Hagiography has a relevant place in the Anglo-Saxon literature. Its earliest examples date back to Bede. Different kinds of hagiographic works were at first written in Latin (e.g. Aldhelm, Alcuin) and later on in the vernacular, influencing a significant portion of Old English poetry, too. This project is devoted to the prose Lives of Saints written in the last two centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period. One of the main features of this period is the intent, which is so evident in the texts that are the object of study, of translating hagiographic material to make it available to an audience that could only master Old English. This venture was carried out by Ælfric, but also by anonymous authors, who adapted Latin hagiographic texts in order to guarantee their widest possible diffusion.

The project also aims at providing the scientific community with a series of additional electronic resources with automated search and consultation functions. These products will contribute to a better understanding of Ælfric’s and anonymous Lives of Saints.
Thursday November 8th

9.00 Opening addresses

9.30 Joyce Hill (University of Leeds)
The Context of Ælfric’s Saints’ Lives

10.15 Catherine Cubitt (University of York)
Reading 10-11th Benedictine Hagiography against the
Politics of the Reign of Æthelred

Discussion

Break

11.30 Loredana Lazzari (University of Rome, LUMSA)
Kingship and Sainthood in Ælfric: Oswald and
Edmund

12.00 Loredana Teresi (University of Palermo)
Saintly Places and Itineraries in Ælfric’s Lives of Saints

Discussion

Afternoon

14.45 Rolf Bremmer (University of Leiden)
Honour and Shame in Ælfric’s Lives of Saints

15.30 Susan Irvine (University College London)
Hanging by a Thread: Racks and Crosses in Ælfric’s
Saints’ Lives

Discussion

Friday November 9th

9.00 Claudia Di Sciaccia (University of Udine)
‘concupita, quaesita, ac petita solitudinis secreta’: The
Call of the Desert in Bede’s Vita S. Cuthberti and Ælfric’s
Life of St Cuthbert

Discussion

Break

10.45 Rosalind Love (University of Cambridge)
Folcard of Saint-Bertin and the Anglo-Saxon Saints at
Thorney

11.30 Patrizia Lendinara (University of Palermo)
Forgotten Missionaries

Discussion

12.10 Posters

Robert Bassi (University of Grenoble)
St Oswald in Early English Chronicles and Narratives

Claudio Cataldi (University of Palermo)
St Andrew in the Old English Homiletic Tradition

Maria Caterina De Bonis (University of Potenza)
An Unfinished Drawing of St Benedict in a Neglected
Manuscript of the Regula Sancti Benedicti (Cambridge,
Trinity College, MS O.2.30)

Conclusion

Afternoon

14.45 «From Augustine’s Chair to Peter’s Throne»:
Visit to the Vatican Necropolis under St Peter’s
Basilica

Cathedra Petri