Ransom Center Fragments Project:

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Crowdsourcing the Arcane: Utilizing Flickr to Describe Medieval Manuscript Fragments

Micah Erwin, Harry Ransom Center











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





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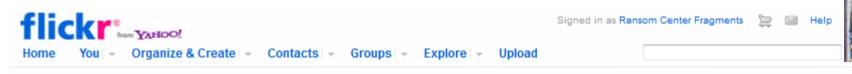


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Crowdsourcing the identification of a historic photograph of WWI soldiers.





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1 photo | Edit



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BF 551 R49

1640



1537 1 photo | Edit



PA 4230 A3





1527

BX 2220 F57





BX 2349 L8 1625 1 photo | Edit



D 228 G529

1 photo I Edit



BX 2900 T742 1571



BX 1750 G674

1603 1 photo | Edit



CR 4575 Z79 1575





BR 65 D62 L3 1541 3 photos | Edit

PA 6390 A2 1544





-Q- BR 65 O6

1503 ALDINE





BV 649 C68

Our current icon, used across accounts.



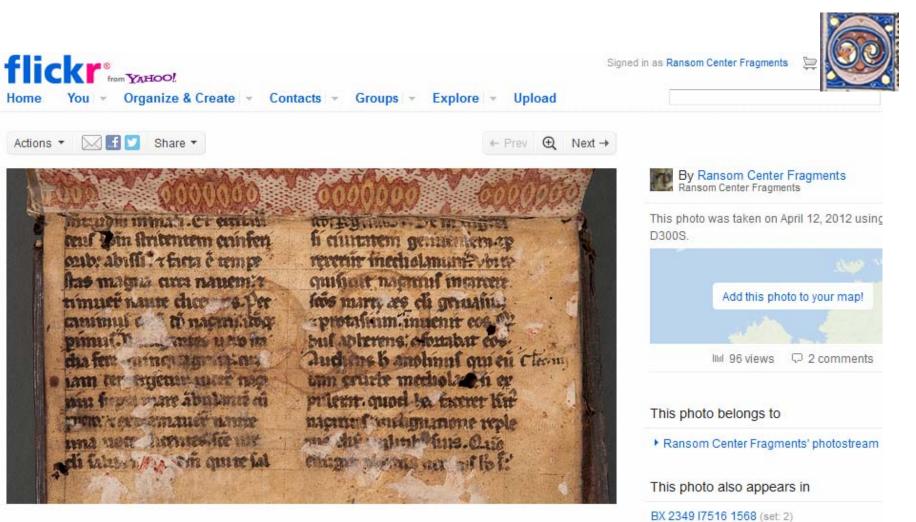


The earliest iteration of our Facebook page – sans current icon.





Our current Twitter page, with 241 followers.



first photo

People in this photo (add a person)

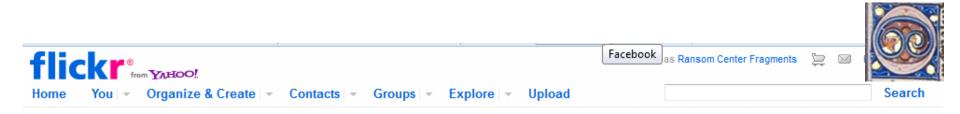
BX 2349 I7516 1568 (rear flyleaf)

Creator: unidentified

Text: Martyrology--portion from life of St. Nazarius

Place: Italy

One of our earliest posts.





