

Remembering Roger Reynolds: mentor and friend

With sadness, we recall Roger's passing, but we also remember with great gratitude and fondness what he meant to us. I met Roger many years ago, during my first undergraduate year at Carleton University in Ottawa, when I took a team-taught, two-semester introduction to medieval history, and Roger was one of the instructors. Thanks in large part to Roger's teaching, I went on to major in history and art history, taking every medieval course I could. Roger was the mentor for my undergraduate honors thesis on a topic that he had suggested, a typical Reynold's topic: the relationship between text and illustrations in a manuscript of the "Collection in Five Books," a canonical collection then and now closely associated with Roger by canonists everywhere—indeed, he was planning to continue his work on its edition in the fall of 2014 if his last illness had not taken him so quickly. After Carleton, I studied at PIMS and in the Centre, where again Roger was mentor for both my Licence thesis and doctoral dissertation. After my graduation, Roger, Virginia Brown and I taught a course on the "Lands of St. Benedict" at PIMS, and we then worked together on the *Monumenta liturgica beneventana* through the last decades.

That first team-taught course I took at Carleton with Roger exemplified what was distinctive, and special, about Roger as a scholar, teacher and friend. Of the three instructors, John Bellamy was the raconteur, John LaGrand the theorist, and Roger talked in a clear and comprehensive fashion, with slides, about manuscripts, monasticism, universities, and medieval art and architecture. His delight in the topic was infectious. As Roger presented medieval studies, it was

something well worth studying, there was much to be done, and source materials were essential for work in the field.

Roger's keen interest, his careful organization, and his commitment to fundamental research, as well as his good humour and concern for his students, were confirmed over the years we worked together on the Beneventan project. In our research at Montecassino or in southern Italy, Roger's enthusiasm for the materials and his boundless knowledge were a pleasure to behold. Long after I had studied with Roger, he remained a mentor and provided many opportunities for learning, whether during hours in the archive of Montecassino as Roger worked on canon law manuscripts or Beneventan fragments, or when we drove in the afternoons or on the weekends to visit nearby sites. On those trips, Roger never missed a chance to check out the medieval Paschal candles or sculpted pulpits that survive in many southern Italian churches, or view the manuscripts and collections in places like Gaeta or Naples.

Roger's personal qualities shaped his academic success. He preferred the empiricist's approach to the theoretician's. This preference did not limit his ability to address a wide range of audiences, whether on the radio, at conferences, through invited lectures, or in his numerous publications, because his expertise was not confined to any one locale or field. Instead, he had a specialist's in-depth knowledge of many fields. Although Roger maintained a wide circle of friends and colleagues in North America, his ability to meet experts on their own ground may explain why Roger had such a remarkable range of European contacts, whether in Toledo or Catalunya, with the MGH in Germany, or among the

librarians, liturgists, canonists, early medievalists, and manuscript scholars in France, the Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Sweden, and elsewhere. His European connections also reflect where his sources were, and the archives in which he worked. Moreover, the intellectual climate of source scholarship that has distinguished the Pontifical Institute since its foundation, and which was so congenial to Roger, has a particular resonance in many European universities, institutes and libraries, which explains in part his acceptance there.

Just as Roger's wide circle of colleagues treasured his research, I remain as amazed by his knowledge and industry now as when we first met over forty years ago. I will also remember his friendship, good humour and loyal patience. We all miss Roger Reynolds.

-Richard Gyug