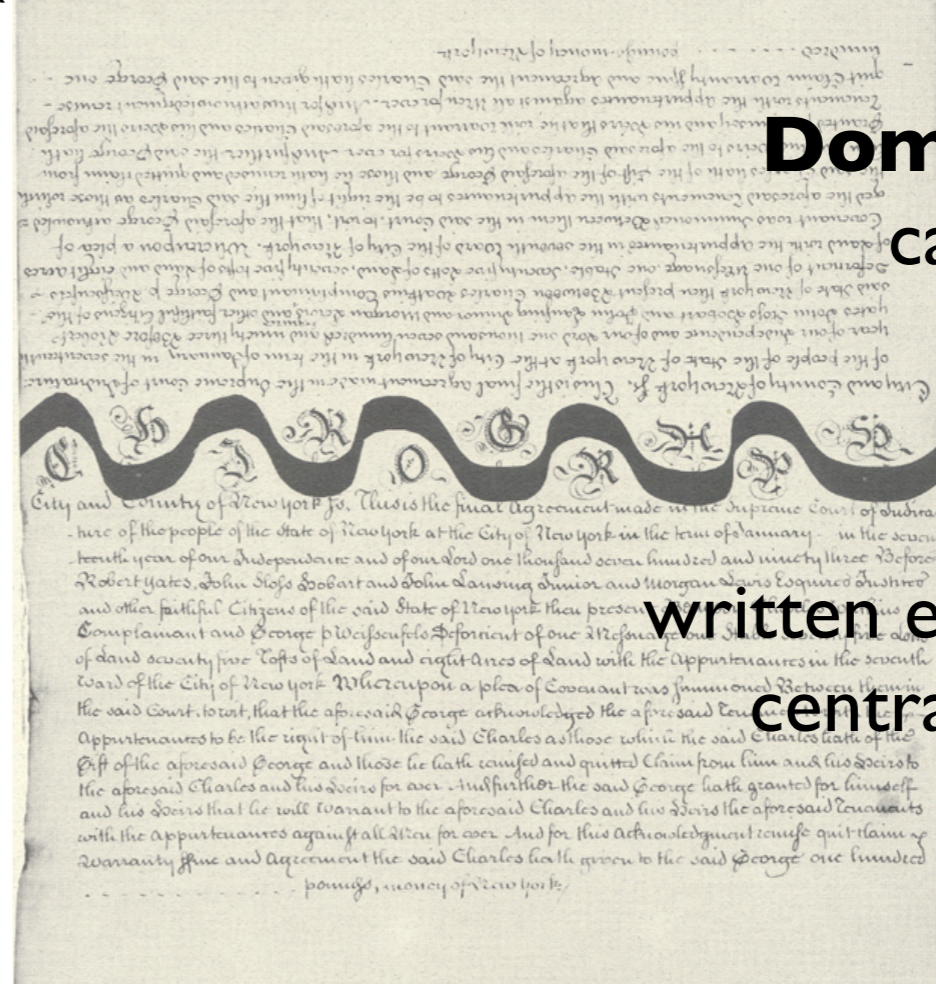
preparing the ground

evidence?

From objects and the spoken word to written evidence: "We don't accept the evidence of monks against bishops, why should we accept that of a sheepskin?"

