



# Pages from the Past: Medieval Writing Skills and Manuscript Books (Variorum Collected Studies Series)

*M.B. Parkes, edited by P.R. Robinson*

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## **Pages from the Past: Medieval Writing Skills and Manuscript Books (Variorum Collected Studies Series)** M.B. Parkes, edited by P.R. Robinson

In the present collection of articles by Malcolm Parkes two overarching concerns emerge: the palaeography of manuscript books in relation to what Parkes has previously called the 'grammar of legibility'; and the importance of considering the circumstances in which medieval books were produced, copied and read. The individual studies discuss the handwriting of individual scribes, and the evidence script can provide of the circumstances of a book's production, the effect of punctuation and layout of text on the reader's interpretation of a work, and the provision and production of books for communities of readers, both clerical and academic. From a discussion of the scribe of the Hereford Mappa Mundi to a comprehensive study of book provision in the medieval University of Oxford, a wealth of information is conveyed in these articles, now conveniently accessible in one volume, about books and their histories by one of the most knowledgeable of manuscript scholars today.

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