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

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Greetings

Our big news for this quarter (and it’s thanks largely to the tireless work of our Associate Director, Sarah-Grace Heller) is that we have finally fed our proposal for a new Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (our GIS) into the appropriate bureaucratic meatgrinder—I believe it’s called the Graduate Interdisciplinary Committee (the GIC)—with the full expectation that we should have a mouthwatering GISburger ready for consumption by the beginning of next year. If it passes the CIG inspectorate, our new GIS will come in three delectable flavors: Specialist Medieval, Specialist Early Modern, and Non-Specialist. (I think I hear my mother’s voice: “Put that metaphor down right now! You don’t know where it’s been.”) The first two flavors programs are designed for those who work primarily in a pre-modern period and the third for those with a later specialization who might find our GIS a useful extra teaching qualification. All three will be available to Western and Non-Western specialists alike (the only difference being in the language pre-requisite) and will involve one core course in CMRS (either 610, Manuscript Studies, or 611, History of the Book), two medieval or early modern courses in their home department, and one such course in a second department. Of course, the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men . . . so I’ll let everyone know if our mousey little GIS should happen to gang a-gley at the GIC level, but we’re not anticipating any problems. We plan to leave our old certificate program on the books for those still willing to put the time and planning into its
very much more rigorous requirements (and eager to collect their due reward in the form of a shiny OSU certificate ready for framing, rather than a mere extra line on their transcript). We’re proud of the role CMRS already plays in the academic lives of our very talented graduate students and this new Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization can only raise our profile in their eyes.

Another development in the final planning stage (and another initiative down to the credit of Sarah-Grace): we are hoping to add a study-abroad component to our popular “Gothic Paris” course (MRS 215). If all works out, we will be offering Gothic Paris in the Winter Quarter to be followed by a ten-day trip to the City of Lights to visit some of the major surviving medieval landmarks. Should such a program prove popular, we would hope to offer it every other year. Further down the road we are also thinking of a trip to medieval Novgorod to complement Dan Collins’s Medieval Moscow course (MRS 213); again, if all goes according to plan we would hope to offer the course in the Summer Quarter of 2010.

By the time this goes to press, Jerold Frakes’s lecture on “Crusade and the Discourse of Empire in the Medieval Lyric” will have already taken place, but there are still four more lectures in our Culture of War series scheduled for the Spring Quarter. With Barbara Donagan, Christine Chism, Camilla Townsend and Sarah Kay yet to come, our series still has plenty of riches to offer you. We hope to see you there.
Jim Bennet (PhD candidate, History) presented “The Once and Future Burghers: Social Memory and Civic Identity in Late Medieval St. Albans” at the Mid America Medieval Association’s meeting in Kansas City on 28 February. He was awarded the Jim Falls Prize for best graduate student paper delivered at the conference.

Fritz Graf (Professor, Greek and Latin) was given the Distinguished Scholar Award by President Gee during a surprise classroom visit on March 3, in recognition of his research on the religions of the ancient and late antique Mediterranean.

Tryntje Helfferich (Assistant Professor, History) published The Thirty Years War: A Documentary History, with Hackett Publishing. It is coming out this month.

Sarah Kernan (MA student, History) presented a paper, “Intersections of Late Medieval English and French Medical and Cookery Texts,” at the Mid-America Medieval Association, held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City on 28 February 2009.


Heather Webb (Assistant Professor, Italian) has been awarded a Visiting Fellowship for Michaelmas Term 2009 at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Cambridge.
In January and February, Dr. Scott Gwara held the Virginia Brown Fellowship in Medieval Latin Paleography at the Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies. During that time Gwara visited twenty libraries and art museums, where he examined over 1,000 manuscript fragments from 287 books and 90 complete codices. He gave this interview after a campus lecture entitled “An Ohio Bibliodyssey: 6000 Miles, 20 Collections, 300 Medieval Books,” where he shared the highlights of his research.

Would you mind starting off by speaking a bit about yourself and your project here in Ohio the last couple of months?

I am a medievalist at the University of South Carolina, where I teach Medieval English and Epic. I did a great deal of manuscript training when I was a student at Cambridge and Toronto, and until recently my research centered on Medieval Latin. My latest book is entitled *Heroic Identity in the World of Beowulf*. Three years ago I decided to catalogue all the medieval manuscripts in South Carolina, a project that led to my *Census of Medieval Manuscripts in South Carolina Collections*, to an online database (scmanuscripts.org), and to an exhibition called “Pages from the Past: A Legacy of Medieval Books in South Carolina Collections.” An outgrowth of these recent projects is MS-LINK, an internet resource intended to reconstruct some 30,000 dismembered medieval manuscripts in North America. You see, dealers in the past century purchased books at auction, cut them up, and sold individual leaves. The
practice still goes on. I want to restore these lost books, about 1500 in my estimation. Finding 1500 medieval books would be a major discovery, but these books happen to be in our collections already. We simply need to restore their coherence.