--Clanchy

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Domesday
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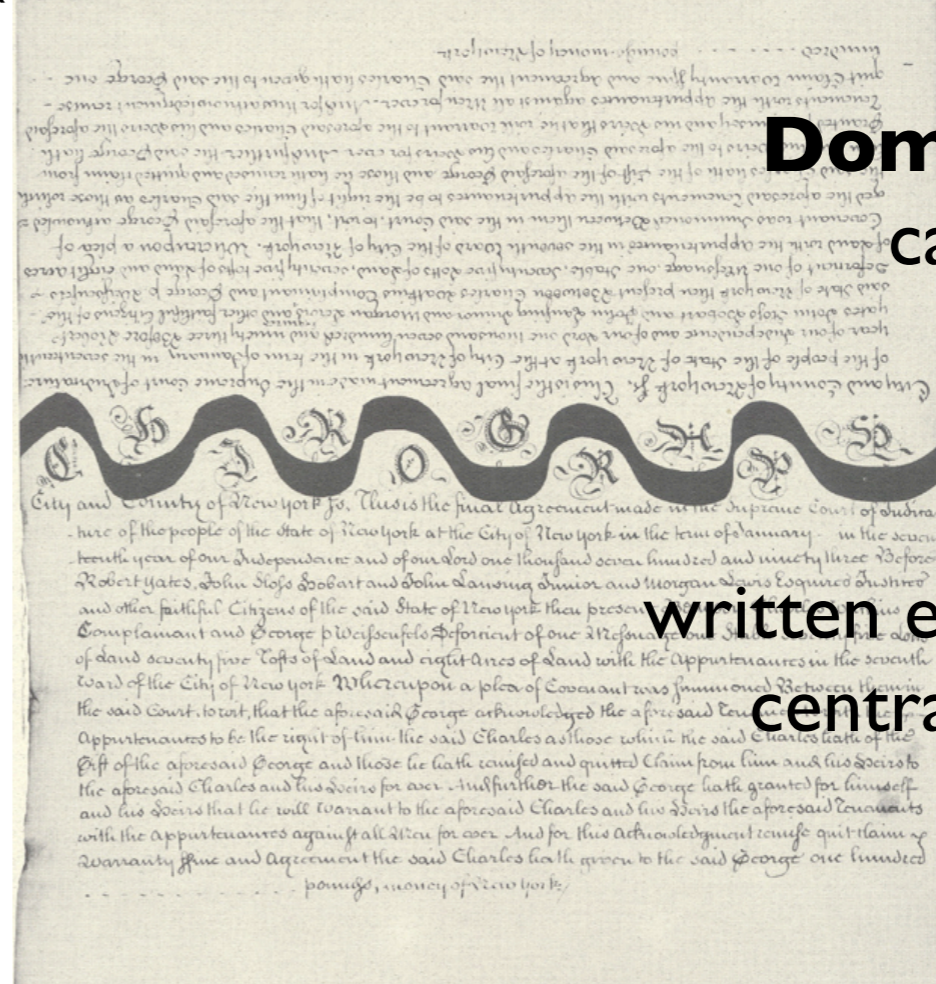


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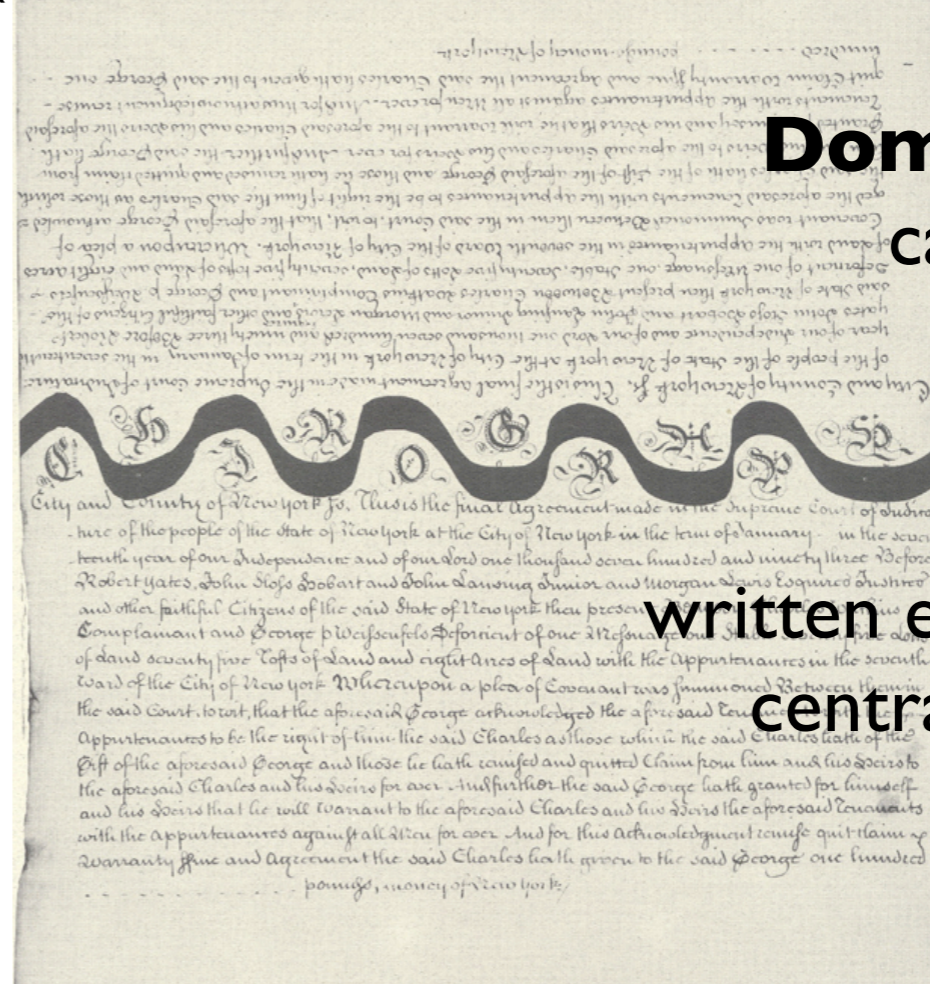


