

NOUVELLES ***Nouvelles***



Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
April 2004

CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

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This publication is available in alternative
formats upon request. Please contact
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Greetings

We have both good news and bad news from CMRS. Anna Grotans, who has been Associate Director of CMRS has been tapped to be Acting Chair for Germanic Languages and Literatures next year. Taking her place for a three year term is Ethan Knapp of the English Department. We will miss Anna very much as she has been instrumental to the smooth running of the Center's undergraduate program, the Colloquium Series, the editing of *Living Dangerously*, and the day by day running of the Center. I am sure that Anna will continue to be much involved in Center activities. We are very fortunate to have Ethan available to take over.

"Nature in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance," is moving along smoothly. We already have half of the speakers lined up for next year. Lisa Kiser and I are pleased with the first round. We urge our affiliates to be in touch with us about possible additional speakers. We are doing well in history, landscape archaeology, and English and have some good leads in art history and late antique, but could use some suggestions about foreign languages.

We are about to get our CAMPUS CAMPAIGN contribution cards for 2004-2005. Again, I urge you to think of CMRS for possible contributions. Contributions need not be large, but it would help us to set up a "Friends of CMRS" if we can show faculty support. We also welcome contributions by a check made out to OSU but with the memo section displaying that the check is for CMRS. We will take care of getting it into our account. Hope you can help to support us.

Greetings, cont.

Note the upcoming lectures and faculty colloquium (Alastair Minnis and Geoffrey Turnovsky) advertised in *Nouvelles Nouvelles*. Our feature this month is a review of *The Lord of the Rings* according to Tolkien and Hollywood by James I. McNelis III.

Spring has come. I can see the mud outside the window of Cunz Hall and students shedding layers of clothing.

Barbara



The OSU Rare Books and Manuscripts Library has recently acquired the James Stevens-Cox *STC-SIGLA* collection of 16th-17th century books, offered by Maggs Bros Ltd. The 49 titles of the collection represent the most rare volumes of Stevens-Cox's total collection and those for which he is listed as private owner in the revised edition of the *Short Title Catalogue*. These volumes include mainly theological and religious works plus some history, politics, and cartography. The acquisition is significant because of the extreme rarity of most of the collection's titles, which represent popular or ephemeral works in small-format editions that typically do not survive. Highlights of this rich collection include two items printed by John Day (1561 and 1578); *Church of England Visitation Articles* for Bath and Wells (1606); a folio broadside royal proclamation of James I (1608); the *Yearbooks for Henry VI – 1422-1450* (1503?-1550?); the third English edition of Erasmus's *The Prayse of Follie* (1577); 21 of 48 leaves of John Colet's *Grammatices rudimentis* [*Lily's grammar*] (1534?); the first English road book to include maps; The Venerable Bede's *Ecclesiasticae Historiae Gentis Anglorum Libri V* (1601); and Augustine's *The Meditations and Manuall* (1621).

A full description of the collection is given in Maggs Bros Ltd Catalogue 1350, *STC & Wing : books printed in England 1500-1700 from the library of James Stevens-Cox (1910-1997)*, available in ETC and the reference section of the Rare Books Room, Main Library (PR401 .S77 2003).

Among Us



Derek Alwes (Associate Professor, English) published "To serve your prince by...an honest dissimulation': The New Arcadia as a Defense of Poetry" in *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* 29:2 (2003): 147-169.

David Cressy (Professor, History) published "Lamentable, Strange and Wonderful: Headless Monsters in the English Revolution," in Laura Lunger Knoppers and Joan B.

Landes, eds., *Monstrous Bodies/Political Monstrosities in Early Modern Europe* (Cornell University Press, 2004), pp. 40-63 and 256-261. He gave the Distinguished Fellows Lecture at the Huntington Library (San Marion, CA) on February 18, 2004, on "Books in Flames: The Life and Death of Texts in Tudor and Stuart England." He presented papers on "Print, censorship and the public sphere on the threshold of the English Revolution at the Early Modern Studies Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara on February 27, and at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at California State University, Long Beach, on March 1.

Robert Davis (Professor, History) published "Selling Venice, 1600-1800," *Studi Veneziana*, Volume XLVI (2003), pp. 131-139.

