# manuscript culture

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finde & Ante quaruer Animalia of femores 1

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A are the twenty the as sugt a

What the internet an

## History of Information September 17, 2007



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 Hofl MS culture - 4

# 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



## determinism: hard to soft

necessary and sufficient

necessary but not sufficient

implicated

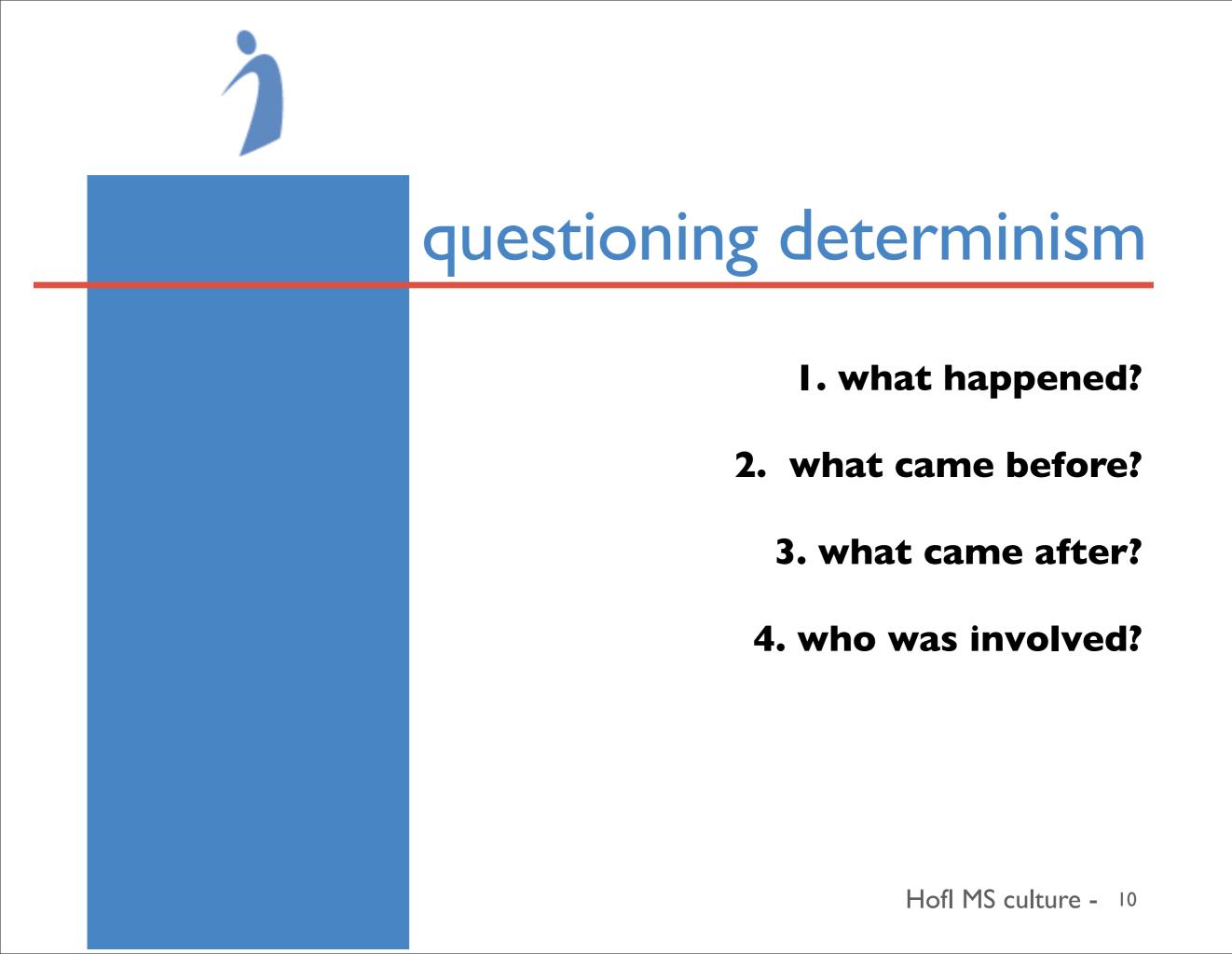
# familiar moves

## trivialising the past

#### or

## romanticising the past

"How the ancients loved books"



# 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."

# Trithemius

## |462-|5|6

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

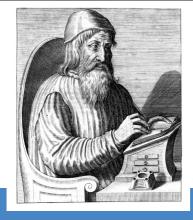
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Hofl MS culture - 13



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# 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

Hofl MS culture - 14

SIMI VIRI, REVERENDIQUE IN CHRI fto patris, domini lohinit de Trittenhem Abbatis Span hemenfis, Liber de ecclefiafficis fcriptoribus feliciter incipit.



