Nouvelles

NOUVELLES

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Ohio State University
October 2009
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Greetings,

We’re sending our first *Nouvelles Nouvelles* out to you earlier than usual this year because we’re getting out of the traps with unwonted alacrity and didn’t want you to miss any of our upcoming events.

Next weekend (October 3 and 4) we are mounting a conference in the George Wells Knight House in honor of a previous Director of CMRS, Barbara Hanawalt, distinguished holder of the King George III Chair of British History, who is to retire at the end of the year. The title of this conference, *Smiles and Laughter in the Middle Ages*, was suggested by Barbara herself, and we have assembled twelve eminent speakers, half on them from within our own ranks, to inform, and I trust, amuse us over the two days. Please join us for some or all of these papers. On Saturday night we end with a banquet at the Blackwell Inn in Barbara’s honor; this event is pretty well booked up, but we could probably squeeze one or two more people if you let us know as soon as possible. In 2010 we will be renaming the CMRS prize for the best graduate essay the Hanawalt Prize and hope to fund it out of a fully endowed Nicholas Howe Fund—a fund to which Barbara herself has contributed with great generosity. If you can’t make the banquet and would like to show your appreciation for all Barbara has contributed to the university over the years, might I suggest a donation in her name to the Howe Fund?

No sooner will we have finished clearing up from the *Smiles and Laughter Conference* than we embark on
Greetings, cont...

this year’s lecture series, *The Culture of War*. Our first speaker will be the historian R.W. Kaeuper, from the University of Rochester, speaking on “Chivalry and the Culture of War” (October 10), closely followed by Stephen N. Fliegel from the Cleveland Museum of Art, who will speak on “The Technology of Art: Arms and Armor in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance” (October 17). Professor Kaeuper has published widely on chivalry, the laws of war, and the culture of the medieval nobility, and Stephen Fliegel comes to us fresh from the highly successful exhibition, “Arms and Armor from Imperial Austria,” that the Cleveland Museum mounted in the spring and early summer.

Normally, we use our first issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles* to introduce you to the new medievalists and early modernists among us, but given the rush with which we are going to press this pleasant duty will have to wait to the next issue. However, I would like to take a moment to welcome our new Rare Books Librarian, Eric Johnson, who has been on campus for some time. Eric, whose qualifications include graduate degrees in Middle English, will be working closely with the Center, and I know we will all find his presence an valuable addition to our scholarly community.

And now let the games (or at least the smiles and laughter) commence!

*Best Wishes,*

Richard Firth Green

*Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies*
Among Us


Rachael Ball (PhD Candidate, History) presented “‘Publike Stage-plays’ and ‘Seasons of Humiliation’: Antitheatrical Sentiment and the Crisis of the Renaissance Theatres of London and Madrid” at the 2008 Northern California Renaissance Conference.

Jonathan Burgoyne (Assistant Professor, Spanish) published Libro binario. Papers of the Medieval Hispanic Research Seminar, 65, London, Department of Hispanic Studies, Queen Mary and Westfield College [forthcoming].


Fritz Graf (Professor, Greek and Latin) presented “Rituals in the Derveni Text” at a symposium on the Derveni Papyrus at the Center of Hellenic Studies in Washington, D. C.; participated in a panel discussion on Mythology and the Ancient Novel at a conference on the Ancient Novel in Lisbon (Portugal); and presented a paper on “Invention of Tradition in Greek Festivals” at a conference on Ritual Studies in Heidelberg (Germany). He also has a book on the god Apollo scheduled for release on Oct. 16 (London: Routledge).

Richard Firth Green (Professor, English) presented “Chaucer’s Use of Incubus in the Wife of Bath’s Tale,” New Chaucer Society Congress, Swansea, Wales, 18-22 July; and “Florent’s mariage sous la potence” at the First International Conference of the John Gower Society, Queen Mary University, London, 12-17 July.


Chris Highley (Associate Professor, English) published Catholics Writing the Nation in Early Modern Britain and Ireland. Oxford UP, 2008.

Sarah Iles Johnston (Professor, Greek and Latin) published “Animating Statues: A Case Study in Ritual” in Arethusa 41 (Fall 2008).


John King (Professor, English) directed a National Endow-
ment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for School Teachers on “Religion in History and Literature from The Canterbury Tales to Pilgrim’s Progress” in June-July 2008. With James K. Bracken, Assistant Director of University Libraries and Adjunct Professor of English, he has also received an award of $198,669 from the NEH to direct a Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, “The Reformation of the Book: 1450-1650,” in Antwerp, London, and Oxford in June-July 2009. Mark Rankin, OSU Ph.D. 2008 and Assistant Professor of English at James Madison University, is serving as program assistant. King also delivered a lecture entitled “Word and Image in Foxe’s Book of Martyrs” at a conference on British Printed Images to 1700, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 12 September.


Ethan Knapp (Associate Professor, English) presented “Greeks and Egyptians in the Confessio Amantis,” at the First International Conference of the John Gower Society, Queen Mary University, London, 12-17 July.