Richard Dutton (Professor, English) published "*The Comedy of Errors* and *The Calumny of Apelles*: An Exercise in Source Study" (reprint) in D. Taylor and D. Beauregard, eds., *Shakespeare and the Culture of Christianity in Early Modern England* (Fordham University Press, 2003), pp. 26-43.

Steven Galbraith (Ph.D. Candidate, English) published *The Undergraduate's Companion to English Renaissance Writers and Their Web Sites* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004).

Matt Goldish (Associate Professor, History) published *The Sabbatean Prophets* (Harvard University Press, 2004).

Timothy Gregory (Professor, History) was awarded a grant from the Packard Foundation for the construction of a second story on the excavation house in Isthmia.

Hannibal Hamlin (Assistant Professor, English) published *Psalms Culture and Early Modern English Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). He presented "English Psalms and Classical Meters: Psalm Translation and the Development of English Poetry," Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies conference: "*Translatio*, or the Transmission of Culture," Tempe, AZ, February 14 and "Wyatt's Penitential Epic" at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New York, April 1 (also organized sessions on "Psalms and Self: Recastings of Renaissance Subjectivity in Aretino and Wyatt" and "Renaissance Biblical Poetics: On the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Barbara K. Lewalski's *Protestant Poetics*.")

Barbara Hanawalt (Professor, History) became President of the Medieval Academy of America at the annual meeting in Seattle, April 1-4. She presented "Feminist? 'If I made it, you can too'" at a session dedicated to her advisor, Sylvia Thrupp at the same meet-



Among Us, cont.

Jane Hathaway (Associate Professor, History) published “Mamluk ‘Revivals’ and Mamluk Nostalgia in Ottoman Egypt,” in Michael Winter and Amalia Levanoni, eds., *The Mamluks in Egyptian and Syrian Politics and Society* (Brill, 2004), pp.387-406 and “Exiled Chief Harem Eunuchs as Proponents of the Hanafi Madhhab in Ottoman Cairo,” *Annales Islamologiques* 37 (2003): 191-199.

Lisa J. Kiser (Professor, English) published “Attitudes Toward Animals” in *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, supp.1, ed. W.C. Jordan (Scribners, 2004), pp. 17-21.

Geoffrey Parker (Professor, History) published “Dolor, Ira y Comprensión” in the Spanish newspaper *ABC* (It compares 9/11 with the Madrid bombings three weeks ago) and a Spanish translation of the revised version of his book, *Thirty Years War*, titled *La Guerra de los Treinta Años* (Editorial Antonio Machado, 2004). He has been elected a “corresponding member” of the Real Academia Hispanoamericana of Cádiz. He also gave a course of eight lectures at the Fundación Juan March in Madrid on “La crisis mundial del Siglo XVII.” He gave interviews about them to *ABC* (twice), *El País*, *El Mundo*, *La Razón* and other Spanish newspapers.

Nathan Rosenstein (Associate Professor, History) published *Rome at War: Farms, Families, and Death in the Middle Republic* (University of North Carolina Press, 2004).



Call for Papers

Texts and Contexts is sponsored by the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies at the Ohio State University, October 1-2, 2004. The conference seeks to investigate the textual traditions of various texts and genres, including texts in Classical Latin, medieval Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Middle English, and the vernaculars. Preference will be given to those abstracts which deal with newly discovered texts and their manuscript settings, or which present new perspectives on established textual traditions. Graduate students and newly established scholars are encouraged to submit their work. Please send abstracts to Professor Frank Coulson, Director of Palaeography, 190 Pressey Hall, 1070 Carmack Road, Columbus, OH 43210. Deadline for submission is **August 15, 2004**.



The annual **Medieval-Renaissance Conference** is sponsored by the University of Virginia's College at Wise. It promotes scholarly discussion in all disciplines of Medieval and Renaissance studies. The conference welcomes proposals for papers and panels on Medieval or Renaissance history, literature, language, philosophy, science, pedagogy, and the arts. Abstracts for papers should be 250 or fewer words and accompanied by a brief c.v. Proposals for panels should include: a) abstracts for papers to be presented (250 or fewer words). Our keynote speaker will be Bruce R. O'Brien, Mary Washington College, "Medieval 'Englishness' Reconsidered." Deadline for submissions is **June 10, 2004**. For more information, go to: www.uvawise.edu/history/medren.html.

