## Ransom Center Fragments Project:

Would you like to help?

# Crowdsourcing the Arcane: Utilizing Flickr to Describe Medieval Manuscript Fragments 

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Traditionally, medieval manuscript waste has received less attention than fully bound medieval codices.

## Job done!

The original Old Weather is complete. We're off to the Arctic!

## Old Weather: Our Weather's Pas

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Crowdsourcing the identification of a historic photograph of WWI soldiers.

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## facebook



The earliest iteration of our Facebook page - sans current icon.


Our current Twitter page, with 241 followers.

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Actions * $\mp \square$ Share $* \quad \leftarrow$ Prev $\oplus$ Next $\rightarrow$


## BX 2349175161568 (rear flyleaf)

Creator: unidentified
Text: Martyrology--portion from life of St. Nazarius Place: Italy

By Ransom Center Fragments Ransom Center Fragments

This photo was taken on April 12, 2012 usinc D300S.


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One of our earliest posts.

## Stats for: Your account

Stats are shown in GMT, where it's currently 7.01PM on 10th October 2012 (Wed)

Daily aggregate views on your account


View counts

|  | So far today | Yesterday | All time |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Photos and Videos | 45 | 195 | 9,742 |
| Photostream | 14 | 39 | 3,788 |
| Sets | 13 | 16 | 485 |
| Collections | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Galleries | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 72 | 250 |  |

Screenshot of account stats showing 14,015 total views as of 10/10/2012


Sets of fragments (359 total images) organized into collections.



Stats showing 26,445 views as of 22 May 2013

- Viewers have potentially identified 71 out of 128 distinct texts.
- 15 fragments are not really identifiable due to loss of text or lack of visibility.
- 22 fragments identified by HRC
- Assuming the rest of the identifications are verified :
- 93 out of 113 identifiable fragments have been identified since the project began in June of 2012
- Potentially $62 \%$ of identifications have been through crowdsourcing.



Enthusiastic enthusiast



Disclaimer: Flickr is not perfect


BX 1968 A847 1616 (front stub)


## 


seant sasemet
naneme
senaze Eymar




Lydia is correct on the final word. Also, the form of "a" in annser [a more phonetic spelling than answer?] is not unusual. See the middle example of five in www. filickr.com/photos
$133889940 @ 01 / 7518017868$ / from Hilary Marshall's Paleography. Given the repeated use of 'yower," It think this might be part of a pettion or letter addressed to someone, but I'm no expert on these. Farley

## Crowdsourcing and collaboration in action.

farley_katz
then and there to make annser [??] to the ... as shall by yower saide lorde-shippe thought.
s he all readie dothe praye for yower proper[] ..."
Farley Katz
San Antonio
Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago)
Excellent and thanks! I suppose this is a portion of a receipt or legal contract. Im not sure about the word "annser" the " $a$ " seems irregular, but Im not an expert in this script. document. books. google.com/books? ?id=AHBYAA and 1586
books.google.com/books? ?id=JFsMAQAAMAAJIP. Wore of the like can be found by searching "your Of course, these are only transcriptions, not phol there's some comfort in numbers.

Also, we know that spelling was notoriously bad Farley
fusionorange1
Hal Excellent. Yes, no real standardization at this

Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago | edit |delete) Depending on how old this script is the spelling for "answer" could ansuerye" (13th century), to "ansuere" (1400) or simply "answer 0 OED.

Ithink the word may be "assises"
Ransom Center Fragments pro
Im thinking this document is circa $1500-1690$
eorxnawange (3 months seo)
lalso think it is a variant for "answer" -- Farley is correct that it sho "annser," the 'a' is just rather loopy, perhaps because it begins a notes and some books when I get home from work, but t think it's in
Anglicana-influenced early Secretary and not as late as $1690-$ Id although I personally think it's more likely 1450-1525.

## Lydia Fletcher

neorxnawange ( 3 months ago)
Also, I think the last (legible) word of the last line is actually "prosp prosperous.."?).

Lydia
fusionorange1 (3 months agol
Lydia, Ithink you're right on the dating-a safe estimate would probably be circa 1400-1550
neorxnawange
Thanks, fusion! After looking through my books and at some exemplars, I think your broad date range of $1400-1550$ is far more likely than my initial 1450-1600. I still think this is mostly likely $1450-1525$, though, because the secretary tendencies here have evolved enough owards true early modern secretary. Im puzzled that the MED doesn't record any variant spellings of "answer" that quite match up with this (even if we transcribe it as "aunser," which I think we can), but considering that in 1450 "vnsuer" was a noted variant that doesn't say much. If we could clear up some of the letters at the right side, we might get a better ide of context that could help us find related documents. I think rill go in and have a look at it in person and see if lm not struck with a eureka idea.)

* neorxnawange added this photo to her favorites. (3 months ago)

Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago | edit | delete
I chose circa 1400 as the earliest date because the script still has some of the angular, formal qualities of Anglicana scripts of the late 14 th-century--the tall "s" in particular- But I agree the it basically has all the characteristics of early modern secretary. Im less comfortable dating late medieval and early modern scripts because there is just so much variety.

I would suggest that this is close to 1600 - perhaps in the 1575-1625 period, and it feels like the end of a Chancery Bill - after setting out the grievance, these will ask the Lord Chancellor the end of a Chancery Bill - after setting out the grievance, these will ask the Lord Chance example of the full text or an image on-line, but the following comes from a transcript of a Chancery Bill of 1650 (C5/14/109)
Way it please Your Honour to grant to your orators writs of sub poena to be directed to the said lsaac Wincoll \& Mary his wife Thomas Wincoll Robert Crane and John Meade and Arthur Barnardiston commanding them $* \ldots$..... certain pain therein to be limited personally to be and appear in the High Court of Chancery then \& there upon their corporal to make full \& perfect nswer to all \& singular
he premises \& further ?to .... .... ?all such order \& ?direction therein as in Your Honour's grave wisdom shal
Hope this is useful.
Nat Alcock

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## Photostream

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Hirenurnimem $\sqrt{\text { (imetus }}$ formin whiras. -speris
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कum maxi thinevor eti furmis butitu. Co fraluus excks fryent mlogim que Fenin ontmatit eumignts 3 enerene \&f 11 man matere.

