

## Literary aspects of Latin travel accounts in the late Middle Ages (c.1250–1400)

### Final Report

The fellowship was arranged to afford Mag. Martin Bauer of the University of Innsbruck and Dr. Philip Booth of Manchester Metropolitan University to discuss their shared research interest in the literary history of accounts of Latin Christian travel to the Holy Land and East in the period 1250–1400. Over and above this, the fellowship was intended to facilitate the planning of future collaborative enterprises which would serve to provide further opportunities for joint research outputs in the years to come.

Our first objective was to put into effect plans for an international workshop to be held at the University of Innsbruck in April 2019. This we did, with the assistance of Dr. Susanna Fischer from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, putting together a letter of invitation intended for twelve others whose research involves looking at Latin travel literature in this period. The international workshop entitled *New Directions in the Study of Latin Travel Literature, ca. 1250–1500* will bring together historians, literary scholars and philologists to discuss what the future holds for the study of these valuable texts. To fund this workshop, Dr. Fischer and Mag. Bauer are currently putting together an application for funding from Fritz Thyssen Stiftung which will be submitted for the deadline on 31<sup>st</sup> August this year.

Moreover, it is our intention to continue this professional relationship after the conference by developing a wider joint-funding bid to the FWF and DFG which will serve as a follow-up project for not only the BritInn Fellowship but also our international workshop. The planned project shall focus on Latin travel literature of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and provide comparative readings of these hitherto neglected texts as well as a detailed study of the narrative strategies employed by the authors. At least of some of the most important works (e.g. Odoric of Pordenone, Symon Symeonis, Wilhelm of Boldensele, Ludolf of Sudheim, which in part have not yet seen a modern critical edition), a new edition based on a new examination of the manuscript sources shall also be prepared. In order to achieve these goals, we will apply for several pre-doc and one post-doc position, which will be based at the Universities of Innsbruck and Munich. Success in these initiatives will mean that the fellowship will have helped to instigate a long-term scientific collaboration as a foundation upon which projects of ever-increasing scope can be built level by level. The culmination of these efforts will also serve to make the University of Innsbruck the global centre for the study of Latin travel literature of the Middle Ages.

The fellowship also served to enhance the academic environment of the Institute, through the discussions that were had at various moments during the week, but also through Dr. Booth's guest talk entitled *Encountering Saracens and Saints. The Pilgrimage of Thietmar to the Holy Land (1217–1218)*. The talk, given on the evening of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, was well attended by staff and students not only from the Institute of Languages and Literature, but also by members of the Institute of Ancient History.

The discussions arising from this talk also prompted plans for a joint publication, a journal article which will serve to investigate the use of classical texts and authors within Latin travel accounts of the late to high Middle Ages. Such an article, which we are now in the process of preparing, would serve to not only enhance our knowledge regarding the awareness of classical texts within Latin Europe at this time, but it will show the ways in which Latin travel literature fits into wider landscape of Latin literature in the Middle Ages and allow us to gain a greater understanding of the educational background and reading habits of the writers of these travel accounts.

During the time of the fellowship, the rich cultural heritage of Innsbruck, the glorious landscape of the surrounding mountains, and the traditional cuisine of Tyrol provided us with the necessary diversion and recreation

Martin Bauer  
Philip Booth