NOUVELLES
Nouvelles

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
January, 1997
Nouvelles Nouvelles is published twice quarterly by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Suzanne Childs, C.M.R.S. 614-292-7495
GREETINGS...

This issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles offers an especially lively view of the work being done by some of our colleagues. Maureen Ahern of Spanish and Portuguese writes about her research in Mexico where she pursued her interest in cultural relations in New Spain during the 1560’s. Her report reminds us that the medieval and renaissance periods were not limited to Europe and that we can learn a great deal about them by extending our geographical range. Tim Gregory of History tells us about his trip this summer to an island in the Gulf of Argos where he and colleagues from the OSU Excavations at Isthmia made a preliminary reconnaissance of a site where several medieval Spanish martyrs may be buried. The story he tells about these martyrs reads just as one wants it to — like something out of a saint’s life. Finally, Keith Mixter of Music reports on his search through medieval musical manuscripts in Austria to find fragments that would match parchment inserts found in a volume in the OSU Library. These reports remind us that there can still be some adventure in the scholarly life!

It’s also a distinct pleasure to report on an unexpected publication by one of our most valued affiliates. Predrag Matejic is known to all of us, of course, as Curator of the Hilandar Library and Director of the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies. Now we learn that he is also a poet who has just published Impressions Etched on Ice: Early Poems (Belgrade and Columbus, 1996). These are the poems of a young man discovering the America where he has lived since early childhood as well as the Slavic world he left behind and then returned to years later. Let me close with a brief quotation from one of his poems that evokes his memories of Hilandar Monastery on Mt. Athos: “Today I walk in the footsteps / of those who never walk alone ...”.

All best wishes for 1997,
Nick Howe
During this quarter, two CMRS affiliates will present their Inaugural Lectures in the College of Humanities. Both presentations will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Lounge of the Faculty Club.

Frank Coulson - (Department of Classics)
Tuesday, January 14th, 1997

Kenneth Andrien - (Department of History)
Tuesday, March 11, 1997
CMRS Corner

Small Grant Reports

Maureen Ahern (Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese)

- A grant-in-aid from CMRS has made it possible for Maureen Ahern of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to complete research on a 16th-century Nahuatl report of the Chichimeca War on Mexico’s northern frontier in 1563. In June, 1995, she traveled to Mexico City where she presented a preliminary version of her essay, “Shifting Frontiers: A Nahuatl Memorial of the Chichimeca War, 1563,” at the 12th International Symposium on Latin American Indian Literatures, held at the Instituto de Antropología of the National University of Mexico. Because the conference was held at this specialized research center, she was able to work with its computerized search programs to access journals and materials largely unavailable in the U.S., and to consult rare Nahuatl dictionaries at the library of the National Museum of Anthropology. She worked with other prime sources at the Archivo General de la Nación (National Archives of Mexico). More recent versions of this study have been presented at the International Latin American Studies Association Meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1995 and at Johns Hopkins University in April, 1996.

This research project examines a Memorial of the Indians of Nombre de Dios, Durango, Concerning their Services to the King, c. 1563, a report dictated in Nahuatl by the leaders of the Mexica and Michoaca auxiliary troops who accompanied Spanish captains and Franciscan priests in campaigns against the Zacatec and Guachilchil on the northern mining frontier of New Spain in the early 1560’s. This brief report (together with its 19th century Spanish transcription and a 1940 English translation) opens a unique window onto frontier war practices as well as Franciscan efforts at resettlement of ethnic groups, as articulated from the perspectives of Nahuatl language and cultural categories. The distinctive Nahua dialogic mode and visual perspective from the war zone reveals why Spanish viceroyal authorities eventually decided they could not win this war and why it fueled a great moral debate at the Third Council of the Mexican Church in 1585. Although this document does not use pictographs, its hybrid structure strongly suggests it is still using prehispanic patterns of recording events and time around location as it
presents a migration history about the foundation of a “new” settlement upon the axis of older warring cultures. Thus, in 1563, the leaders of the auxiliaries recorded an alternative frontier history that established themselves as co-explorers, co-founders, and co-conquerors as they exercised their Nahuatl literacy to claim their place in the shifting spaces of frontier society, and therein to record their deeds that validated it.

