Nouvelles

NOUVELLES

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Ohio State University
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Odin rides his eight-legged horse, Sleipnir. Drawing from an 18th century Icelandic manuscript.
Greetings

Greetings,

This morning, I took advantage of OSU’s first “snow day” of the winter to finish reading Barbara Ehrenreich’s *Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy*. Now, sitting in my office, gazing at a deserted and snow-covered campus and musing how difficult it is to recapture the spontaneous festive world she evokes, I realize with a shock that today is Mardi Gras. Like, I suspect, most of us, I’ve always thought nostalgically of carnival as a charming relic from a lost world, but for Ehrenreich it is so very much more; indeed, she would have us revive it as a cure for many of the psycho-social ailments of our modern world. At least we, in the medieval and early modern community, are doing our best to keep it alive. Later in *Nouvelles Nouvelles* you can read about the medieval feast that the members of the OSU Medieval and Renaissance Performers Guild have just sponsored (and next quarter we hope that we to be joining them once again in the splendidly carnivalesque Renaissance Faire that they organize every year). And next month (March 5-13), BalletMet is performing one of the greatest recreations of medieval “collective joy,” Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* (a shameless plug, this, since your CMRS Director will be talking to the audience on Sunday, 7th, about the original Latin lyrics).

Bibit pauper et egrotus
Bibit exul et ignotus,
Bibit puer, bibit canus,
Bibit presul et decanus,
Bibit soror, bibit frater,
Bibit anus, bibit mater,
Bibit ista, bibit ille,
Bibunt centum, bibunt mille.
I’m grateful to the schoolmaster who all those years ago drilled enough Latin into this thick skull that I can still take enormous pleasure in these rollicking rhymes. I hope they warm a bleak winter’s afternoon for you, as they do for me now.

Coming back to earth, this is the time of year that we plan for next year’s courses. We have almost everything settled (including, I’m delighted to say, MRS 610, Manuscript Studies, now a core course in our new Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization [see: http://cmrs.osu.edu/courses/grad_spec.cfm], which will be taught by Leslie Lockett and Eric Johnson). Unfortunately, one of our most popular courses, MRS 210, Magic and Witchcraft, may not be taught next year because neither I nor Sarah Johnston is available. If anyone out there would like to try his/her hand at it (unfortunately you will have to be full-time faculty since CMRS has no specials budget), Sarah and I will gladly supply you with our plentiful, notes, illustrations, movies, &c (and CMRS will happily contribute a TA to help with the grading). Teaching witchcraft may not be very carnivalesque, but it’s a rewarding experience nonetheless.

Finally, it’s time to remind you that we still have two more events this quarter. On Friday March 5, Katharine Maus from the University of Virginia will be lecturing on “Being and Having in Shakespeare’s Richard II”; Katharine is this year’s MRGSA lecturer—she was suggested by our graduate student association, and graduate students will be hosting and introducing her. A week later (on March 12) Christian Kleinbub from our History of Art Department will be giving a CMRS colloquium on the “Boundaries of the Natural and Supernatural in Italian Renaissance Art.” I hope to see you at both.

A la reverdie,

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

John King (Distinguished University Professor, Humanities Distinguished Professor of English)

BOOKS:


ARTICLES, ESSAYS, BOOK CHAPTERS, REVIEWS


Frank Coulson (Professor, Greek and Latin and Director of Palaeography) published “Addenda and Corrigenda to Incipitaria Ovidianum” in Journal of Medieval Latin for 2009, and articles on “Palaeography” and “The Reception of Classical Literature in the Middle Ages and Renaissance” in the The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome. He also gave a paper entitled “Codices Latini Ohienses: Regional manuscript collections as teaching tools” at the annual conference of the American Philological Association at Anaheim, Jan. 6-8, 2010.

Colleen Kennedy (Graduate Student, English) has published a review “Reid Barbour and Claire Preston, eds. Sir Thomas Browne: The World Proposed,” in The Journal of British Studies (January 2010): 171-173.


