

NOUVELLES

Nouvelles



In Memoriam
Nicholas Howe

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
October 2006

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

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Greetings

We begin the 2006-2007 academic year on a sad note with the news of Nick Howe's death. Many of you will have known Nick far better than I, but even in the few months when our paths crossed at OSU he left a strong impression on me. Typical of his generosity was a remark he made when we met at the Medieval Academy just over a year ago; after congratulating me on becoming director of CMRS and enquiring eagerly how things were going, he made a point of insisting that I should never feel myself bound by any of the decisions he had made or any of the policies he had instituted. "Make sure you do it your own way," he urged. The strength of feeling inspired by his memory is attested by all those who have contributed tributes to this issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles*, and there will be further opportunities for its expression later on. On Friday, November 20, there is to be a gathering of his friends and former colleagues in the Faculty Club (at 2:30 in Rooms A, B, and C), to celebrate Nick's life and career, and to drink a glass of wine to his memory (I have been assured by many people that the last thing Nick himself would have wanted was a lugubrious gathering of long-faced mourners). At that time we will be announcing the establishment of a fund in his memory to provide travel and research fellowships for graduate students in CMRS; given Nick's love of travel and his dedication to graduate teaching this seemed to us a fitting way to mark his long association with OSU. I am particularly grateful to my predecessor in this office, Barbara Hanawalt, for her help and advice in setting this up.

Life goes on, however, and our new lecture series (on 'The marvelous') was given a rousing send-off last week by Tom Shippey, speaking on the topic of "Magic Comes Back: The Inklings and After." We have

Greetings, cont...

received such a flood of compliments on this lecture that we're hoping to be able to stream it from our website. Further speakers this quarter are Peter Platt, from Barnard (on November 3) and Geraldine Heng, from Texas (on December 1). Hard as it might be to follow Shippey's act, we're expecting equally great things of them. Before we get there, however, I might remind you that we will be having a colloquium speaker, Dick Davis, on Friday, October 27 (in Hagerty 306, at 2:30); Dick will be speaking on "Adultery East and West, *Vis and Ramin* and *Tristan and Isolde*" (though in private he confessed to me he'd toyed with the idea of calling it "What's a nice Persian princess like you doing in such a sad Celtic tale?"). We're all looking forward to Dick's usual mixture wit, elegance, and insight.

My final reminder is that our association with the Folger Library is now in full swing and that anyone who wishes to avail themselves of the rich opportunities it has opened up should get in touch with Professor John King in the English department for more information.

With best wishes,

Richard Firth Green
Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies



Among Us

Frank T. Coulson (Professor, Greek and Latin) moderated panels entitled “Varia” and “Middle English Texts,” Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29 and 30.

Richard Dutton (Professor, English) published a review of *Wotton and His Worlds: Spying, Science and Venetian Intrigues*. by Gerald Curzon. *Renaissance Studies* 20, 4 (2006): 591-2.

Alan B. Farmer (Assistant Professor, English) published “Play Reading, News Reading, and Ben Jonson’s *The Staple of News*.” *The Book of the Play: Playwrights, Stationers, and Readers in Early Modern England*. Ed. Marta Straznickay. Amherst: U of Massachusetts, 2006. 127-58.



Anna A. Grotans (Associate Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures) moderated a panel entitled “Classical and Late Antique Texts,” Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29.

Hannibal Hamlin (Associate Professor, English-Mansfield) has been appointed Book Review Editor and Associate Editor of *Reformation*.

Barbara Hanawalt (Professor, History) presented “Defining Live Experiences for Urban and Rural Youth in Late Medieval England” at the International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, United Kingdom, July 11-14.

Daniel Hobbins (Assistant Professor, History) moderated a panel entitled “Varia,” Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epi-

Among Us, cont...

graphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 30.

Christopher A. Jones (Professor, English) presented "The Manuscript Glosses to Odo of Cluny's *Occupatio*," Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 30.

Brian Joseph (Professor, Linguistics and Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures) was awarded an honorary doctorate by La Trobe University in Australia. He gave a public lecture after the ceremony entitled "Life Lessons from Historical Linguistics: On Language Change and the Time Dimension."



