Nouvelles

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
November 2006
Greetings

With this issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles* we officially launch the *Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund*, which is intended to provide travel support for students researching medieval and early modern topics. Nick was a great traveler himself and a great believer in the value of travel, so this seems a particularly apt way to commemorate his time with us at Ohio State. We have already received an encouraging number of contributions and we have promises of several more, but the prospect is nonetheless daunting. Under its new rules, the university requires endowed funds (and endowment is vital if we wish this award to keep Nick’s memory alive in perpetuity, rather than simply until the money runs out) to reach a minimum level of $50,000. This is a tall order for a small program like ours, but I intend to make this particular fund our flagship appeal over the next few years (which means that this is not the last time you’ll be hearing from me about it!), and with a display of the same kind of generosity and good will that typified Nick Howe himself I’m confident we can make it. If you wish to help us get this eminently worthwhile project off the ground you can do so in three ways; you can donate online at [https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive](https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive) (the fund number is #480256); or you can send a check to either The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, The Ohio State University, 308 Dulles hall, 230 W. 17th Ave., Columbus, Oh 43210-1361, or M.J. Wolanin, Director of Development, 020 Mershon Center, 1505 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210-2602.

This time last year I announced that we would be offering a couple of small grants ($500 maximum) to assist graduate students in the medieval and early modern periods with their research costs. Through scrimping and saving we appear to have enough elbow-room in our budget to offer two similar grants
Greetings, cont...

this year, and in anticipation of their becoming a regular feature of our program at some time in the future, I propose to dedicate them to Nick Howe’s memory until such time as the official Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund is fully funded. A notice on how to apply will go out early in January.

Although the quarter is galloping by at an alarming speed, may I remind you that we still have two scheduled events before the Christmas break. On December 1, Geraldine Heng of the University of Texas will give the third in our series of lectures on *the Marvelous*, and on December 1 we will be holding our annual end-of-year party on the top floor of Dulles. We have also arranged one exciting impromptu event before the end of the quarter: hearing on the grapevine that the medieval rap artist Babasword was to be passing through Columbus in late November on his way from Cincinnati to Syracuse, we have managed to persuade him to give a performance of his rap Canterbury Tales at OSU. If you want to check him out you can go to [www.babasword.com](http://www.babasword.com), and if you’d like to see him in person go to the performance space on the ground floor of Baker Hall at 3:30 on Tuesday November 28. No one can complain that we’re not finishing the year on a festive note!

With best wishes,

Richard Firth Green
Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Among Us

Kenneth Andrien (Professor, History) and Gregory Jusdanis (Professor, Greek and Latin) were named Humanities Distinguished Professors at the College’s Faculty Recognition Reception, October 25.

Alan K. Brown (Faculty Emeritus, English) presented “Stepping up Close to the Dragon’s Head” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, October 13.

David Cressy (Professor, History) published “Bowker, Agnes (b. 1541/2), Servant and Alleged Mother of a Cat” in the October 2006 update to the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. He also published “Early Modern Space Travel and the English Man in the Moon” in the American Historical Review, October 2006.

Robert Davis (Professor, History) published Esclaves chrétiens maîtres musulmans: L’esclavage blanc in Méditerranée, 1500-1800 (Éditions Jacqueline Chambon, 2006). He has also been awarded Le Grande Prix Madeleine Laurain-Portemer de l’Académie des sciences morales et politiques, for Esclaves chrétiens maîtres musulmans: L’esclavage blanc in Méditerranée, 1500-1800, the French translation of his book Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters. The prize (15,000 euros) will be presented in Paris at the Coupole du Palais de l’Institut de France, on 20 November.

Gina DiSalvo (M.A. Student, Theatre) presented “If Fires Be Hot, Knives Sharp, or Waters Deep”: Performing Passio in Pericles” at the 21st International Conference on Medievalism, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 14.

Richard Dutton (Professor, English) published “‘If I’m Right’:
Among Us, cont...


**Richard Firth Green** (Professor, English) presented “Sir Gawain in America” at the 21st International Conference on Medievalism, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 13. He also presented “Sir Gawain in America” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, October 14.

