

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

The Library of the Cistercian Abbey of Clairvaux at the time of Pierre de Virey (1472)

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. Summary

Ref: 2008-22

Clairvaux Abbey was founded in 1115 by Bernard de Fontaines, who directed it until his death in 1153. The abbey was the third daughter abbey of Cîteaux, one of the great monastic centres of Christendom, and the foundation abbey to which 530 other abbeys across Europe were attached by the end of the Middle Ages.

The subject of this nomination is the manuscript collection of the library at Clairvaux, as inventoried in 1472 in the catalogue compiled by Abbot Pierre de Virey. At the time, the library contained 1,790 manuscripts, of which 1,115 have survived. They were dispersed between Troyes, Paris and Montpellier during the Revolution and after the abbey was dismantled. Those that did escape the sorting exercise carried out during the Revolution (which accounts for the loss of some of the documents between 1472 and the present day) went to enhance public collections, especially French ones, in the library in Troyes (now the *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne* (Troyes Multimedia Library)), the manuscript cabinet of the French National Library (*Bibliothèque nationale de France*) and the library of the Faculty of Medicine in Montpellier. The three versions of Pierre de Virey's catalogue are included in the collection of documents to be included in the *Register*.

The collection, which in the 15th century was already one of the most important medieval libraries of the western world, is now the foremost medieval collection in France in terms of its size and excellent state of conservation. Furthermore, the collection of the former library at Clairvaux at the time of Pierre de Virey is uniquely coherent and is a particularly representative example of:

- a medieval monastic library with an encyclopaedic collection at a time when the abbeys were the conservatories of scholarship;
- the wealth of manuscript production of ancient and Christian texts by the medieval scriptoria which were centres for copying, production and handing down of knowledge until the dawn of the Renaissance;
- the role played in medieval intellectual, religious and artistic production by the Cistercian abbeys and reform movement, particularly under the influence of Bernard de Clairvaux.

This irreplaceable, well-preserved collection is particularly coherent in terms of the manner in which it was assembled and is of great importance in terms of its size. Its authenticity and integrity make it unique and of universal significance.

Most of the collection is currently housed in the *Médiathèque* in Troyes, while other institutions have minor holdings.

2. Details of the Nominator

2.1 Name (person or organization)

COMMUNAUTÉ DE L'AGGLOMÉRATION TROYENNE / Mr François Baroin, President

1 Place Robert Galley, 10000 TROYES Tel.: 03 25 45 27 27 / Fax: 03 25 45 27 44

The nominator is the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne* (Troyes Conurbation district authority). The nomination is being made in close cooperation with four other French establishments (the *Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire* (Inter-University Library) in Montpellier, the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* (National Library of France), the *Bibliothèque municipale* (Municipal Library) in Laon and the *Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève* in Paris); and four European establishments (*Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana* in Florence, the British Library in London, the Hungarian National Library in Budapest and the University Library in Mons Hainaut), which also hold manuscripts from the former Abbey in Clairvaux.

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

The library collection of the former Clairvaux Abbey, to which the manuscript collection being nominated belongs, is held by the *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne*, a cultural service provided by the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne*.

2.3 Contact person(s)

Mr François Baroin, President of the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne*;

Mr Marc Lemoine, Deputy Director-General of the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne*, Head of the “*Animation et Solidarité*” Department;

Mr Louis Burle, Director of the *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne*.

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)

Mr Marc Lemoine,
Deputy Director-General of the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne*
1 Place Robert Galley, 10000 TROYES
Tel.: 03 25 45 27 22 / Fax: 03 25 45 27 44
Email: m.lemoine@agglotroyes.fr

Mr Louis Burle, Director of the *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne*
7 rue des Filles Dieu, BP 602, 10088 TROYES Cedex
Tel.: 03 25 43 56 25 / Fax: 03 25 43 56 21
Email: louis.burle@mediatheque-agglo-troyes.fr

3. Identity and Description of the Documentary Heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

The library of the Cistercian Abbey of Clairvaux at the time of Pierre de Virey (1472).