Daily aggregate views on your account

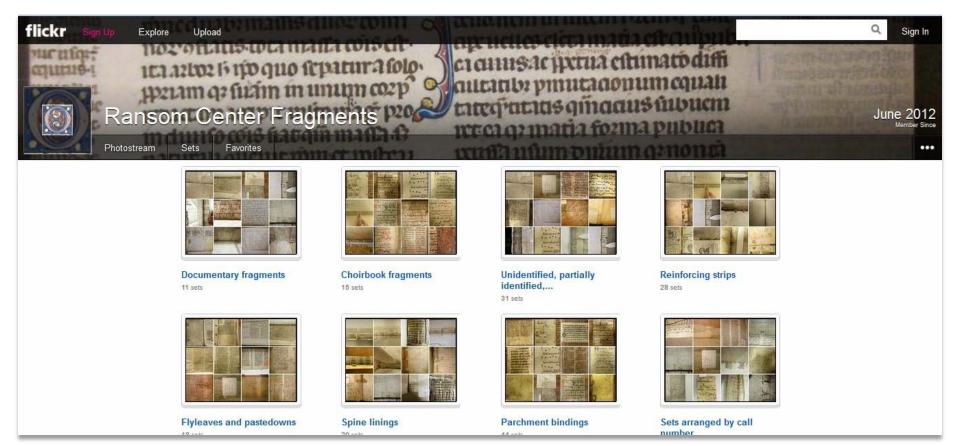


View counts

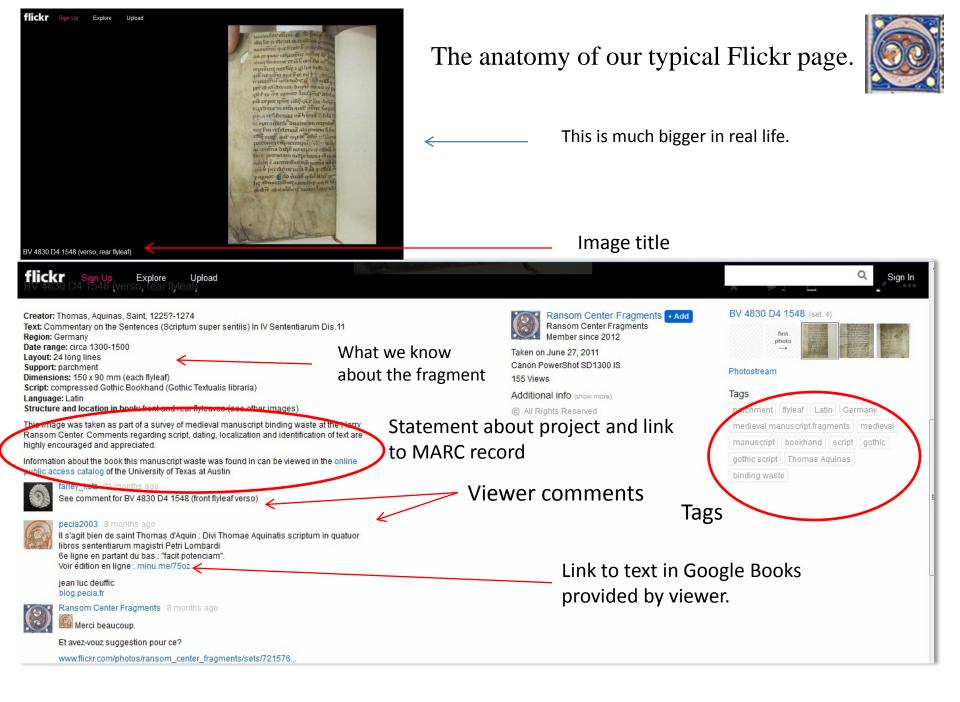
	So far today	Yesterday	All time
Photos and Videos	45	195	9,742
Photostream	14	39	3,788
Sets	13	16	485
Collections	0	0	0
Galleries	0	0	
	72	250	14,015

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





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







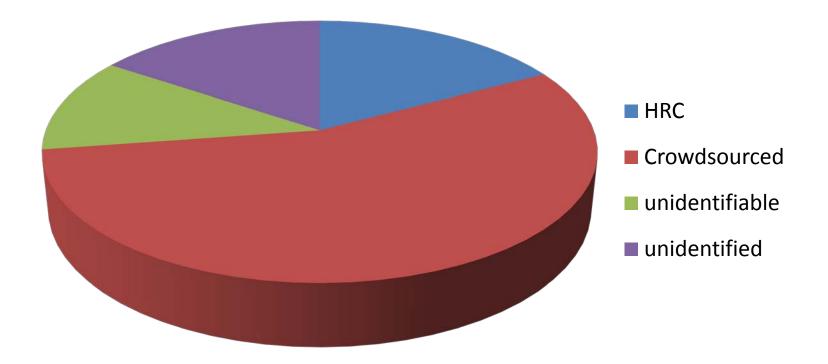
Stats showing 26,445 views as of 22 May 2013