Heather Webb (Assistant Professor, Italian) has published The Medieval Heart. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010.
The Fine Arts Library holds approximately 150,000 items in its collection, making it one of the largest lending art libraries in the Midwest. Our collection is comprehensive and includes materials on art, design, fashion, and art education from the beginning of human artistic production to the present day. We collect, in conjunction with our language specialists, materials in all languages represented at OSU and maintain holdings, as well, in cognate fields, such as aesthetics and visual theory. Our collections often overlap with the Architecture Library, The Music and Dance Library, the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, and the Rare Books Library at Thompson, which means that a student or faculty member reaching the art and culture of the Medieval and Renaissance periods is very well represented by the OSU Libraries.
For the Medieval and Renaissance art historian, historian, or literary scholar, we are an excellent resource. Because the Fine Arts collection is longstanding, our holdings include materials from the historiographical beginnings of the art historical profession. Modern art history largely began as a study of Medieval and Renaissance art, and so an important collection of this kind provides not only a historical grounding of the art of these periods, but also a history of the profession itself.

Unlike many other disciplines, art and art history are not well represented in digital formats, and so print collections remain incredibly important for scholars conducting art historical research. OSU’s Fine Arts Library provides an exciting opportunity to examine complete spans of major periodicals and serials, such as the *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* or *The New Hollstein: German engravings, etchings and woodcuts, 1400-1700*, neither of which is available in digital format. We also provide access to a wonderful collection of folio volumes, most from the 19th century, although some earlier, which feature gorgeous engraved and chromolithographed illustrations. Major purchases in the past few years have included the complete critical edition and gloss of Vasari’s *Vite*, which features the text of both printings of this seminal publication; a facsimile of the portfolio of Villard de Honnecourt; a facsimile on CD-ROM of Gaspare Fossati’s 1852 *Aya Sofia, Constantinople*; and a 52-CD set of the holdings of the Asa Archives in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Because the fields of art, design, and art history are visually driven, the Fine Arts Library’s holdings use images as a primary source while simultaneously including all of the supporting textual and theoretical material needed to conduct research in the arts at a high level. As a scholar myself, I have been continually impressed with the depth and breadth of the OSU Libraries’ holdings, not only in the areas covered but also in the range of languages offered, meaning that I can more completely formulate and answer my research questions. The vibrancy of the art library and its collections and services is the reason I came to OSU.

Das Stundenbuch der Sforza (the Sforza hours) Luzern: Faksimile Verlag, c1993.

Books New to the Fine Arts Library

List compiled by
Amanda Gluibizzi
Assistant Professor & Fine Arts Librarian

The alchemy of paint: art, science and secrets from the Middle Ages / by Spike Bucklow

The appearance of Persian on Islamic art / by Bernard O’Kane
Publish Info New York: Persian Heritage Foundation, 2009. FIN
Stacks N8265 .O42 2009

Art and architecture of the world’s religions / Leslie Ross. N7790 .R67 2009 v.1&2

Art of Renaissance Florence, 1400-1600 / Loren Partridge

Art of the samurai: Japanese arms and armor, 1156-1868 / edited by Morihiro Ogawa; with contributions from Kazutoshi Harada ... [et al.]

The artist’s eyes: vision and the history of art / Michael F. Marmor and James G. Ravin

The Bayeux tapestry: new interpretations / edited by Martin K. Foys, Karen Eileen Overbey & Dan Terkla

Vicky Ducrot; preface and notes by Dr Daljeet and Rosa Maria Cimino. Milan: Skira; London: Thames & Hudson [distributor], 2009. ND1337.A2 F68 2009 W37 R58 2009


Four centuries of Rajput painting : Mewar, Marwar and Dhrundhar Indian miniatures from the collection of Isabella and Vicky Ducrot / Vicky Ducrot ; preface and notes by Dr Daljeet and Rosa Maria Cimino. Publish Info Milan : Skira ; London : Thames & Hudson [distributor], 2009. ND1337.A2 F68 2009

Framing famous mountains : grand tour and mingshan paintings in sixteenth-century China / Li-tsui Flora Fu. Publish Info Hong Kong : Chinese University Press, c2009. ND1366.73 .F79 2009


Rivers of paradise: water in Islamic art and culture / edited by Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom. New Haven: Yale University Press; [Doha, Qatar]: In association with Qatar Foundation; [Richmond, Va.]: Virginia Commonwealth University; [Doha, Qatar]: Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, c2009. NX650.


