

Fragmentology

A Journal for the Study of Medieval Manuscript Fragments

Fragmentology is an international, peer-reviewed Open Access journal, dedicated to publishing scholarly articles and reviews concerning medieval manuscript fragments. *Fragmentology* welcomes submissions, both articles and research notes, on any aspect pertaining to Latin and Greek manuscript fragments in the Middle Ages.

Founded in 2018 as part of *Fragmentarium*, an international research project at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and the Zeno-Karl-Schindler Foundation, *Fragmentology* is published by the University of Fribourg and controlled by the Editorial Board in service to the scholarly community. Authors of articles, research notes, and reviews published in *Fragmentology* retain copyright over their works and have agreed to publish them in open access under a [Creative Commons Attribution](#) license; images may be subject to other licenses. Submissions are free, and *Fragmentology* does not require payment or membership from authors or institutions.

Founding Editors: William Duba (Fribourg), Christoph Flüeler (Fribourg)

Editor: William Duba (Fribourg)

Associate Editor: Veronika Drescher (Vienna)

Editorial Board: Lisa Fagin Davis, (Boston, MA), Christoph Egger (Vienna), Thomas Falmagne (Frankfurt), Scott Gwara (Columbia, SC), Nicholas Herman (Philadelphia), Christoph Mackert (Leipzig), Marilena Maniaci (Cassino), Stefan Morent (Tübingen), Åslaug Ommundsen (Bergen), †Nigel Palmer (Oxford)

Typesetting: Trine Wismann (Fribourg)

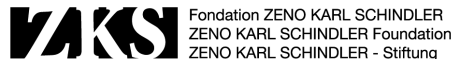
Instructions for Authors: Detailed instructions can be found at <https://www.fragmentology.ms/about/submissions/>. Authors must agree to publish their work in Open Access.

Fragmentology is published annually at the University of Fribourg. For further information, inquiries may be addressed to fragmentarium@unifr.ch.

Editorial Address: *Fragmentology*
Center for Manuscript Research
University of Fribourg
Rue de l'Hôpital 4
1700 Fribourg, Switzerland.

tel: +41 26 300 90 50

Funded by:



Volume VIII, 2025

Editorial: Fragmented Perspectives 1–4

Articles

The Provenance of the Swedish-Finnish Manuscript Collection: A Case Study of Early Modern Parchment Reuse 5–45

Seppo Eskola

Bringing Missing Links Together: How Fragmentology and Digital Humanities can Restore Catalonia's Disturbed Cultural Memory 47–96

Matthias Tischler

Fragments Unveiled: A Newly Discovered Manuscript of Henry of Langenstein's Sentences 97–125

Monica Brînzei

In situ Fragments in Beinecke Library Incunabula 127–153

Elizabeth Hebbard

Research Notes

Mise-en-page between Roman Egypt and Medieval Europe: The Recette de Saint-Remi and the Layout of an Early Greek Parchment Codex (P. Ant. 1 27) 155–169

Brent Nongbri

Membra disiecta and the Dispersion of an Eighth-Century Codex in Rhaetian Script 171–183

Marina Bernasconi Reusser

Tracing Origins and Reassembling Fragments: Material from St. Gall, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 1396.1-32 185–206

Brigitte Roux

Two Fragments of Augustine's In Iohannis evangelium tractatus from Lambach 207–216

Lisa Fagin Davis

Hanc te volo diligentiam adhibere ... Late-Medieval Fragmentary Instructions on Housekeeping 217–232

Pieter Beullens

Table of Contents

Fragments Combined: A Comprehensive Dataset on Swedish and Finnish Medieval Book Fragments 233–240

Seppo Eskola

Book Review

Laura Albiero and Christian Meyer, *Fragments notés : Paris, Archives Nationales et Solesmes, Abbaye Saint-Pierre* 241–243

Luca Ricossa

Index of Shelfmarks 245–255

Fragmented Perspectives

Editorial



It has been a great year for *Fragmentology*. A range of authors have contributed to produce a large volume—the biggest to date—full of studies that cover individual fragments, groups of fragments, and whole collections, from late antiquity to the early-modern period, from the Iberian Peninsula to the Nordic lands. This year as well, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of University and Research Institutes (ANVUR) accepted to classify *Fragmentology* as “Recognized” in Area 11 (Historical, Philosophical, and Pedagogical Sciences), and as an “A-class” journal in Area 11/A4 (Book Sciences, Diplomatics, and Historical-Religious Sciences). Henceforth, authors from Italian institutions will not just enjoy the respect and admiration of their peers, but will even receive credit from administrators for publishing in this journal. In addition, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) now lists *Fragmentology*, making it even more accessible to researchers, scholars, and scrapers for large language models.

In last year’s Editorial, I glossed on the observation of Alessandra Molinari that fragments were fundamentally relational,¹ stating that “for fragments of manuscripts and early print, those relations are between the fragment, the original object, and their current functional whole that they (help) constitute”. This series of relations between piece, carrier, and whole provides an effective set of tools for understanding fragments and for communicating them.