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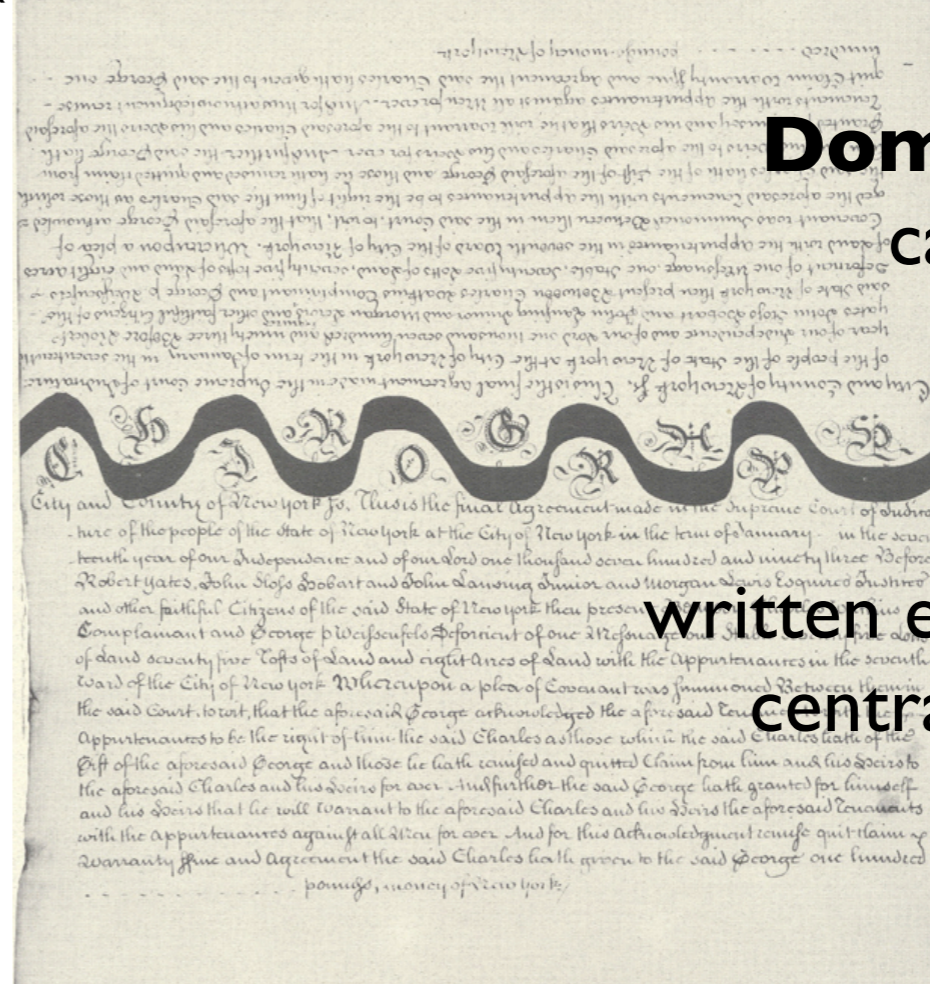
Domesday
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when was that?