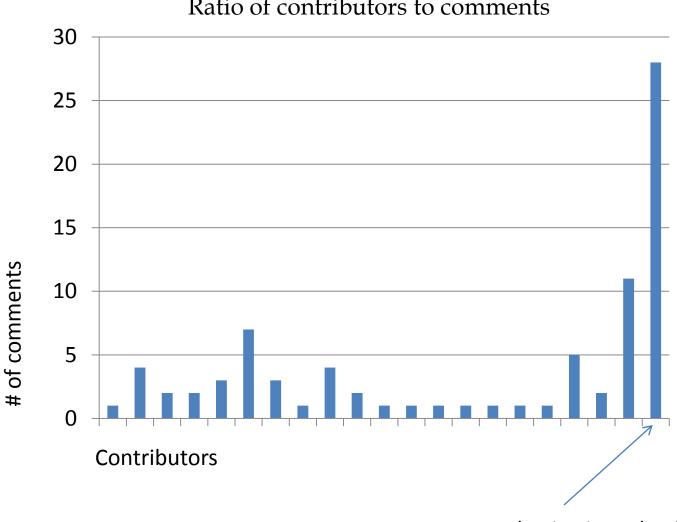
- Viewers have potentially identified 71 out of 128 distinct texts.
- 15 fragments are not really identifiable due to loss of text or lack of visibility.
- 22 fragments identified by HRC



- 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.

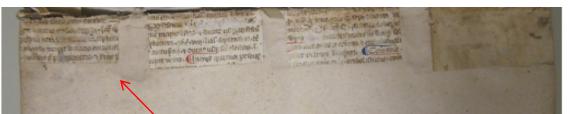






Ratio of contributors to comments

Enthusiastic enthusiast



-Q- PA 3965 D4 A5 153 (rear transverse spine lining strips)

Click here to add a description

Comments and faves



farley_katz (6 weeks ago | reply | delete)

The left fragment is from Guillaume Durand, Rationale Divinorum Officiorum, De Regularibus Lunaribus, Lib. VIII, De Embolismo (discussing the "embolismic" or "intercalary" month which is a 13th month added to lunar calendars of 12 months every second or third year)

See books.google.com/books?id=zUYRn1miTM0C&pr intsec=front... (Leaf 480 verso) The text reads (starting with the second line):

[contin]git lunatio embolismalis. Item q [uota erit]prima litera secundae syllabae in alphabe [et tota di] e mensis incipit lunatio embolis [malis: verbi gratia:] Mobilis est prima dictio, et servit p [rimae lunationi]"

The middle fragment mentions durandus, so perhaps this is a commentary discussing him.



Ransom Center Fragments pro (5 weeks ago)

Thanks Farley, I can't really tell what portions of the text are actually there and what portions are physically excised. I'll have to look at the image under better magnification.



Ransom Center Fragments pro (5 weeks ago)

I believe this is the portion you are referring to:

méfe illius anni, cui feruit, illa dictio, contingit lunatio embolifmalis. Item, quota erit prima litera fecundæ fyllabæ in alphabeto, tota die méfis incipit lunatio embolifmalis:verbi gratia: Mobilis eft prima dictio & feruit primæ lunationi, quæ contingit in Text string in Google Books matching script on fragment.



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Creator: possible attribution, see comments below

Date range clima 1500-1500 see comments helm

Layout: 3 and 1/2 fragmentary long lines (visible

Structure and location parchment stub reinforcing paper fiyles' fold

Script: Gothic Cursive (Gothic Cursiva Libraria-English Secretary hand very close to Anglicana

This image was taken as part of a survey of medieval manuscript binding waste at the Harry Ransom Center. Comments regarding script, dating, localization and identification of text are highly encouraged and apprecia

Information about the book this manuscript waste was found in can be viewed in the online public access catalog of the University of Texas at Austin catalog its utexas edureccord-scr13584-529

Support parchment Dimensions: 170 x 50 mm

Language: English

Text: possible attribution, see comments below Region: England or Ireland

This photo belongs to + Ransom Center Fragments This photo also appears in 1958 A847 1516 (SP People in this photo (add a person

farley_katz (3 months ago

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.flickr.com/photos /33889940@N07/7518017868 / from Hilary Marshall's Paleography.

Given the repeated use of "yower," I think this might be part of a petition or letter addressed to someone, but I'm no expert on these.

Farley

Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago)

Can either of you think of another example of for the spelling "annser" ? Contextually it does make sense



Also phrases of the sort I "pray for your prosperc uncommon in early documents. For examples, sea Books

farley_katz (3 months ago)

"then and there to make annser [??] to the ... as shall by yower saide lorde-shippe thought ... as he all readie dothe praye for yower proper[] ..."