Would you say it was a successful trip? Where do you expect your investigation into these manuscripts to go?

My Ohio research was immensely successful and personally rewarding, partly because I was able to confirm my suspicions about the extent of dismembered manuscripts, and partly because I was able to uncover dozens of complete medieval books that have gone misidentified, uncatalogued, or miscatalogued. I want to come back to Ohio and finish my census of the state in Toledo and Cleveland. My work in Ohio was intended to galvanize Ohio medievalists and librarians and get them committed to a digital record of their manuscripts. This can be done with committed interest from all parties.

Would you mind giving a brief overview of the manuscript collections in Ohio libraries?

Cincinnati is the place to go for undiscovered and/or unstudied manuscripts, chiefly at the University of Cincinnati, The Athenaeum of Ohio (Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West), the Cincinnati Public Library, and Xavier. For fragments of some importance, and for a few medieval books of interest, go to Oberlin College—both the library and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Locally, OSU has a wonderful collection of Pocket Bible fragments and some fragments from Books of Hours. Here’s where to start with a study of the thirteenth-century French bible. OSU has a very curious collection of codices, just the sort of research collection one would expect a major university to own. However, Dr. Frank Coulson is publishing a catalogue of these manuscripts, so the heavy lifting has already been done. At smaller institutions—here I’m thinking of the College of Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan—you can find half a dozen codices each. Again,
don’t neglect art museums. In Cleveland, the major place is the Cleveland Museum of Art, with a major national collection as well as dozens of complete books on deposit from the heirs of Otto Ege. It’s not widely known that these Ege manuscripts are the largest cache of medieval codices in the state, but they are in private hands. I found manuscripts in Dayton, too, but I did not visit Toledo, and the museum there has a great many manuscript leaves.

Otto Ege is something of an Ohio legend, if an infamous one. What do you think of how he cut up manuscripts, assembled various leaves into his “Ege boxes,” and sold them as research collections? What would you like to see happen with those collections?

In my view, Otto Ege was sincere the way all enthusiasts are sincere. But given the prices he demanded for his leaves and the enormous marketing machine he engineered, I am equally certain that profit drove him just as much as his love of medieval books. I’ve often said that if it weren’t for Ege, thousands of students would never have seen a medieval manuscript page. At the same time, cutting up books is really an unconscionable desecration, and I doubt that Ege’s books will ever be completely reconstituted. You have to realize that the carcasses of Ege’s dismembered books were again sold in 1985, and there was a second wave of dismemberment as other dealers cannibalized the remains. Nevertheless, I intend to re-unify as much as possible through my digital project, MS-LINK.

We’ll hope for success. What were some of the most interesting discoveries you ran across in the archives? And what about that rare medieval bookmark?

At Ohio Wesleyan, a beautiful Italian Antiphonal, ca. 1350-75, hitherto undescribed, as well as Abbot Sigismund’s personal Collectar, from Valserena, Italy, ca. 1460. At College of Wooster, an English Book of Hours with scrappy miniatures in the style of the Masters of the Gold Scrolls, as well as other books of tremendous interest. At Oberlin, a bifolium ca. 800 from a Carolingian Bible, extremely important. At OSU, a host of things, including a provincial Book of
Hours commissioned by Charlotte Bouton ca. 1540. At Xavier, a complete mid-thirteenth-century French Pocket Bible, with a kalendar almost certainly placing the book at Sens. At the University of Cincinnati, a complete Pocket Bible, possibly English, an unknown florilegium, ca. 1200-25, and a host of other significant codices. I cannot fail to mention the wonderful Italian compilation, ca. 1200, called “Histories of the Old Testament” at the State Library of Ohio.

The medieval bookmark in the Bohemian copy of Bernard Gui’s *Speculum sanctorale*, ca. 1375, is one of 38 known, including 36 documented in European libraries (six in Britain). It’s still usable, of course, but needs a little repair to the string that holds it in the book. It’s actually a rotating disk with the words *prima, secunda, tertia* and *quarta* written on it. Slide it up and down the string to mark one’s place, and turn the disk to the appropriate column in the opening: first, second, third, or fourth.