The manuscript collection of Clairvaux library is described in a catalogue compiled in 1472 by Pierre de Virey, Abbot of Clairvaux. The catalogue is held at the *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne* and lists 1,790 volumes of which 1,115 have been accurately identified and located in several European libraries. To this should be added the three existing versions of the catalogue. The proposed inscription thus concerns a total of 1,118 manuscripts. The *Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne* holds 1,018 of the volumes described in the Pierre de Virey catalogue. A further 97 manuscripts are held by establishments outside Troyes: the *Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Montpellier* (70), the *Bibliothèque nationale de France* (17), the *Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana* in Florence (4), the British Library in London (2), the National Library of Hungary in Budapest (1), the Municipal Library in Mons Hainaut, Belgium (1), the *Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève* in Paris (1), and the Municipal Library in Laon (1).

3.2 Description

The catalogue compiled by Pierre Virey (1472) is a vital source of information on the library of Clairvaux. It provides both an inventory for the collection and a management tool for the library, making it possible to identify each volume accurately by assigning it a catalogue number. It also presents a detailed intellectual overview in which books are classified according to the various categories of medieval knowledge. The conservation rate for the 1,115 precisely identified manuscripts is 62.29%, but if we exclude the part constituted by liturgical manuscripts, which have a lower conservation rate than the rest of the collection as a result of intensive use and natural dispersion, the rate of identified manuscripts rises to 73.53%, of which 66.81% are currently held at the Troyes *Médiathèque*.

Description of the library of Clairvaux Abbey according to the catalogue compiled by Pierre de Virey.

	Manuscripts mentioned	Manuscripts conserved	Manuscripts conserved in Troyes	Manuscripts conserved in other establishments
Bibles	327	281 (85.93%)	274 (83.79%)	7
Fathers of the Church	247	207 (83.8%)	195 (78.95%)	12
Theology	202	165 (81.68%)	160 (79.2%)	5
Sermons	178	114 (64.04%)	113 (63.5%)	1
Varia	105	59 (56.19%)	50 (47.62%)	9
History	68	58 (85.29%)	42 (61.76%)	16
Law	95	66 (69.47%)	61 (64.21%)	5
Science	151	71 (47.02%)	32 (21.19%)	39
Rules, definitions, charters and privileges of the order	25	7 (28%)	7 (28%)	0
Total excluding liturgical	1,398	1,028 / 73.53%	934 / 66.81%	94 / 6.72%
Liturgical books	392	87 (22.19%)	84 (21.43%)	3
Total	1,790	1,115 / 62.29%	1,018 / 56.87%	97 / 5.42%
Catalogues	3	3	2	1

Bibliography

- Harmand, Auguste, *Catalogue général des manuscrits des bibliothèques publiques des départements*, Vol. II (Bibliothèque de Troyes), Paris, Imprimerie impériale, 1855;
- Det, Alexis Silvère, *Catalogue général des manuscrits des bibliothèques publiques de France*, Troyes, supplement, Vol. XLIII, Paris, Plon Nourrit et Cie, 1904;
- *Catalogue général des manuscrits des bibliothèques publiques de France*, supplements Dijon, Pau, Troyes, Vol. 63, Paris, Éditions du CNRS, 1984;
- *La Bibliothèque de l'abbaye de Clairvaux du XIIe au XVIIIe siècle. I. Catalogues et répertoires*, published by André Vernet in cooperation with Jean-François Genest and the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris, Éditions du CNRS, 1979;

- *La Bibliothèque de l'abbaye de Clairvaux du XIIe au XVIIIe siècle. II. Les manuscrits conservés. Première partie: Manuscrits bibliques, patristiques et théologiques*, records compiled by Jean-Paul Bouhot and Jean-François Genest under the direction of André Vernet, Paris Turnhout, Éditions du CNRS – Brepols, 1997.

4. Justification for Inclusion / Assessment against Criteria

4.1 Is authenticity established?

The catalogue compiled by Pierre de Virey: a masterpiece of librarianship enabling the library of Clairvaux to be authenticated

The manuscripts in the library of Clairvaux Abbey at the end of the Middle Ages are specifically documented in two ancient catalogues, providing material proof of the authenticity and age of this ancient monastic library. A first inventory dates from the 12th century, and describes the contents of the library a few decades after the abbey was founded. The catalogue is incomplete but it provides a description of 90 manuscripts kept at Clairvaux at that time. Pierre de Virey's catalogue in particular provides an exact description of the collection, which is the subject of this nomination. The catalogue of 1472 includes no fewer than 140 folios; this is a masterpiece of librarianship. It contains a list of the first words of the second leaf and the last words of the last leaf but one, which is the most reliable way of identifying each manuscript.

