Greetings

The biggest news is that we are going to be moving to Dulles 308 in late December or early January. We will share the former space of the Comparative Studies Department with Folklore and part of their archives. We are making adjustments because of the move. We will not have our annual end-of-the-Fall quarter party because Cunz Hall will be a mess of boxes. Instead we will have a party in our new space. We had hoped that this space would include a conference room, but that has been pulled from us to become a technology center for graduate students. Most disappointing. Because of the move and the disruptions that it will cause, we will not publish a January issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles. We will publish an issue later in the quarter.

We have, over the years, accumulated a number of books that have been given to the Center and also considerable runs of Renaissance Quarterly and Speculum. All books by our own faculty will go with us to the new quarters, but we will not try to take the others with us. We are offering them to students and faculty. They are scholarly books, primary texts, etc. Please stop by and look at them and plan to adopt some. They are free to a good home.


There are two major exhibits that are of interest to CMRS faculty and students. “Petra: Lost City of Stone” is on at the Cincinnati Art Museum through Jan. 30. Tim McNiven, CMRS affiliate and specialist in Greek and Roman Art at OSU Marion, has written up a description of the show in this issue. Cleveland Museum of Art has “Dukes and Angels: Art from the Court of Burgundy (1364-1419)” until Jan. 9.

See you in new space in the New Year.
Barbara
Among Us

Derek Alwes (Associate Professor, English) presented “The Penetrability and Impossibility of Privacy in Robert Greene’s Works” at the Interiority in Early Modern England Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Oct 15.

David Cressy (Professor, History) presented “The Laudians Fight Back: Conservative Responses to Religious Revolution, 1640-1642” at the University of Cambridge, October 13. He moderated the opening session of the Huntington Library British History Seminar on September 25.


Harvey Graff (Professor, English and History) was an invited scholar at the Division of Late Medieval and Reformation Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson, October 19-21.


John King (Professor, English) published “Baldwin, William (d. in or before 1563),” “Bale, John (1495-1563),” “Becke, Edmund (fl. 1549-1551),” “Moone, Peter (fl. 1548-1556),” “Seager [Segar], Francis (fl. 1549-1563),” “Underhill, Edward (b. 1512, d. in or after 1576),” in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, edited by H.C.G. Matthew and Brian Harrison (Oxford University Press, 2004).

Mark Rankin (Doctoral Candidate, English) presented “Saved by Imperial Majesty? The Account of Henry VIII in the Polemical Career of John Bale” at the Department of English annual Graduate Student Summer Fellowship reception, October 14.

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**For Our Affiliates…**

Please don’t forget that we are accepting nominations for the Stanley J. Kahrl Awards, which are given to the writers of the best undergraduate and graduate papers. If you need a nomination form, please contact CMRS and we will send you one as soon as possible. The nomination form is also available on our web site. We are asking for electronic submissions this year. The deadline for submission is **Wednesday, April 15, 2005**, by 5:00 p.m.
Leslie Lockett specializes in Old English and medieval Latin literature, manuscript studies, and intellectual history. She has published essays on vernacular and Latin poetry and is currently working on a book on early medieval concepts of mind and soul.

Heather Webb focuses on the literature, natural philosophy and spirituality of thirteenth and fourteenth-century Italy. She has an article forthcoming on Dante’s physiology of poetic creation in his “rime petrose,” another on Catherine of Siena’s vision of heart and spirit function and a third that focuses on Giovanni da San Gimignano’s moral and medical descriptions of sense perception. She is working on a manuscript entitled “The Medieval Heart” which traces out the relationships between medical, spiritual and poetic visions of heart function.

Exhibits

“Dukes and Angels: Art from the Court of Burgandy (1364-1419)” will run at the Cleveland Museum of Art through January 9, 2005. Admission is $8 for adults; $7 for seniors and college students; $5 for groups of 15 or more; $4 for students ages 6 to 18; free for CMA members and children five and under. For more information, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or 216-421-7350, or visit the Exhibition website at <http://www.clevelandart.org/exhibits/burgundy.html/>.

“Petra: Lost City of Stone” will run at the Cincinnati Art Museum through January 30, 2005. (See the description of this exhibition by Timothy McNiven in this issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles for more information about the background and objects on display.) Admission is $12 for adults; $10 for seniors and students; and $6 for children. For more information, call 513.721-ARTS (2787), or visit the exhibition website at: <http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/petra/index.shtml>.
Medieval and Renaissance Studies 504

ARTHURIAN LEGENDS

Professor Karen Winstead
(Dept. of English)

MW 3:30-5:18
Denney Hall 214
UG 5 credit hours
Call # 13205-0
Medieval and Renaissance Studies 610

History of the Book

Prof. John N. King  
(Distinguished University Professor, Humanities Distinguished Professor of English & of Religious Studies)

Prof. James Bracken  
(Assistant Director of University Libraries, Adjunct Professor of English)

MW 1:30-3:18  
Hagerty Hall 359  
UG 5 credit hours  
Call # 13206-5
Animal Identities

a lecture by
Jeffrey J. Cohen
George Washington University

1:30 pm, Friday
January 21, 2005
122 Main Library

This is the third in our 2004-05 Lecture Series
Nature
in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Conversation and refreshments with the speaker will follow the lecture, in the same room.
Nature and Fantasy in the Islamic Garden

D. Fairchild Ruggles
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

1:30 pm, Friday
February 4, 2005
122 Main Library

This is the fourth in our 2004-05 Lecture Series

Nature in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Conversation and refreshments with the speaker will follow the lecture, in the same room.
“Petra: Lost City of Stone,” at the Cincinnati Art Museum until January 30, 2005, is a surprisingly large display of the history, art, and architecture of this legendary ancient city in Jordan. The exhibit was conceived around a core of objects in the museum’s collection (excavated in 1937), but includes many objects from the Amman Museum which come from very recent excavations at the site.

