

Report on Research Conducted with the Assistance of the Santander Travel Award

Utilizing the financial support of the Santander Travel Award, I was able to conduct archival research in the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, and the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, all in Paris, over the summer of 2016. This was an opportunity which otherwise would have been not available to me; my current status as an early-career researcher, newly awarded my PhD, would have made the expense a prohibitive factor.

My studies focused initially on medieval manuscripts of historical and literary works discussing the First Crusade (1095-1099). The crusade generated perhaps more contemporary discussion than any other single event in the High Middle Ages, and around twenty full-length histories or epic poems were written about the expedition in the twelfth century. By virtue of Paris' rôle as a repository for manuscripts from monastic and ecclesiastical libraries across modern France, Germany, Spain, and so on, it possesses a great many twelfth-century testimonies to this popular memorialization of the events of the First Crusade. This literary efflorescence is to be the subject of my forthcoming monograph, *The First Crusade: Text and Tradition*. The Santander Travel Award will be thanked prominently in the acknowledgements.

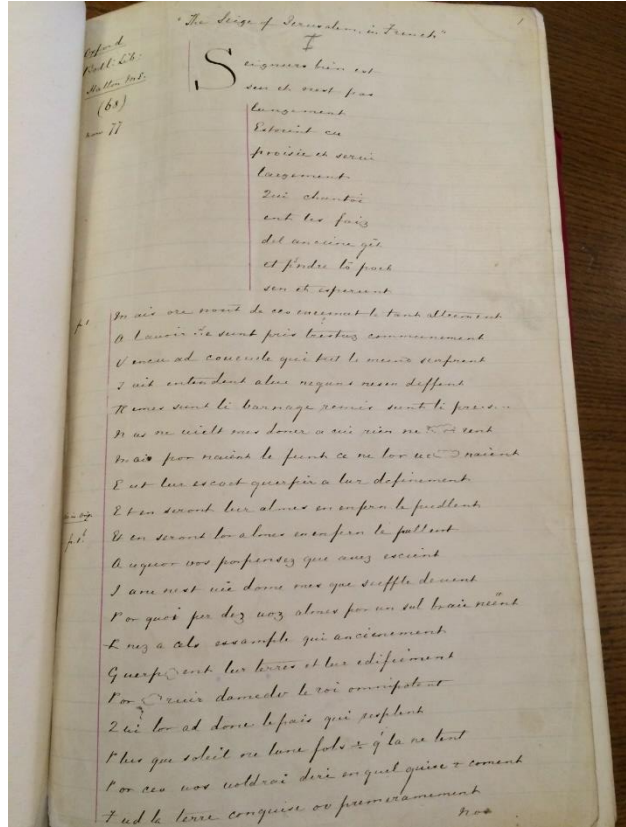
I consulted over fifty manuscripts at final count, either in their original form or via microfilm (the preferred option for *parisien(ne)* librarians when codicological or palaeographical issues are not contentious) across these three institutions. The vast majority of these were twelfth century. This enabled me to assess the validity of the current scholarly editions of the crusade texts: a necessary precursor to the work I am undertaking in 2016-2017. Nearly all the editions were vindicated by this close study of the manuscripts, but some further errors or doubtful readings were identified. However, the greatest discovery of this trip was a lucky accident. While perusing the catalogue for the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, I noticed that they were in possession of the personal papers of renowned nineteenth-century crusade historian and textual scholar, and founder of the *Société d'Orient Latin* (the precursor to today's Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East), Count Paul Riant (1836-1888). These papers had been bound in beautiful dark red leather, pressed with his insignia and titled rather vaguely. On closer inspection, these papers were found to contain personal correspondence between every major figure of the nineteenth-century crusading scholarly community, and, in addition, to include full transcriptions of many unpublished First Crusade works. Included among these transcriptions is a full version (pictured) of the unpublished-in-full *Siege of Antioch and Conquest of Jerusalem by Godfrey of Bouillon*, a vernacular account of the First Crusade known only in two insular, that is to say British, manuscripts. This transcription seems to have been conducted by an Anglophone scholar between 1876 and 1888, who was commissioned and paid to do so by Riant, and not only adds to our knowledge of First Crusade historiography, but also of the activities of the late nineteenth-century literary-historical *milieu*. I myself have been working on bringing this text to a wider audience, so this find was opportune: I hope to be working as a Research Assistant on a project to edit and translate the whole text, for which myself and others are applying to the Leverhulme Trust. In addition to this, various notes and memoranda refer to intriguingly deviant manuscripts, which may open up new opportunities for research in the coming years.

Whilst in Paris, I stayed in the 10th *arrondissement*, near to the Canal Saint-Martin, in a small *chambre de bonne* within a Haussmann building; the heat of the summer combined with the zinc roof cladding resulted in a fiery atmosphere within. This was, nevertheless, very convenient, and meant that I could walk to all the major libraries through the Marais. Although this trip was not



Rue Lucien Sampaix, 10ème arrondissement

exclusively funded by the Santander Travel Award, the financial help it provided contributed to these accommodation costs, in addition to paying for return travel to Paris from London.



Transcription of Oxford, Bodleian MS Hatton 77, in the Papiers Riant at the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève.



Parc des Buttes-Chaumont, picturesque running spot

With thanks to the Santander Travel Award,

Dr Simon Parsons