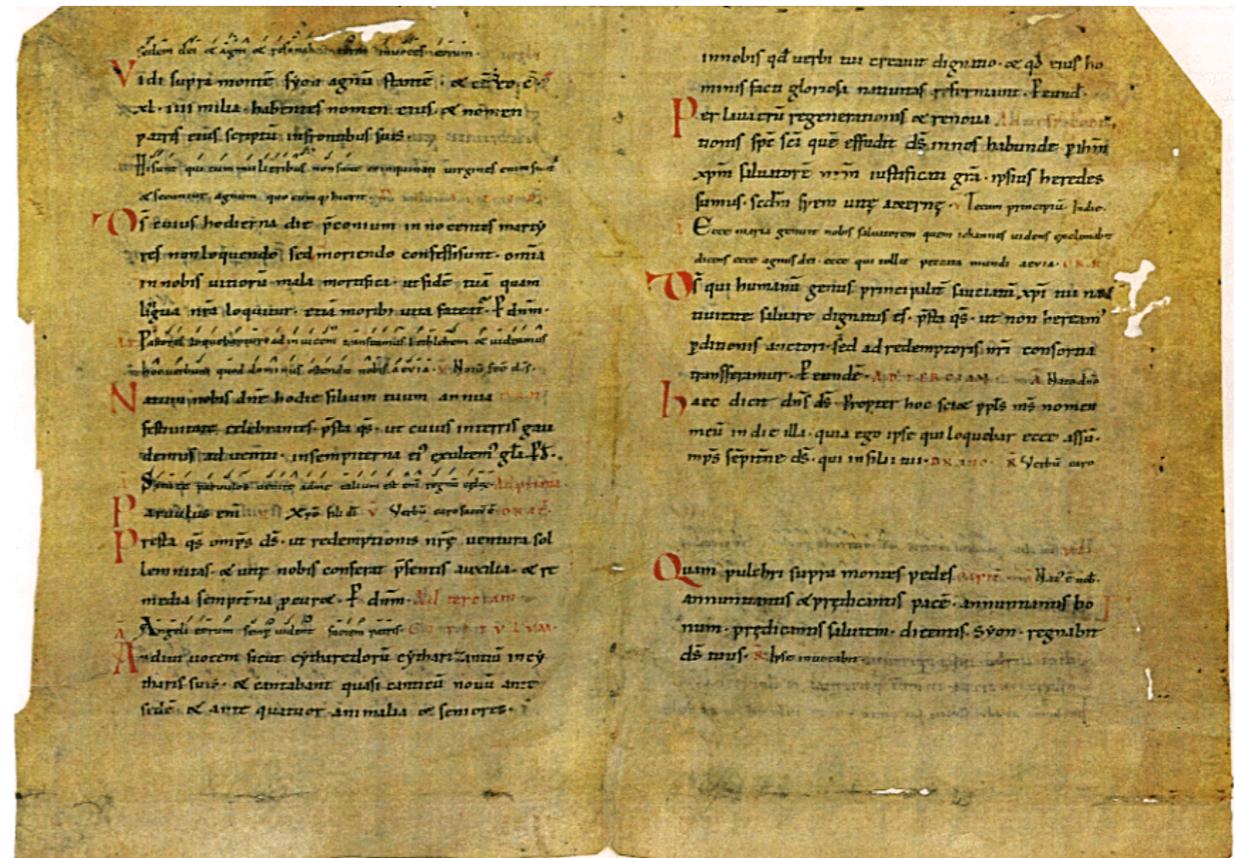
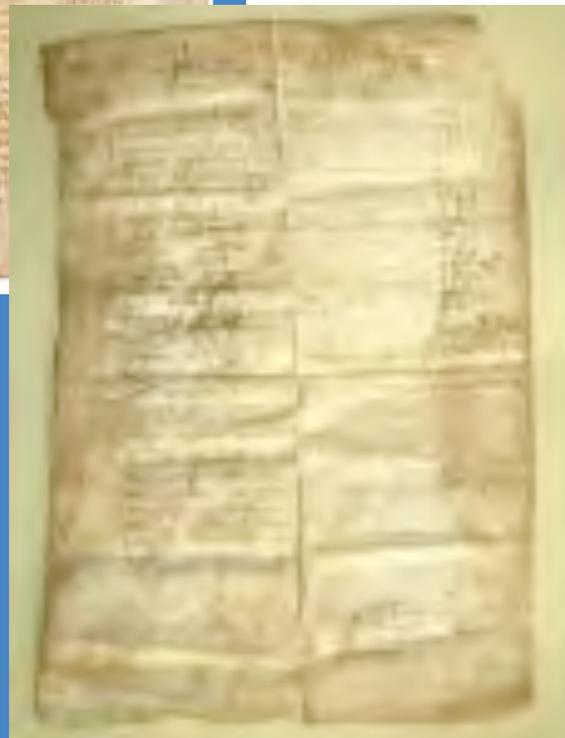




manuscript culture

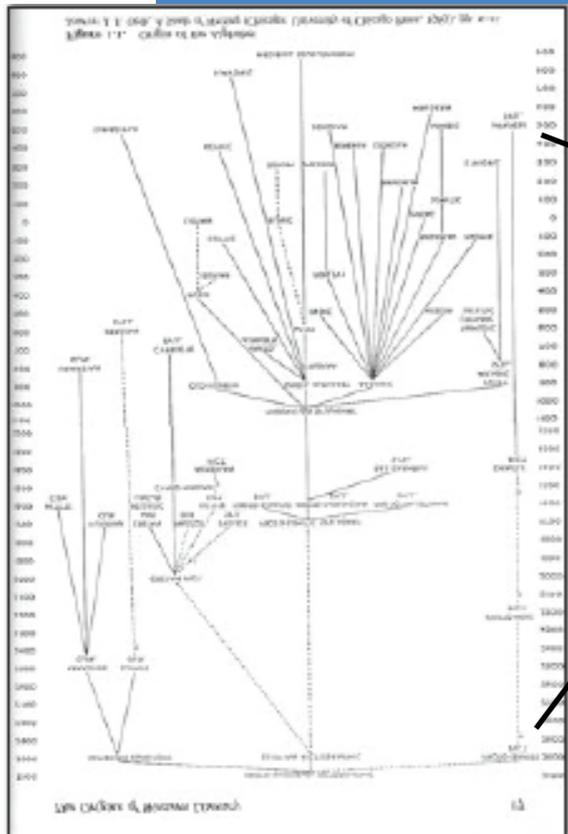
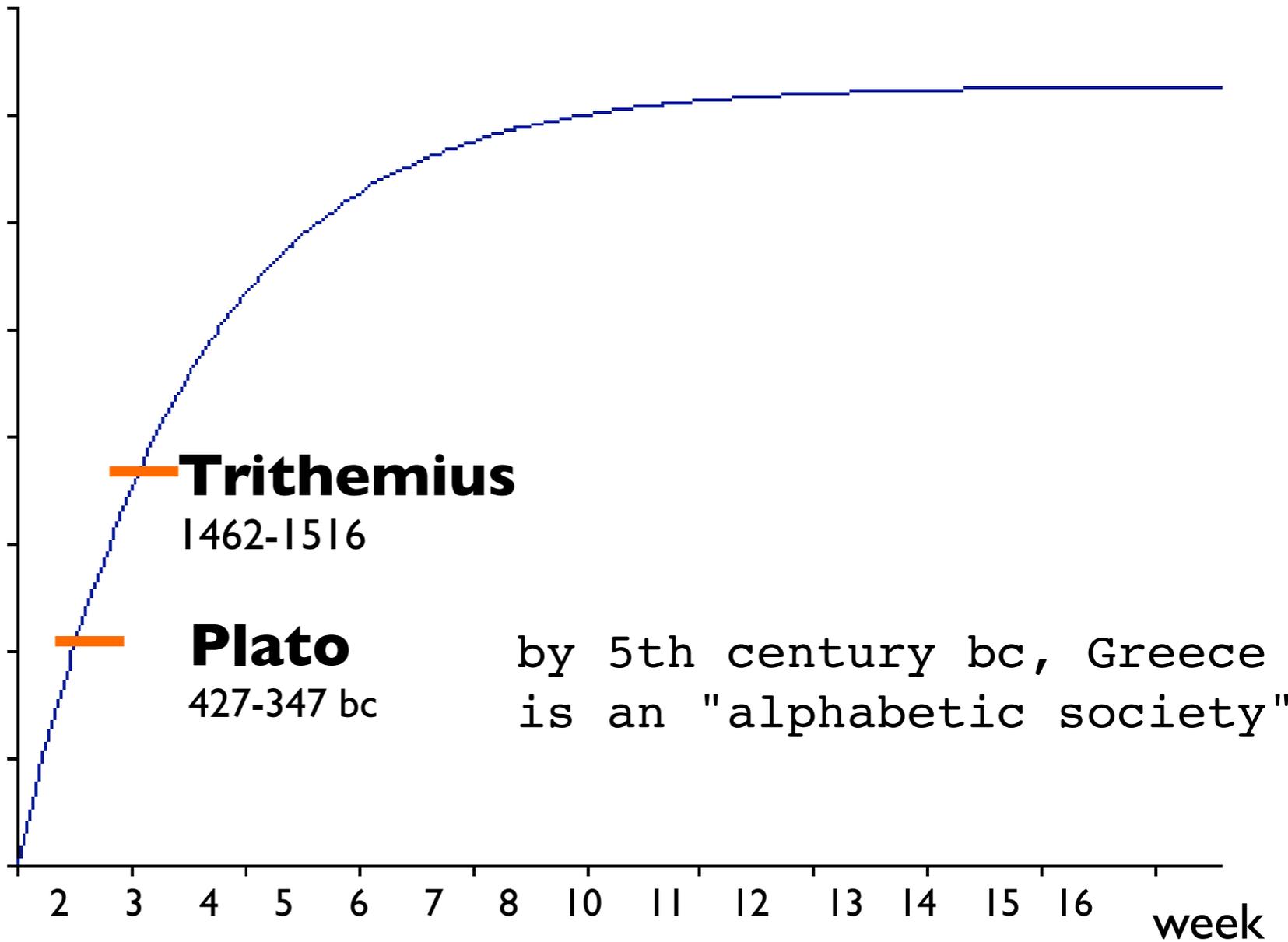
history of information
february 4, 2009





