

OXFORD CENTRE FOR MEDIEVAL HISTORY COLLOQUIUM:
'ROME BEYOND THE POPE, 800–1200'

FACULTY OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,
SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2009

Rome looms large in any discussion of the Middle Ages. There are good empirical reasons for this. Rome was the largest city by far in the Latin West – and it is the best and most richly documented. But we also tend to call upon the city as a symbol, as part of wider and more familiar narratives of the period. A basic version of Rome's medieval story – the passage from the Rome of the Roman Empire to the city of the Pope, the capital of Western Christendom – stands in for the history of medieval Christian Europe. Neither Rome nor Europe are well served by this stereotyped view: it is the goal of our colloquium to move away from it.

The quickest route beyond papal Rome is a reductive one. Few scholars, in fact, would think of Rome a simple backdrop for papal power. More often than not, Rome serves as the 'Enemy' in accounts of the development of the papacy. It is easy to show that, while making increasingly bold claims to moral and political authority in the Church at large, as a local potentate the bishop of Rome lay at the mercy of the ever-fractious urban elite (from whose numbers he was often drawn).

This contrast between the appearance of papal ideological grandeur and the grubby reality of city power politics is usually entertaining: it does not, however, greatly advance our understanding of the history of Rome, because it presumes that the papacy was the most important social fact about the city. Our starting point is that this remains to be demonstrated. We need a new account of how local elites were constituted, and in particular a fresh analysis of the development and functioning of dynastic and institutional property. From this vantage point, we will see more clearly the social dynamics involved in the distinction between the clergy and the laity – and only then can the bishop of Rome can re-enter the equation.

Our colloquium programme looks to draw together current revisionist work on Rome in the UK, and to generate a discussion of its results among non-specialists. Our speakers will cross the period from Pope Hadrian I's coronation of Charlemagne in 800, passing through the eleventh-century Reform movement led by Gregory VII, down to the establishment of the papal monarchy under Innocent III in the early thirteenth century. What of Rome lies beyond these familiar landmarks?

The programme for the colloquium is organized so as to maximize the time for discussion: four papers of no more than 25 minutes, each followed by a five-minute response, and then at least 30 minutes of discussion. A final discussion, introduced by an overall respondent, concludes the day.

We can accommodate up to 50 people; first come, first served! There is no registration fee. Please send in the form attached to this document as soon as you can, if you are interested in coming. Tea and coffee, and drink at the reception, are **free** to all who attend. If you want lunch, for a cost of £5, please indicate this on the form below as well, by **15 April**. We will collect money for this on the day.

Timetable:

- 10.15 Coffee and introduction **Conrad Leyser** (Oxford)
10.45 **Marios Costambeys** (Liverpool), 'Rome beyond the *Liber Pontificalis*, 800–872'
Respondent: John Nightingale
11.45 **Caroline Goodson** (Birkbeck, London), Title TBA
Respondent: Bryan Ward-Perkins
12.45 Lunch
2.15 **Sarah Hamilton** (Exeter), 'Pastoral Care in Early Eleventh-Century Rome'
Respondent: Lesley Smith
3.15 **Chris Wickham** (Oxford), 'Non-Papal Rome, 1084-1188'
Respondent: Mark Whittow
4.15 Tea
4.45–5.30 Overall Respondent: **Frances Andrews** (St Andrews)
5.30 Reception

The colloquium will take place in the **Faculty of History, George Street, Oxford**.
Lunch will be in Worcester College.

For a map of Oxford faculties/departments, click here:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/maps_and_directions/departments.html

For a map of Oxford colleges, click here:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/maps_and_directions/colleges_and_halls.html

Conrad Leyser
Chris Wickham

Name:

Address:

University (if applicable):

Email:

I should like to attend the colloquium 'Rome beyond the pope'.

I would/would not like to have lunch at Worcester College.

I have the following dietary requirements:

Please send this form to: stephanie.jenkins@history.ox.ac.uk