Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Ohio State University
256 Cunz Hall
1841 Millikin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210
Tel: 614-292-7495
Fax: 614-292-1599
E-mail: cmrs@osu.edu

World Wide Web
http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs

Sarah Iles Johnston
Acting Director

Anna Grotans
Associate Director

Suzanne Childs
Administrative Assistant

Wendy Matlock
Bernadette Vankeerbergen
Graduate Assistants

Brian Carson
Workstudy Student

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2001-2002

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Greetings

I knew I was stepping into big shoes when I agreed to serve as acting director of CMRS this year, following Nick Howe’s departure for Berkeley, but I am pleased to report that CMRS has been run so well, for so long, that the transition has been a relatively easy one. The groundwork for many of this year’s exciting events had already been ably laid by Nick, Suzanne, Anna, Wendy, and several of our affiliates when I arrived in July; I now look forward to helping to bring those plans to fruition.

The first event took place two weekends ago, when the twenty-eighth annual Byzantine Studies Conference was held at Ohio State, with the support of CMRS and several of the University’s other centers and departments. I heard a number of excellent papers during the sessions (including a few by our own graduate students), and a lot of nice comments about our own program during the coffee breaks. As one visiting professor put it, OSU’s continuing development of Byzantine and late antique studies, when added to our already premiere program in MRS, makes OSU “the” place to work on Byzantine and Medieval topics. Thanks are due to Timothy Gregory (History) for persuading BSC to visit our campus, and to Monica Fullerton (History of Art) and Anthony Kaldellis (Greek and Latin; Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee) for making the whole thing work. Anthony and Monica labored long and hard not only to ensure that the nuts and bolts of the conference were in place, but to provide some extra entertainment for our visitors: the Byzantine Choir of the Diocese of Pittsburgh serenaded conference attendees on Saturday night and two monks from the Brotherhood of St Theodore (near Pittsburgh) demonstrated icon painting in the afternoons.

By the time you read this issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles, we will have enjoyed the first of our lectures in the series “Portraits and Biographies”; Constance Brittain Bouchard (University of Akron) will have spoken on “The Past as a Weapon: Episcopal Biographies and Bishops’ Self-Definition.” We will also have enjoyed our first talk in the Faculty Lecture series: Lisa Kiser’s (English) own version of “The Silence of the Lambs.” But we have many more lectures to look forward to in both series, as this and upcoming issues of Nouvelles Nouvelles will remind you: Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski offers the first of them on October 25. The Ohio Medieval Colloquium, to be held October 26 at Ohio University, is also just around the corner.

Activities

If you have information about your professional or scholarly activities that you would like to have included in the next edition of the CMRS newsletter (Nouvelles Nouvelles), please submit it by campus mail or e-mail. Such activities include published books, articles, or reviews, papers, or lectures given, awards received, services done, and research grants awarded. Please be sure to include your name, department, rank (i.e. Assistant Professor, Ph.D. candidate) and all other pertinent information. Submission deadline for the next publication is Friday, November 15, 2002. Please send submissions to the Editor, Nouvelles Nouvelles, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, The Ohio State University, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., Columbus OH 43210-1229 or send them by e-mail to <cmrs@osu.edu>.
Finally, in the list of things to look forward to, we have six new affiliates this year, whom we will get to know in this and future issues of Nouvelles Nouvelles.

A final word on customs and carrying them on: Nick’s door was always open to colleagues and students, and mine will be as well. If you have ideas regarding CMRS that you would like to share, please drop by and visit me, either at 256 Cunz Hall (the CMRS office) or 414C University Hall (the Department of Greek and Latin).

All best wishes for the start of the academic year.

Sarah

______________ CMRS Corner ______________

New Affiliate

Rebecca Haidt (Associate Professor of Spanish) officially joins our community. Her work focuses on Spanish texts and images and their relations with European traditions. She works in the eighteenth century primarily, ranging into the early nineteenth century. One of her specializations is Madrid. Her first book, Embodying Enlightenment: Knowing the Body in Eighteenth-Century Spanish Literature and Culture (St. Martin’s Press, 1998) was a winner of the MLA’s Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for Outstanding Work Published in the Field of Latin American and Spanish Literatures. She has just published Seduction and Sacrilege: Rhetorical Power in Fray Gerundio de Campazas (Bucknell University Press, 2002), a study of a scathing and extremely popular satire of bad preaching. Currently she is working on a book on women, consumer culture and urban space focusing on eighteenth-century Madrid.