John N. King (Professor, English) published *Foxe's Book of Martyrs and Early Modern Print Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. He has also been appointed Editor of *Reformation*.

Lisa Kiser (Professor, English) was the Chair and Session Organizer for a panel entitled "Chaucer's Dream Visions," New Chaucer Society, New York City, July 27. She also presented "Margery Kempe and the Animalization of Christ," Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29.

Ethan Knapp (Associate Professor, English) presented "Crossing the Pond: Diversities of Close Reading in North American and British Criticism," New Chaucer Society, New York City, July 29.

Leslie Lockett (Assistant Professor, English) presented “Retrograde Verse in Theory and in Practice: The Troubling Transmission of an Unedited Manual *Hec est forma componendi uersus retrogrades*,” Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 30. She also presented “Insular and Carolingian Interpretations of ‘corpus’ and ‘res’ in Donatus: Definition of the Noun,” Fifth International Congress on Medieval Latin Studies, York University, Toronto, ON, August 2.

Michael Meckler (Permanent Fellow, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies) presented “Releasing sins in Vergil’s margins: a liturgical prosa in *Bern, Burgerbibliothek Codex 167*,” Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29.

Mark Rankin (Ph.D. candidate, English) presented “God Sometimes Hardneth the Hearts of Good Princes: The ‘Undecent and Uncomely Behaviour’ of King Henry VIII in Foxe’s *Acts and Monuments*,” Fifth International Conference of the Tudor Symposium, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Piliscsaba, Hungary, August 5.

Phoebe Spinrad (Associate Professor, English) published “The Sacralization of Revenge in *Antonio’s Revenge*,” *Comparative Drama* 39.2 (2005): 169-85 [Publ. 2006].

Michael VanDussen (Ph.D. Student, English) presented “The Myth of Bohemia in English Religious Controversy before the Henrician Reformation,” 7th Symposium on the Bohemian Reformation and Religious Practice, under the auspices of the Philosophical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Hussite Theological Faculty of the Charles University, Vila Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic, June 23.

Bernadette Vankeerbergen (Ph.D. Candidate, English) presented “Indeterminacy in Lydgate’s *Temple of Glass*,” New Chaucer Soci-

ety, New York City, July 31.

Among Us, cont...

Dawn Simmons Walts (Ph.D. Candidate, English) presented "Tricks of Time: The Power of Time Reckoning in the *Canterbury Tales*," New Chaucer Society, New York City, July 29.

Heather Webb (Assistant Professor, French and Italian) moderated a panel entitled "Greek and Hebrew Texts," Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29.

Karen Winstead (Associate Professor, English) presented "The Abbotsford *Legenda aurea*: Rewriting Holiness in Fifteenth-Century England," Texts and Contexts Conference, Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, Columbus, September 29.

Elizabeth Zimmerman (Ph.D. Student, English) published "'It is Not the Deed but the Intention of the Doer': The Ethic of Intention and Consent in the First Two Letters of Heloise." *Forum for Modern Language Studies* 42 (2006): 249-267.



Nouvelles Nouvelles is not the place to list Nick Howe's many academic achievements and honors, nor to number his impressive and varied publications. There are far more august and widely read publications than ours fit for such a purpose. We have simply sought here to evoke his memory with a series of simple tributes from some of the many friends who worked with him and who benefited from his presence during the time he spent with us at Ohio State.



I think everyone who knew Nick realized that he was an extraordinary amalgam of often paradoxical qualities and virtues. He was modest and courteous, but he could also be justly and impatiently dismissive of smug mediocrity and self-serving careerism. He was a scholar who dug deep in his own field, but he had extremely catholic intellectual sympathies, and could talk about almost any kind of writing with sympathy and erudition. He had a certain reserve and shyness and formality to him, and yet he gave the most wonderful parties, and the wicked martinis he mixed were known to be the best in Columbus and for all I know the best anywhere. To me he was an immediately welcoming colleague when I first came to Ohio State, and he soon became a friend. We shared many intellectual interests, which certainly drew me to him, but I also came to love him simply as a man, as a benign presence in the college, as a force for good, and for the life of the mind. At one point we talked of collaborating on a book, an annotated edition of the travels of the medieval Arab writer Ibn Battuta (Nick loved travel literature, of all periods and from any culture, and he was extremely knowledgeable about it). I think even when we excitedly discussed the project together we both knew that it was unlikely either of us would ever have the necessary time to put aside for it; nevertheless the sheer planning and

Nick Howe, cont...

talking about it were almost reward enough. Well, may we complete it one day, somewhere; Nick, you are much missed.

