



# DYNAMICS OF LITERACY IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE

## Studies in Honour of Marco Mostert

Edited by A.J. van den Hoven van Genderen, Rob Meens, and Carine van Rhijn

*A Festschrift in honour of Marco Mostert that explores the multifaceted use of the written word in medieval Europe. **Part I** covers the early medieval period, focusing on manuscripts and texts, mainly those produced by clerics. **Part II** focuses on written communication in the later medieval period, when writing became significant for other social groups such as townsfolk and peasants*

This book honours the achievements of Marco Mostert, professor of Medieval History at Utrecht University. Marco has been one of the main promoters and proponents of the expanding field of studies in medieval literacy and orality. The book celebrates his legacy by focusing on communication and writing in the Middle Ages, themes central to Marco's interest. It is divided into two sections.

**Part I** covers the early medieval period, focusing on manuscripts and texts, mainly those produced by clerics. Articles in this section includes studies on the liturgical hymn Te Deum; Carolingian political hegemony in Frisia; a new Carolingian witness of Suetonius's Life of Caesars; the Utrecht Psalter and its historical context; monastic socialization; political communication through sermons; manuscript annotations at Fleury-sur-Loire; Ademar of Chabannes's final years; and the semantic field of communicatio.

**Part II** shifts focus to written communication in broader societal layers in the later medieval period, when writing became significant for other societal groups like townsfolk and peasants. Articles in this section discuss a case of identifying a thief through written documents; urban literacy in Danish and Hungarian towns; graffiti in Abruzzi churches; the cartulary of Egmond monastery; and literate culture among late medieval countryside inhabitants.

Friends, collaborators, colleagues, and former students of Marco have contributed to this volume, with all authors discussing different aspects of the use of the written word in various parts of the medieval European world. The result is a book with multiple facets, collectively contribute to a deeper understanding of medieval literacy and its societal implications.

Include your name  
in the **Tabula Gratulatoria**  
and order this book at the  
**Special Price of € 75** excl. VAT  
& Free Shipping  
**DEADLINE: 30 April 2026**

# Table of Contents

Introduction

## PART I. MANUSCRIPTS, TEXTS, AND COMMUNITIES IN EARLY MEDIEVAL EUROPE

The Te Deum: Liturgy, Orthodoxy and Politics in the Early Middle Ages

ROSAMOND MCKITTERICK

Educating Frisians in the 8th Century

ROB MEENS

A New Carolingian Witness to the Text of Suetonius' De Vita Caesarum

DAVID GANZ

Three of a Kind: Dating the Utrecht Psalter, Ebo Gospels, and Eller Gospels

BART JASKI

Intus – Foris: On Monastic Perception and Political Order in the Epitaphium Arsenii

MAYKE DE JONG

Sermons hagiographiques et communication politique un sermon prononcé en l'honneur de saint Ghislain au XIe siècle (BHL 3553)

ANNE-MARIE HELVETIUS

Reading with the Pen in the Books of Fleury

IRENE VAN RENSWOUDE and MARIKEN TEEUWEN

The Fall from Grace of Ademar of Chabannes (989-1034) – or the 'Deceits' of Historiography

AD VAN ELS

Communicare memoriae: An Essay on Communication in the Medieval Latin of the

Liturgy

ELS ROSE

## PART II. TOWARDS A SOCIAL HISTORY OF WRITING IN LATER MEDIEVAL EUROPE

Hitting Abraham's Eye: Communication and Problem-Solving with the Help of a Hammer

CARINE VAN RHIJN

'Don't shoot the messenger!': On the Uses and Misuses of the Written Word in Late Medieval Rural Poland

ANNA ADAMSKA

Town Books in Late Medieval Denmark  
KASPER ANDERSEN, JEPPE BÜCHERT  
NETTERSTRØM, and BJØRN POULSEN

Layers of Literacy in the Cathedral Cities of Medieval Hungary

KATALIN SZENDE and ANNA KINDE

Chronicle Graffiti for a Social History and Geography of Writing. Some Cases from Abruzzo

CARLO TEDESCHI

The Cartulary of Egmond Abbey

JAN BURGERS

Accountability From Organised Distrust to Obscure Confusion: A Case Study  
BRAM VAN DEN HOVEN VAN GENDEREN

Peasants and Charters in Late Medieval Poland  
AGNIESZKA BARTOSZEWICZ

'Oerconde myn hant': Literate Attitudes of Peasants in Financial Records of Eindhoven and Cranendonck (1532–1547)

MARK VERMEER

# Order Form

- I wish to order a copy of  
**DYNAMICS OF LITERACY IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE** Studies in Honour of Marco Mostert

Edited by A.J. van den Hoven van Genderen, Rob Meens, Carine van Rhijn

approx. 375 p., 25 col. & 25 b/wills, 156 x 234 mm, 2026, ISBN 978-2-503-61064-1

Hardback: € 100 excl. VAT & shipping costs

Book Series: Brepols Collected Essays in European Culture vol. 9

PUBLICATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2026

- Please include my name\* in the **Tabula Gratulatoria** and take notice of my order at the **special price of € 75** excl. VAT & **free shipping** (valid until 30 April 2026)

YOUR NAME (as you wish it to appear):

YOUR INSTITUTION AND LOCATION:

(or the words "Independent Scholar", followed by your place of residence):

\* Contributors will automatically have their name added to the tabula and do not need to register individually

## Contact Information

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

CITY:.....POSTAL CODE:.....

COUNTRY:.....EMAIL:.....

PHONE:.....VAT:.....

DATE:.....SIGNATURE:.....

**SUBMIT THIS ORDER FORM BEFORE 30 APRIL 2026**

*An invoice outlining your different payment options will be sent to you together with your order*



**BREPOLS**

Begijnhof 67, B-2300 Turnhout (Belgium)

Tel: +32 14 44 80 20 · Fax: +32 14 42 89 19 · orders@brepols.net · www.brepols.net