217 LOSA L

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VII. VIII,

IX.

X.

XL XIL

XIII,

XIV. XV.

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adhuc multes vires doctiff mos vi-

opufcula, de qubus cum non firmi-filenio, q incerta cogitare, Et(vt Hie

wentibus adhuc fcriptitant, a me in nő mihi, fed fibi imputent, qui firi-cem venire. Sed credo o firiptis fuis i difpendia non cerabunt. Nam & eo

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r & vbique clemens

excuser.

politos ad loca faa reponat. Fate-

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CAPVT Commendantur deferipteres factorism librarian, Sacra foriptura noni or Veteris toflamenti landatur.

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Quales materiasmonachi Achenst feribere.

Decalatie commissistican behale

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NE LATING CO

Lemens fanctz Romanz ecclefiz quartus à beato Petro(vt quibufdam placet)ordi-natus epifcopus, natione Romanus, vir fan chus & deo dilectus, morum quogi decore ornatus, cuius vita & paffio in feripturis ec clefiafficis habentur, fedit in pontificaru nouvee annis & decem dichur la exiting nouem annis & decem diebus. In exiliant profide Chrifti relegatus animo costanti, Obiț anno Traiani Carfaris tertio, domini aut cetelimotertio, Hicheatifimus mar

Fo. II.

tyr nonnallas fide & eruditione plenas fertur in perfona Romanæ ecclefiæ feripfiffe epiftolas, De quibus extát præcipua Ad ecclefiam Corinthiorum Epiftolavna. Ad Iacobú quoqi apoftolum Epfæ daz, Clemens, Iacobo dño, Præterea itinerarij vitæ fuæ Ibri decem. Cum in vrbe Roma.

Item difeutationis Petri liber vout,

Item disputationis Petri liber vmas. Hec auté duo vleima volumina inter apocrypha coputantur, vt pa ter, st, dift. Sé da Romana. Ferunt eius & alix e effe, led apocryphr. Ionyfius Ariopagita Athenienfis, philosophis infignis, per beatum Paulum apoft olum conterfus ad fidem, pri-mus(vr quibuldam placet) Athenienfis epifcopus ordina tus eff, vir eximize fanctitatis & incomparabilis doctri-nz. Hunc polt deceffum apoftolorő, beatus Ciemens Romana vr-bis epifcopus eű Ruftico peefbytero & Eleutherio diacono ad fódi-candú gétibus verbű dei mifit in Fefciam, alioin eius loci ordinato enifcomo. Scriofit autem graco fermone nuulta præchar opaífcula. epifcopo. Scripfit autem graco fermone multa praclara opufcula, De quibus apud latinos tantum inueni fubiecta. De celefti hierarchia lib.vnű. Omne datű optimű őt,

De ecclefiaffica hierarchia, De diuinis nominibus Demystica theologia

lib.vnű. Omne datű optimű &. lib.t. Szcerdotij quidem nfi. lb.t. Nunciam vir dei polt, hb.t. Trinitas fuperfabitant, Defym

# "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



## survival



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





Roasted fresh every Wednesday, Shipped the Next Day

our

#### greetings and peace

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

## survival



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



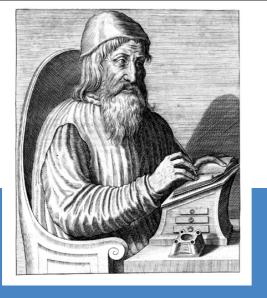


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# on scripture

## 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.

"scripture, my dear brothers will serve many purposes"