preparing the ground

the informization of England
(v. Latour, *The Pasteurization of France*)



Domesday
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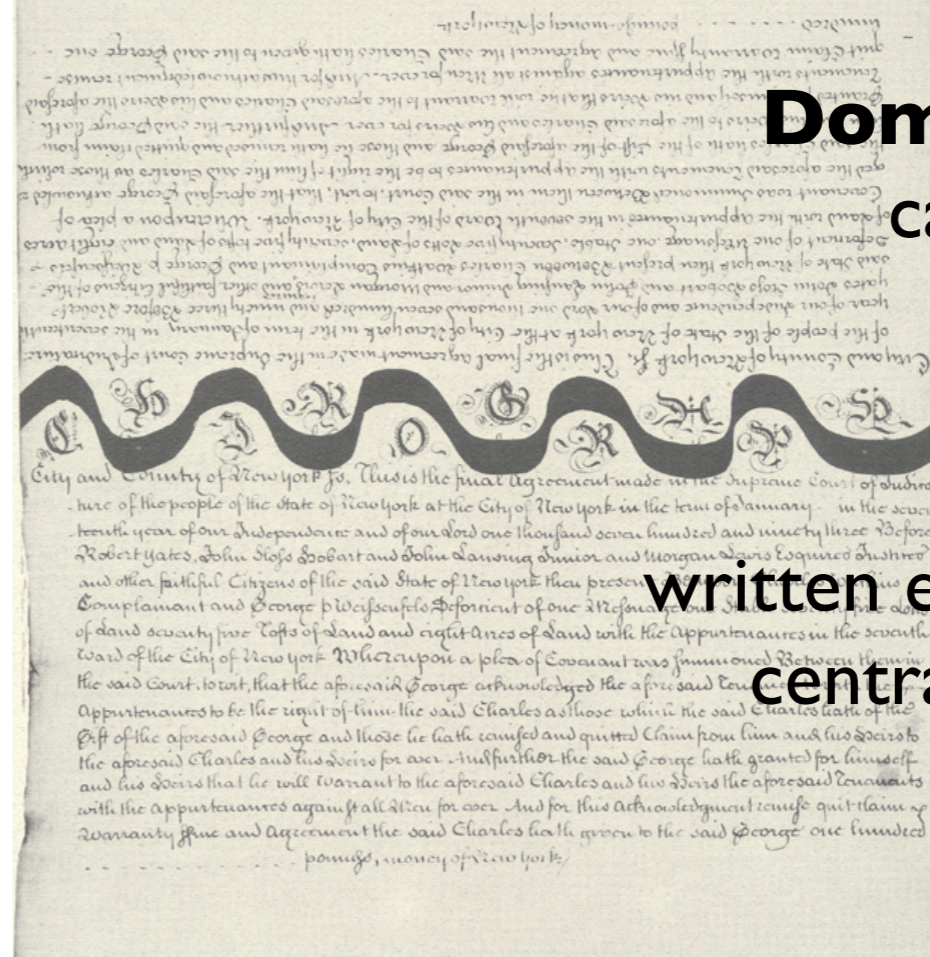
when was that?

"The 1118st year AD,
the 21st year of Pope
Alexander III, the

27th regnal year of
King Henry II of the
English, the 11th
regnal year of King
Henry the son of the
king, the 18th year
that time has passed
since the translation
of Bishop Gilbert
Foliot from Hereford
to London, when this
inquest was made by
Ralf de Diceto, dean
of London, in the
first year of his
deanship".