MADRIGAL FEAST DEEMED A GRAND SUCCESS.

The 9th Annual Madrigal Dinner was even more of a success than its predecessors. The food (refreshingly crisp salads and deliciously indulgent boar’s head) was helped to its destination by a most delectable Gloucestershire Wassail. All the guests were first greeted by the gregarious King Otto himself and then ushered into the great hall of the castle to be further entertained by court jesters, jugglers, musicians, singers, and dancers. In no other worldly kingdom could songs be so beautiful, jokes so funny, and smiles so kind. The dinner ended with a sinful (and sinfully anachronistic) portion of chocolate torte and a superb choir performance of a dozen popular medieval songs. No guest could be disappointed. Bravo, Performers’ Guild!

Diretor of the Medieval and Renaissance Performer’s Guild Stephanie Chounet (aka Lady Gunda, the right hand of King Otto) in the sweet company of court musicians, Amanda Hansen and Dean Larcomb.

For more information:
Council for the Medieval and Renaissance Faire
http://cmrf.org.ohio-state.edu/
The Medieval and Renaissance Performer’s Guild
http://guild.org.ohio-state.edu/index2.htm
Reading Groups

History of the Book

The History of the Book group was formed in Autumn 2005 as part of LiteracyStudies@OSU by a group of faculty members and graduate students from the Humanities and Sciences. The group meets two to four times per quarter to present research on the history of the book and material texts, discuss new works in the field, and to attend lectures and seminars related to book history.
Contact: Prof. Alan Farmer (farmer.109@osu.edu)

Medieval Latin

An almost 30-year old tradition of Medieval Latin reading group was started by Dr. Green at the University of Western Ontario and carried over to OSU. The group meets once a week (on Mondays) at the main office of CMRS. The choice of text depends on the level and interests of the group.
Contact: Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)

Old Norse

OSU’s Old Norse reading group has its roots at the University of California, Berkeley, where the Saga Club is the university’s oldest club. At meetings (once a month), members congregate over light refreshments and read passages aloud, first in the original and then in their own translations.
Contact: Prof. Merrill Kaplan (kaplan.103@osu.edu)

Medieval Occitan

The Occitan Reading Group was started in Fall, 2006, by students in French 716.02 Introduction to Medieval Occitan: the Language of the Troubadours. Prof. Sarah-Grace Heller has led the group and chosen readings. The group meets one evening a month in homes, with a casual system of potluck refreshments, often using medieval recipes.
Contact: Lisa Bevevino (bevevino.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Reading groups have already started, but in most cases, members are welcome to join at any time.
In Shakespeare’s Richard II, a king invades a subject’s proprietary rights, and the subject responds by wresting the realm from the king. Only after those possessions have been stripped away from him, does Richard achieve a complex mental life by introjecting what were originally his possessions. In this paper Katharine Maus will argue that the relationship between being and having is considerably more complicated than the materialist critics have acknowledged, both in early modern culture generally and in its drama in particular.