The organizers of the **Midwest Medieval History Conference** invite proposals for papers to be submitted at their forty-third annual meeting, to be hosted by the MARCO Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville on October 8 and 9, 2004. In recognition of the 800th anniversary of the sack of Constantinople during the 4th Crusade, papers on any aspect of the crusades are particularly welcome.

Advanced graduate students and professional scholars from all fields of history are invited to submit proposals for the Saturday sessions. The conference offers an honorarium to graduate students presenting at the Friday sessions. Proposals are due by **June 1, 2004**. Please send an abstract of no more than 350 words with your name, the day for which you are submitting and contact information to Michael Frassetto at Mfrasset@eb.com.



The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Binghamton University invites session and paper proposals for its semi-annual interdisciplinary conference, **Science, Literature, and the Arts in the Medieval and Early Modern World**, October 22-23, 2004. The conference will bring together scholars from a range of disciplines working on connections among science, literature, and the arts from approximately 400-1750, in both European as well as non-European cultures. Science should be conceived of broadly, as the study of the physical world and of human psychic and social life, and as including such branches of learning as medicine, alchemy, astrology, cosmology and theology. Please send two copies of session proposals or one-page abstracts, along with a copy of your current c.v. including e-mail address and phone number to stewart@binghamton.edu. The deadline for submission of proposals is **June 1, 2004**.



The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents, as part of its lecture series,

Collectors & Collecting

Renaissance Letter Collections and the Rhetoric of Intimacy



**KATHY
EDEN**

(Columbia University)

**Friday, April 30, 2004
at 1:30 in Room 122 in the
Library on The Ohio State
University Campus.**

Isaak Walton and the Culture of Collecting



**MARJORIE
SWANN**

(University of Kansas)

**Friday, May 21, 2004
at 1:30 in Room 122 in the
Library on The Ohio State
University Campus.**

Faculty Colloquium Series



John Wyclif - A "Shameless Worker for Women"

Featuring:
Alastair Minnis
(English)
Monday, April 26 4:00
311 Denney Hall



The Rhetoric of Anti-Authorship: Cultural Preeminence of *Gens de lettres* in 17th-Century France

Featuring:
Geoffrey Turnovsky
(French and Italian)
Monday, May 24 4:00
212 Cunz Hall

Kicking the Hobbit; Or, The Passion of the Frodo

By James I. McNelis, III
Associate Professor, English, Wilmington College

With 17 Oscars, Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy broke the traditional Academy disdain for fantasy. The surprise of this success reflects the confusion and confrontation which the fantasy genre has evoked in literary criticism, particularly J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* (hereafter *LotR*).



The first, highly favorable review — by C.S. Lewis, unsigned — was partly to blame, since people who disliked Lewis transferred their dislike to the object of his approval. The laudatory comparisons to Ariosto, Spencer, and Malory, made on the jacket flap of the first edition and by early reviewers, met similar objections. W. H. Auden predicted correctly that readers would either love the book or hate it ("I rarely remember a book about which I have had such violent arguments"). Edmund Wilson illustrated the latter reaction in 1956, dismissing the work as "juvenile trash," while Auden wrote that "Tolkien has succeeded where Milton failed."

Most negative reactions since that time focus on the book's cultic popularity among college students and teenagers, and its obvious financial success. Further, the book has been dismissed as a sequel to the well-liked *Hobbit* and, accordingly, as a jumped-up version of what started out as, and really was "nothing more" than, children's literature. To top it off, the posthumous appearance of the forbidding *Silmarillion* (the original all-encompassing chronicle of Tolkien's world, from its creation to the end of the Third Age) seemed evidence to many that a modest fairy-tale had grown in an aging author's obsessive mind into a bloated, humorless, and nearly incomprehensible alternate mythology (in one critic's words, a phonebook in Elvish).

Much critical distaste, then, stems from misleading impressions about the *composition* of the works. In fact, the *Silmarillion* was the origin of Tolkien's legendarium, beginning in 1917 and even earlier, to which *The Hobbit* was essentially unconnected (although when *LotR* was published, *Hobbit* chapter 5 was revised to connect Gollum's ring to the larger history). *LotR* is a hobbit's-eye view of the very end of the Third Age, and consequently, of the *Silmarillion*. Like Tolkien's play, *The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son*, *LotR* is a humble foot-soldier's take on events that had elsewhere been memorialized in nobleman's poetry: Sam is *LotR*'s real hero.