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established? (see 4.2.4)

A universal collection, unique in size and coherence

A library was created in Clairvaux when the Abbey was founded in 1115. It was added to in several stages:

1. Until the middle of the 13th century, the scriptorium provided most of the manuscripts; the library holdings grew very rapidly in accordance with the wishes of the abbots. It also attracted a large number of donations thanks to the reputation of the Abbey.
2. Until the middle of the 14th century, at a time when abbey libraries were in a period of dormance, Clairvaux continued to enrich its collection thanks to its links with the University of Paris, in particular through the teaching activities of the Collège Saint-Bernard, which played an outstanding role in training Cistercian monks. The library holdings were considerably enriched by the university manuscripts provided by the college. The collection was supplemented by further donations.
3. In the 15th century, the abbots were profoundly influenced by the first stirrings of Humanism, and the library was once again at the heart of abbey life. Pierre de Virey devoted his abbotship to reviewing the library and giving it new momentum.

A universal, encyclopaedic collection

The library housed a vast collection covering all fields of medieval knowledge, with theology being the best represented. However, other disciplines (the liberal arts, law and medicine) were largely included. Its contents were thus encyclopaedic by the end of the Middle Ages, with numerous texts covering history, philosophy, civil and canon law, and literature, but also works on science, mathematics and medicine.

A uniquely coherent collection

The remarkable coherence of Clairvaux library can be explained by the very short time it took the monks to produce a large number of manuscripts. The library's collection of manuscripts was not made up of works of widely differing provenance, as was usually the case in the Middle Ages. Only 10 of all the manuscripts mentioned in the Pierre de Virey catalogue predate the founding of the Abbey. The Clairvaux scriptorium produced the manuscripts until the middle of the 13th century.

An exceptionally extensive collection

The Clairvaux manuscript collection is also one of the largest medieval monastic library collections in western Christendom. Within the Cistercian order, the library at Clairvaux had easily overtaken that of the mother abbey of Cîteaux by the end of the Middle Ages.

Compared to other European abbeys, the medieval library at Clairvaux has several distinguishing traits.

- Whereas most abbey libraries did not experience rapid growth after the end of the 13th century, the library at Clairvaux continued to expand, largely thanks to the individual efforts of the monks and an influx of university manuscripts from the Collège Saint-Bernard.
- Furthermore, the donations from the university put it in a class of its own, as it stands as a testimony to the overall development of medieval scholarship. The founding of the universities signalled a great intellectual renaissance in the West, and – quite aside from its being a centre of monastic scholarship – this is reflected at Clairvaux. It is thus an exception among abbey libraries.
- Finally, the Clairvaux scriptorium was an unprecedented centre of artistic production, for it was there that the monochrome style that is the hallmark of all Cistercian art originated.

The universal character of the former library of Clairvaux, established between the 12th and 15th centuries, can therefore be seen in the encyclopaedic bird's eye view it gives of a period when the abbeys were the conservatories of scholarship. Furthermore, the collection can be seen to have been built up in a remarkably coherent fashion and is very significant in terms of its size. It is therefore of unrivalled quality and unique significance.

4.3 Is one or more of the criteria of (a) time; (b) place; (c) people; (d) subject and theme; or (e) form and style satisfied? (see 4.2.5)

(a) Criterion 1 – Time

An exemplary library that reflects the development of monasticism and the early years of the University

The texts in the collection assembled at the library at Clairvaux reflect the development of scholarship throughout the Middle Ages. They illustrate the role played by the great monasteries in transmitting texts from Greek and Latin antiquity, and in spirituality and religious thought. The texts assembled at Clairvaux help to relive the pursuit of knowledge and intense debates that were the hallmark of intellectual life from the beginning of the 12th to the middle of the 14th century. In the first half of the 13th century, Clairvaux showed a strong interest in the intellectual discussions of the University. When Abbot Étienne de Lexington established the Collège Saint-Bernard in Paris in 1245 (the college would be recognized as a studium by the University in 1256), he paved the way for Clairvaux to become a full member of the University of Paris. The Collège Saint-Bernard enabled the whole Cîteaux order to benefit from the progress and intellectual innovations of the University (the catalogue of Pierre de Virey includes 144 manuscripts on the “*libri speculativae theologiae*”, which reflect the university studies of 1230-1330).