Excellent and thanks! I suppose this is a portion of a receipt or legal contract. I'm not sure

about the word "annser" the "a" seems irregular, but I'm not an expert in this script.

action.

Farley Katz San Antonio

to OED.



and 1586

Farley



Of course, these are only transcriptions, not phot there's some comfort in numbers.

Farley

Ha! Excellent. Yes, no real standardization at this j



Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago) I'm thinking this document is circa 1500-1690

Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago)

Ransom Center Fragments pro (3 months ago | edit | delete)

Depending on how old this script is the spelling for "answer" could

"ansuerve" (13th century), to "ansuere" (1400) or simply "answer"

neorxnawange (3 months ago)

I think the word may be "assises"

I also 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 we notes and some books when I get home from work, but I think it's m Anglicana-influenced early Secretary and not as late as 1690 -- I'd 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 "prospe "prosperous..."?).

Lydia



fusionorange1 (3 months ago)

Crowdsourcing and collaboration in

Lydia, I think you're right on the dating -- a safe estimate would probably be circa 1400-1550



. . Hi

neorxnawange (3 months ago)

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 towards true early modern secretary. I'm puzzled that the MED doesn't record any variant spellings of "answer" that guite 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 idea of context that could help us find related documents. I think I'll go in and have a look at it in person and see if I'm 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 14th-century -- the tall "s" in particular. But I agree that it basically has all the characteristics of early modern secretary. I'm less comfortable dating late medieval and early modern scripts because there is just so much variety.

nat_flick1 (2 months ago)

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 to sub-poena the named defendants to answer the bill of complaint. Not sure if there's an 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)

May it please Your Honour to grant to your orators writs of sub poena to be directed to the said Isaac Wincoll & Mary his wife Thomas Wincoll Robert Crane and John Meade and Arthur Barnardiston commanding them *.... 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 answer to all & singular

the premises & further ?to ?all such order & ?direction therein as in Your Honour's grave wisdom shall agreeable to equity and good conscience. Hope this is useful.

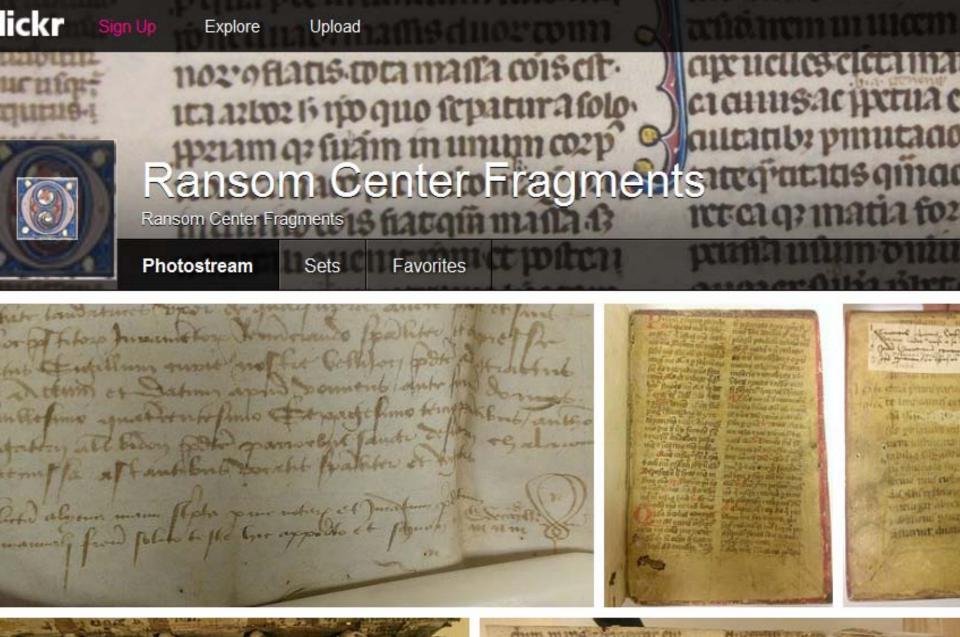
Nat Alcock



Also, we know that spelling was notoriously bad

fusionorange1 (3 months ago)

. .



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