Nouvelles Nouvelles is published twice quarterly by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

This publication is available in a.pdf format at http://cmrs.osu.edu/nn. Please contact cmrs@osu.edu for more information.
Greetings

For the first time our nascent Film Series has ventured into the Renaissance after a steadily mounting success with three medieval seasons (Robin Hood, King Arthur, and The Vikings). Sad to say our initial offering in The Tudors series (A Man for All Seasons) was not well attended and we must hope for a better turn-out for Lady Jane on January 30th. While it would be good to vary our diet of sword-and-buckler offerings with the occasional cape-and-epée program (though in this case it’s really more a matter of axes-and-blocks), if the numbers don’t improve we will be back to the old chain-mail next quarter. I hope all our early modernists will encourage their students see for themselves what a bloody lot the Tudors really were.

The Nick Howe memorial Fund is now well and truly launched and I’m delighted to report that it has garnered over $6000 in its first three months – this is still a long way short of the $50,000 the university sets as a minimum target for an endowed fund but still a very encouraging start. We’re now into a new tax year, so for those of you who have been meaning to honor Nick’s memory in this way this would be a good time to reach for your check books.

Many of you were there to see Gary Tomlinson get the Winter-quarter leg of our lecture series off to a rousing start with his fascinating exploration of the interplay of the spiritual and the material in Hamlet and in Monteverdi’s Coronation of Poppea, and we are now keen to welcome Gerhild Scholz-William on February 9th and to hear her talk about news writing and the wondrous in seventeenth century Germany.

Finally, January finds us in the thick of the hiring season. English has just completed the first round of
Greetings, cont...

its search for an early modernist (at the time of writing we are eagerly awaiting news of a positive outcome), but Spanish and Portuguese is still involved in its hunt for a medieval Hispanist and French and Italian will soon be bringing in two early modernist candidates. By the time you read this Amy Austin will already have come and gone but another Spanish candidate, Jonathan Burgoyne, will be here on January 30-31st, and in French Thomas DiPietro and Jeffrey Peters will be speaking shortly thereafter. I’m sure we will all do whatever we can to support our colleagues by attending their candidates’ job talks and offering them our feedback.

With best wishes,

Richard Firth Green
Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
David Cressy (Professor, History) has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, for Trinity Term (Spring Quarter) 2008. He also presented “Dangerous Speech in Early Modern England” at the North American Conference on British Studies, Boston, November 17.

Dick Davis (Professor and Chair, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) had his new translation of Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings (Viking) chosen by The Washington Post as “Book World’s 10 Best of the Year.” Davis’s translation appeared in the December 3rd issue of The Washington Post’s weekly package of reviews, essays and features on what’s hot in the literary world.

Richard Dutton (Professor, English) presented “The States of Henry V: the Violence of Textual Editing” at the Ohio Shakespeare Conference, Marietta College, Marietta, OH, on November 10, 2006. He also published “The St. Werburgh Street Theater, Dublin” in Localizing Caroline Drama: Politics and Economics of the Early Modern English Stage, 1625-1642, eds. Alan Farmer and Adam Zucker (New York: Palgrave, 2006), 129-155. In addition, he was a contributor to “King Lear on Boxing Day” on BBC Radio 4, producer Beaty Rubens, which was transmitted 12/26/2006, 2:15-3:43pm British Time.

Alan Farmer (Assistant Professor, English) has received a Course Enhancement Grant from the University Libraries to be used in conjunction with his winter English 980 course.

Ryan Judkins (M.A. Student, English) presented “Papjayez and pervyngs: Symbolic Identity in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*” at the fall quarter graduate student colloquium sponsored by The English Graduate Organization at the Ohio State University on November 28.

John N. King (Professor, English) has been awarded an Arts and Humanities Seed Grant for $10,000.


Erin McCarthy (M.A. Student, English) was admitted to the Folger Institute seminar “A Sense of the Archives,” which will be directed by Professor Kristen Poole of the University of Delaware. The Folger Institute also awarded Erin a grant of $2300 to defray the cost of seminar-related travel.


Chris Zacher (Professor, English and Director, Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities) is the recipient of this year’s Ohio Humanities Council’s Bjornson Award for Distinguished Service in the Public Humanities. The award is given annually to an outstanding public or academic humanist.

Please submit any news you would like included in “Among Us” to zimmerman.243@osu.edu. We welcome your submissions!
Medieval and Renaissance Resources

This space in this year’s upcoming newsletters will highlight initiatives, resources, and centers with particular relevance to scholars of medieval and Renaissance studies. This month’s piece, written by Sarah Iles Johnston, highlights the new Program in

Last summer, Dean Roberts established the Program in the Study of Religions, an initiative that is designed to coordinate and better support the many endeavors among faculty and graduate students to study religious systems from around the world and throughout the course of history. The Program is now undergoing review in expectation of becoming the Center for the Study of Religions, hopefully by the end of this academic year. At the moment, we have 34 faculty affiliates and 24 graduate student affiliates; we welcome the participation of anyone who would like to join us.