Dick Davis



In recalling Nick Howe, my strongest impression is of someone the French call an *érudit*. Nick was a learned man, in love with ideas, fascinated with history, and equipped with a sharp, critical apparatus that cut through myth, cant, sloth, and pretense. In his scholarly and public writing, Nick wrote gracefully and with passion. He had the spirit of a joyful traveler who, wherever he found himself, applied to words and ideas, landscapes and people, the lens of an engaged and compassionate observer. Nick always saw color and contrast. He liked the mysterious and open-ended and knew how to laugh at his own and at all our foibles. A wonderful colleague, Nick loved teaching and he gave generously to Ohio State. With Georgina, he warmly welcomed new faculty members and introduced them to the university community. Their lovely, book-laden house on Clinton Heights Avenue was the scene of long delicious meals and lively conversation under the beautiful eyes of Lola and Mimi. A man of courage, Nick faced the deaths of his beloved parents and his own illness with strength and dignity.

Carole Fink



Among Nick's many gifts was a great capacity for the pleasures of living: for good books, good food and drink, good company, and for exploring all kinds of places. Nick shared these pleasures with others, hosting, along with Georgina, numerous convivial gatherings at their house and recommending an extraordinarily varied selection of books to his friends. Nick was also a great traveling companion, not only good

company but so well informed about the places one visited with him and so appreciative of what they had to offer. While it is not hard to be attentive to what one sees and experiences in Conques or Albi or the Berkshires; it is another matter to seek out The Spot in Sydney, Ohio. Nick's ability to gain pleasure and to learn from all manner of places was extraordinary and is palpably present in the pages of his sensitive and insightful book *Across an Inland Sea: Writing in Place from Buffalo to Berlin*. Nick, too, is palpably present in those pages and one can connect with him there, which, I hope, will help us to endure the absence of a much-loved friend.

Barbara Haeger



Nick's enthusiasm was catching. His interest in CMRS and his plans for it were among the reasons that I decided to come to Ohio State University from Minnesota. Having arrived here, Nick and Georgina became some of our first friends in Ohio. My husband Ron and I delighted in visiting with them for an evening. At their house the evening started with great martinis and some sort of goodies that Georgina had made to go with them. Conversation was always wonderful. Nick and Ron shared an interest in Leica cameras so that we often saw pictures of trips that Nick and Georgina took or that we took. It was wonderful to listen to Georgina and Nick cooking together. Nick's touch was always light in the kitchen, aiding when necessary, but leaving Georgina to produce her wonderful meals. But when he took over the grill and did lamb chops, he built a roaring fire that looked as if it would consume the garage. It never did. We always laughed. When we got a new kitten and it climbed up next to a bottle of Chateauneuf du Pape, Nick insisted that we take a picture of our *chat neuf* next to the label. Nick liked good wines and collected them. Sharing wines also made the evenings together wonderful.

Barbara A. Hanawalt



Nick Howe, cont...

Nick Howe ushered me into Ohio State, as he did many of us, I imagine, such a great connector of people he was. He made cheerful cynical remarks to calm my fears of tenure boogeymen hiding in unknown academic closets—that these were not uncharted waters full of monsters, as nervous junior faculty tend to believe; one simply had to put things in the file right away instead of losing them. He groomed me to take over the Gothic Paris course, which he had gamely assumed as head of CMRS with the abrupt departure of my predecessor. Although it was not really in his field and he took it over under some duress, it was clear that he had real affection for the course. “You get them in there the first day, and show them some beautiful slides of the whole city taken from the top of Notre Dame, they’ll be hooked.” The course has had many incarnations—lots of *Chanson de Roland* in the days of Hans Erich Keller, more art history under the Morgansterns, lots of guest lectures over the years from many of our able faculty. Nick steered it in the direction of geography: a walk through a still-living Gothic city. He passed along his Gothic Paris slides when he left for California, and I remain grateful for the many practical ideas that came with them.