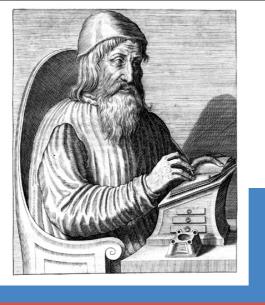
scriptoris copying writing scripture

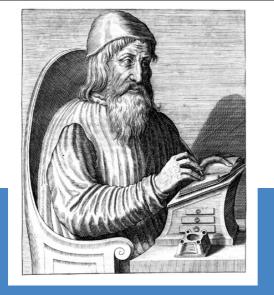


"Printed books will never be the equivalent of handwritten codices, especially since printed books are often deficient in spelling and appearances"

"You can correct what another has written"

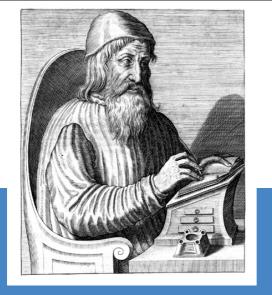
"This dispensation does not apply to the scribe who copies for money ... his mind is on worldly riches and his work is therefore to be considered servile"





## the book

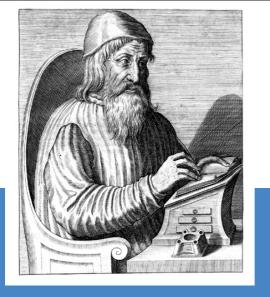
"All of you know the difference between a manuscript and a printed book. THe word written on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? ... two hundred years".



## the book

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#### VELLUM

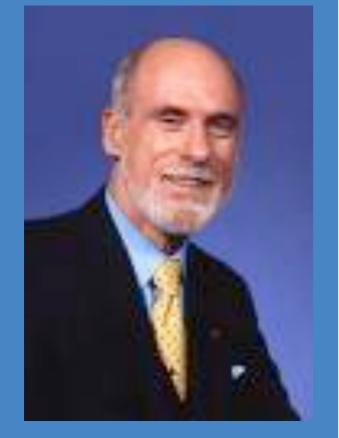
#### Google evangelist unveils his Web vision

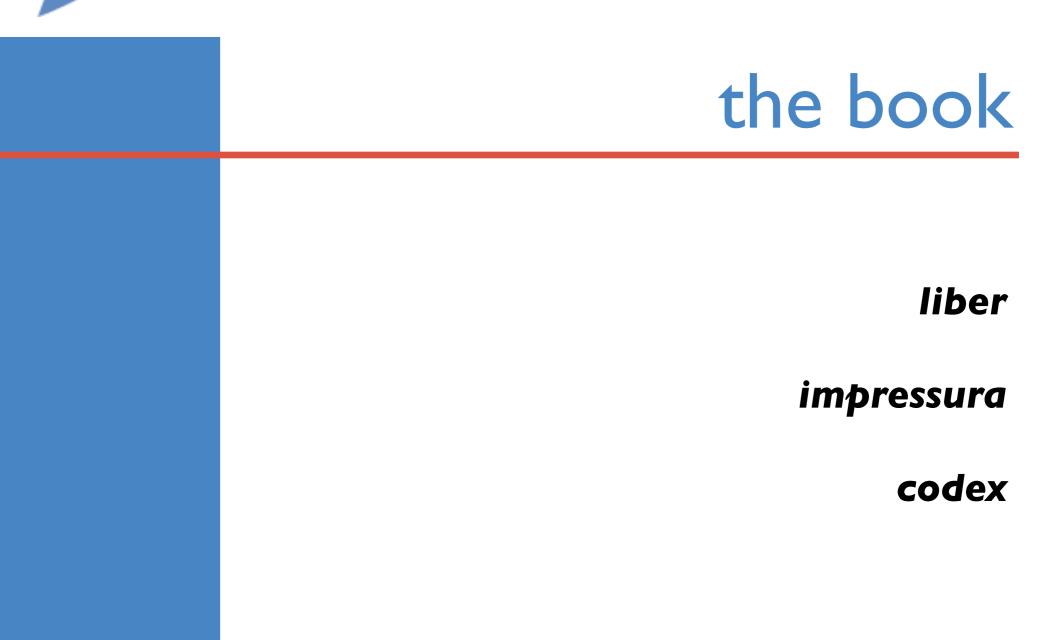
By Ciar Byrne Independent: 27 August 2007

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."





