

Awardee: Caterina Tarlazzi

**Report – *Medium Aevum* Travel Bursary (SSMLL)
Research on Achard of Saint Victor and Walter of Mortagne
Oxford (23rd Sept. – 6th Oct. 2013)**

The *Medium Aevum* Travel Grant was used to travel to Oxford for two weeks in late September and early October 2013. My focus was on manuscripts related to the 12th-century philosophers and theologians Achard of Saint Victor and Walter of Mortagne, masters in the schools of St. Victor and Laon respectively.

One week of my visit was spent analysing Oxford, Exeter College, MS 23 (early 13th century). The very last folios of the manuscript contain a collection of psychological texts that was not identified by Andrew Watson in his recent and thorough description of the manuscript (A. G. Watson, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts of Exeter College Oxford*, Oxford University Press 2000, 32-35). A careful transcription and analysis of the text in the manuscript allowed me to identify the several fragments that constitute it. As a matter of fact, a version of Achard of St. Victor's *De discretione animae spiritus et mentis* makes up more than half of the text. It is then followed by fragments by other authors such as Bernard of Clairvaux. This version of Achard's *De discretione* (a text of which only 4 manuscripts, all of the standard version, were known so far) was not known before. Another aspect that I was able to investigate during my visit is bishop John Grandisson's ownership of the manuscript. The title added on the upper margin of f. 195v (at the very beginning of the text on psychology) is likely to be in Grandisson's handwriting, also present elsewhere in the manuscript. I was able to research bishop Grandisson's extensive manuscript collection and identify his hand by consulting an unpublished Oxford PhD thesis (M. W. Steele, *A Study of the Books Owned or Used by John Grandisson Bishop of Exeter (1327-1369)*, PhD Thesis, University of Oxford, 1994). The results of this research are now being summarized into an article that will be presented to a scientific journal for publication.

My second week was spent analysing and describing manuscripts transmitting at least one work of master Walter of Mortagne's. Such research is part of a wider project, stemming from my PhD thesis, that aims at collecting information on all manuscripts transmitting Walter's works (which include: a treatise on the Trinity, a treatise on marriage, ten theological letters, and a treatise on universals whose attribution is uncertain). Of especial interest to me was Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Laud. Misc. 277, which contains several works by Walter. In addition to preparing a description of the codex, I transcribed ff. 78rb-86ra, which transmit Walter's *De trinitate*. The transcription enabled me to realise how significantly the text in the manuscript differs from that in the *Patrologia Latina*, usually quoted by scholars when referring to this treatise.

This visit to Oxford was extremely important for my work on Walter of Mortagne and Achard of St. Victor. I would like to thank the Society for the Study of Medieval Literature and Language for generously supporting my research with a travel grant; various members of the Society for helping me with finding accommodation in Oxford; and both Exeter College Library and the Bodleian Library for providing me with the best conditions possible for the study of items in their collections.