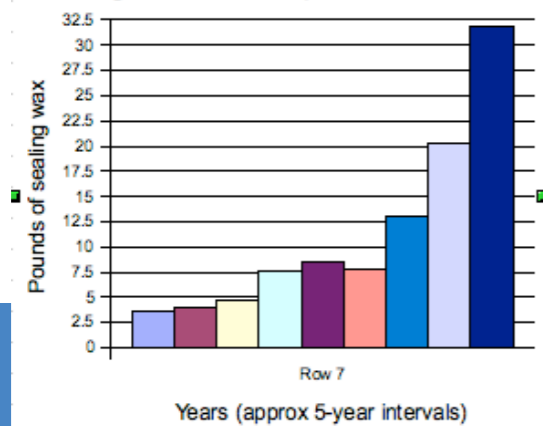
preparing the ground

the informization of England
(v. Latour, *The Pasteurization of France*)



Domesday
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Sealing wax consumption, 1226-1271



a linear model?

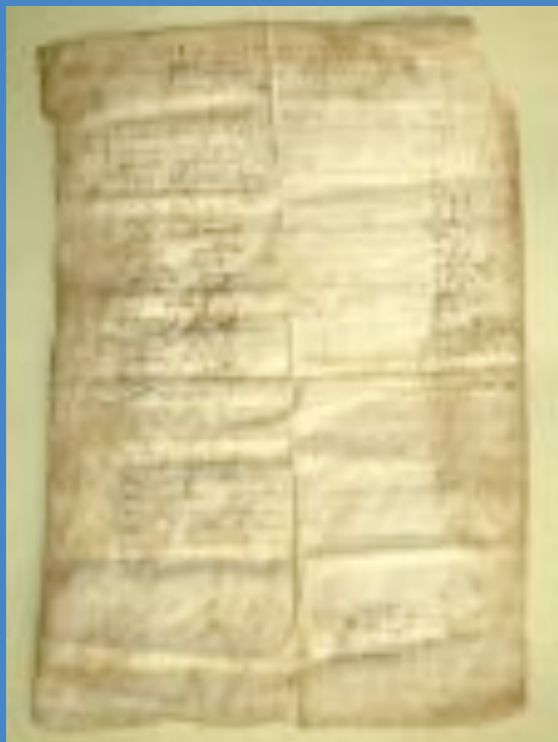
reversible trends

"Seals were indeed 'two-faced' images': they looked back to charms and memorized symbolic objects and forward to the automation of writing".
-- Clanchy

"Up to the eleventh century, western Europe could have returned to an essentially oral civilization. But by 1100 the die was cast".
--Stock

the return of the roll

"the reason why medieval England ... kept its records predominantly in rolls remains a mystery".
--Clanchy





unintended consequences



quo warrento

"No document coming from such centres of proved fabrication as Westminster, Evesham, Winchester cathedral, Chertsey and Malmesbury should be accepted at its face value without close examination"

--Stenton in Clanchy

Ancient monasteries like Chertsey had traditionally forged charters. Now that the king was keeping copies ... abbots ensured that their forged documents were reinforced by inspection in the Chancery and enrollment among the royal records. The Chancery rolls, which were intended to prevent fraud, thus became a means of making forgeries official

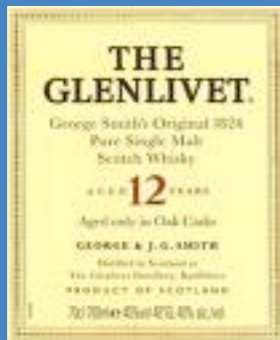


false yet true?

"Every ruler in Europe, from the pope downwards, had suspect title-deeds if historically authentic writings were to become the yardstick of authority"
--Clanchy



time out of mind



1876 trade mark registration

Bass -- as used eighteen years before
Grand Chartreuse -- twenty-seven years before

The Glenlivet -- fifty years before

Ponds extract -- thirty years before

Powers whisky -- eighty-five years before

Offley port -- one hundred years before

Ruinart -- one hundred and fifty years before



manuscript beyond print

"some of the advantages which manuscript publication gave over print in other periods-- immediate appearance, relative freedom from censorship"

Woudhuysen, *Sir*
Philip Sydney,
1966

records and single documents

accounting

scribal publishing

note taking

personal communication

music

"subversive forms" (Love)



print beyond manuscript

Gutenberg

Eisenstein

social forces

dealing with forgery