(b) Criterion 2 – Place

N/A

(c) Criterion 3 – People

Instigated by Bernard de Clairvaux, a shining light of Medieval Western Christendom

The most famous figure of the Cîteaux order, which spread and blossomed under his influence, Bernard de Clairvaux (1090-1153) was one of the most important men of the 12th century. First Abbot of the monastery of Clairvaux, he was a prolific writer. Saint Bernard was also involved in all the great ecclesiastical affairs of his time: arranging papal elections, defending orthodoxy, preaching the second crusade, political intervention and diplomatic missions. His mystical theology, forged in the crucible of monasticism, had a profound influence on all Christian thought. The library of the abbey is consistent with the image of its founder, the most influential figure of the 12th century.

(d) Criterion 4 – Subject and theme

A unique, preserved collection that bears witness to Cistercian spirituality and learned medieval culture

The library of Clairvaux was designed to accompany the monks on their spiritual journey. The abbots strove to collect patristic and exegetic texts. Clairvaux was thus an exemplary monastic centre which served as a model for the other Cistercian establishments; it had a profound influence on the renewal of medieval monasticism. In this respect, the library was one of the most important instruments for spreading the abbey's influence. As soon as it was founded, the abbey was equipped with a library that reflected the measure of Saint Bernard's ambitions. It already held some 350 volumes by the end of the 12th century. This inventory confirms the extraordinary activity of the scriptorium at that time. In the same way, the contents of the library are a reflection of the medieval scholarship issuing from the monastic, episcopal and university schools.

(e) Criterion 5 – Form and style

The monochrome style: emblematic of Cistercian thought and art

The aesthetic ideas of Bernard de Clairvaux were emblematic of the Cistercian ideal and were decisive in determining the artistic identity of the order. He established the rules concerning the decoration of manuscripts and made Clairvaux an influential artistic centre. The monochrome style originated in Clairvaux in the 1140s. It is characterized by the use of letters painted in shades of a single colour, with geometrical or vegetal motifs as sole decoration. The use of gold was forbidden. The style was then adopted by the whole of the Cistercian order and later adopted as standard by the General Chapter during the "second" Cistercian codification.

4.4 Issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management relating to this nomination (see 4.2.6)

A robust management plan is in place for the Clairvaux library document collection (see point 6). The collection is housed in a modern building that was completed in 2002 and complies with all existing conservation standards for heritage collections.

However, this outstanding medieval collection includes extremely rare items and as such remains fragile in the long term, despite all the safety procedures provided for.

5. Legal Information

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

The Clairvaux library collection is legally a State deposit with the Troyes Médiathèque. The other manuscripts conserved in France are also the property of the State, held in trust by the Ministry of Culture (public libraries and Bibliothèque nationale de France) and the Ministry for Higher Education and Research (*Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Montpellier* and the *Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève*).

French Republic

Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication

Direction du Livre et de la Lecture

182 rue Saint-Honoré, 75033 PARIS Cedex 01

Tel.: 01 40 15 80 00 / Fax: 01 40 15 74 56

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche,

Direction générale de l'Enseignement supérieur,

Sous-direction des bibliothèques et de l'information scientifique

1 rue Descartes, 75231 PARIS Cedex 5

Tel.: 01 55 55 79 02 / Fax: 01 55 55 79 03

The French Republic does not, however, own the collections held by institutions in other European countries.

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

Main custodians

Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne / Louis Burle, Director,

7 rue des Filles Dieu, B.P. 602, 10088 TROYES

Tel.: 03 25 43 56 20 / Fax: 03 25 43 56 21

Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Montpellier / Jean-François Foucaud, Director,

60 rue des Etats Généraux, Espace Richter, 34965 MONTPELLIER Cedex 2

Tel.: 04 67 13 43 50 / Fax: 04 67 13 43 51

Bibliothèque Nationale de France / Bruno Racine, Chairman,

Thierry Delcourt, Curator General, Director Manuscript Dept.,

58 rue de Richelieu, 75002 PARIS

Tel.: 01 53 79 82 80 / Fax: 01 53 79 89 00

Subsidiary custodians

In France:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Laon / Director (vacant post) Laurence Richard, Head of Heritage Dept.

