

Leah Tether, Laura Chuhan Campbell and Benjamin Pohl

The Bristol Merlin

Revealing the Secrets of a Medieval Fragment

The discovery of seven manuscript fragments of the Old French *Suite Vulgate du Merlin* in a set of early printed books in the Bristol Central Library hit global headlines in 2019. This book contains a comprehensive study of these fascinating Arthurian fragments.

Beginning with an extensive contextual history, the authors reveal details of the fragments' origin, their importation to England, and their subsequent journey to a waste pile in a bookbinder's workshop, where they would be incorporated into the bindings of a four-volume edition of the works of Jean Gerson in the early sixteenth century. A full enquiry into the provenance of these host volumes sets out the possible routes from the bookbinder's workshop to their final home in Bristol Central Library.

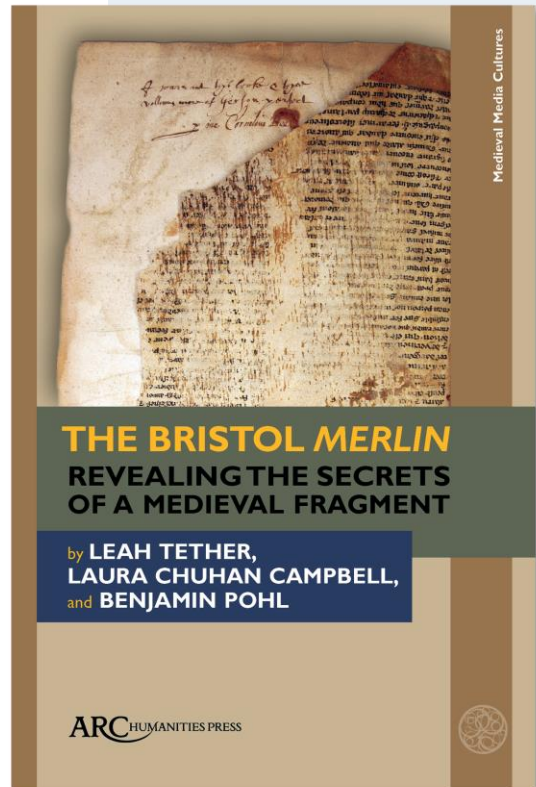
Using multi-spectral imaging to read the damaged sections of text, the authors also provide a full edition and translation of the narrative contained in the fragments.

BIOGRAPHY

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