## 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?

random access Chartier

one handed two-sided pagination morcelization marginalia footnotes indexes Cavallo, "Du Volumen au Codex", 1997

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Hofl MS culture - 25

"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 auorité, il y avait le codex".





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random access Chartier

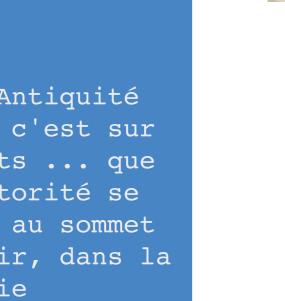
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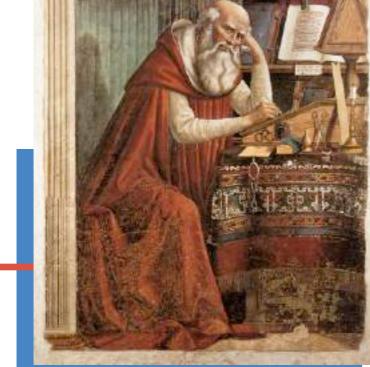
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# competing technology

### 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

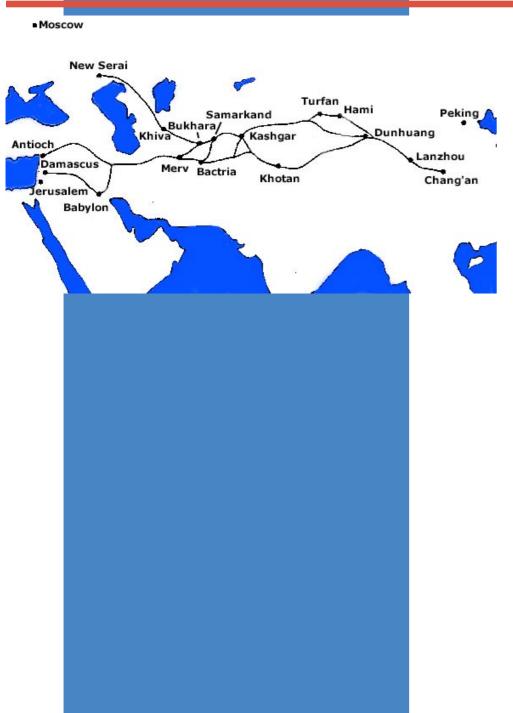
610, **Japan** 

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



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Hofl MS culture - 27



# )

# "from the 12th century"

#### factions and heresies

Dominicans, Franciscans, Cistercians Rome, Avignon

Brian Stock, Implications of Literacy, 1893

Hofl MS culture - 28

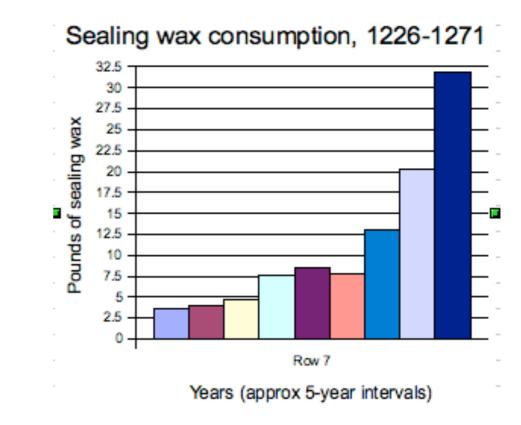
### rising class

#### 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 Hofl MS culture - 29

### bureaucratic state

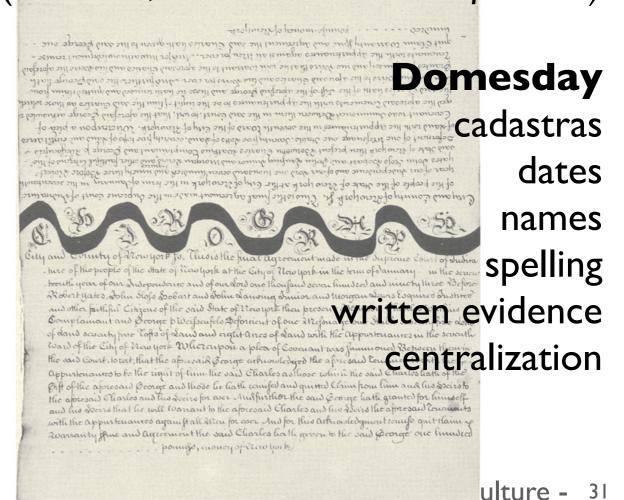


"[B]y the mark of a single impress the mouths of the pontiffs may be opened." -- Theobald of Canterbury in Clanchy 37