our progress

2009
1980
1950
1900
1800
1700
1600
1200
600
400
0
500
3000
5000
30,000
50,000





overview

book talk

the turning point of print

pre-print: what came before

understanding change

technologies

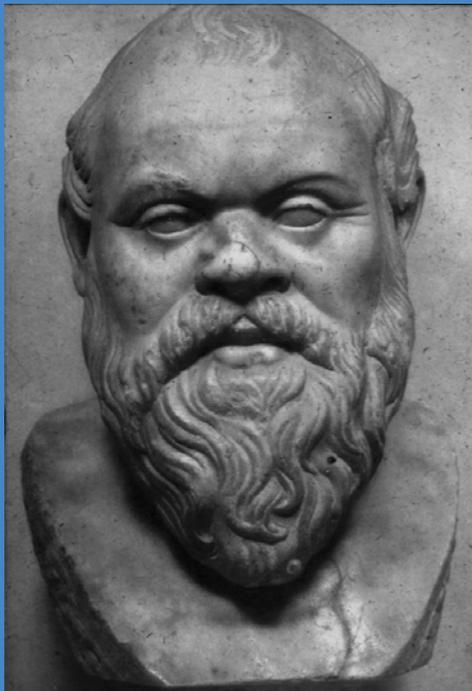
institutions

practices

manuscript culture



book talk



eyewitness reports

Plato,

Phaedrus, ?370bc/1973



Johannes Trithemius,
In Praise of Scribes, 1492/1974



pre-print

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



print: the measure of the present

"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 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



print: the measure of the present

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>



who says ...

"Not since Gutenberg unveiled his miraculous invention of a printing press with moveable type has the book world been privy to another event as thrilling as NuvoMedia's Rocket eBook."

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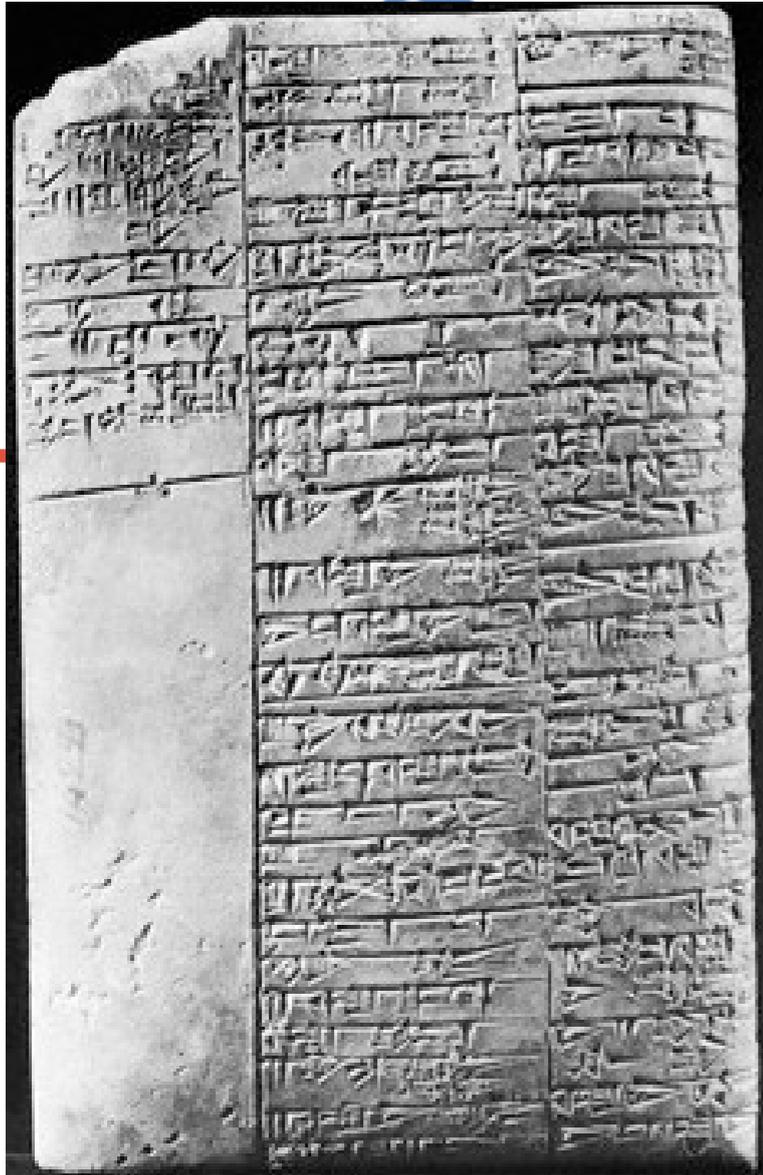
reading mss:our issues

"what should they know . . ."

technological determinism

non-determinism

presentism



technologies

He who saw the deep ...
...set all his labours on a tablet of stone

See the tablet-box of cedar,
Release its clasp of bronze
Lift the lid of its secret,
Pick up the tablet of lapis lazuli and read out
The travails of Gilgamesh ...

stone
clay
wood
wax
parchment / vellum
papyrus
paper
palm
silk
ink
pens
binding
codex



relevant social groups



business
bureaucracy
law
religion
education





presentism

"Printed books evolved into
better-designed packages of information"
-- Grendel, *Cambridge Hist. of Renaissance Philosophy*

"The need for readily available information, which had
been steadily rising, was accelerated by the advent of
Christianity ...

"The need to find information more rapidly than is
possible in a papyrus-roll-form book initiated the
development of the Greco-Roman codex in the second
century ..."

--Kilgour, *The Evolution of the Book*



what are they
talking about?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

keywords -- Socrates



what are they talking about?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

keywords -- Socrates

manuscript



what are they talking about?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

keywords -- Socrates

manuscript

speech



what are they talking about?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

keywords -- Socrates

manuscript

speech

writing



what are they talking about?