Sarah-Grace Heller



Nick Howe was my friend, but he was also my mentor, and it is that side of him about which I want to say something. Nick taught me most of what I know about how the College and the University work, and particularly taught me how to make a vision become reality within the academic world. I have thought of him nearly every day since the middle of July, when I learned I would become Director of the College’s new Program for the Study of Religions, and I have often imagined what advice he would be giving me as I begin that job. What I admired most about him as an administrator was his ability to bring together people with diverse interests and motivate them to work towards something great. If I can do even half as well at that as Nick did, I will be pleased—and grateful to him.

Sarah Iles Johnston



We all mourn the loss of a dear friend. The more personal memories come first at such a time as we remember with gratitude Nick's affability, hospitality, humor, and deeply loyal friendship. Yet for those of us who shared his professional scholarly interests, Nick's death is a double blow, since he was one of the most creative, insightful, and eloquent critics working in the field of Anglo-Saxon literature. That is, in a discipline often the preserve of scholars known more for technical rigor than imagination and grace, Nick was a delightful exception; his books, articles, and reviews are instantly recognizable for the sheer breadth of their literary reference, for their determination to address big ideas, and for their strikingly eloquent, personal voice. To say that someone lived for his work is not always a compliment today. But, in the best sense, Nick did live for his scholarship—not by leading a pedantic, one-note existence, but rather by animating his academic work through his other passions, including travel, photography, and world literature. Perhaps because of this seamlessness in his own life, Nick managed to bring the past and present into dialogue with each other in a rare way. During his last decades, that dialogue centered on the topics of migration, place, and identity, and many of us at O.S.U. had the pleasure of hearing Nick's reflections on those themes, accompanied by slides and wonderful anecdotes of his and Georgina's travels. With strength and bravery Nick managed, just before the last, debilitating phase of his illness, to complete his final book, a series of essays on place in Anglo-Saxon England. While having that book will be no substitute for having Nick still among us, it will be a monument we can cherish as the culmination, albeit too soon, of a brilliant, vibrant career.

Drew Jones



Nick Howe, cont...

Walking into the room, the external examiner began to remove a few books of Greek poetry from a leather bag. As I had never seen an external examiner bring books with him to a doctoral exam, I wondered what he would do with them. He was a professor of English and this was a dissertation defense in Modern Greek. We introduced ourselves across the table. Our newcomer was Nick Howe, just recently arrived to the department of English. He surprised us during the examination with some pointed questions about the topic, speaking like an expert himself, quoting from the poetry, commenting on it. And then he threw the most tantalizing detail, that, having grown up in a Greek-American household, he heard poetry from his mother, grandparents, aunts and uncles. A Greek-American at the university and we did not know him? Howe did not sound Greek. Nick, yes but not Howe. Maybe it had been originally Howapoulos, or Howesakis? My colleague and I, who felt in some ways part of a club in our Greekness, were now desperate for an answer.

After the last handshake with the relieved student, we turned to our visitor. We wouldn't let him out of the room, we warned him, if he did not come clean. Amused, he told us his story — about his Jewish father and Greek mother, about the modernist and the classical philologist and about the son who decided to split the difference by going into Medieval Studies.

Over the course of our friendship, I realized that Nick knew a lot about other subjects as well. Food and conversation were just as important to Nick as the study of Old English: a Thanksgiving Day dinner prepared and presented like a Dutch painting, peaches delivered to our door from the “best” orchard near Utica. Did I know about the ice cream factory there? No, even though we had been in Columbus for five years. Another day we received a basket of raspberries from the Rothschild Berry Farm. A Rothschild farm in Ohio? He had discovered so much about central Ohio in one year.

That was Nick, a person who loved literature, who visited small places as if they were world hotspots, who opened his house to others more than most people, and who was at home in many traditions. He was a cosmopolitan who saw the beauty in uncelebrated locations, a man who could speak with passion of peaches

and poetry.