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Among Us
Timothy Gregory (Professor, Department of History) received a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute in support of his continued conservation, study, and publication of material from the Ohio State University Excavations at Isthmia.


Christopher Highley (Professor, Department of English) published “John Copinger and the Counter-Reformation: The Writings of a Forgotten Exile from Ireland” in Prose Studies 24.1 (April 2001): 1-14.

Kathleen Kennedy (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English) presented “Of Ratons & Renkes: Maintenance and the Rat Court in Piers Plowman” at the Summer Fellowship Presentations held by the Department of English on October 3.


Lisa J. Kiser (Professor, Department of English) published a review of The Boundaries of the Human in Medieval English Literature, by Dorothy Yamamoto in Speculum 77 (April 2002): 660-62.

Chris Manion (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English) presented “I wyl bothe speke of hym and heryn of hym’: Lay Readers and the Religious Life in The Book of Margery Kempe” as part of the Department of English’s Summer
Fellowship Presentations on October 3.

Geoffrey Parker (Professor, Department of History) gave the Royal Historical Society’s annual Prothero lecture in London on July 4, on “The Place of Tudor England in the Messianic Vision of Phillip II.”

Carla Pestana (Professor, Department of History) has been named to the Steering Committee for the National History Project, an initiative of the National Council on Education and Discipline of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Professor Pestana also presented “Between Religious Marketplace and Spiritual Wasteland: Religion in the British Atlantic World” at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, July 11, at the University of Glasgow.

“Bodies, Bawdies, and Nobodies: Early Modern Women, 1500-1800” is the theme of the conference to be held at the University of California, Santa Barbara, February 21-22, 2003. The Early Modern Center of UC Santa Barbara invites paper and session proposals that explore the concept of embodiment as it relates to women as creators, subjects, and consumers of British, Continental, and early American cultures by November 15, 2002. How has our understanding of the association of women with the body been complicated by recent critical investigations into the female body in culture? Please visit the conference website to submit abstracts on-line at <http://emc.english.ucsb.edu/confbodies/index.asp>.

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents, as part of its Faculty Colloquium:

The Other Byzantium:
What General Surveys Won’t Tell You about Life in the Byzantine Empire

Featuring:
Anthony Kaldellis
(Department of Greek and Latin
The Ohio State University)

Monday, November 4, 2002
4:00 p.m.
Cunz Hall 408

The Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa 6th Triennial Congress on “Colonial Shakespeare: Performance, Translation, and Reception” invites papers on comparative performance and production at different times and places, the indigenisation of Shakespeare, Colonial Shakespeare in film and television, the Shakespeare text and colonial politics and Shakespeare and the colonial book trade, among other topics. The conference will be held June 25-28, 2003, in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The deadline for paper abstracts is November 30, 2002. Please contact Hilde Slinger, Conference Convenor via email at <H.Slinger@ru.ac.za>.

Upcoming Conference

The 33rd CEMERS Annual Conference will be held November 1 and 2, 2002, at Binghamton University. The Conference, entitled “Premodern Responses to Catastrophe and Convulsion” includes plenary addresses by Samuel Cohn, Glasgow University, and Jozef Laszlovszky, Central European University. For more information, please contact Charles Burroughs, Conference Coordinator at <cburrou@binghamton.edu>.
Announcements

In the last year the Medieval Academy of America has formed a Graduate Student Committee to act on behalf of graduate student members of the Academy in voicing their concerns about medieval studies and to promote their participation within both the Academy and the broader academic community. All graduate students working in Medieval Studies are encouraged to get involved in the activities of the Graduate Student Committee. For more information, please visit the "Graduate Students" section of the Medieval Academy of America's Website <http://www.medievalacademy.org>.

Calls for Papers

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies invites submissions for their conference to be held February 13-15, 2003. The theme is multi-cultural Europe and cultural exchange. The Center welcomes papers that explore any topic related to the study and teaching of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and especially those that focus on this year's theme. Papers may address, for example, the way different national and religious groups such as Christians, Muslims, Jews, Gypsies, and Pagans interacted in both positive and negative ways and how they were depicted in art and literature. By November 1, 2002, submit paper and/or session proposals online at <http://www.eir.library.utoronto.ca/acmrs/conference>.

