

dating from the sixth to the 16th century were written in France, Germany and Italy, as well as England, and have been well catalogued. The digitization project will encourage researchers to examine in new and creative ways a collection that includes masterpieces of calligraphy and illumination spanning a millennium of European culture.

By reuniting the entire collection for the first time since its dispersal, Durham University and Durham Cathedral hope the project will encourage a surge of related academic research and activity, leading both to a better understanding of the life of Durham's priory and to fresh insights into the evolution of intellectual, religious and artistic trends through the centuries.

1. Durham Cathedral, "Durham Priory Library Recreated: Recreating a Medieval Monastic Library for the 21st Century" (2016), <http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/heritage/collections/digitisation>.

.....  
~ Marlene Chan is an ex officio board member of the Alcuin Society.

#### LETTERS OF THE LINDISFARNE GOSPELS

In celebration of the legacy of the Lindisfarne Gospels and its 40th anniversary in 2016, the Fairbank Calligraphy Society in Victoria, B.C., hosted a workshop by the gifted contemporary calligrapher Ewan Clayton on April 7–11, 2016, entitled *The Letters of the Lindisfarne Gospels*. Clayton was awarded the prestigious Prince of Wales Craft Guild Award in 2013 for his lifetime achievement in the field of calligraphy.

The Lindisfarne Gospels original is now housed in the British Library and a facsimile is on display in the Durham Cathedral Treasury. The two most important books on the Lindisfarne Gospels were published by the distinguished medieval scholar Michelle P. Brown, Professor Emerita, University of London, London Rare Books School: *The Lindisfarne Gospels and the Early Medieval World* and *The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality, and the Scribe*.

---

#### BOOK REVIEW

---

### *The Greek Classics*

BY ALDUS MANUTIUS. EDITED &  
TRANSLATED BY N.G. WILSON  
(HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016,  
US\$29.95)

FIVE HUNDRED AND one years after the death of the great Venetian publisher and printer Aldus Manutius, Harvard University Press has made available, for the very first time, the 47 prefaces Aldus wrote for his editions of the Greek classics. Previously, these texts were available only to readers of Italian, in the two-volume work *Aldo Manuzio editore: dediche, prefazioni, note ai testi* (Milan: Il polifilo, [1975]), long out of print.

This book, the 70th volume in the I Tatti Renaissance Library, presents on one page the prefaces as Aldus prepared them for the press in their original Latin, with frequent interjections in Greek; the facing page offers an English translation by editor N.G. Wilson. Aldus opens each preface with a greeting. These dedications address a variety of notable figures: patricians of Venice, princes and dukes, fellow scholars, authors and learned friends as far away as Germany and Hungary. But above all, the prefaces address students and readers. These brief notes in themselves tell us a lot about Aldus's network of supporters.

The prefaces range from single paragraphs to short essays and are clearly intended to provide context for students of Greek literature and to ease their way into the classical texts. Aldus's frequent comments refer to the difficulties of printing and publishing in the context of early-16th-century Venice. Also included are 10 appendices that the editor rightly thought added to the context of the prefaces. This book is mainly of interest to the specialist and will be wanted by every university library. A nice-looking octavo of 395 pages, the book is good value at US\$29.95.

~ REVIEWED BY RALPH STANTON