Place Sœur Marie Catherine 02011 LAON Cedex

Tel.: 03 23 22 86 74 / Fax: 03 23 22 86 75

Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève / Yves Peyre, Director

Yann Sordet, Curator for ancient collections

10, place du Panthéon, 75005 PARIS

Tel.: 01 44 41 97 61 / Fax: 01 44 41 97 96

In Europe:

Université de Mons Hainaut, Bibliothèque centrale / René Plisnier, Director

2, rue Marguerite Bervoets, 7000 MONS (Belgium)

Tel.: +32 (0)65 37 30 65 / Fax: +32 (0)65 37 30 68

British Library / Sir Colin Lucas, Chairman

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive / Ronald Milne, Director of Collections,

St Pancras 96, Euston Road – LONDON NW1 2DB (UK)

Tel.: +44 (0)20 7412 7513

Országos Széchényi Könyvtár (National Library of Hungary) / Dr Karsay Orsolya, Director
1827 BUDAPEST Budavári Palota F épület (Hungary)
Tel.: 3612243774

Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana / Antonia Pasqua RECCHIA, Director
9, Piazza San Lorenzo 50123 FIRENZE (Italy)
Tel.: (+39) 055211590 210760 214443 / Fax: (+39) 0552302992

All institutions holding Clairvaux library manuscripts have been contacted. The National Library of France and the Inter-University Library in Montpellier have given their consent in principle, as have the University of Mons Hainaut, the City of Laon, the Sainte Geneviève Library and the *Bibliotheca Medicea Laurenziana*. The British Library and the National Library of Hungary have yet to reply.

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

State-owned property – State collection legally deposited at the Troyes Médiathèque (see Appendix 3A). All the collections, including those held abroad, belong to public institutions.

(b) Accessibility

Free

(c) Copyright status

Free

(d) Responsible administration

Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne

1 place Robert Galley, 10000 TROYES
Tel.: 03 25 45 27 27 / Fax: 03 25 45 27 44

Administrative Department:

Médiathèque de l'Agglomération Troyenne

7 rue des Filles Dieu, BP 602, 10088 TROYES Cedex
Tel.: 03 25 43 56 20 / Fax: 03 25 43 56 21
Email: contact@mediathequeagglotroyes.fr

(e) Other factors

The collections held by the other custodian institutions are the responsibility of the relevant trustees.

6. Management Plan

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES

The Clairvaux manuscript collection is subject to a multi-annual management plan, with four main lines of action: conservation, promotional and outreach work, research and international cooperation, the purpose being to secure the virtual reconstitution of Clairvaux library.

1. Conservation

Conservation efforts focus on the following:

- a description of the collection, now largely complete, in cooperation with the *Institut d'Histoire et de Recherche des Textes*;
- restoration of degraded or slightly damaged documents;
- systematic boxing of manuscripts with ancient bindings;
- scrupulous monitoring of conservation conditions in a building that complies with the strictest standards;
- preparation and implementation of an emergency plan in the event of accident/incident, requiring regular staff training in conservation and fire safety procedures.

2. Promotional and outreach work, making the collection available to the wider public

This takes several forms:

- cultural initiatives involving major heritage exhibitions on the medieval collection and the history of Troyes and its region. This programme follows on from the major heritage exhibitions of the last few years (Rachi and the Jews of Troyes in the Middle Ages (2005); Illuminated Treasures of Troyes (2006); Books of Hours of Champagne (2007); *Lumière sur le ciel* (2008-2009), Chrétien de Troyes and the Arthurian legend (2010)). In 2007 an agreement was signed with the Avranches Scriptorial, which holds the manuscript collection of the library of the Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel, with a view to launching a joint programme of exhibitions on medieval manuscripts and culture;
- a permanent exhibition entitled “A Thousand Years of Books in Troyes”, which opened in 2003 and whose section on the history of the Clairvaux manuscript collection is to be expanded; broad educational outreach work (school groups involving primary and secondary schools, universities) in cooperation with the Médiathèque’s education, youth and ancient collections departments;
- In addition, the Médiathèque is actively involved in a youth programme with the UNESCO Centre Louis François in Troyes; for several years now it has been taking part in the “*Geste en Liberté*” visual arts meeting, which facilitates international exchanges.