Hofl MS culture - 30

# 1

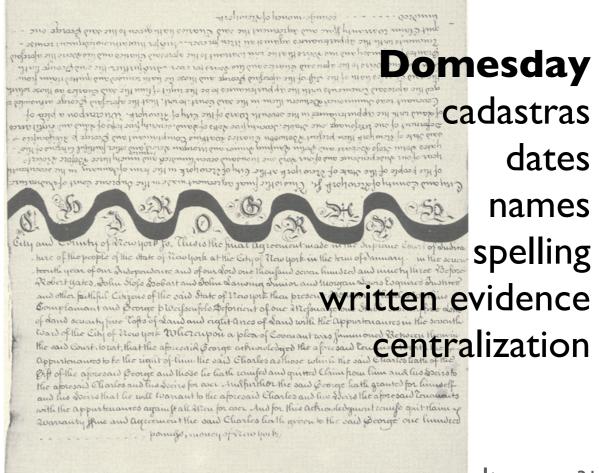
### preparing the ground



1

## preparing the ground

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

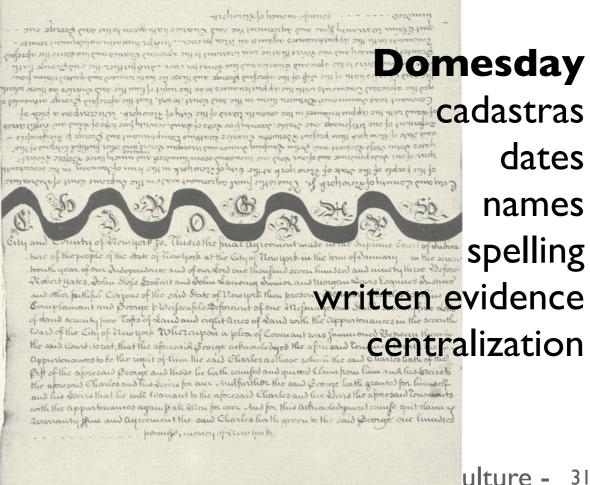


### evidence?

ulture - 31

### 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



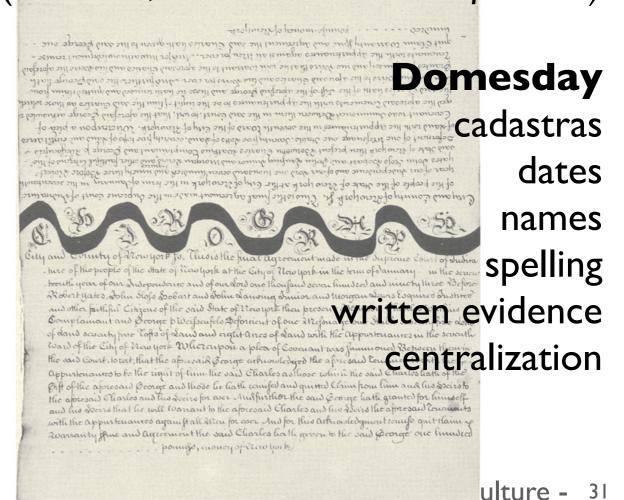
#### the informization of England (v. Latour, The Pasteurization of France)

