

Report of the Slater Fellow, Easter Term 2016

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I was resident in Durham from 23 April through 18 May 2016. I had recently finished my book on French in Medieval Ireland (*Two Irelands: French in Medieval Ireland, Ireland in Medieval French*) and had submitted it to a publisher from whom I had received a letter of intent to publish. In the meantime, I have received two favourable readers' reports and have already made the proposed minor revisions. While carrying out the research for this book, I discovered that the three French language translations/adaptations by the Waterford Dominican, Jofroi de Waterford, were actually made in Waterford, and not in Paris, as has long been assumed. Archives revealed that Jofroi's collaborator and scribe, the Walloon, Servais Copale, was resident in Waterford between 1300 and 1321. It is consequently almost certain that the French versions of the *De excidio Troiae* of Dares Phrygius, the *Breviarium historiae romanae* of Eutropius, and the *Secretum secretorum* of the Pseudo-Aristotle can be attributed to Ireland and to the modest corpus of Hiberno-French. Only parts of the Jofroi's *Secré des secrés* have been edited, and so I spent my time in Durham making first transcriptions of all three works, preserved in Paris, BnF, fr. 1822, and available online on Gallica, with a view to an eventual publication of the three works as an *Œuvres complètes*. These transcriptions are complete and I will now begin the real work involved in a critical edition. After the publication of my edition of Chrétien de Troyes's *Perceval* (1993), I said I would never edit again, but these texts are too important, and one should never say never. Publishers are extremely reluctant these days to take on critical editions of medieval texts, but I have already contacted the editor of a series eager to publish these texts in scholarly form for the first time. The peace and quiet of Castle and the Durham libraries, with their manuscript-related resources, were the ideal environment for this kind of work. The hospitality of the Master, Vice-Masters, and staff of Castle was exemplary.

I also benefited much from talking to Durham colleagues whom I already knew: Elizabeth Archibald, Neil Cartlidge, Corinne Saunders, Laura Campbell, and Luke Sunderland, among others. The collegiality of John O'Brien was much appreciated. I also made the acquaintance of Professor Emeritus Robin Frame, whose work has been instrumental in my own on the historical background of French in Ireland. As I was grateful for the privilege of being in such splendid surroundings, I also offered to contribute to the teaching side of things and was glad to take a session on Marie de France of Neil Cartlidge's course on Old French, and give a seminar for graduate students (organized by Luke Sunderland) on the medieval French manuscripts in the Durham collections. I discharged my only formal duty, a public lecture on "*In confusionem linguarum: French in Medieval Ireland*", in the Senate Suite in Castle on Friday 10 June. This lecture presented some "highlights" from the book mentioned above.

My time in Durham was as pleasant as it was profitable, and I am grateful to John O'Brien and IMEMS (whose office staff I also thank) for making it possible.