But that is only a small part of the controversy to surround the book in the last thirty-odd years. The coming of race/class/gender studies to works as far distant from our own time as *Beowulf* inevitably brings those approaches to a modern work largely inspired by *Beowulf*, Tolkien being compared to Wagner and assumed to hold racist ideologies. Despite a recent *New Yorker* column's assertion, Tolkien didn't actually use Wagner. His elves are blond and fair, not because they are Aryan, but because the IE root of "elf" is *albh-, "white," as in "albino." In OE literature the radiance of elves is hinted at in *Judith*, who is "aelfscinu"; their invincibility in combat is suggested in ME by the Green Knight's characterization as "an alusch mon." Their characteristics are linguistic and literary in origin — not political/racialist. In fact, JRRT was a profoundly independent thinker and a supporter of racial and gender equality, as his private correspondence shows.



Today, a new audience has come to Tolkien through Jackson's monumental films and New Line Cinema's financial gamble (not so risky perhaps as Unwin & Allen's first publishing Tolkien's volumes, but on a titanic scale even so). On balance I have to give them an enthusiastic thumbs-up, as something far better than one could reasonably have hoped for. Particular A+ grades must be



given for the filmmaker's success with Sam's heroism; the fascination of Gollum's character (as well as the pioneering digital effects which made him fully believable); the jaw-dropping New Zealand landscape; and many unforgettable scenes, such as the Rolandian martyrdom of Boromir, or Pippin's tearful singing before the deranged Denethor as the men of Gondor ride to their death. The film is at its most lyrical and poignant in such scenes, which fully evoke the book's deepest themes of death and the inevitability of change.

The film's flaws are those one expects from any mass-market blockbuster adaptation; the casting of a seventeen-year-old to play a fifty-year-old protagonist would be a case in point. Tolkien's most likely objections can be inferred from his retort to a botched screen treatment prepared during his lifetime: that the structure and logic of the story were unnecessarily damaged. It makes no sense for Frodo to reveal the Ring to a Nazgûl at Osgiliath, for example. The absence of Bombadil was acceptable even to Tolkien, but it removes the provenance of the ancient sword which was uniquely able to wound the leader of the Ringwraiths. Denethor's insanity is inexplicable if one does not know that he, like Saruman, possessed a Palantír (although this point may be redeemed in the lengthier DVD release of RotK). And, of course, the Scouring of the Shire is essential: "you can't go home again" is one of the book's themes.

Fantasy fiction is often accused of free-form non-causality, in which anything can happen for no good reason and critical respect is therefore impossible. But *LotR* is tightly plotted, and it is to be hoped the films do not blind the next generation of critics to the enormous thought and effort that went into the books' composition.

Events Around Campus

The Ohio State University School of Music features Lectures in Musicology. While the series includes a variety of lectures, two may be of particular interest to our readers; the second is co-sponsored by CMRS. All lectures take place in Sullivant Hall, Music/Dance Library and are free of charge.

The Baroque lute, an aesthetic approach, with an emphasis on ornamentation in relation to the tablature concept

Michel Cardin

(Université de Moncton)

Monday, May 3, 4:30 pm.



Secular Music in the Mass

Andrew Kirkman

(Rutgers University)

May 17, 4:30 pm



Come to the Faire

The Medieval and Renaissance Faire will be held on Saturday May 1, 2004, from 11 am to 6 pm on the OSU Mirror Lake, South Oval and West Lawn areas. The theme for this year's Faire is "May Day, a Marriage, and Some Musketeers." The Faire features performers who in the past have ranged from singers to sword fighters as well as vendors selling everything from period clothing and swords to candles and incense.

Events Off Campus



The 24th season of the **Early Music in Columbus** concert series concludes with a performance by **The Early Interval** on Friday, April 30, 2004 at 8:15 in Mees Hall at Capital University. The performance will be preceded by a 7:45 pm pre-concert lecture with Jim Bates.