"The discoverer is
not the best judge"

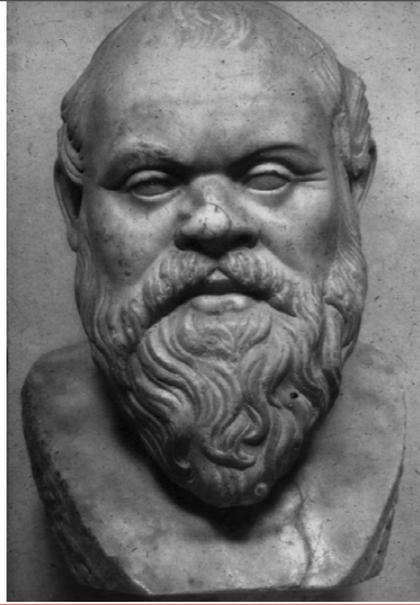
keywords -- Socrates

manuscript

speech

writing

information



Socrates - *information*

"your pupils will have the reputation for [wisdom] without the reality; they will receive a quantity of information without proper instruction." --Penguin

alternatives

"You are supplying the opinion of wisdom to students, not the truth. For you'll see that, having become hearers without much teaching, they will seem to be sensible judges, while being for the most part senseless." --Cornell

"[Writing] is an aid not to memory, but to reminiscence, and you will give your disciples not truth, but only the semblance of truth ... they will be tiresome company, having the show of wisdom without the reality." --Jowett



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... all going direct the other way

Sumer & the origin of writing

"His speech was substantial, and its contents extensive. The messenger, whose mouth was heavy, was not able to repeat it. Because the messenger, whose mouth was tired, was not able to repeat it, the lord of Kulaba patted some clay and wrote the message as if on a tablet. Formerly, the writing of messages on clay was not established. Now, under that sun and on that day, it was indeed so. The lord of Kulaba inscribed the message like a tablet. It was just like that. The messenger was like a bird, flapping its wings; he raged forth like a wolf following a kid. He traversed five mountains, six mountains, seven mountains. He lifted his eyes as he approached Aratta. He stepped joyfully into the courtyard of Aratta, he made known the authority of his king. Openly he spoke out the words in his heart. The messenger transmitted the message to the Lord of Aratta."

--Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta



"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

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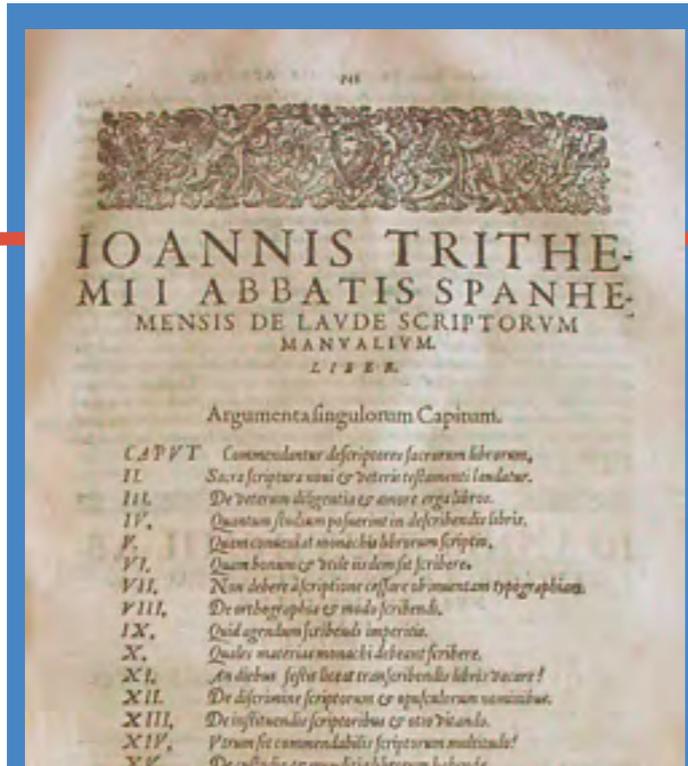
troubled reign

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





under threat

Monks "are so detested that it is considered bad luck if one crosses your path"

Erasmus,
In Praise of Folly,
1511

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

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
printing



survival





survival

LaserMonks
Saving you money, Serving those in need

Products About LaserMonks Our Programs Monastery Links Customer C

E-Mail: Password:

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

Commerce with Compassion

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10% OFF your order at www.BenevolentBlends.com!



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greetings and peace

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

our



survival

LaserMonks
Saving you money, Serving those in need

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what are they
talking about?

keywords -- Trithemius



what are they
talking about?

keywords -- Trithemius

book (*liber, libello, impressura, codex,
voluminis*)



what are they talking about?

keywords -- Trithemius

book (*liber, libello, impressura, codex,
voluminis*)

scribe, script, scripture



what are they talking about?

keywords -- Trithemius

book (*liber, libello, impressura, codex,
voluminis*)

scribe, script, scripture

writing, copying



what are they talking about?

keywords -- Trithemius

book (*liber, libello, impressura, codex,
voluminis*)

scribe, script, scripture

writing, copying

information



on *scripture*

"scripture, my dear
brothers will serve
many purposes"

monks should not stop copying because of the invention of printing

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

"Knowledge of Scripture will enhance you in
the sight of God and man. You will be
admired by all and esteemed by your
superiors. Nobody will doubt your words,
kings and princes will call you friend ..."



manu-script

"The written word on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? The most you can expect of a book of paper to survive is two hundred years. Only time will tell."

"He who gives up copying because of the invention of printing is no genuine friend of the holy Scripture ... Printed books will never be the equivalent of handwritten codices, especially since printed books are often deficient in spelling and appearances."



there's copying and then there's ...

Quadruplex est modus faciendi librum. Aliquis enim scribit aliena, nihil addendo vel mutanda; et iste mere dicitur scriptor. Aliquis scribit aliena addendo, sed non de suo; et iste compliator dicitur. Aliquis scribit et aliena et sua, sed aliena tamquam principalia, et sua tamquam annexa ad evidentiam; et iste dicitur commentator non auctor. Aliquis scribit et sua et aliena, se sua tamquam principia, aliena tamquam annexa ad confirmationem et debet dici auctor.

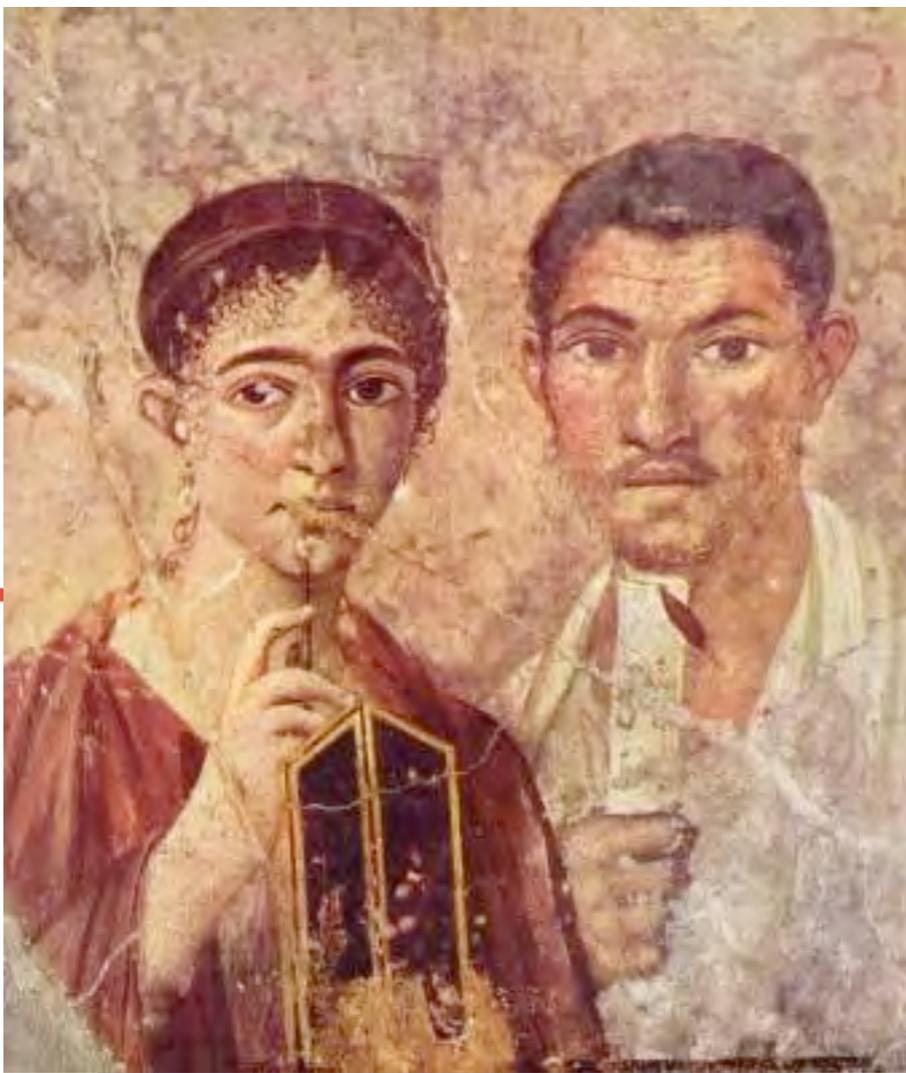
There are four ways men make books. One writes another's words, but adds or changes nothing. He is called a *writer*. Another writes others' words and adds work from yet others. He is called a *compiler*. A third adds his own words to the writing of another, but the other remains the central text, what is added merely evidence. He is called a *commentator*. And one writes both his own and another's words, but his are the main text and the other is added as confirmation. He truly can be called an *author*.

St Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1217–1274),



and *information*

"Whoever may want more information on this subject should read the book by Johannes Gerson, chancellor of the University of Paris, *De Laude Scriptorum*. There can be found in abundant detail the above-mentioned benefits and a multitude of collected arguments in praise of the good scribe."



technological issues

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

Homerus ...
Vergilius ...
Cicero ... Titus
Livy ... in
membranis

...quam brevis
immensum cepit
membrana

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





technological triumph?



codex: trunk of a tree

liber: bark of a tree

western europe
200 ad, codex gaining, scroll losing

500 ad, 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

why?



technological superiority?



technological superiority?

random access



technological superiority?

random access

one handed



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes



technological superiority?

random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes



technological superiority?



random access

one handed

two-sided

pagination

marginalia

footnotes

indexes



not quite so dumb?



handy

pages

collection

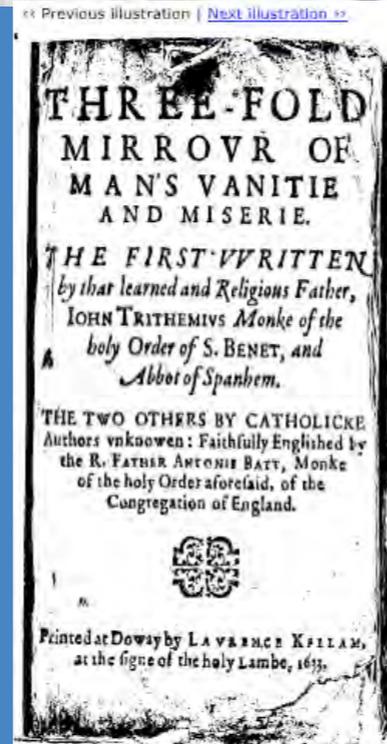
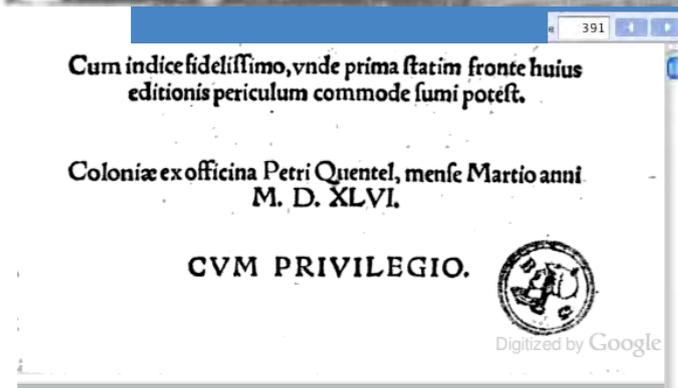
divisions

(incipits, explicits, colophons)

random access

(sillyboi)

doesn't crack



IN HVIVS NOBILISSIMI OPERIS
laudem, Dn. Sebastiani Branti epigramma.

Scriptores quicunq; velis nouisse probatos
Ecclesiae, & quicquid quisq; decoris habet:
Abbatis docti legito hoc epitoma Iohannis
Ex Spanheim, sua quem vita diferta probat.



know when to fold 'em



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

papyrus
processed plant

parchment
animal skin

"the parchment alone in a fine Bible, even allowing for the shorthand script of the day, represented a flock of perhaps three hundred sheep"

--North, *God's Clockmaker*



kinds of determinism

geographical determinism?

parchment at Pergamum

papyrus at Alexandria

religious determinism?

palm in India

silk in China





breakthrough innovation?



paper

200 bc? - 105 ad, **China**

Ts'ai Lun, Emperor Ho-ti, Hunan

bark, rags, bamboo

diffusion:

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

5th century, 'domestic' uses, **India**

610, **Japan**

750, **Samarkand ...**

795, **Baghdad**

9th century, **Byzantium**



slow on the uptake

?11th century **Spain**

12th century **Genoa, Nuremberg**

hesitation

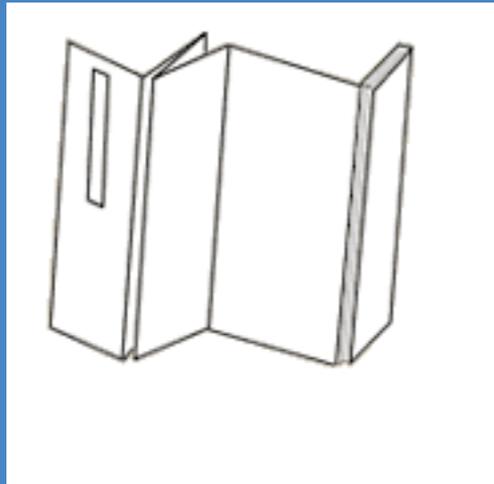
1145, Roger of **Sicily** ordered all charters on paper to be copied to parchment then destroyed

1248, paper accepted for use by the notaries of Languedoc (**France**)

"The written word on parchment will last a thousand years. The printed word is on paper. How long will it last? The most you can expect of a book of paper to survive is two hundred years. Only time will tell."



paper codex-a technological triumph?



Christian codex, 2d century

Islamic codex, 8th century

Hebrew codex, 9th century

Chinese sutra fold, 10th century





technological superiority?

"In late antiquity, all authority was founded on Scripture ...: and the highest authority, the authority of the church, was represented by the codex."

