

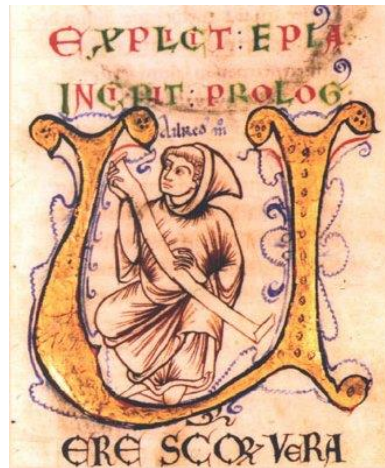


Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Past Peoples, Present Societies

First among equals: prosopographical approaches to the careers of medieval abbots

13th March, Wednesday, 5pm (GMT) online



A talk presented by Professor (Emerita) of Medieval History

The head of a medieval monastery was often a significant figure. Although he was *primus inter pares*, first among equals, he enjoyed considerable powers over his community, but also as a landowner of means within the locality, and, often, as a significant presence in national affairs. Until fairly recently – and for good reasons – scholarship has tended to focus on the big names, those heads of large, wealthy, and prestigious monasteries, whose careers are well documented. This paper takes a different approach. Using the chronicle of the abbey's history written by one of its abbots in the early fifteenth century, it considers the careers of those who held high office at the modest Cistercian house of Meaux in east Yorkshire and asks if it is possible to construct a group biography from what the chronicle tells us of their social and geographical origins, how they were elected and how long they ruled, and their interests and preoccupations.

Tickets and links available on Eventbrite (Past Peoples, Present Societies) or through email to 1811607@student.uwtsd.ac.uk (Please use Subject: TICKETS PPPS)