

The Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)  
announces a public lecture

by

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**From Alexander to Absalom: A Miscellany of Travel Romances**

Manuscript Royal 19 D 1 of the British Library, a Parisian manuscript dating back to the 1330s, contains a broad palette of romances, chronicles and Old Testament stories that differ in geographical and historical terms. The conquests of the Macedonian King Alexander the Great, for example, are combined with various journeys to the famous Great Khan and his marvellous Empire, while subsequent texts concern the area of Middle East and the role that the French kings played in reconquering the Holy Land.

This lecture will analyse the strategies employed by the Parisian workshop in their attempt to avoid the miscellaneous character of a collected manuscript, despite the fact that at least five scribes and two illuminators participated in the manuscript's collation, copying their texts from very different sources. The most important question will be: Does this formal standardization transmit a single message, or does the juxtaposition of such disparate texts offer an opportunity for a diverse array of interpretations?

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6 pm, Room 0003**

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