Gregory Jusdanis



Nick was the most sociable person we have ever known. Not only was he a genial host, eager to provide his work-weary academic friends with potables and victuals from his well-supplied kitchen, but he also forged, and continued to maintain, a wide range of friendships in the non-academic world. He was on a first-name basis with mail carriers, camera salesmen, itinerant bricklayers, veterinarians, auto mechanics, garbagemen, photographers, window-cleaners, plumbers, and home-remodelers. While they lived in Columbus, Nick and Georgina were our colleagues, neighbors, and very close friends. We spent countless hours with them at movies (you could often find us in the front row at the Drexel Theater), in restaurants, on road-trips and walks. We shared novels, food, drink, opinions and the prose from our pens. We helped each other through crises and we celebrated each other's joys. Nick's verbal wit, his love of good jokes (he was our primary source), his instinct for fun, and his knowledge of how to keep darkness at bay made the Nick-and-Georgina years among the best of our lives.

Of Nick we can say much that others who knew him can, from their own experience, not only confirm but expand upon and embellish. He had more information about more things (great and small, sublime and trivial, ponderous and weightless, heavy and light, thick and thin) than anyone we have ever met. He was as comfortably at ease with a medieval text as with a common bandsaw, as competently proficient with a word-processor as with an exotic coffeemaker or a devilishly complicated, professional-grade SLR camera, as deeply knowledgeable about Anglo-Saxon literature and culture as about movies, wine, food, sports, music, art, architecture, horticulture, landscape design, beer, bivalves, arthropods, cars, monorails, and scores of other things too esoteric to mention. But most of all, he was expert in the art of living, of living well, in the broadest, grandest, most

estimable sense the sense that is captured in the Greek term *eudaimonia*. *Eudaimonia* is perhaps best described as human flourishing, the state of life that is most worth living, the state in which, according to Aristotle, humans realize the potentiality of their natural endowment, of their nature. It is a life of living well by doing well. We think it is fair to say that if living well were an Olympic event, Nick would be a gold medalist. He was a good scholar, good teacher, good traveler, good husband, good cook, good friend—in all, a good man. He was, as another tradition would have it, a mensch. He had many gifts, and he was generous with them all. It is not at all inappropriate to conclude this brief commentary with a metaphor evocative of the period that Nick knew so well. In the mead hall of life, Nick was a bountiful ring-giver. He has enriched our lives immensely, and we will miss him not a little. *Dulcis amor lacrymis absentem plangit amicum; scis, o impia mors, quem rapuisti?*

Lisa Kiser
Jim Battersby



One of my favorite memories of Nick is of the annual Howe/Kleege book-giveaway summer barbeque, when Nick and his wife Georgina would clean out their bookshelves and invite graduate students to their home to eat, drink, make merry, and carry off as many books as possible. I vividly remember Nick, in shorts and flip-flops, presiding over these events, poking at a grill laden with chicken wings and burgers and encouraging his students in their book selections. It is characteristic of Nick that the books he offered weren't just on medieval topics, but ranged widely from contemporary fiction, to feminist criticism, to modern intellectual history, to political philosophy. Nick had already read each one.

Nick gave his students so many gifts. He designed inspiring courses, commented extensively on our written work, mentored us long after we had ceased to be his students in any formal sense of the word, and wrote countless letters of recommendation. But one of the greatest gifts Nick gave is captured, I think, in the spirit that lay behind those summer book-giveaways, namely, his

strong belief that in order to become the kind of scholars that he wanted us to be (and that he so much exemplified), we needed to read widely, both inside and outside our chosen fields, and to ask “big questions,” that is, questions that are important not only within medieval studies but also in the modern world. And he gave us the courage, through the brilliant and expansive nature of his own research, to believe that by reading widely and opening our minds to fields outside our own that our research would have a real impact – both inside the academy, and beyond. I miss Nick enormously and know that there are many times when I will want to pick up the phone and ask him a question about teaching or research. But when I find myself trying to emulate him in the breadth of my reading and interests, or encouraging my students to do the same, I will know that he is still here with us.