**Timothy Gregory** (Professor, History) presented “Landscape and Cultural History in Medieval and Early Modern Kythera,” at the International Panonian Conference, Kythera, May 26-28; and “The Sea and the Land: The Shore and Islands of the Western Saronic Gulf in the Early Byzantine Period” at the Second International

Michael Johnston (Ph.D. Candidate, English) presented “From Edward III to Edward VI: The Vision of Piers Plowman and Early Modern England” at the 21st International Conference on Medievalism, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 14.

Christopher A. Jones (Professor, English) presented “Naming Relics in the Early Medieval West” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, October 14.

Ethan Knapp (Associate Professor, English) chaired a panel entitled “Power Struggles” at the 21st International Conference on Medievalism, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 13.

Leslie Lockett (Assistant Professor, English) presented “Anglo-Saxon Folk Psychology in The Rhyming Poem and The Ruin” at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, October 14.

James Morganstern (Professor, History of Art) published (with Minott Kerr) “Reconstructing Medieval Design and Building Practices: The Evidence from Notre-Dame at Jumièges,” Archaeology in
Among Us, cont...


Anne-Marie Schuler (Ph.D. Student, English) presented “‘Share the Kingdom with Thy Dearest Friend’: Edward II, The Elizabethan History Plays, and the Problems of a Monarchical Commonwealth,” Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, October 27.

Clare A. Simmons (Professor, English) presented “Medieval Freedom in the Romantic National Melodies” at the 21st International Conference on Medievalism, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, October 13.

Please submit any news you would like included in “Among Us” to zimmerman.243@osu.edu. We welcome your submissions!
Our New Affiliates

Daniel Hobbins (History)

Daniel Hobbins received his Ph.D. (2002) in medieval history from the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame. He comes to OSU following short stays at the University of Texas-Arlington, where he held a position in the history department, and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto, where he held a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Hobbins works on late medieval cultural and intellectual history, particularly in France and England. His research explores the cultural situation of the learned and of institutions of learning within medieval society, and the media culture of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. He is the author of *The Trial of Joan of Arc* (Harvard University Press, 2005), a new translation of the trial with introduction and notes, as well as seven articles. His article “The Schoolman as Public Intellectual: Jean Gerson and the Late Medieval Tract” which appeared in *The American Historical Review* (2003), received the Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize from the Medieval Academy for the best first article in any area of medieval studies. He is currently finishing a book, *Authorship and Publicity before Print: Jean Gerson and the Transformation of Late Medieval Learning*, which argues that Gerson - a French scholar, theologian, and chancellor of the University of Paris - was a paradigmatic figure in the cultural and intellectual shifts of the later Middle Ages.
Our New Affiliates, cont...

MERRILL KAPLAN (ENGLISH, GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE)

Merrill Kaplan comes to OSU this fall after a summer spent retracing the route of the Vikings in reverse. She holds a Ph.D. in Scandinavian Languages and Literatures from the University of California, Berkeley. She is a folklorist and a student of Old Norse-Icelandic literature, and she is fascinated by the Scandinavian encounter with both these subjects during the nineteenth century. She publishes articles on Ibsen when she thinks no one is looking. Here at OSU she holds a 50/50 appointment in English and Germanic Languages and Literatures. She has teaching responsibilities in both departments.

Her summer travels may further illuminate her research interests. On her way to Columbus, Merrill visited Iceland, Northumbria, and Norway. After two weeks of library research in Reykjavík at the Árni Magnússon Institute, she continued to Durham and York for the International Saga Conference. She paid respects to the Venerable Bede (patron of scholars everywhere) and trod the sand of Lindisfarne (site of the 793 raid that opened the Viking Age). She also delivered a paper involving Thor and oral tradition among the Norwegian trolls. She sailed the whale-road from Newcastle to western Norway and the island of Karmøy. There she saw Avaldsnes, where Odin paid a visit to King Olaf Tryggvason in 995, an incident that looms large in her work on the
13th-century Icelandic confrontation with the narrative goods of the pagan age. After poking about the numerous local tumuli, she flew to Oslo for the International Ibsen Conference. There she presented a paper on the Icelandic translation of Ibsen’s Vikings at Helgeland.

She is thrilled to have ended her journey in the city called Columbus, though the irony, given the context, is not lost on her.
Upcoming Events

Lecture Series:

On Friday, December 1, at 2:30pm in Room 090 of the Science and Engineering Library, Geraldine Heng (Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin) will present “The Invention of Race in the Middle Ages.”