Cavallo

"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



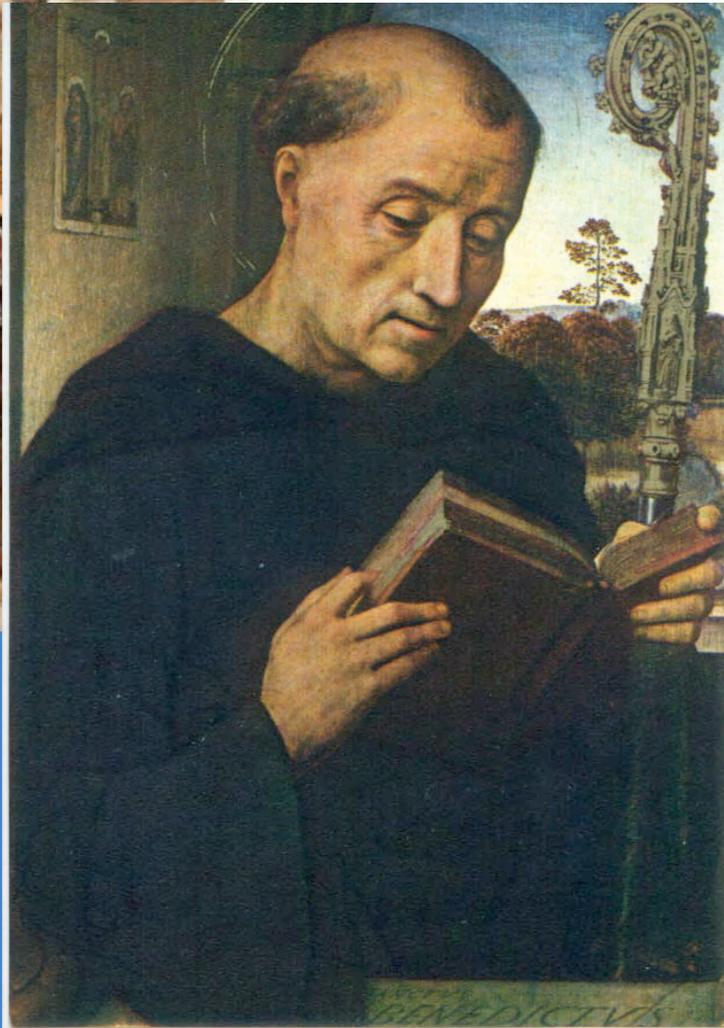
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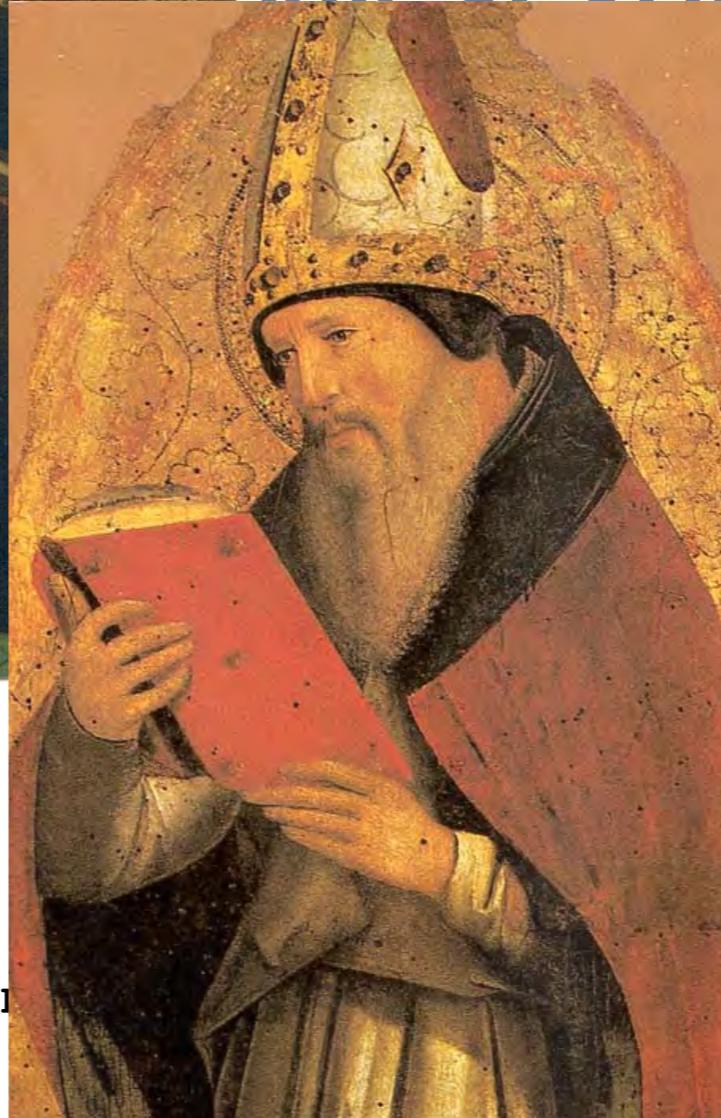
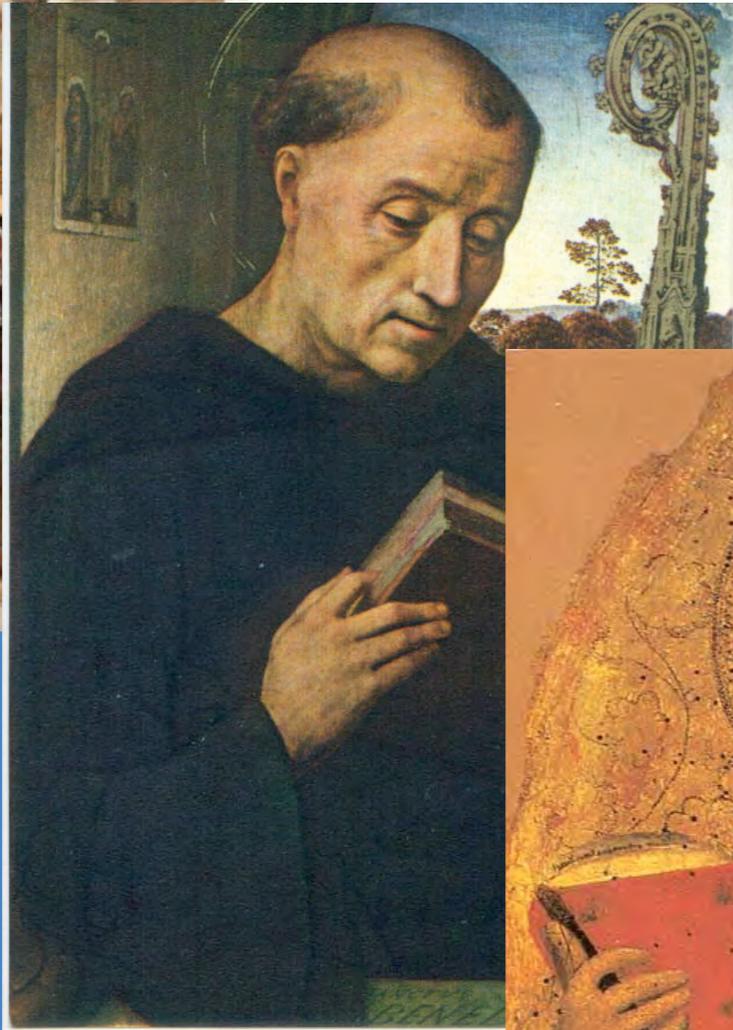
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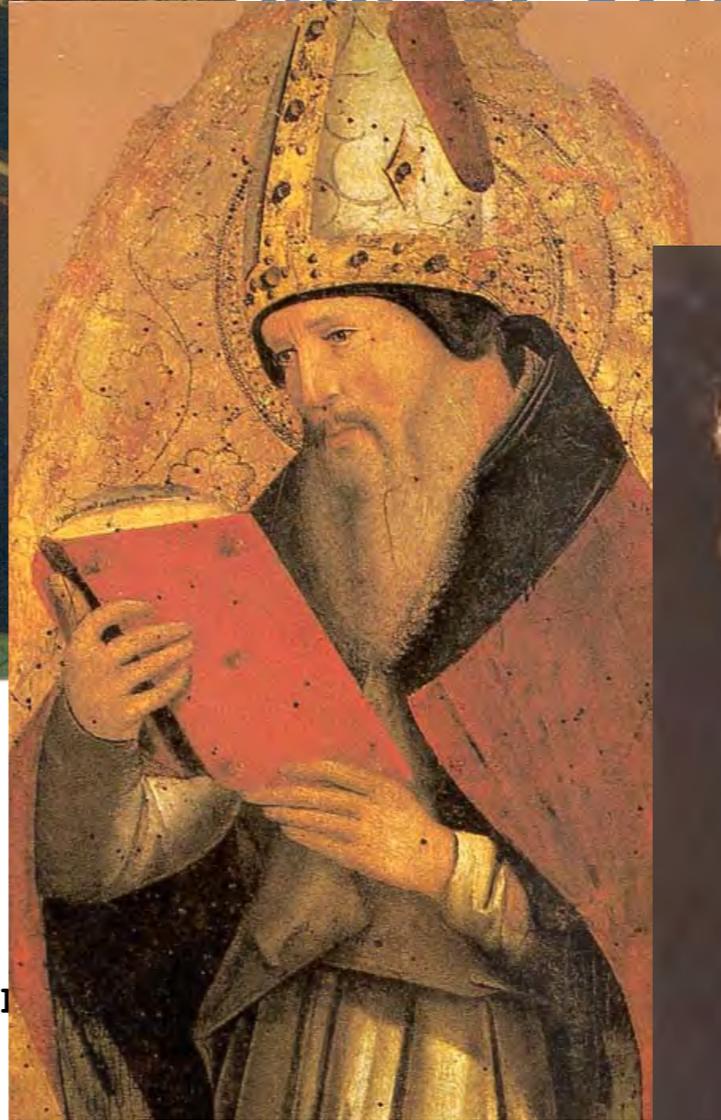
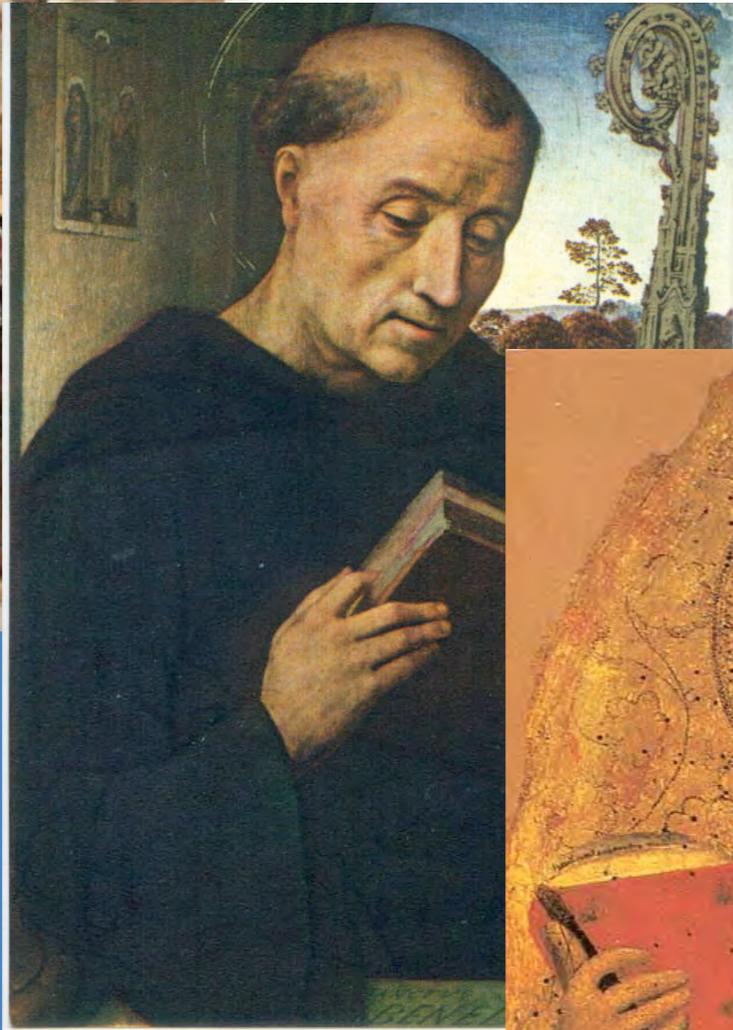
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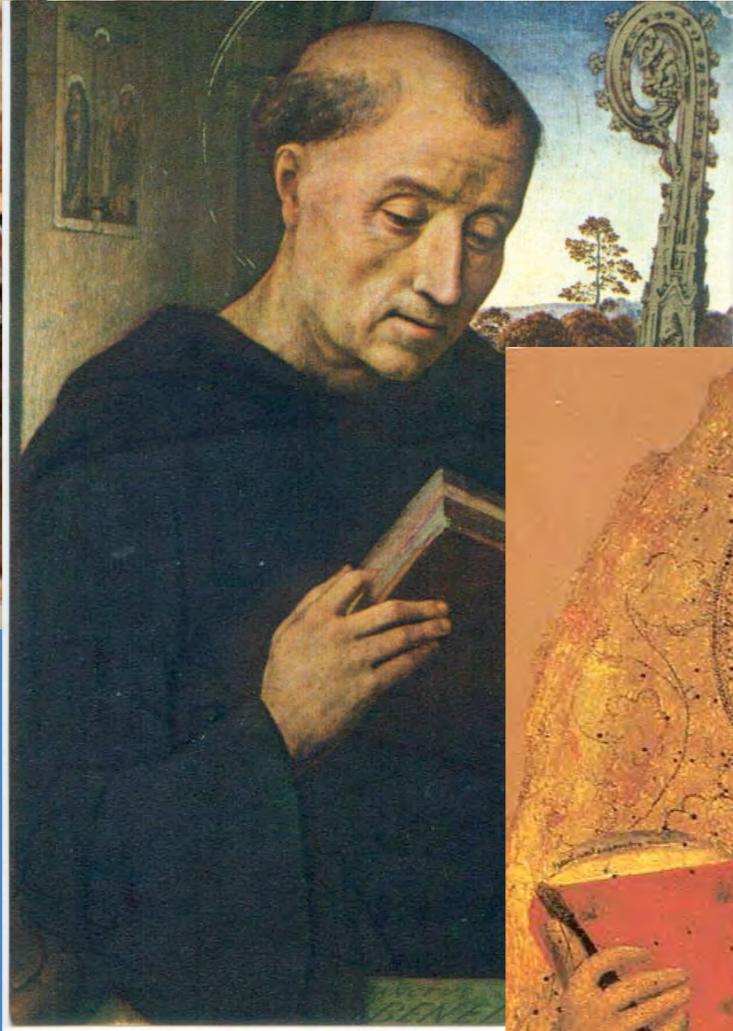