In contrast to programs in religion at some other universities, which are unified by a common scholarly focus (for example, the Center on Religion and Democracy at the University of Virginia), our Program is unified by a common methodology: all of us who participate recognize the importance of interpreting religious systems within carefully nuanced studies of the larger social and cultural contexts in which they exist. We approach religion as an embedded phenomenon, which cannot be understood apart from its surroundings. Under this umbrella, we envision supporting a variety of different initiatives, in many of which I hope CMRS members will participate; I have already spoken to some of you about possible future programs on mysticism in early modern Europe, martyrology in the old world and the new, the role of the printed word during the Reformation and Counter Reformation, and religiously-oriented understandings of the body during the medieval period. Later this quarter, we will begin developing plans for next year’s workshops, working groups and reading groups; drop me a line if you’d like to talk about an idea or submit a proposal.
But there is plenty yet to come this year as well. During the Spring quarter, we will host a series of four lectures by eminent scholars of religion, whom we have asked both to talk about their most recent research and to reflect upon the challenges that confront us as we move forward. They are: Susan Schreiner, “A Distant Mirror: The Tyranny of the Present” (April 26), Bruce Lawrence “Osama Bin Laden: Situating Public Enemy No. 1 between the Media and the Academy” (May 9), David Braake “Gnostics and Other ‘Heretics’: Imagining the Diversity of Early Christianity” (May 24) and Wendy Doniger “Putting Women, Low Castes, and History Back into the History of Hinduism” (May 31).

We will also be sponsoring an extra event when CMRS hosts Ronald Hutton this Spring. On April 12, the day before his formal lecture for CMRS (“A General Framework for the Study of European Magic”) Professor Hutton will hold a workshop on the methodological challenges of studying contemporary Neopaganism.

We’ll be sending notice of details for both the lecture series and the workshop out to Program affiliates in March. We’d be delighted to have you sign on with us; just contact either me (johnston.2), my associate director Hugh Urban (urban.41) or our administrative associate Judy Kauffeld (kauffeld.1) and we will add you to the list. As I write, Jody Croley Jones is putting the final touches on our new web-site; please check for that soon at religion.osu.edu.

~Sarah Iles Johnston
Professor of Greek and Latin
Director of Graduate Studies in Greek and Latin
and Director, Program in the Study of Religions
The Folger Institute

The following is excerpted from the annual letter of the Executive Director at the Folger Institute. Please contact the CMRS office should you desire a copy of the letter in its entirety or its accompanying invoice and brochure for the 2006-2007 academic year.

It is my pleasurable duty to write each year with a report on the recent and forthcoming activities of the Folger Institute. These programs help set the agenda for new research and interdisciplinary exchange. They are sustained by the consortium comprised of The Ohio State University and, now, forty major universities. With this strong foundation, the Institute continues to support your faculty and graduate students in their advancement of the dynamic fields in the humanities...

Let me begin by thanking Professor John King, who serves on the Institute’s Central Executive Committee, which meets twice a year for program planning and evaluation and for review of distributed grants-in-aid. These meetings ensure that our programs remain responsive to the real needs of your university...

The breadth of the Institute’s topics is matched by the range of its program formats, which are designed to serve targeted audiences at various ranks and stages in professional development, from early masters’ students to senior faculty...

While each program format builds on participants’ research in particular ways, I would like to address, in this year’s report, the role of the conference in the professional lives of the Folger Institutes community of scholars. First of all, the Institute has found the conference to be itself an elastic format with multiple possibilities and aspects. In recent years, for example, we have offered conferences with quite different missions. Some—such as two consecutive conferences on the “Transactions of the Book”—consolidated work in a field...However, as expert as we are at bringing together participants in a well-defined field at a critical moment of re-evaluation, we have become equally adept at shaping new conversations. For instance, in spring 2003, we sponsored “Ottomans and Others,” an unexplored field in which the early Ottoman Empire and its effect on others was examined from the Ottoman perspective...

In a similar spirit of adventure, we assembled panels of historians, literary critics, political theorists, and a sociologist on
the four-hundredth anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot against the English king and parliament. Meeting on the 5th of November 2005, we had a series of discussions of the facts, myths, sources, and historical reverberations of that landmark polarizing event in English history...

With each such experience, and always in light of our program participant evaluations, we learn, and we adapt the schedule and instructions to speakers or panelists to the nature of the conversation at hand. Next spring, we...take on a much neglected topic—the history of pedagogy—with a case study near to the heart of this institution and with a reverberating force throughout American history. That is to say, we will host a conference on “Shakespeare in American Education, 1607 to 1934.” Many considerations led us in the direction of this topic, but a chief desiderata was to engage scholars in American studies in conversation about something that matters deeply to all scholars—our own pedagogical practices, or, to be precise, a history thereof...We are commissioning new archival research for this project; we are defining a field of investigation rather than building on known ground. We have secured funding from the NEH and several academic publishers. We are drawing some exciting new voices into the ongoing scholarly conversation that is the Folger Institute. We look forward to matching those voices on the podium at this conference with fresh voices and perspectives in the audience. And we know we could not have taken on such a project without the great store of experiences we have gained in mediating scholarly conversations at the crossroads of established disciplines.

