Mother Knows Best: What Dhuoda Can Teach Us about Gender, Book Culture, and Politics in the Carolingian World

Medieval Lecture Series
St. Jerome's University and the University of Waterloo

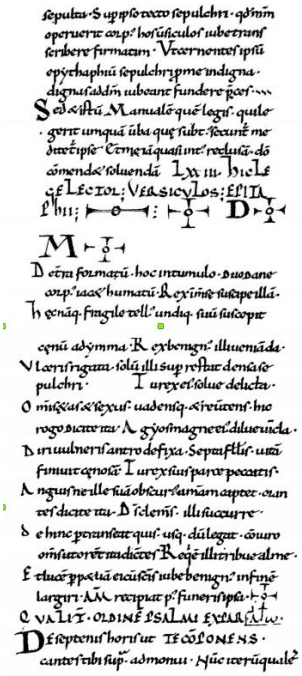
WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT:

Enjoy cheese and pastries, relaxed conversation, and a discussion of Dhuoda's Carolingian handbook, the *Liber manualis*.

WHEN: Thursday, 4 October 2018, 4:30-6:00

WHERE: St. Jerome's University, SJ2-2002
Reception: 4:30
Lecture: following the reception

WHO: Prof. Dana Polanichka



Among the many treasures of the Carolingian world is a lengthy handbook written by an aristocratic woman named Dhuoda (c. 800–c. 843 CE). Deeply personal and incredibly learned, the *Liber manualis* affords this mother her only opportunity to connect to two distant sons: a fourteen-year-old serving as a political hostage at the court of Charles the Bald and an infant taken from her arms while still nursing. This talk will explore what Dhuoda's handbook reveals about Carolingian conceptions of gender, the central role of reading in aristocratic Christian life, and the reach of political communication across both geographical expanses and gendered divisions.

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Dana Polanichka is Associate Professor of History at Wheaton College.

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This is the first event in the 2018 – 2019 Medieval Lecture Series. The lecture series highlights the over-five-decade history of Medieval Studies on our campus. It promotes communication, encourages collaboration, and enhances the interdisciplinary heart of Medieval Studies.

Co-Sponsored by Medieval Studies and the St. Jerome's University Library

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