Stacy S. Klein



Nick Howe and I began teaching at Ohio State in the same year, 1991: he as an associate professor focusing on Old English, and I as a newly-minted assistant professor focusing on nineteenth-century American literature. The first time I met Nick, in the halls of the English department on a hot August day, I could tell that he was someone special. He sported a great tan from having spent much of the summer working in the garden of his new house and building bookshelves in his driveway, and he gave me great advice about where to buy everything from a washing machine to fresh arugula. Yet he could move easily from that advice to giving me the history of a particular English word, or delving into the aesthetics of photography—a shared interest of ours. Soon, he and his wife Georgina Kleege invited me to their house for dinner, and they quickly became wonderful mentors and friends.

Nick Howe, cont...

When I bought my first house in 1993, Nick appeared at my doorstep with a bright red toolbox filled with everything I would need

to do basic house maintenance. It was red, he said, not in homage to Ohio State's scarlet and grey, but because it would be easy to find when one needed a tool quickly. Over the years, Nick taught me to use many of those tools, coming to help me when the sashes on my windows broke or when I needed to hang a picture, and giving me recommendations on the best plasterer, painter, or electrician in town. His experience and knowledge helped me become a much more confident home owner.

The house tools in that red box were, however, not the only tools that Nick shared with me. Through his advice and his example, he gave me tools for leading a successful academic life. These tools are too numerous to list fully here, but they include the following:

Leadership skills. Nick embodied for me the principle of collaborative, active leadership. The initiatives he brought to CMRS are a key example of that, but he also showed such leadership within the English Department and the College of Humanities. In 1999, for example, he chaired a committee charged with looking at the future priorities of the College. He brought his characteristic energy to the task, guiding a diverse committee to reach consensus over the course of long weekly meetings. (In characteristic fashion, he held a dinner at his house to celebrate the completion of the report.) He also guided the English Department through a report on its Ph.D. program for the Ohio Board of Regents that was a model of its kind, and is still a valuable resource for the department.

Collegiality. Nick loved talking to colleagues about their research, their teaching, and about departmental and university governance. He hosted numerous parties; made sure that people met each other who might share common interests; mentored and celebrated with junior faculty; rejoiced when colleagues had a book or article accepted; and comforted them when there was disappointing news. He encouraged his students and colleagues to aim high, and he also took individual successes to be communal successes.

Crossing boundaries. Nick believed in the virtues of

specialized research and achieved great success in his field, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Yet he also believed passionately in the virtues of “public humanities.” He loved bringing together people with shared interests from different areas; he loved writing about *Beowulf* for a mainstream audience; he loved giving a College of Humanities “Inaugural Lecture” on the connection between Anglo Saxon history and our own time; he loved making the case to the Ohio Humanities Council for the importance of various CMRS lecture series. This past year, he rejoiced that Georgina had given a keynote address at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on the topic of “Art Beyond Sight.” He believed that the scholarly life could enhance our collective cultural life, and he practiced that in innumerable ways.

I still have the red tool box, and it is indeed easy to find. A colleague like Nick Howe is less easy to find. Even as I grieve his passing, however, I rejoice at all of the tools that he has left us, tools that will ultimately help us continue to build our collective life together.

Susan Williams



The Kahrl Awards

The Stanley Kahrl awards for best graduate and under-graduate essay were handed out at our end-of-the-year party in May. The winners were...

Graduate Student Essay:

Matthew Chudnow, for “The ‘Kiritsubo’ Chapter and *The Song of Lasting Regret*: Intertextual Dynamics in Murasaki Shikibu’s *Genji monogatari* (The Tale of Genji)”

Undergraduate Student Essay:

Roopa Thakur, for “Chivalry and Courtly Honor in the Medieval and Victorian Illustrations of the Legends of Sir Lancelot and Sir Gawain”



Calls for Papers

We have received a large number of calls for papers and are in the process of updating our website to include them all. To view these, please visit: <http://cmrs.osu.edu/opps/cfp.cfm>.

