

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.

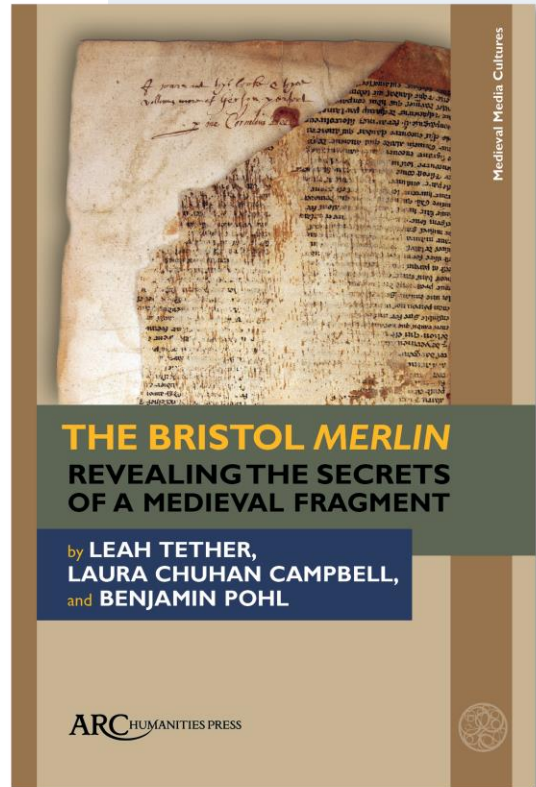
Using multi-spectral imaging to read the damaged sections of text, the authors also provide a full edition and translation of the narrative contained in the fragments.

BIOGRAPHY

Leah Tether is Professor of Medieval Literature and Publishing at the University of Bristol.

Laura Chuhan Campbell is Assistant Professor in Translation Studies and French at Durham University.

Benjamin Pohl is Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Bristol.



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Amsterdam University Press
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
info@aup.nl
marketing@aup.nl

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