The Early Interval will present "Treasures of

Venice," an exploration of some of the unique musical contributions made by the city of Venice during the middle ages, Renaissance and early Baroque. The concert will include selections from Ottaviano Petrucci's landmark publication, the *Odhecaton*, the first printed publication of polyphony. The *Odhecaton*, printed in Venice in 1501, contained examples of music by all the prominent composers of Europe working during the years immediately preceding its publication. Also included on the program will be works by Johannes Ciconia; instrumental canzonas by Venetian composers; virtuosic instrumental works by Giovanni Bassano and Girolamo Dalla Casa; music for viols by Giovanni Legrenzi; works by Hans Leo Hassler, who studied in Venice and imported the Venetian style to other parts of Europe; and music associated with the *commedia dell' arte*.

Tickets (\$25.00, \$20.00 senior and \$10.00 student) are available at the door or by calling Early Music in Columbus (614)861-4569.

At the Library

By Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer
Marti Alt



[AZ301 .L43 2003](#) MAIN

Learned Antiquity: Scholarship and Society in the Near East, the Greco-Roman World, and the Early Medieval West. Edited by Alasdair A. MacDonald, Michael W. Twomey, and Gerrit J. Reinink. Peeters, 2003.

[BR65.A68 G4 2004](#) MAIN

Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo. *De Moribus Ecclesiae Catholicae et de Moribus Manichaeorum.* German & Latin. *Die Lebensführung der katholischen Kirche und die Lebensführung der Manichaer / Augustinus.* Schöningh, 2004.

[BR305.3 .H36213 2004](#) MAIN

The Reformation of Faith in the Context of Late Medieval Theology and Piety: Essays by Berndt Hamm. Edited by Robert J. Bast. Brill, 2004.

[BV4207 .W38 2004](#) MAIN

Waters, Claire M. *Angels and Earthly Creatures: Preaching, Performance, and Gender in the Later Middle Ages.* University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

[BX4220.I8 L68 2003](#) MAIN

Lowe, K.J.P. *Nuns' Chronicles and Convent Culture in Renaissance and Counter-Reformation Italy.* Cambridge University Press, 2003.

[D151 .C78 2003](#) MAIN

The Crusades: a Reader. Edited by S.J. Allen and Emilie Amt. Broadview Press, 2003.



[DP125 .J49 2004](#) MAIN

Jews, Muslims, and Christians in and around the Crown of Aragon: Essays in Honour of Professor Elena Lourie. Edited by Harvey J. Hames. Brill, 2004

[HD6461.G72 L69 2003](#) MAIN

Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, Wardens' accounts and court minute books of the Goldsmith's mystery of London, 1334-1446. Edited by Lisa Jefferson. Boydell Press, 2003.

[HQ1147.B46 T49 2004](#) MAIN

The Texture of Society: Medieval Women in the Southern Low Countries. Edited by Ellen E. Kittell and Mary A. Suydam. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

At the Library, cont.



[ML410.G966 M32 2003](#) MUSIC Library
Machaut's Music: New Interpretations. Edited by Elizabeth Eva Leach. Boydell Press, 2003. Demonet et Alain Legros. (Travaux d'humanisme et Renaissance) Droz, 2004.

[PQ155.S7 H35 2004](#) MAIN
Haidu, Peter. *The subject Medieval/Modern: Text and Governance in the Middle Ages*. Stanford University Press, 2004.

[PQ4390 .D539 2004](#) MAIN
Diaz-Corralejo, Violeta. *Los Gestos en la Literatura Medieval*. Gredos, 2004.

[PQ4865.C6 Z645 2003](#) MAIN
Farronato, Cristina. *Eco's Chaosmos: From the Middle Ages to Postmodernity*. University of Toronto Press, 2003.

[PR275.M4 G75 2004](#) MAIN
Grigsby, Bryon Lee. *Pestilence in Medieval and Early Modern English Literature*. Routledge, 2004.

[PR275.M615 M65 2003](#) MAIN
The Monstrous Middle Ages. Edited by Bettina Bildhauer and Robert Mills. University of Toronto Press, 2003.

A list of additional newly-added resources is available at:
<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/ghumweb/medieval>.



The image on the cover is a grave-stone fragment with Viking Age animal ornament from the Coppergate Excavations.

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2003-2004**

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