**“BEING AND HAVING IN SHAKESPEARE’S RICHARD II”**

**A lecture by Katharine Maus**
University of Virginia

**Friday, March 5 2010**
**Science and Engineering Library, Room 090  2:30 pm**
Upcoming Colloquium

On March 12
Professor Kleinbub
(OSU History of Art Department)

“On the Boundaries of the Natural and Supernatural in Italian Renaissance Art”

Hayes 120, 2-3pm
This course will explore the various ways in which late medieval European literary culture reflected on the natural environment. We will read some theological and scientific materials, followed by a number of romances, allegories, saints’ lives, lyrics, and fables to examine how different medieval communities constructed humanity’s relationship to the natural world. Social practices such as hunting, gardening, and animal domestication will be scrutinized, as well as the use of bestiaries, folklore, changes in how humans thought about their responsibilities to act as stewards of the land and the animals living upon it.
This class will offer students a survey of selected authors representative of the medieval and renaissance periods of Latin literature with discussion of historical background and critical approaches.

Prereq: Latin 104 or equiv.

Medieval-Renaissance Venice: From City State to Empire

Professor Robert Davis
(Department of History)

Spring Quarter 2010
TR 10:30am-12:18pm * University Hall 0151 * U 5 credit hours * Class # 26464

Venice was one of the great societies of Medieval and Renaissance Italy, and ever since it has been one of the world’s most famous cultural icons. We will trace this city’s history, from a few swampy islands to a great maritime empire, exploring along the way how Venetians combined elements of East and West to create a cityscape, art, and literature unique to all of Europe. We will also follow the decline and eventual fall of Venice, through a fascinating decadence to the uncertain present -- where the once famed “Hinge of Europe” has become a rather sad and shabby imitation of itself.
ARTHURIAN LEGENDS

Professor Karen Winstead
(Department of English)

This course will explore the rich tradition of Arthuriana that flourished in the Middle Ages and continues to thrive in modern popular culture. We will sample a few of the earliest legends about King Arthur in British histories, then look at the development of some of the most famous Arthurian legends, including the quest for the holy grail and the tragic love stories of Tristan and Isolde and of Lancelot and Guinevere. The authors we will study include Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chretien de Troyes, and Thomas Malory. We will also see two or three modern films on Arthurian topics. Requirements include 3 exams; and a short paper is optional for extra credit.


Clark, David. Between Medieval Men: Male Friendship and Desire in Early Medieval English Literature. Electronic resource: http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6714008

Colonne, Guido delle. *The “Gest Hystoriale” of the Destruction of Troy*. Electronic resource: [http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6657505](http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6657505)


*Medieval Carols*. Electronic resource: [http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6656843](http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6656843)


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Mum and the Sothsegger. Electronic resource: http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6657088

Murdoch, Brian. The Apocryphal Adam and Eve in Medieval Europe: Vernacular Translations and Adaptations of the Vita Adae et Evae. Electronic resource: http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6714037


Poema morale. Electronic resource: http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6657195


Saul, Nigel. *English Church Monuments in the Middle Ages: History and Representation*. Electronic resource: http://library.ohio-state.edu:80/record=b6714007


As we approach the $40,000 mark, the Howe fund is well on its way to reaching its endowment target of $50,000. Nevertheless, with just over a year to go, we cannot afford to be complacent; however with the CMRS membership displaying the same kind of generosity and good will that typified Nick 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
Óðinn kvað:
Fiolð ec fór,
fiolð ec freistaðac,
fiolð ec reynda regin:
hvat lifir manna,
þá er inn mæra líðr
fimbulvetr með firum?

Vafþrúðnir kvað:
Líf oc Lífðrasir,
en þau leynaz muno
í holti Hoddmímis;
morgindöggvar
þau sér at mat hafa,
þaðan af aldir alaz.

Odin spoke:
Full have I fared,
Full have I tried,
Full have I tested the Powers:
What of men will live
when the famed monstrous winter
comes to mankind?

Vafthrudnir spoke:
Life and Life-Constant,
they will be hidden
in the wood of Hoddmimir;
the morning dew
they will have as food;
thence come men down the ages.

From the Lay of Vafþrúðnir (Vafþrúðnismál), in the Poetic Edda
(manuscript from 1270, age of poem unknown).
Translated by Merrill Kaplan
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
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2009-2010

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