Our Chair, Barbara Mowat, joins me in thanking you for your sustaining support in this ongoing mission. We welcome any questions, comments, or advice you may have as we move forward with our planning for 2007 and beyond...

~Kathleen Lynch
Executive Director, The Folger Institute
Upcoming Events

Lecture Series:
On Friday, February 9, at 2:30 pm in Room 090 of the Science and Engineering Library, Gerhild Scholz Williams (Professor, Washington University in St. Louis) will present “The Global and the Local: Wonders in the News.” For more information regarding the lecture series, please visit http://cmrs.osu.edu/events/series.cfm.

Reading Groups:

Old French Reading Group
The Old French Reading Group has begun its weekly meetings at 3:30 on Thursdays in the CMRS office (Dulles 308). Please feel free to come by or to contact Richard Green (green.693@osu.edu) if you have any questions.

Medieval Latin Reading Group
The Medieval Latin Reading invites anyone interested to its weekly meetings at 4:30 on Wednesdays in the CMRS office (Dulles 308). Please contact Richard Green (green.693@osu.edu) with any questions.
The CMRS Film Series (Winter 2007):

THE TUDORS

Tues, Jan 16
A Man for All Seasons (1967)
with Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas More and Robert Shaw as Henry VIII

Tues, Jan 30
Lady Jane (1986)
with Helena Bonham Carter as Lady Jane Grey and Cary Elwes as Guilford Dudley

Tues, Feb 13
Elizabeth (1998)
with Kate Blanchett as Elizabeth I and Geoffrey Rush as Sir Thomas Walsingham

Tues, Feb 27
Blackadder II (1986)
Rowan Atkinson as Edmund Blackadder and Miranda Richardson as Elizabeth I

All showings in University Hall 038 at 7:30
(pizza provided)
This course will explore the rich tradition of Arthuriana that flourished in the Middle Ages and continues to thrive in modern popular culture. After sampling some of the earliest legends about King Arthur in British histories and saints' lives, we will focus on three major works/authors: the fabulous tales of knights errant by Chrétien de Troyes, known as the “father of Arthurian romance”; Wolfram von Eschenbach’s Parzival, a haunting, often bewildering, story of sin and self-discovery centered on the quest for the Holy Grail; and Malory’s epic Morte Darthur, which, more than any single text, has shaped modern conceptions of Arthur. Requirements include 3 exams and an optional
Medieval Moscow

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 213
Professor Daniel Collins
(Slavic and East European)

Spring Quarter 2007
Call # 13788-4
T R 1:30 - 3:18
McPherson Lab 2019
UG 5 credit hours

Course Description
From insignificant beginnings, Moscow became the center of an empire that, by the end of the seventeenth century, was the largest in the world (and still is, in the early twenty-first century). In Medieval and Renaissance Studies 213, we will discuss the emergence of Moscow as a city, a state, a culture, and a world power. We will examine the forces that drove its remarkable expansion—the desire to preserve and regain the heritage of the conquered Kievan state; the imperatives of Eastern Orthodox spirituality; the bitter struggle against external enemies; the belief in an annointed, autocratic ruler; and the ideology of Moscow the Third Rome, Russia’s manifest destiny to lead and unite the Christian world. All of these factors have become important “national myths” that continue to influence Russian culture to this very day.

Course Goals
In Medieval and Renaissance Studies 213, you will gain an understanding of important issues in the history and culture of Moscow from its origin to 1689. This understanding will enable you to analyze and explain critical events and concepts. As the medieval heritage has shaped modern Russian cultural identity in a fundamental way, you will also gain insight into the “riddle wrapped in an enigma inside a mystery” that is the mindset of contemporary Russians; in addition, by comparing and contrasting, you will gain a better understanding of your own culture. Through in-class exercises and homework assignments, you will develop skills in thinking, speaking, and writing about cultures and in analyzing cultural concepts.


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


*Lions, dragons, & other beasts: aquamanilia of the Middle Ages, vessels for church and table*. Ed. Peter

Q127.E8 O45 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

PA8129.S25 2005 ACKERMAN LIBRARY
Saint Mary of Egypt: three medieval lives in verse. Trans. Ronald Pepin and Hugh Feiss

PN682.C6 S38 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

PN686.E52 L37 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

PN1998.3.P367 B533 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

TX360.G7 F67 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

U37.M433 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

U37.P79 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

U43.E85 T87 2006 ACKERMAN LIBRARY

A list of additional newly-received resources is available at http://library.osu.edu/sites/humanities/medieval/
Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund

Under its new rules, OSU requires that all 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) reach a minimum level of $50,000. This is a tall order for a small program like the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, but I intend to make this particular fund our flagship appeal over the next few years, 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 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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