ological superiority?

all authority was

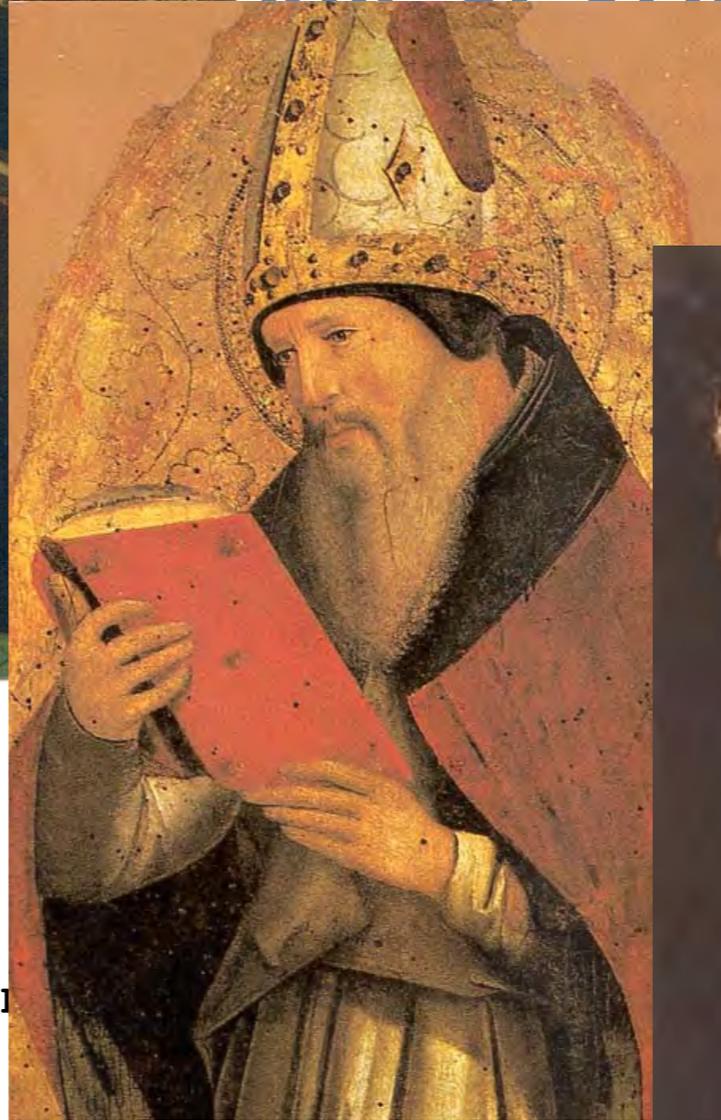
in

Brian Stock, *Implic*



ological superiority?

ll authority was



in

Brian Stock, *Implic*





dividing up

"The expectation of readers was changed, and this was reflected in changes in the physical appearance of books. A writer organized his work for publication, and if he did not ... then a scribe would .. The production of books became more sophisticated ... The most spectacular example ... the Ellesmere manuscript of the *Canterbury Tales*."

Parkes, "Influence"

changing book, changing church beyond the monastery

"The late medieval book differs more from its early medieval predecessors than it does from the printed book."