**What would you like to see done with these manuscripts in Ohio, or what would you like local scholars to do with them?**

Publicity, research, and teaching. I want local scholars to investigate the collections, write descriptions and get them online through *Digital Scriptorium*. It wouldn’t take much to do this, and I would be available to help and to send researchers to the right experts. I myself am writing a small piece for the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, and will tackle the Carolingian Gospel Book bifolium at Oberlin. Right now there seems to be a wave of interest in the material culture of the Middle Ages, and manuscripts are getting more attention. The Ohio collections are perfect for undergraduate instruction. They should be used to introduce students to the medieval literacy, such as it was. Finally, why not a major exhibition of manuscripts at your newly renovated library or at the Columbus Museum of Art? Our own exhibition brought in about 1000 visitors, a record.

**What sort of steps should those scholars take to get started, and what resources might be useful for them?**
Step #1: Get in touch with me. I’ll give you my list of books and all the contact information for the library you want to visit. I’ll support your effort in every way. Step #2: Get a commitment for digitization from the institution. This may entail writing a grant. Digitization is difficult for complete books; leaves are much easier since they can be scanned on a flatbed scanner. Step #3: Contact Digital Scriptorium and mount your images with descriptions. Digital Scriptorium has a list of digitization parameters, so check out the details first. They also have a database for the distilled information you will have to put together. Step #4: Be patient. This is a multi-year project that requires a great deal of technical expertise.

There’s invariably a funny story or two coming out of archival research. Would you mind sharing one?

Just when I was leaving the Cincinnati Public Library, the Special Collections librarian who was helping me appeared with a cart of manuscripts, saying “I found these uncatalogued things on a shelf, and are they the sort of thing you’d be interested in?” Sticking out of the books were paper tabs that said “13th century, 14th century, 15th century.” There were about half a dozen uncatalogued items on that book truck. You never know what you’ll find: little notes saying, “this is the most valuable manuscript in the collection” in a very unremarkable Book of Hours; or local stories spun about medieval books, such as “We believe this to be the personal prayer book of Queen such-and-so.” In some cases, only one librarian knew where to look for the manuscripts, or detached leaves were framed in little diptychs, basically the kinds of picture frames your parents kept school photos in throughout the 1970s. One amazing thing I saw at the Lima Public Library was a framed collage of twelve leaves that passed through Ege’s hands. It hangs in the board room.

Is there anything else you’d like to comment on?

First, I want to thank the Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies for sponsoring my research. Second, I really hope that my own enthusiasm for the Ohio manuscripts might translate into assistance on my own digital project. That was my chief objective in meeting the librarians and scholars in Ohio. Finally, a message for undergraduates: take the medieval manuscripts course offered next quarter by Richard Firth Green and Eric Johnson, or the Paleography
course offered by Frank Coulson. You won’t be disappointed. Then, of course, sit down with the manuscripts and study them intensively. Read all you can, starting with the basic handbooks.

Thanks very much, both for the interview and for your work in Ohio’s libraries.

If you’d like to contact Professor Gwara, his e-mail address is gwaras@mailbox.sc.edu.

~ By Ryan Judkins

*All photos courtesy of Eric Johnson and the University Libraries.

If you know of a place or a topic that might be interesting for “Just Around The Corner,” kindly send your ideas to Ryan Judkins, at judkins.7@osu.edu.
Upcoming Lectures

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES PRESENTS

“Captivity and Defeat in 17th-Century Europe”

A lecture by
Barbara Donagan
Huntington Library

Friday, 17 April 2009
Science and Engineering Library, Room 090
2:30 pm

This is the seventh 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.
CMRS Travel Grants

The CMRS will offer two grants of up to $500 each to fund the research of graduate students working on any aspect of the Middle Ages or Renaissance. Preference will be given to Ph.D. students, but applications from MA students will also be considered. To be eligible, please submit a summary of your project (approximately 750 words) that justifies your need for funding. In addition, please ask your supervisor or a faculty member in your home department to send us a brief note indicating his/her support.

The deadline for the submission of materials to our office (308 Dulles Hall) is 5:00 pm on Friday, 3 April 2009.

Reading Groups

The CMRS is sponsoring reading groups for Medieval Latin and Medieval Occitan this quarter. Reading groups continue throughout the year and usually read texts suggested by the participants. Members are welcome to join at any time.