Holiday Party:

We will be holding our annual holiday party for faculty, staff, and graduate students in the CMRS office (308 Dulles) on Tuesday, December 5, from 4:30pm to 6pm. Please mark your calendars and look for an invitation in your mailbox soon!
In a decisive shift in theory and method, sixteenth-century humanist schoolmasters replaced Latin training by rule or “precept” with lessons in imitation. In the 1940s and 1950s, critics demonstrated this educational program’s profound impact on England’s literary Renaissance. But in the last twenty years, historians and literary critics have become far more interested in assessing whether grammar schools effectively produced, as masters said they would, “gentlemen” who believed unreservedly in upholding England’s existing social hierarchies. In two days of intensive discussion, the seminar will draw on both critical traditions, focusing on the grammar school’s literary and social effects (whether they were intended or not). Participants will contribute their own perspectives and examples to an investigation of both the tropes and transactions of the school’s forms of discipline and rhetorical training- juxtaposing archival evidence with literary production, and discursive and material practices with rhetorical and subjective effects. Questions will include: how did training in Latin grammar and rhetoric influence early modern experiences of gender, sexuality, and desire? What contemporary theories might enable a reassessment of the relationship between school archive and literary canon? Did early modern pedagogy truly institute a rigid distinction between male and female language, behavior, and feeling? What might choices of genre, trope, and the mixing of vernacular with classical stories reveal about early modern masculinity? Besides actual representations of schoolroom scenes, are there other ways Shakespeare’s texts speak to the unintended consequences of school training? And finally, what impact did
Upcoming Events, cont...

grammar school training have on early modern passions, literary or otherwise?

**Director:** Lynn Enterline is Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *The Tears of Narcissus: Melancholia and Masculinity in Early Modern Writing* (1995) and *The Rhetoric of the Body from Ovid to Shakespeare* (2000). She is currently working on a book on early modern education.

**Schedule:** All day, Friday and Saturday, 2 - 3 March 2007.

**Application Deadline:** 3 January 2007 for admission (and grants-in-aid for Folger consortium affiliates). Visit [www.folger.edu/institute](http://www.folger.edu/institute) for information.

Please see the October edition of *Nouvelles, Nouvelles* for two additional seminars:

**The Spanish Connection**
A Late-Spring Seminar directed by Barbara Fuchs (University of Pennsylvania)

and

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

**Tuesday, November 28**
3:30pm
in the Performance Space of Baker Hall West
In this interdisciplinary course, students will explore sociological, religious, literary, and intellectual aspects of the history and culture of witchcraft and magic from ca. 400 to ca. 1700 C.E. A major focus will be the European Witchhunts of the early modern period and the lessons they have for our own times. By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the practice, social construction, and persecution of witchcraft in the medieval and early modern periods.

Minor devils, demons, satyrs, and hobgoblins. From Olaus Magnus?Historia de gentibus Septentrionalibus, Rome, 1555

For more information, contact the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at <cmrs@osu.edu> or 292-7495. Or visit http://cmrs.osu.edu/courses/
At the Library

Prepared by Visiting Professor and Curator of Early Modern Books and Manuscripts
Steven Galbraith

BF1598.D5 S98 2004  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

BR38 .C76 2005  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

BR754.A56 G37 2004  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

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At the Library, cont...

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D172 .S65 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

D181 .T3 R3613 2005  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

D202 .Y66 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

DA140 .L32 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY


Wilson, Derek A. *Charlemagne: the great adventure.* Hutchinson, 2005.
At the Library, cont...


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HV1552 .M48 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY  

ND3151 .V57 2005  ACKERMAN LIBRARY  

PA2067.K58 G76 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY  

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PQ1308.E6 H47 2005  ACKERMAN LIBRARY  

PR275.H85 M37 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

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U43.E85 T87 2006  ACKERMAN LIBRARY

A list of additional newly-received resources is available at http://library.osu.edu/sites/humanities/medieval/
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If you wish to contribute to the Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund yourself, you can do so in three ways:

- you can donate online at https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive (the fund number is #480256); or
- you can send a check to
  either
  The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, The Ohio State University, 308 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210-1361,
  or
  M.J. Wolanin, Director of Development, 020 Mershon Center, 1505 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210-2602.

With most sincere thanks,

Richard Green
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