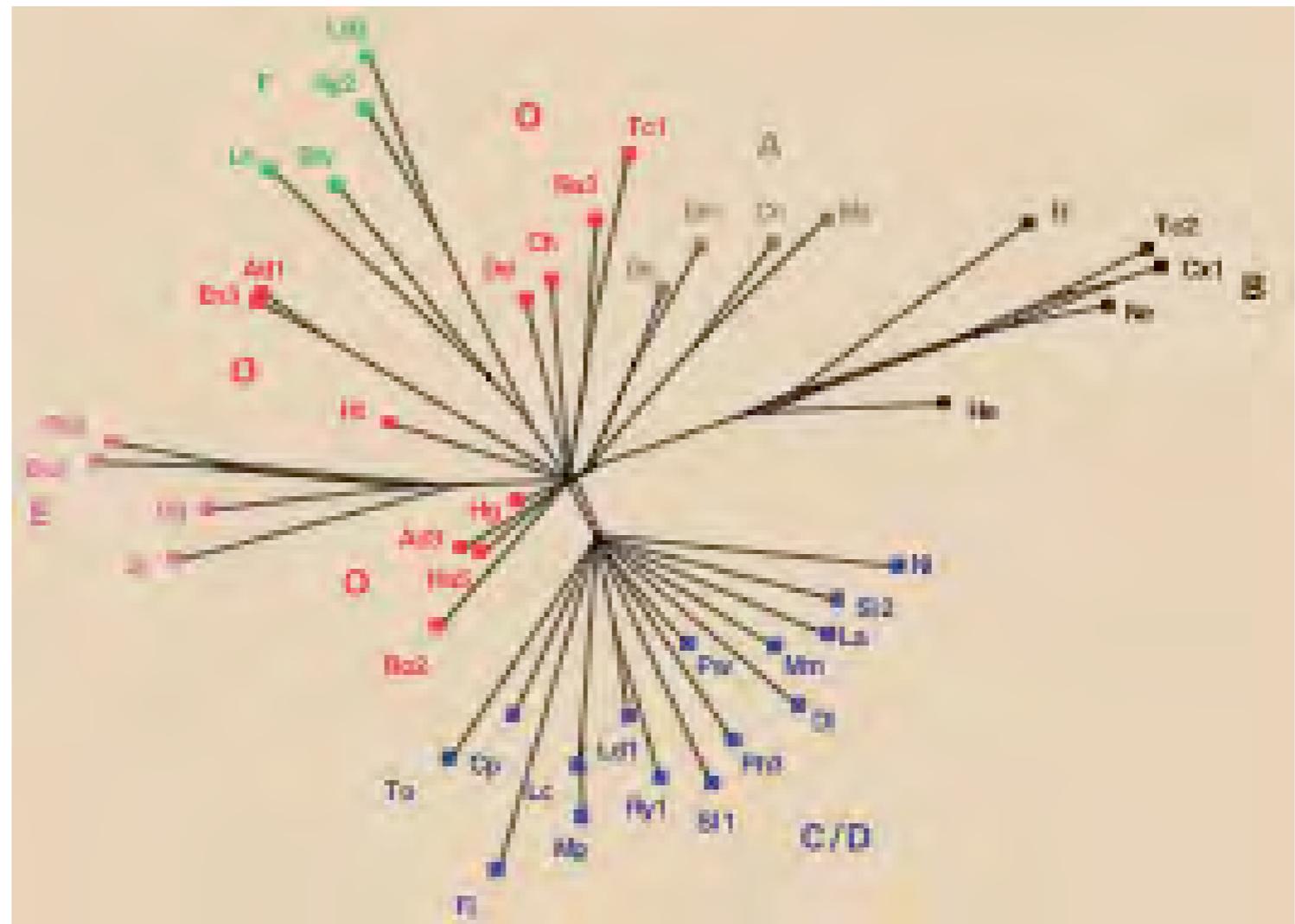
--Parkes, "Influence" 1976

- gloss
- running titles
- subdivisions: books, chapters
- analytical tables of contents
- chapter headings
- cross references
- alphabetical order
- page numbers, indexes



copying

the phylogeny of *The Canterbury Tales*



Barbrook, et al, *Nature*,
August, 1998



meanwhile ...

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.

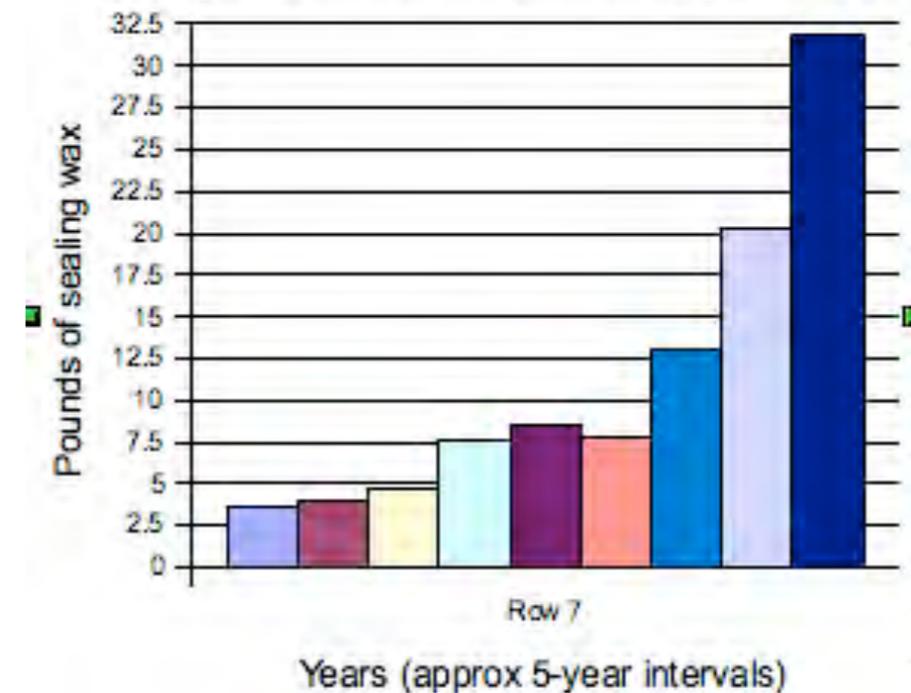
Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record*, 1993



bureaucratic state



Sealing wax consumption, 1226-1271



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

37



an information age?

preparing the ground

Domesday

cadastras

dates

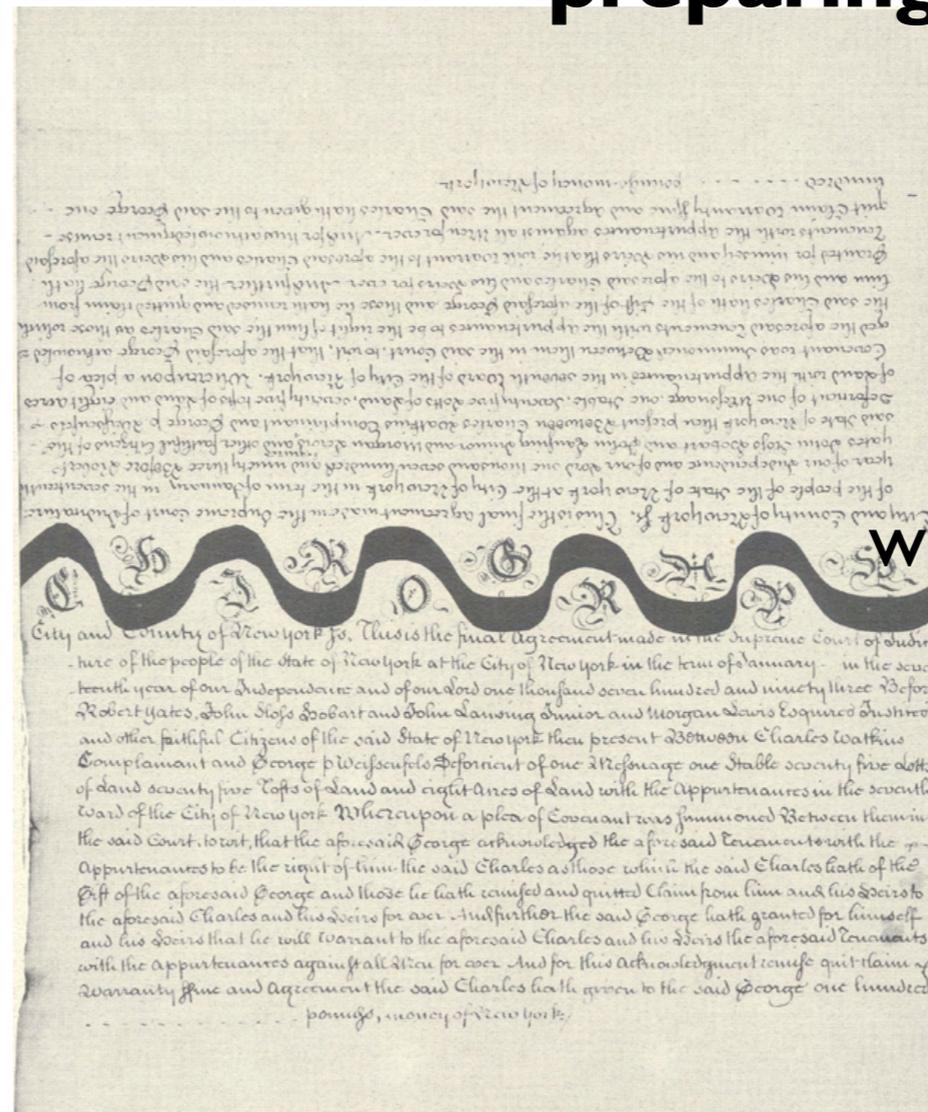
names

spelling

written evidence

authenticity

centralization





an information age?

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, *Memory to Written Record*

