Lecture 5: medieval manuscript culture

From last time: ordinatio; Parkes: the book in the 13th looks more like its modern counterpart than like books of the early middle ages

I. Authoring:
- Composing by dictation (“dictare” and its various meanings”)
- Authors’ copies appear in 11th-12th
Armando Petrucci, Writers and readers in medieval Italy

II. Reading
- Growth of silent reading; linked to rise of heresy, pornography, criticism, due to intimacy of autograph composition (12th-13th). Brian Stock, Implications of Literacy on textual communities
- Vernacular reading culture rises; shifts from oral to silent later (“lecture du coeur” in 14th)
- kinds of reading: Professional (clerical—monastic or scholastic)=Latin
  Cultivated reader: noble patronage of vernacular texts, translations
  Pragmatic reading: business docs, how-to books
On pragmatic reading: Michael Clanchy, From memory to written record. England 1066-1307

II. Book trade and ownership
- First forms around universities (from 1200), later in commercial centers (e.g. London, 14th) =stationers
- Cheaper books: handwriting, paper
- Libraries: monastic, university, noble, professional
- Example of Richard de Bury (1287-1345), bishop and a royal clerk, then chancellor briefly: largest episcopal library in England. His Philobiblon survives in 46 mss.

III. Book production
- Pecia system, in Paris from 1250s
- Paper: from China (2nd ct BCE), via Islam (8th ct), first produced in Eu in Spain (11th), then Italy (14th); N of Alps from late 13th-14th. Impact?? Jonathan Bloom, Paper Before Print

Before printing: growing literacy and readership; increased production, wide distribution, large libraries; attempts to control, to insure uniformity; humanism