Most people know Petra for its spectacular rock-cut architecture. I remember a friend’s reaction to it when we were watching the newly released “Indiana Jones and the Holy Grail.” Indy and his crew come out of the narrow canyon and stop in awe in front of the baroque façade of the Khazneh tomb, carved from banded red sandstone. My friend thought this was a terrific special effect, but was even more impressed to learn that it is real, rather than something Spielberg had dreamed up. In place of the actual tombs, the organizers of the exhibition have substituted wonderful 19th century prints and paintings. A feeling of actually being there comes from a video tour of the site and an impressive threescreen photographic display which pans around the horizon and up and down some of the monuments. The former will answer most questions about the site and the ancient Nabataeans who created it. The latter, almost a work of installation art in itself, will fascinate you with the scale of the place and the interplay of light, color, and texture there.
I had two preconceptions about the art of Petra before seeing this show. First, that the sculpture, including the pieces that are in the Cincinnati collection, is enthusiastic but crude. And second, that the pottery (my own field of study) was eggshell thin and elegant. The pottery lived up to expectations, though you will probably not remember having seen any by the end of this large show. The real surprise for me was the range of quality in the sculpture, and here the pieces from Jordan altered my opinion significantly. There are indeed crude, distorted, simplified figures in the show, especially those pieces made of the local coarse sandstone. On the other hand, there were also pieces, carved from a fine-grained limestone, that were elegant and detailed and showed a remarkable synthesis of Classical and Near Eastern forms. A favorite example of this was the column capital from Petra that was based on a Roman model, but with the corner volutes replaced by the heads of Asian elephants.

The human form was also represented in a range of modes, from extremely abstract “eye-idol” slabs that would have pleased Brancusi to Classicizing heads that would not have looked unusual in Roman Italy. Much of the sculpture in the exhibit falls somewhere between these two extremes, a simplified, almost folk-art kind of Classicism comparable to that known from Palmyra or Roman Egypt. Here, even when the workmanship was crude, the details overwhelming, or the proportions awkward, the iconography was fascinating. There are unfamiliar local gods, sometimes assimilated to Greek ones,
and a pre-occupation with the zodiac, often in a bewilderingly odd order. These are probably some of the gods Mohammed railed against.

Petra was a city based on trade, an entrepot on the incense route that supplied the Roman Empire. It is not surprising then to see in the exhibit a piece of Egyptian sculpture, an ivory pin that may have come from India, and an almost life-sized bronze figure of Diana. The Romans, in fact, annexed this part of Arabia in AD 106, which is symbolized by an imported marble head of the Roman prince Aelius Caesar. Changing trade routes subsequently led to the decline of the city, which was also badly damaged by an earthquake in 363. Still there were enough people left to build an elaborate Byzantine church, whose furniture is partly reconstructed at the end of the show. In that church were found a series of carbonized papyrus documents, one of which, still legible if you know cursive Mediaeval Greek, is also on display.

“Petra: Lost City of Stone” has something to offer just about anyone: the art historian, the student of ancient religion, the archaeologist, the armchair traveler. Leaving the show, I had gained a better sense of the reality of the place without diminishing the lure of the “rose-red city half as old as time.” Royal Jordanian Airlines could probably have sold me a ticket if they’d had a booth in the exhibition shop.
The Graduate Medievalists at Berkeley will host their Annual Spring Conference April 29-30, 2005 on the UC Berkeley campus. The theme this year is “Outsiders, Monsters, and Twisted Visions: The Marginal and Marginalia Within and Without the Text.” Abstracts of 250 words should be sent in by December 10th to Amelia Borrego, borregoa@berkeley.edu. Please include your name, affiliation, and contact information.

The Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies (MANCASS) is sponsoring a two-day postgraduate conference in order to promote Anglo-Saxon Studies. The conference will be held March 7-8. The conference title is “Anglo-Saxon Books and Libraries,” but this is intended to be a widely inclusive title, and prospective participants are encouraged to read it as imaginatively as possible. Proposals should be no more than 300 words and should be sent as an attachment to angsaxpg@yahoo.co.uk. The last day for submissions is January 17, 2005.

The International Medieval Society, Paris (IMS-Paris) is currently seeking abstracts for its symposium “Patronage and the Court, with Annual Interdisciplinary Session on Medieval Paris,” which will be held June 30-July 2, 2005 at the École nationale des charters in Paris. Abstracts are invited that address issues of the ‘court’ and its patronage in medieval France. The IMS is also seeking abstracts for its annual interdisciplinary session(s) on Medieval Paris. Papers may address any issue of medieval Paris and need not be linked to the principal theme of the Symposium. Abstracts of no more than 300 words for a 15-20 minute paper should be emailed to Meredith Cohen at mmcohen@skidmore.edu. In addition to the abstract, please submit full contact information and a tentative assessment of any audiovisual equipment required for your presentation. The deadline for abstract submission is January 15, 2005.
At the Library

By Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt

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At the Library, cont.

PA2902 .B68 2004. Main

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