The conference, “Defining the Holy: Sacred Space in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” to be held April 10-12, 2003 in Exeter, England encourages you to submit paper proposals by November 1, 2002. For more information, please contact S.M.Hamilton @exeter.ac.uk or A.Spicer@exeter.ac.uk.

Winter Quarter 2003

Medieval & Renaissance Studies 212: Culture of a City-State in the Renaissance

directed by Professor Robert Davis

This course will provide students with a case-study introduction to the Italian Renaissance via the city of Venice.

5 Credit Hours
MTWRF 10:30
Call # 12883-7

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 504: Arthurian Legends

with Professor Karen Winstead

This course will examine the rich tradition of medieval Arthuriana. We’ll study the earliest legends of Arthur, Guinevere, Merlin, Lancelot, and other characters whose names are familiar even to those who have never read their stories.

5 Credit Hours
MW 12:30-2:18
Call # 12844-2
What I’ve Read Lately
by Rebecca Haidt
(Department of Spanish and Portuguese)


My mother’s mother, who worked for decades in garment factories and designed and made her five daughters’ clothes from the 1920s to the 1950s, had a bureau in her apartment where she kept lengths of fabric from past garments and trade work. When she died in the mid-1980s, I took an enormous suitcase full of these textile pieces with me back to my apartment, and over the next several years, in her honor, proceeded to design and make garments for myself from them. As I sat stitching, I would wonder: What impelled Grandma to save this shimmering art deco embroidered satin or that 1950s rayon printed with pert purple Scotty dogs? Which of my aunts had worn something made from them? What was the value of these old fabrics now, and had they been costly or extremely stylish all those years ago? Textile segments had been my grandmother’s means of retaining cherished memories, both of her daughters’ growing up and of her own countless hours of labor and creativity. But no doubt they had also been carefully stored in the bureau because to my grandmother—a Russian immigrant who raised five children during the Depression—they represented money, an investment in future wardrobe needs.

For centuries, textiles and clothing were the most expensive items in any household’s budget in Europe and its colonies. To give one example cited by Jones and Stallybrass, in 1599, Richard Linge, a Norfolk chapman, had his modest clothing valued, and his best cloak, hose and doublet each were cited as worth one pound—on an annual salary of two pounds (178). Linge could not afford to be fashionable (his clothes are old) and he did not possess much, but even the basics—the doublet, the cloak—were worth half of his yearly salary—each. And this a printmaker than a painter). All in all, this show, like the Raphael show, fascinates in part because we are compelled to see art as a process rather than just a product.

Both shows are on view until October 27. For information visit www.clevelandart.org or phone 1-888-CMA-0033. Admission is free on Thursdays.

Local Events
On November 15, 2002, at 8:15 p.m. Early Music in Columbus will present The Rose Ensemble at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Travel to medieval Eastern Europe and visit ancient Prague and Karakow as this 12-member vocal ensemble performs mysterious chants, psalms and joyful carols mingled with tales of saints and folk of good will. For more information visit <www.capital.edu/earlymusic> or call (614) 861-4569.

Regional Events
The Medieval Association of the Midwest (MAM) invites medievalists to join them. Since 1975, MAM has provided a forum for the discussion of all aspects of medieval studies. Membership benefits include: an annual meeting, a biannual newsletter Nuntia, an annual volume of publications (PMAM) and sponsored sessions at professional meetings. For more information, please contact Robert L. Kindrick, Executive Secretary, MAM, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS 67260-0013.

The fall meeting of the Ohio Medieval Colloquium will take place in 112 Ellis Hall at Ohio University on October 26, starting at 1:00. For more information, please contact Marsha Dutton <dutton@oak.cats.ohiou.edu>.
is just one of the many wonders related in Jones and Stallybrass’s discussions about the ways in which fabric, clothing and the making, selling, refurbishing, stealing, trading, wearing, seeing and possessing of garments construct what the authors call the “worn world: a world of social relations put upon the wearer’s body” (3).

