This presentation comprises a discussion of the working methodologies employed for the analysis and description of quires, ruling grids and prick-marks of medieval manuscripts, and how this information can be further expanded through close examination of the various inks used by the scribes.

I will present some ways in which an independent codicologist, without the backing of a laboratory team, can still derive fundamental information on the production methods underlying a medieval book, and make thereby inferences to the corresponding book culture in which it was used. I will focus in particular on the subject of my recently concluded research project, a collection of eleventh- and early-twelfth-century manuscript witnesses of a redaction of the early medieval Lombard laws, edited in modern scholarship as the Liber Papinescis.