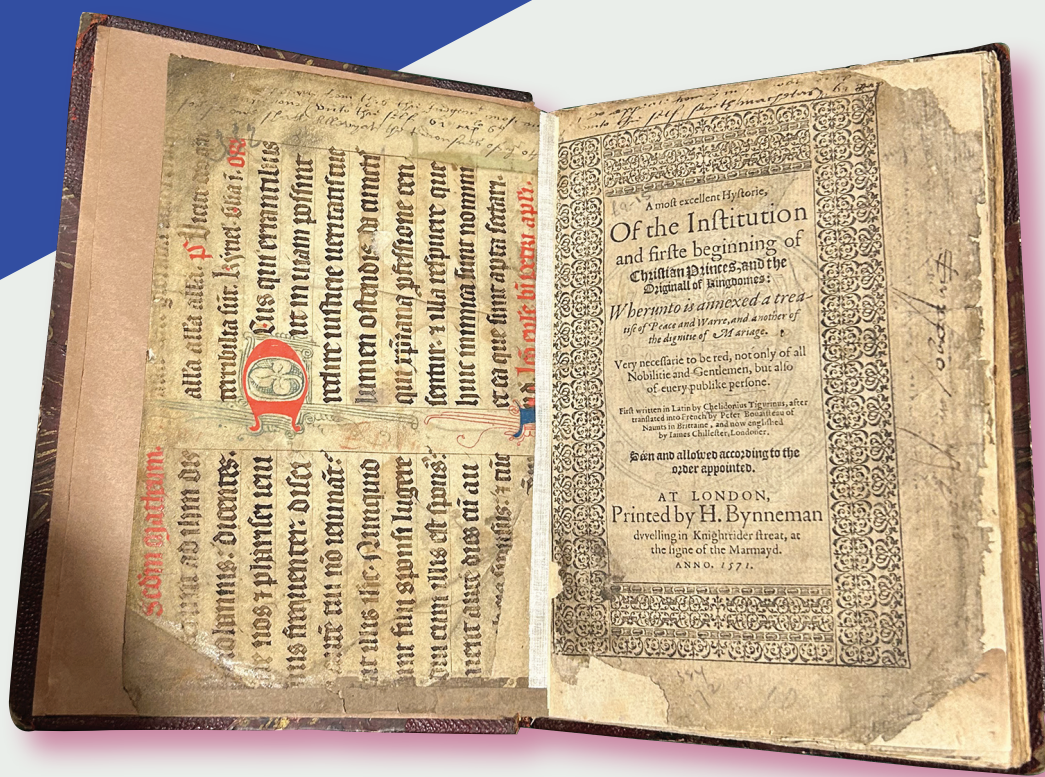




Premodern Fragments: Remnants and Recovery

April 23-24, 2026



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The Newberry
60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610
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Above image: Tigurinus Chelidonius, *A most excellent bystorie, of the institution and firste beginning of Christian princes, and the originall of kindomes*. London: H. Bynneman, 1571 (Case B 67.16)
Cover image: Johannes Melber, *Vocabularius praedicantium, sive Variloquus*. Strassburg: Georg Husner, 1493 (Inc. 742)

Fragments of all shapes and sizes have played an essential role in the production, transmission, and mediation of knowledge in and of the premodern world: as binding material, writing supports, relics, works of art, and more. So essential, in fact, that fragments now represent some of the most widespread and accessible material witnesses of medieval and early modern material culture. This symposium explores the function and significance of fragments in premodern manuscript and print. Through presentations, discussions, and hands-on workshops involving Newberry collections, this conference will consider not only what fragments did in the distant past, but also what they can do for us today.

*Organized by Elizabeth Hebbard (Indiana University)
and Megan Heffernan (DePaul University)*

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- 2:00-2:30pm Coffee and Welcome (Rettinger Hall)
- 2:30-4:00pm Fragments at the Newberry (Baskes Boardroom)
Facilitator: Megan Kelly, Newberry Library
- 4:00-5:30pm Keynote Conversation (Rettinger Hall)
Moderator: Christopher Fletcher, Newberry Library
Carina L. Johnson, *Pitzer College*
Ayesha Ramachandran, *Yale University*
Whitney Trettien, *University of Pennsylvania*
- 5:30-6:30pm Reception (Baskes Boardroom)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

All Friday events will take place in Rettinger Hall

9:30-10:00am Coffee

10:00-11:30am Panel 1

Moderator: Megan Heffernan, DePaul University

“Medieval Fragments between Art and Calligraphy”
Elizabeth Hebbard, *Indiana University*

“Spilling Ink: Fragmentation for Forensic Science in the Early-20th Century”
Eric Johnson, *Ohio State University*

“Fragments of You: Printing Fabric Contact Relics”
Suzanne Karr Schmidt, *Newberry Library*

11:30am-1:00pm Lunch break (on own)

1:00-2:15pm Panel 2

Moderator: Zach Hines, Ohio State University

“Pre/Modern Fragmentation”
Bonnie Mak, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

“Seeking, Finding, and Sharing Illuminated Manuscript Fragments in North American Collections”
Christopher Platts, *University of Cincinnati*

2:15-2:45pm Coffee break

2:45-4:00pm Panel 3

Moderator: Elizabeth Hebbard, Indiana University

“How to Do Things With Fragments”
Leah Whittington, *Harvard University*

“Reading Fragments, Reading Collections”
Megan Heffernan, *DePaul University*

4:00-5:00pm Final Discussion