preparing the ground

Domesday

cadastras

dates

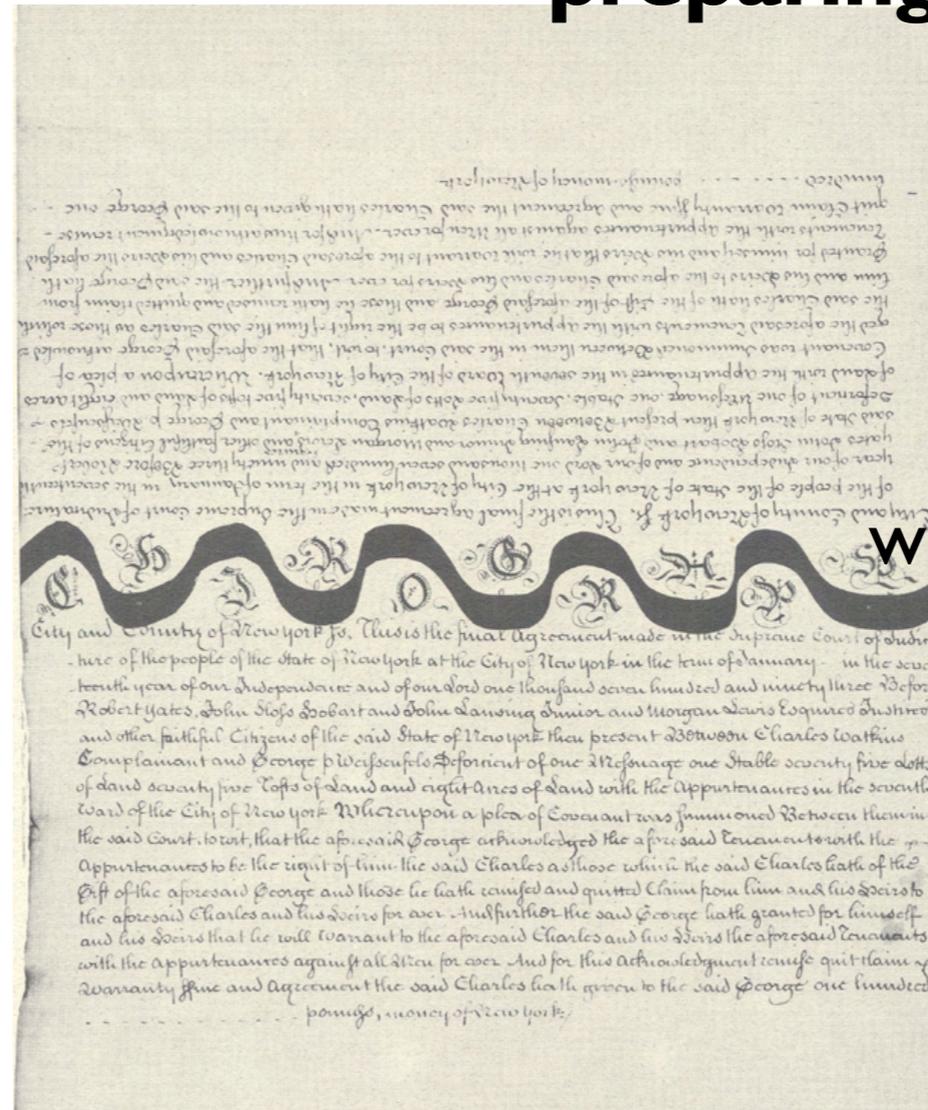
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centralization





an information age?

preparing the ground

Domesday

cadastras

dates

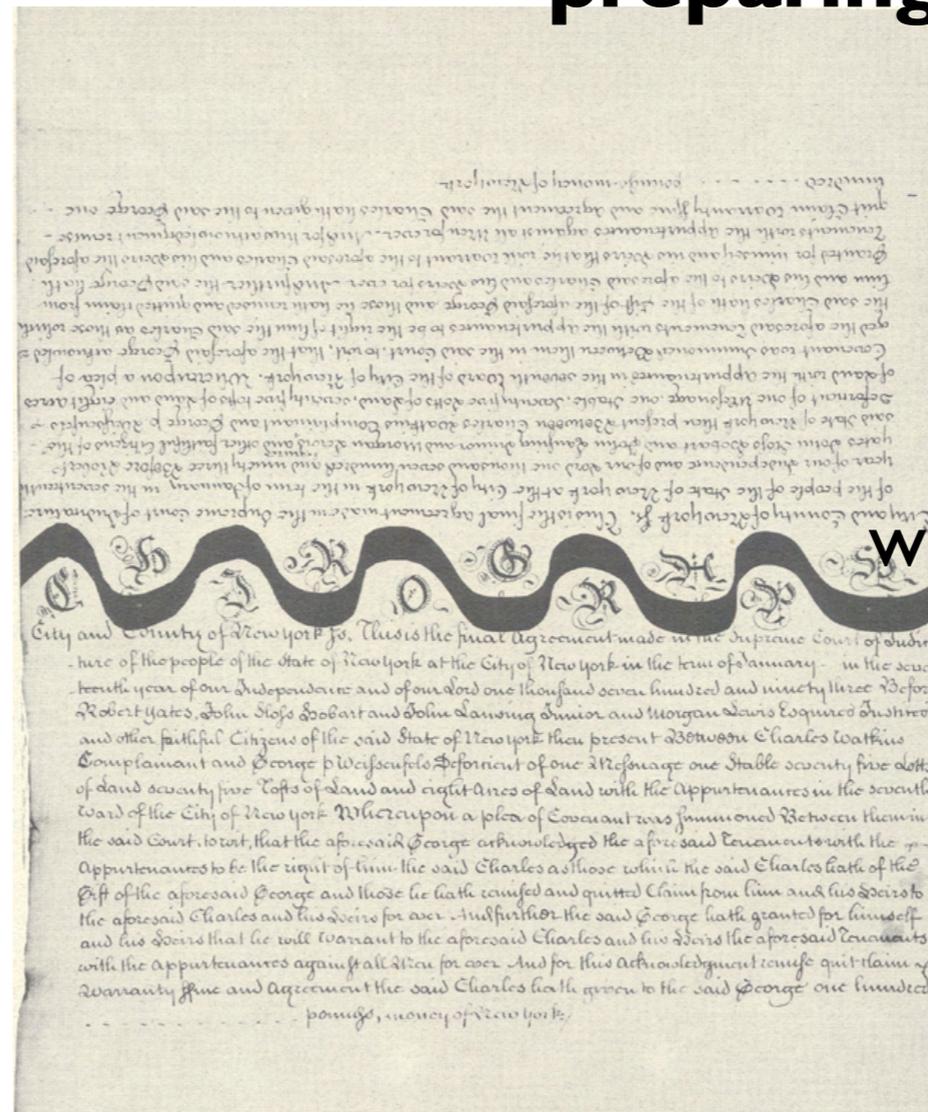
names

spelling

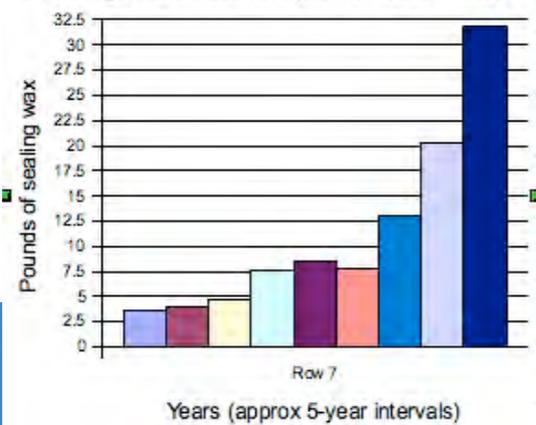
written evidence

authenticity

centralization



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

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.

"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."

--Clancy, *From Memory to Written Record*



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

Woudhuysen, *Sir Philip Sydney*, 1966

manuscript beyond print

records and single documents

accounting

scribal publishing

note taking

personal communication

music

"subversive forms" (Love)



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For (b) use in the business of Electrical Shows.

Portland, Oregon, August 27th 1907

F. W. BENSON,
To F. I. DUNBAR, Secretary of State.

(c) JOSEPHINE JONES

(d) a single individual, desiring to secure within the State of Oregon the sole and exclusive use of a (a) name for use upon (b) Electrical Shows, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter V, Title XXXVIII, Bellinger and Cotton's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Oregon, hereby presents this application for the registration of the (a) name, described as follows:

"DREAMLAND"

Name to be used in connection with Electrical Show, at present located at 133 Fourth St., Portland, Oregon.

a fac simile of which is marked "Exhibit A," hereto attached. This

(a) name as shown in the exhibit is to be used

upon (b) Electrical Show (c) 133 Fourth St.

Portland, Oregon. said above named

JOSEPHINE JONES

And by reason of being the originator and original user of the

(a) name herein described and shown in the exhibit

hereto attached, the said JOSEPHINE JONES hereby claims

the right to the sole and exclusive use of the same within the State of

Oregon for the uses and purposes herein stated.

Josephine Jones (her mark)
This is to certify that Josephine Jones
appeared before me this 29 day of August
1907 and acknowledged the above as

- (a) Insert whether name, mark, brand, designation or description;
- (b) Insert name of article or place of business;
- (c) Insert name of person, firm, or corporation;
- (d) Insert whether partnership, firm, or corporation;
- (e) Insert manufactured and sold, or place of business, as the case may be.



print beyond manuscript

and so to Gutenberg

Eisenstein

Eisenstein, Elizabeth. 1983. "Some Features of Print Culture," pp 42-91 in *Elizabeth Eisenstein, The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

[in the reader]



questions

either

Does Eisenstein strike you as a determinist? Suggest what kind of evidence or argument would support or challenge her thesis that print culture has particular features.

or

Some scholars have accused Eisenstein of "trashing" scribal culture to make her case about print culture. Based on what you know of scribal culture, does that strike you as fair?