Dates and Times:

Medieval Latin:
Wednesdays at 4:30 in 308 Dulles Hall (contact Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)

Medieval Occitan:
Meetings as arranged. Contact Lisa Bevevino (bevevino.1@osu.edu) for more information
The Medieval Academy of America invites all interested parties, including graduate students, to join. Benefits include a subscription to *Speculum* as well as access to a number of financial awards, discussion groups, the annual MAA conference, and more.

http://www.medievalacademy.org/


Gibson, Margaret T. The Bible in the Latin West. [electronic resource] BS68 .G534 1993


*Rinascimento e passione per l’antico: Andrea Riccio e il suo tempo*. Edited by Andrea Bacchi and Luciana Giacomelli. IMPRINT Trent: Castello del Buonconsiglio, Monumenti e collezioni private; Provincia autonoma di Trento, Soprintendenza per i beni storico-artistici; Museo diocesano tridentino, 2008. NB623.R48 A4 2008


*Studying Medieval Women: Sex, Gender, Feminism*. Edited by Nancy F. Partner. HQ1143.S783 1993

*The Taiheiki: A Chronicle of Medieval Japan*. Translated, with an intro-
duction and notes by Helen Craig McCullough. [electronic resource] DS861 .T313 1959


*Books New to the Fine Arts Library*

*Compiled by*

*Amanda Gluibizzi*

*Assistant Professor & Fine Arts Librarian*


Animals in stone : Indian mammals sculptured through time / by Alexandra van der Geer.  *NB1940 .G44 2008*

Art, marriage, & family in the Florentine Renaissance palace / Jacqueline Marie Musacchio  *HQ630.15.F58 M87 2008*

The art of Buddhism : an introduction to its history & meaning / Denise Patry Leidy.  *N8193.A5 L45 2008*

L’arte delle donne : dal Rinascimento al Surrealismo / mostra
The arts and the definition of the human: toward a philosophical anthropology / Joseph Margolis.  \[ND1140.M338 2009\]

Berenson e Lotto: problemi di metodo e di storia dell’arte / Antonella Trotta.  \[N7483.B47 T772 2006\]

Bildwirkungen: die kommunikative Funktion mittelalterlicher Skulpturen / Bruno Boerner  \[NB170.B64 2008\]

Byzantium, 330-1453 / edited by Robin Cormack and Maria Vassilaki.  \[N6250.B99 2008\]

The commonwealth of nature: art and poetic community in the age of Dante / C. Jean Campbell.  \[N72.S6 C26 2008\]

The cultivated landscape: an exploration of art and agriculture / Craig Pearson & Judith Nasby.  \[ND1460.A39 P43 2008\]

Dark water: flood and redemption in the city of masterpieces / Robert Clark.  \[DG738.792.C58 2008\]

East Asian paintings: materials, structures and deterioration mechanisms / John Winter.  \[ND1635.W56 2008\]


Giotto’s O: narrative, figuration, and pictorial ingenuity in the Arena Chapel / Andrew Ladis.  \[ND623.G6 L33 2008\]

Glass exchange between Europe and China, 1550-1800: diplomatic, mercantile and technological interactions / Emily Byrne Curtis.  \[TP854.C6 C87 2009\]

Golden age of Spain: painting, sculpture, architecture / by Joan Sureda.  \[N7105.S8713 2008\]


Holy motherhood: gender, dynasty and visual culture in the later Middle Ages / Elizabeth L’Estrange.  N7793.W65 L47 2008


Il libro del vento: rappresentare l’invisibile / Alessandro Nova  N8261.W57 N68 2007


Marble past, monumental present: building with antiquities in the mediaeval Mediterranean / by Michael Greenhalgh.  NA1458.G74 2009 + DVD


The passion story: from visual representation to social drama /
Rinascimento e passione per l’antico : Andrea Riccio e il suo tempo / a cura di Andrea Bacchi e Luciana Giacomelli.  

The sinister side : how left-right symbolism shaped Western art / James Hall.  

Stil und Funktion : ausgewählte Schriften zur Kunst des Mittelalters / Robert Suckale ; herausgegeben von Peter Schmidt und Gregor Wedekind.  

La Trinità di Masaccio : saggio storico ed interpretativo degli schemi stilistici, iconografici ed iconoteologici / Eugenio Marino  

The unknown Hieronymus Bosch / Kurt Falk.  

The virtual tourist in Renaissance Rome : printing and collecting the Speculum romanae magnificentiae / Rebecca Zorach with contributions by Nina Dubin ... [et al.].
As we approach the $31,000 mark, the Howe fund is just over 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
March

White peason, both good for the pot and the purse,
by sowing too timely, prowe often the worse:
Because they be tender, and hateth the cold,
proue March yer ye sow them, for being too bold.

Spare meadow at Gregory, marshes at Paske,
for feare of drie summer, no longer time aske:
Then hedge them and ditch them, bestowe thereon pence,
corne, meadow and pasture, aske alway good sense.

From Thomas Tusser’s Five Hundred Points of Husbandry.
First published 1557.
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