

Preface to the fourth edition (1993) by Sigrid Krämer

Paul Oskar Kristeller's *Latin Manuscript Books before 1600* (henceforth referred to as *LMB*), an indispensable research tool first published in 1948, developed — as its author tells us — in connection with two projects in which he had been involved for some years: the *Catalogus Translationum and Commentariorum* and the *Iter Italicum* (cf. p. xxiii–xxiv, below). Similarly, a great deal of the materials for this new, fourth edition of *LMB* was collected when I was preparing my *Handschriftenerbe des deutschen Mittelalters*.¹ Originally I had planned a fourth volume of this work, which was to contain a bibliography of catalogues of manuscript collections and related literature. It was during a visit to Professor Kristeller in New York in November 1986, that the idea took shape of a revision of his invaluable *LMB* rather than a supplement to the *Handschriftenerbe*. For the genesis of the present edition see also Professor Kristeller's Preface of 1993, below.

Almost thirty years have passed since the publication of the third edition of *LMB* in 1965. During this period, numerous collections of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in Europe and in the USA have been catalogued for the first time, or recatalogued. Thus, in Germany the generous support of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* has made it possible to describe many collections which previously had had either no catalogue at all or only a very inadequate one. During this period a large number of manuscripts also changed hands, and not a few libraries and private collectors in Europe, in America and now also in Japan acquired one or more manuscripts for the first time. A thoroughly revised edition of *LMB* was therefore needed, and the reader will hardly be surprised to find that the present, fourth edition of the work is about three times the size of the third edition of 1965.

Having worked with *LMB* for many years, I have not only tried to bring the book up-to-date, but to make it even more user-friendly than before. As a consequence, a number of changes have been made which I will briefly explain in this Preface.

The most obvious innovation is the new *Section D* at the end of the book, listing 'Directories and Guides to Libraries and Archives'. This has been added as a response to readers who had asked repeatedly to have included in *Section C* the addresses of the libraries recorded. This would

1) Sigrid KRÄMER, *Handschriftenerbe des deutschen Mittelalters*. vols. 1–3 (Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz, Ergänzungsband I). Munich 1989–1990.