Please submit any news you would like included in “Among Us” to judkins.7@osu.edu.
The Santa Maria

In a small inlet just off the broader stream of the Scioto River, Christopher Columbus’s flagship, the Santa Maria, rocks at anchor—or rather, a ghost of it does. The original Santa Maria ran aground and was then dismantled to build part of Columbus’s fortress, La Navidad, in modern Haiti. For the 500th anniversary of the 1492 voyage, however, several influential businessmen in Columbus had this museum-quality replica built and brought to downtown. While it might be a ghost, the 130-ton ship nonetheless has a very solid presence, and it even has a crew of cabin boys and cabin girls (i.e. teen volunteers dressed in 15th-century ship’s garb).

Owned by the city and operated by Columbus Santa Maria Inc., the cedar-hulled cargo ship strives to be as authentic as possible. The first thing one notices is the size: 98 feet long from bow to stern and 89 feet high from the keel to the top of the main mast, the ship is strikingly small for an ocean-going vessel by modern standards, especially for its original crew of 40. Consider that it was built as a cargo ship and the size is even

A view of the quarterdeck, steerage, and captain’s cabin.
more surprising – a handful of such ships could fit inside the hold of a modern tanker. Small as it is, however, the ship is still too large to sail under the bridges to either side of its mooring, and so except for having been turned around a few times, the ship has never moved since it was sailed into its current location from where it was assembled by the Veterans Memorial.

Entering the ship from the gangplank on the east side, one looks straight ahead to the main mast, made from a single Douglas fir, and into a hatch dropping down to the hold and bilges below. To one’s left, the bow rises up to the forecastle (or foc’s’le), which supports the foresail and spritsail. A cavernous, semi-circular space underneath the forecastle forms the front edge of the main deck and hosts the open ship’s galley, which is little more than a small stove. To the right, one walks under the quarterdeck, which encloses the aft section of the ship, and enters the steerage, where, appropriately enough, one finds the tiller. A long boom of wood hinged to the rudder, the tiller was operated by simply pushing it in the opposite direction one wanted to go (the ship’s wheel had not been invented yet). The steersman would not have been able to see where he was going from the steerage and would have had to shout to the lookouts for directions (which perhaps explains Columbus’s erratic route around the Atlantic). One climbs a steep stair up to the quarterdeck from the main deck and looks straight into the captain’s cabin, which is about the size of a small hotel room and which, despite its name, had about six occupants.

The Santa Maria hosts a variety of activities, from guided...
tours to private parties and over-night historical immersion trips for children. It is operated as a piece of living history, and the exhibits throughout the ship emphasize that fact. In the ship’s galley, one can cook a bit of food, while down in the hold a table has been set up with the materials to recaulk the ship if it springs a leak – as it does, though the bottom of the ship is coated with fiberglass in a nod to modernity. An electric bilge pump keeps the boat clear of water, but a period pump is also set up for people to use. A small ship’s canoe is tethered to one side of the ship and occasionally does cargo duty, acting its part in demonstrations of how the ship was loaded and unloaded.

Special events are often held on the ship as well, which is open from April through October for regular tours. It offers some of the best seats in Columbus for the Fourth of July fireworks show and also puts on a haunted ship weekend for Halloween every year. Admission prices are very reasonable, from $2 for children to $3.50 for adults (slightly higher for special events).

All in all, the Santa Maria does an excellent job of bringing 15th-century and early colonial history alive or, indeed, back from the dead – a theme entirely appropriate for the holiday just around the corner. The ship is currently having some financial problems and could use your help, however, having lost its major grant to the shaky economy. A visit, at the least, might be in order.

~Ryan Judkins

For more information:
http://www.santamaria.org
Office: (614) 645-8760
Season: April 12 to Nov 1
Times: Wed-Fri - 10-3; Sat-Sun - 12-5
Haunted Ship: Halloween weekend, 7-10
Admission: Adults $3.50-5.00, kids $2-2.50
A recent issue of *Nouvelles/Nouvelles* described (somewhat cheekily, I hope) the difficulties scholars face when trying to use rare materials, stating that “closely guarded rare book rooms, and hermetically sealed vaults, watched over by the hawk-eyed (or, more accurately, bespectacled) guardians of knowledge, disrupt the relationship between examiner and examined” (October 2007, p. 11). Although I do wear glasses (but still like to consider myself “hawk-eyed”), one of my main goals while working at OSU will be to make the rare books and manuscripts under my care as easily accessible to all of you as possible. Rest assured! No disruption here; just a willingness to share the wonders of our library’s rare and special holdings with faculty and students alike.

I received my Ph.D. from the interdisciplinary Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York (U.K.), where I focused on theological interpretations of fear, their use by medieval preachers, and how the anonymous author of the Middle
English poems *Cleanness* and *Patience* promoted a particular fear-based rhetorical strategy—or *modus timendi*—in his works. I also earned my M.A. in York, writing a thesis on children and religious education in England from 1300-1450. In general, my “period-specific” research interests include medieval preaching, biblical commentary, vernacular theology, homiletic poetry, the encyclopedic tradition, and the experience of pilgrimage (in 2006 I walked the medieval pilgrimage trail to Santiago de Compostela—I have over 600 digital images I took along the way, and they’re all waiting to be used in a course on pre-modern travel/pilgrimage). I’m also interested in book history and the reception of medieval works in the Reformation and Early Modern period.

