

Medieval Studies Presents a Lecture  
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"The Medieval Virgil Meets the Italian Humanists:  
MS Cambridge, Jesus College 33"  
5:00PM, Thursday, 15 February 2007, 1415 South  
Hall, UCSB



At first sight, MS Jesus College 33 seems a mystery. It is a later 12<sup>th</sup>-century copy of Virgil's *Aeneid* in a typical northern bookhand of the period, with contemporary marginal notes whose handwriting makes it clear the manuscript was produced in England. These marginalia situate this copy of the *Aeneid* in the largely literal and historical school tradition of the high Middle Ages. At some point in its history it lost a number of pages, which were replaced by several rather awkward scripts in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. What is initially perplexing about the manuscript, however, are the numerous added marginal notes in at least two exquisite Italian humanist hands, whose content reflects the most sophisticated learning of the middle quarters of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. How did these hands, and this material, enter a manuscript created in England and now residing in an English collection. My discussion of Jesus 33 traces the archeology of this manuscript and identifies at least one vector by which a high medieval book was adapted for learned Renaissance reading.

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