

Report to the Viking Society for Northern Research

I received funding from the Viking Society in May this year. First of all, I would like to thank the Society for their contribution to my costs. Travel from New Zealand is expensive to get to anywhere, but the other side of the world, and back, poses a special challenge. Happily, I was able to attend the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, England from 7-11 July 2025 without mishap. A video of my presentation on Archbishop Sigeric can be found here: <https://imc-leeds.confex.com/imc/2025/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/10454> (first half hour is my presentation), one of three papers which formed an interesting insight into the role of Christian peacemaking for Archbishop Sigeric primarily with the viking leader, Olaf Tryggvason in 994CE, and at a more local level of a land dispute in 990CE.

The full benefit of the Congress was the introduction of other aspects of my PhD study which I hadn't considered before, plus meeting with fellow tenth century historians and authors of various texts through the publishing houses displays and discussions. Other positive aspects of the Congress involved meeting fellow students and academics only encountered before through their academic publications, including scholars of viking history and literature.

Following participation in the conference I met with archivists in Cambridge at Corpus Christi College to follow up some literary and charter leads proposed by conference moderators, followed by delving into archaeological expertise at Canterbury Cathedral and Saint Augustine's Abbey while searching for clues to the whereabouts of Sigeric's grave. Again, the contacts from those I met at Leeds enabled some fruitful interactions and rich learning experiences with individual experts whom I would never have encountered otherwise.

The information gleaned from both the conference and the follow up research will be invaluable in completing a robust thesis, based on evidence not only from the published literature and history of the tenth century, but also up to date scholarship and ideas around aspects of this most fascinating time.

Sandra Jones