Prior to coming to OSU I worked in Princeton University’s Department of Rare Books and Special Collections where my research interests expanded to include realms well outside the Middle Ages. Past and current projects include work on military propaganda produced for children during the First and Second World Wars; medievalism in World War I and Vichy French propaganda; and nineteenth-century American story papers, to name only a few topics. I’m eager to see my intellectual horizons widen even more as I begin my life at OSU and start working with and learning new things from all of you.
Smiles and Laughter in the Middle Ages

A Conference in Honor of Barbara A. Hanawalt

3-4 October 2008
Fri. 3:30-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30
George Knight House, 104 E. 15th Ave

For more information:
(614) 292-7495
http://cmrs.osu.edu
A conference at The Ohio State University, sponsored by The Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies.

The conference seeks to investigate the textual traditions of various texts and genres, including texts in classical Latin, mediaeval 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.

Plenary speaker: Keith Busby, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Contact: Professor Frank T. Coulson, Director of Palaeography, 190 Pressey Hall, 1070 Carmack Road, Columbus, OH 43210 or by email at epig@osu.edu.
Upcoming Lectures

The Ohio State University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Presents

"Chivalry and the Culture of War"

A Lecture by
Richard W. Kaeuper
University of Rochester

Friday, 10 October 2008
Science and Engineering Library, Room 090
2:30 pm

This is the first lecture in our 2008-09 lecture series
"The Culture of War"

For additional information, please visit our website at http://cmrs.osu.edu or telephone us at 614-292-7495.
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES
PRESENTS

Its Annual Public Lecture

"The Technology of Art: Arms and Armor of the Middle Ages and Renaissance"

STEPHEN N. FLIEGEL
CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Friday, 17 October
3:30 p.m.
University Hall 014

The Culture of War

For additional information, please visit our website at http://cmra.osu.edu or telephone us at 614-292-7495.
The Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association was created to provide both an academic and a social forum for graduate students. As an interdisciplinary association, MRGSA is designed to give students the opportunity to meet one another and to discuss their research and other related topics, such as the status of the current job market, research strategies, grant information and the like. The association also works closely with CMRS in order to facilitate meetings with visiting scholars and make them available to students. Notably, MRGSA, along with support from the CMRS, MFC, and many other departments at OSU, hosted Vagantes in March 2008. Vagantes is the premiere graduate medieval conference in the U.S. Please contact the Center for a list of meetings and dates, or visit http://cmrs.osu.edu/mrgsa.

The Medieval Feminist Collective was created to provide a forum for the discussion of gender studies among interested graduate students. Despite its name, both medieval and Renaissance students are welcome, as are examinations of feminity, masculinity, and broader ideas of gender. Please contact the Center for a list of meetings and dates.

The CMRS sponsors reading groups for Medieval Latin (contact Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)), Old French (contact Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)), and Medieval Occitan (contact Lisa Bevevino (bevevino.1@osu.edu)). Reading groups will be starting up soon, but in most cases, members are welcome to join at any time.
Fall 2008 Film Series
“Alexandre Dumas On Film”


Nov. 4 - “The Count of Monte Cristo,” with James Caviezel and Guy Pearce (2002)


All movies will be shown in University Hall 0038 at 7:30 p.m.

Pizza and Pop Provided!
Originally published by Robert Barker, the King’s Printer, in 1611, the King James Version was the culmination of an ambitious translation effort first proposed at the 1604 Hampton Court Conference convened by King James I. Forty-seven biblical scholars—all of them members of the Church of England—spent the next seven years comparing previous English Bible translations in an effort to prepare a definitive text that would correct simple errors, inconsistencies of translation, and more complex interpretative problems believed to exist in earlier English versions of the Bible.

http://library.osu.edu/blogs/rarebooks/category/new-and-notable/

The library is also in the process of acquiring a 1625 copy of Thomas Erpenius’s translation of George Elmacin’s Historia Saracenica, the first historical work in Arabic published in Europe:

http://www.asherbooks.com/S1880_v.html


Clément, Michèle, et Janine Incardona, eds. *L’émergence littéraire des femmes à Lyon à la Renaissance 1520-1560.* Saint Etienne: 21


As we approach the $25,000 mark, the Howe fund is nearly halfway to reaching its endowment target of $50,000. This sum may look like 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 very 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
Now lay up thy barlie land, dry as ye can,  
When ever ye sow it, so looke for it than:  
Get daily aforehand, be neuer behind,  
Least winter preuenting, do alter thy mind.

Who laieth vp fallow, too soone or too wet,  
With noiances many, both harlie beset:  
For weed and the water, so soketh and sucks,  
That goodnes from either, it utterlie plucks.

Green rie in September, when timely thou hast,  
October for wheatsowing, calleth as fast:  
If weather will suffer this counsel I giue,  
Leave sowing of wheat, before Hallomas eue.

From Thomas Tusser’s Five Hundred Points of Husbandry.  
First published 1557.
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
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2008-2009

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