3. Applied research

Research activities take a variety of forms:

- partnerships with research institutes including the *Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes* (IRHT) in Paris, the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, the Rachi de Troyes University Institute, the Department of Manuscripts of the National Library of France, the *Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de la Renaissance* in Tours, and foreign universities;
- participation in the BIBLIFRAM research project (libraries, records and representations of identity in medieval France), registered with the French National Research Agency;
- symposiums and research seminars on the Clairvaux collection (a symposium on “Nicolas de Lyre” is planned for June 2009; a symposium on current research on Cistercian libraries for 2011; a seminar on the Bible in the Middle Ages in 2007-2008 and a second one on the religions of the Book, in cooperation with the Rachi de Troyes Institute and its President, René Samuel Sirat, holder of the UNESCO Chair for “Network of mutual knowledge of religions of the Book, the spiritual traditions and the specific cultures”);

- participation in the National Research Agency project conducted by the University of Nancy 2 on musically annotated manuscripts (MANNO project, Christian Meyer, CNRS/UMR 7002, University of Nancy 2);
- research grants programme for manuscript collections, to be launched in 2009.

4. International cooperation: the virtual reconstitution of Clairvaux library

The Clairvaux manuscript collection is dispersed across nine different establishments, four of which are located outside France. Virtual reconstitution of the library will over time require many exchanges between the different partners. International cooperation is therefore essential. It will be based on an exchange of descriptive data and digital images, the sharing of digitalization and online technologies, and research work on the manuscripts. The main aim of this cooperation is to create a platform providing access to all the existing manuscripts via a dedicated multilingual portal: the Clairvaux Virtual Library.

This work involves:

- a digitalization programme to establish, in the long term, a “Clairvaux Virtual Library”, inspired by the programme for the Biblioteca Corviniana (<http://www.corvina.oszk.hu/>). Currently, more than 450 Clairvaux collection manuscripts are already accessible on line (<http://www.mediathèqueagglotroyes.fr/>). In 2008 the last part of a collection of 1,260 manuscripts – including the 1,020 Clairvaux manuscripts of this nomination – will be put on line. Initially, a partnership with the National Library of France and the Inter-University Library of Montpellier will make it possible to restore the unity of a large part of the Clairvaux library. The other custodians of a small number of manuscripts will be involved in the project at a later stage;
- working in close partnership with the *Institut de Recherche et d’Histoire des Textes* (CNRS-IRHT) for the completion of the description of the Clairvaux library manuscripts, under the stewardship of Jean-Pierre Rothschild. To this should be added the creation of a manuscript portal for the Médiathèque (EAD international standard). It will be possible to access all the details and images of the manuscripts on this portal from the Médiathèque site. It will be based on a data sharing system (OAI emerging technology). Each partner library will be able to make its collection available to this data base;
- in addition, the virtual reconstitution of the Clairvaux manuscript collection will be part of the forthcoming Resource Centre Agreement 2009-2011 with the National Library of France.

7. Consultation

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage; (b) the custodian; and (c) your national or regional Memory of the World committee

(a) The owner of the heritage

The State, through the offices of the Champagne-Ardenne Regional Directorate for Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Culture’s *Direction du Livre et de la Lecture* (Directorate of Books and Reading), has been informed of the steps taken to nominate the Clairvaux library collection at the time of Pierre de Virey (1472) for inclusion in the *Register*, and endorses the proposal.

(b) The custodian

The *Médiathèque de l’Agglomération Troyenne* is nominating the collection of which it is the custodian for inclusion in the *Register*. Furthermore, it is in close contact with all other custodians of the nominated collection.

(c) Your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

The nomination has been endorsed by the French *Memory of the World* Committee.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. Assessment of Risk

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

The collection is preserved in compliance with current conservation standards and is not subject to any threat; a detailed, multi-annual management plan is nevertheless in operation (see 6. Management Plan).

9. Assessment of Preservation

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

The Clairvaux library document collection is preserved by the Troyes Médiathèque, in conditions that comply with the conservation standards currently in force. A team of three fire protection officers is responsible for monitoring the public spaces and storage areas. This team is backed up by three other officers trained in emergency fire protection procedures. The Clairvaux library collection is stored in two areas: the *Grande Salle* (main reading room) of the library, with 48,500 printed volumes; and the *réserve précieuse* (valuable collections safekeeping) section, where all the manuscripts and incunables are kept. These two storage areas comply with current conservation standards. Temperature and humidity are computer-controlled. Both have fire detection and smoke extraction systems. The bookcases in the *Grande Salle* are glazed so that the books are visible to the visiting public. The glass has been treated with Antium. The manuscripts and incunables in the *réserve précieuse* section are protected by an armoured fire door. Both areas are equipped with CCTV recording systems.

PART C – LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

Name: Mr François Baroin,
President of the *Communauté de l'Agglomération Troyenne*,
Deputy Mayor of Troyes

Signature: [signed]

Date: 27 March 2008