Whether analyzing the fabrics which a subject might employ for (to use Greenblatt’s phrase) “self-fashioning” within the medium of portraiture, or the semiotics of textile dyes in the Jacobean period, or the use of clothing as currency in payment rendered to household dependents, or the making and maintenance of costumes in Renaissance theaters, the authors always emphasize that clothing is one of the most compelling and yet ephemeral of vehicles of cultural meanings during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, marking relationships among citizens, masters, servants, men, women, creditors and debtors for privilege, insult, masquerade, subordination or trust within the social body. Linge’s paltry possessions were repositories of not only a considerable portion of his wealth, but also of aspirations, obligations and ways of moving in the world not usually accounted for by history. Full of fascinating detail and fun to read, this book taught me much that is of use for my current book project, a study of women, clothing and cultures of consumption in eighteenth-century Madrid. For example, the chapter on the virtues assigned to spinning reminded me of the tremendous investment of time and energy required (during the period) of most rural and many urban women, who experienced the endless onus of producing thread (whether for their own or others’ looms). And though my grandmother did not have to spin, she knew well the real costs of clothing and its labor intensity. This book is a tribute of sorts to workers like her, and to the tremendous importance clothing of all kinds has had for centuries in the shaping of culture.

What I’ve Seen Lately

by Sarah Iles Johnston (Professor, Department of Greek and Latin)

The Cleveland Museum of Art has two current shows that are well worth a visit. “Raphael and His Age: Drawings from the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Lille” offers about 20 drawings by Raphael himself, plus about 20 more by other Renaissance masters such as Botticelli and Fra Bartholomeo; Cleveland is the only American museum to host this exhibition. In addition to the sheer gorgeousness of their draftsmanship, the drawings are valuable for the insights they give us into the development of the artists’ visions—some are sketches for individual figures in famous paintings such as “The School at Athens.” Other drawings reveal the methods by which artists worked; they have been “pricked” along their outlines so that, by dusting charcoal through the tiny holes, the artist may transfer them to a new sheet (there are also examples of drawings that have been transferred this way, still bearing the slight smudges to show it). A few drawings, such as one of St. Mark by Andrea Del Sarto, were pricked for transfer not to another sheet of paper but to fabric, which could then be embroidered for use as an altar cloth—giving us a glimpse of the intensive process used to create items that we tend to consider ephemeral and secondary.

The other show, “Battle of the Nudes: Pollaiuolo’s Master Renaissance Engraving,” showcases the only known first-state impression of Pollaiuolo’s print, which is part of the museum’s permanent collection. Twenty-two other prints and paintings, gathered from museums in Europe and the Americas, trace the history of its production and influence. Several are “second-state” prints, showing how the plate wore and was “repaired” during subsequent uses—in one case, “repairs” led the lines delineating a leaf to be carried accidentally into an axe-head wielded by one of the nudes—or how differing conditions under which the same plate was printed led to notably different effects: bolder lines, more subtler shading, greater prominence of the figures against the background, etc. Also included are paintings and prints by other artists who were influenced by Pollaiuolo’s work, and a few paintings by Pollaiuolo himself (which, frankly, reveal why he is far better known as...
The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents, as part of its lecture series Portraits & Biographies: Representing Lives in the Middle Ages and Renaissance:

Portraits and Self-Portraits in Christine de Pizan

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski
(University of Pittsburgh)

Friday, October 25, 2002
1:30 p.m.
Room 090 Science and Engineering Library
175 W. 18th Ave.

A conversation for faculty and graduate students will take place immediately after the lecture in Cunz Hall, room 212.

These are the second, third and fourth lectures in a ten-part lecture series developed by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. For the location and time of each lecture and conversation or for more information, please contact the Center at (614) 292-7495 or <cmrs@osu.edu> or visit our web site at <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs>.

Picturing the Life of a Byzantine Saint

Nancy Sevcenko
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Friday, November 1, 2002
1:30 p.m.
in room 262 Hopkins Hall

Martyrdom, Exile, and Idealized Biography: Jewish Poetry from Medieval France

Susan Einbinder
(Hebrew Union College)

Room to be announced
Friday, November 15, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

A conversation for faculty and graduate students will take place immediately after both lectures in Cunz Hall, room 408.