

Lectio

LECTIO CHAIR 2015

Prof. Dr. Rosamond McKitterick
(University of Cambridge)



The Authority of Rome in the Manuscripts of Early Medieval Europe

21 May 2015 at 5 pm

Promotiezaal – University Hall – Naamsestraat 22, 3000 Leuven

The special place of the Roman past in the memory of Europe as a whole has been considered by many scholars from many different perspectives. The reception, assimilation and adaptation of texts from ancient and early Christian Rome was undoubtedly a creative process. This process involved not only the adoption and promotion of written culture for administrative, legal, religious, and educational purposes and the universal use of Latin, but also the transmission into new contexts of secular, scientific and early Christian texts and knowledge from the classical and late antique Greek and Roman traditions. Study of the role of such cultural models in the early middle ages in both the barbarian successor states of western Europe and North Africa, and throughout the Frankish realm created by Charlemagne, enables us to see how both the knowledge of the past and of earlier texts could be appropriated. Yet the transmission of texts and knowledge raises the overall question of the status and authority of Rome and Roman texts - both secular and religious. This lecture, therefore, will address the questions of how and why the authority of Rome was communicated and established in the various contexts of politics, ideology, law, the organisation of knowledge, language, and religious orthodoxy in early medieval Europe.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Registration is required. Please send an email to marleen.reynders@kuleuven.be before 18 May 2015.