Upcoming Events

Faculty Colloquium:

A Faculty Colloquium talk entitled “Adultery East and West, *Vis and Ramin* and *Tristan and Isolde*” will be given by **Dick Davis** (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) on Friday, October 27 at 2:30pm. The lecture will be held in 306 Hagerty Hall. Dick writes: “My talk will re-examine the possibility that the Persian romance *Vis and Ramin* (written c.1050) may have had some connection with the development of the *Tristan* story. I’ll draw attention not only to the numerous parallels of plot and character between the two tales, but also to the presence in *Vis and Ramin* of literary conventions associated with European courtly love narratives (e.g. the validation of adultery).”

Lecture Series:

On 3 November at 2:30 pm in Room 090 of the Science and Engineering Library, Peter Platt (Associate Professor of English, Barnard College) will present “Wondering about the ‘Wondrer’: Paradox, the Marvelous, and Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale*.”

Folger Institute:

Faculty and advanced graduate students are invited to apply for the following two seminars:

Staging Political Thought

A Late-Spring Seminar directed by Conal Condren (University of New South Wales)

This seminar is sponsored by the Center for the History of British Political Thought to bring together scholars of literature and intellectual history to examine plays from the Shakespearean corpus in the context of the issues in political thought that were being addressed in England from the late-sixteenth to early-seventeenth centuries. As the history of political thought has characteristically been concerned with the formation and interplay of doctrines, the seminar will give attention to the rather different functions that political vocabularies, languages, and propositions can have when

Upcoming Events, cont...

transformed on the stage as topoi, plot mechanisms, role-markers, and allusions, as well as issues put before an audience for debate. The seminar will also attend to the difficulties of extrapolating doctrines and ideological commitments from dramatic evidence. Each week will concentrate on a contemporary political theme and its manifestations in a small number of plays: counsel and rule; tyranny and misrule; casuistry and principled conduct; citizenship and patriotism. Some attention will also be given to the often conspicuous absence of the burning issues of confessional hostility and to the diminishing importance of oath-taking and breaking in Shakespeare's plays. The plays discussed will cover the range of Shakespeare's work: *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, *Richard III*, and *King Lear*. Visiting faculty will include Jean Howard (Columbia University) and Peter Lake (Princeton University).

Director: Conal Condren is Scientia Professor Emeritus in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of New South Wales. His publications include *The Language of Politics in Seventeenth-Century England* (1994) and *Satire, Lies, and Politics: The Case of Dr. Arbuthnot* (1997). His *Argument and Authority in Early Modern England* is forthcoming.

Schedule: Thursdays and Fridays, 1 - 4:30 p.m., 17 May through 15 June 2007.

Application Deadline: 3 January 2007 for admission (and grants-in-aid for Folger consortium affiliates). Visit www.folger.edu/institute for our online application form. Questions? Contact institute@folger.edu.

The Spanish Connection

A Late-Spring Seminar directed by Barbara Fuchs (University of Pennsylvania)

This seminar will examine the place of Spain in early modern English culture. The premise of the seminar is that to make sense of England's strategies of self-definition and self-representation in

the sixteenth and early-seventeenth century we must, paradoxically, turn to Spain. For despite the differences created by the Reformation, English incursions in the New World, and the conflicts in Ireland and the Netherlands, England remained, both culturally and politically, in Spain's debt. In a period that begins with the marriage of Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon, and that briefly rehearses the dynastic allegiance at mid-century, when Mary Tudor marries Philip II (and, again, as farce, with the attempted "Spanish marriage" of Charles I), the two nations remained closely linked by literary and imperial preoccupations and by England's insistent imitation of Spain's primacy. Topics will include the role of Spain as imperial and cultural model, the production and dissemination of the Black Legend, and the creation of an English literary canon from Spanish materials. The goal will be to move beyond the Armada moment, with its emphasis on conflict, to the multiple and productive connections that characterize the period, particularly in terms of English literary nationalism. Readings will range from pamphlets and travel narratives to translations of Spanish originals to Elizabethan and Jacobean drama and such other materials as will be relevant to participants' research.

Director: Barbara Fuchs is Associate Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Mimesis and Empire: The New World, Islam, and European Identities* (2001), *Passing for Spain: Cervantes and the Fictions of Identity* (2003), and *Romance* (2004).

Schedule: Thursdays, 1 - 4:30 p.m., and Fridays 10 am - 1:00 p.m., 17 May through 15 June 2007.

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