coundo-moneil of Artionori Suc sur concorrently inc and agrowing the said nories hath given to his said prorde one כהרביי וווט כר וווח שונו היהו המלחירו בשחום Domesday cadastras dates names spelling unty of arow yor Fo. Chusis the in here of the people of the state of Mawyork at the City of New york in the ter warn and of our ford one the Robert yates, John Stops Sobart and John Lar and other furthing Cinzens of the vaid State of 12 con york they presen weritten is evidence of dand scouty five Cofts of Sand and right anes of Sand with the ap Ward of the City of New york Whereupon a plea of Covenant was the said Court to test that the africe and for or the africe said ter for the africe said ter the the africe said ter the afri appurtenances to be the right of time the said Charles as those which the sai Bift of the aforesard poor and those he hath counfed and quitted Chain pour lime and his speirs t the apressie Charles and his Sveire for aver Anofurther the saw & corege hath granted for himself and his Speirs that he will warrant to the aforesaid Charles and his Speirs the aforesaid Emanants with the appurtenances again of all stice for aser And for this actual dynant course quit tain y Quarranty fine and agreement the said Charles hath given to the said peorge one finaded ulture - 31

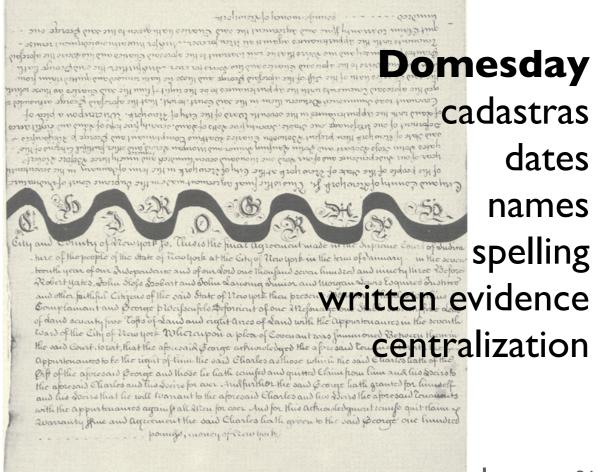
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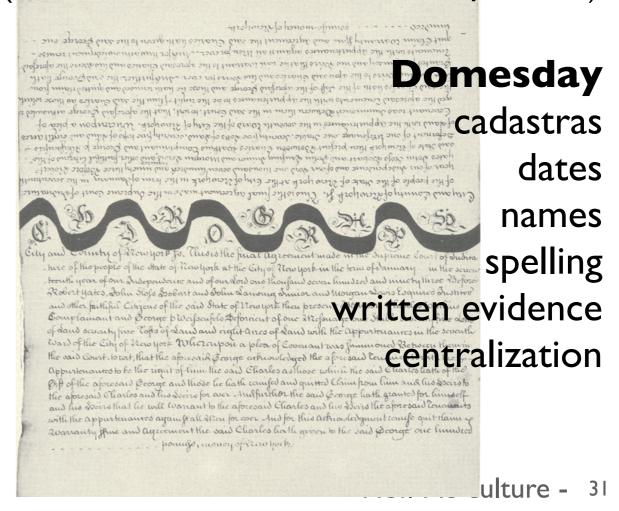
### preparing the ground







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





"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".

### a linear model?

#### reversible trends

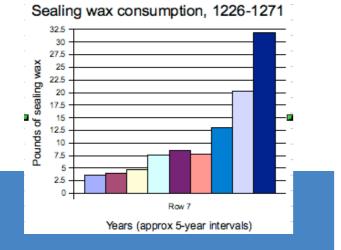
"Seals were indeed 'two-faced' images': they looked back to charms and memorized symbolic objects and forward to the automation of writing". -- Clanchy

"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

### fall of literacy







### 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



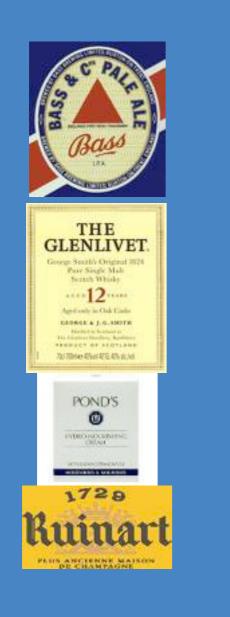
## false yet true?

"Every ruler in Europe, from the pope downwards, had suspect titledeeds 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

#### records and single documents

accounting

scribal publishing

note taking

personal communication

music

"subersive forms" (teove)

manuscript
publication gave
over print in
other periods-immediate
appearance,
relative freedom
from censorship"
Woudhuysen, Sir

"some of the

advantages which

Philip Sydney,

1966