When we call something a ‘fragment’, we are also saying that it is *not* something. A ‘fragment of St. Augustine’s *De civitate Dei*’ is not

¹ The comment appears in A. Molinari, R. Rosselli Del Turco, K. Janz-Wenig, E. Meyer, A.A. Gasparini, and F. Aurora, “The Multi- and Interdisciplinary Relevance of Fragment Studies: Two Cases from a State Archive in Italy”, *Digital Philology: A Journal of Medieval Cultures* 13 (2024), 102–123, at 108. I assume the observation comes from Molinari, as this formulation cites A. Molinari, N. Biondi, and E. Abate, “*Textus invisibilis*. An integrated research approach to the study of the manuscript fragments preserved at the State Archive in Urbino”, in *Urbino in età moderna e contemporanea*, ed. G. Dall’Olio and S. Pivato, Rimini 2019, 215–260, at 236.

the *De civitate Dei*. Rather, we are saying that it probably once was part of a copy of the *De civitate Dei*. We relate the object in front of us, the piece, to the notion of a whole that no longer exists. What was a charter is now part of a binding. A ‘fragment’ is a dead part.

Indeed, calling something a ‘fragment’ designates a relation of not-being some original whole, but, with very few exceptions, that thing lives in a new context: it serves as part of the binding of a book, as framed decoration for someone’s living room, as part of a box labeled ‘fragments’ forgotten in the corner of a library, as lining in clothing, or otherwise reused.

As an historical artefact, the fragment bears witness not just to the moment of its creation, but to whole life of the original whole, receiving annotations, undergoing degradations and modifications, dying and being reused. Sometimes a single piece has traces of participating in several carriers, and in describing the reuse of such a piece, we hypothesize the existence of other artefacts that may or may not exist now or have ever existed.

The components that constitute working with fragments fall into these classes, piece-carrier-whole, and their relations provide much of the meaning in fragmentology. We often treat together several pieces from the same whole found in the same carrier, for example, when leaves from the same manuscript are used as front and back pastedowns in the same book. A reconstruction aims to use the surviving pieces from the same original whole to produce a model of that original. Several carriers bearing pieces of the same whole likely share a common provenance, the time and place, for example, where the bookbinder, luthier, or (literal or figurative) butcher dismantled the whole for reuse. Likewise, a single carrier bearing pieces from several wholes spatiotemporally unites the carcasses of those diverse originals.

Practically, not every case needs members of each class to exist, or to have existed. We may infer the existence of a fragment from the offset of the ink left behind on a binding. A written artefact may have been left to decay or subjected to violence, such that all that remains is a fragment thereof, with no secondary carrier. That whole

Figure 1: [E-xd3f] Frauenfeld,
Kantonsbibliothek Thurgau,
X 96, Back flyleaf r-v



may never have existed, as with discarded or cancelled leaves.² Yet it does not seem that the same piece can serve as part of a whole and part of a carrier at the same time and in the same way.

As purely notional classes, piece-carrier-whole can be applied to broader notions, not just using collections of fragments to trace groups of carriers or reconstruct liturgies and libraries, but even considering corpora, the cultures that created them, and the institutions that hold them. Certainly, the division can be applied to the analysis of literary fragments.

While this core idea of fragmentology may find ambitious and spectacular theoretical applications, the practical presentation of physical fragments of manuscripts and early print requires us to be clear on these three conceptual objects and their relations. Indeed,

2 I. Dobcheva and C. Mackert, “Manuscript Fragments in the University Library, Leipzig: Types and Cataloguing Patterns”, *Fragmentology* 1 (2018), 83–110, at 91.

much of the difficulty we encounter in talking about fragments arises from a confusion of notions.

For example, consider the case of a former bifolium that now appears as a flyleaf in a printed book [Figure 1]. We identify the piece in relation to its carrier: it is the back flyleaf, recto and verso. But we would invite confusion if we tried to talk about the original content of the fragment in terms of the book, say by assigning to the recto columns A–D, and the same to the verso, then explaining that the text runs rC–rD–vD–vC–[...]–vB–vA–rA–rB. Even worse, in this case pieces of the same bifolium were also used for the pastedowns. Therefore, in discussing the content, we shift perspective from piece-carrier to piece-whole: this bifolium has two leaves, each with two columns.

These shifts in perspective do not come about automatically. The web platform *Fragmentarium* privileges the piece-whole relation, and ambiguity arises when the piece-carrier relation intrudes, resulting in awkward solutions and inconsistent data. How do we describe the extent when we have two pastedowns and a flyleaf that is also one partial bifolium? Having this piece-carrier-whole model present, however, will help to understand how fragments relate to their multiple contexts and to appreciate the wide range of spectacular work contained in the current issue.

William Duba
Bellevue, WA (USA), 26 December 2025