Timothy E. Gregory (Professor, Department of History) - Professor Gregory used a CMRS small grant to support research into the possible resting place of medieval Spanish martyrs on a remote Greek island.

A text written in the tenth century by the Greek archbishop Paul of Monemvasia tells of a series of miracles connected with the remains of the Spanish martyrs, Valerius, Vincentius, and Eulalia of Barcelona. The account is preserved only in an Arabic translation and it presents many difficulties of interpretation. According to the text, however, one day the inhabitants of the castle of “the master of Damala” witnessed the miraculous arrival of two caskets, bearing the remains of the saints, sailing on the sea “in a miraculous manner” and arriving at the shore “without the help of a human hand.” The inhabitants decided to build a chapel to honor the martyrs, whom they realized had come from Spain. But that evening the caskets disappeared from the seaside, only to reappear the next morning at a “higher spot, in front of the castle.” The inhabitants recognized the miracle and constructed a church at the place where they were shown. Later the Arabs attacked the castle and carried off the inhabitants, leaving the caskets in the ruins of the chapel.

The remains of the martyrs underwent various other adventures, but they eventually made their way back to Spain, where the cathedral church of St. Eulalia was dedicated in Barcelona in 1298.

Scholars, from both East and West, have long speculated where the “castle of the Lord of Damala” might have been, and various places were suggested, most of them in the area of Monemvasia, for example the islands of Kythera or Antikythera. No universal agreement, however, was forthcoming.

In 1995, however, Adonis Kyrou, publisher of one of Athens’ daily newspapers, presented an article which argued that the resting place of the martyrs was on the island of Dokos, not far from the tourist island of Hydra in the Gulf of Argos. With this article in mind, and with Mr. Kyrou’s kind offer to provide us with transportation to the uninhabited,
waterless island, we sought a permit from the Greek authorities to carry out a program of investigation on a hill at the northeastern end of the island. The permit was forthcoming and in late July, 1996, a small team from The Ohio State University Excavations in Isthmia carried out a limited program of discovery and recording on Dokos.

Our major focus was the recording of the walls of the castle itself, but we also were able to observe interesting details about a small church located on a saddle below the castle and to the south. The location has a clear view to the sea, on both the east and west, and it ideally matches the place where Paul of Monemvasia says the Spanish martyrs were laid to rest. At this point today, there is a small (ca. 3.0 x 5.8 m.) church dedicated to St. John the Theologian. This chapel is relatively modern and it obviously cannot be the church mentioned by Paul of Monemvasia. It is clear, however, that the modern church was built on the remains of a much larger 3-aisled basilica, presumably dated to the 7th century after Christ. On the basis of the surviving walls, the nave of this basilica may be restored with a width of 9.00 m. and a length of 18.63 m. (excluding the apse). To the west there must have been an atrium, although its length cannot presently be determined.

This earlier building may well have been the resting place of the Spanish martyrs. Obviously, such an identification cannot be proven on the basis of the present evidence. Indeed, the suggested reconstruction of the basilica is only hypothetical and based on fragments of the walls that are visible above the present surface. Near the modern church, however, were many pieces of rich marble, the kind that would have been used in decorating a major Christian monument.

Work in 1997, we hope, will clarify some of these questions and will almost certainly provide clear evidence on the size and shape of the early Byzantine building and hopefully settle the issue of its connection with the remains of the Spanish martyrs. This is a question of considerable historical importance and one that will provide significant information about connections between Spain and Greece at the beginning of the Middle Ages.

Chris Highley (Assistant Professor, Department of English) - With the help of a CMRS grant, I was able to visit the Newberry Library in Chicago last August. I conducted preliminary research for a new project that focuses upon Anglo-Scottish relations at the beginning of the seventeenth century and upon the impact of a proposed national union on constructions of race and ethnicity. I had the opportunity to read widely in chronicle histories, antiquarian tracts, and other works that engage questions of national origins and of the relationship between various peoples of the
British Isles.

Call to Alumni

The CMRS is placing a call to all graduates with Medieval and Renaissance degrees and certificates from The Ohio State University. Where are you and what are you doing with your degree? Please let us know. You can call us at (614)292-7495 or write to us at: 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., Columbus, OH 43210. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Nouvelles Nouvelles is On-line

In addition to CMRS course and affiliate information, you can now access the most current issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles on our World Wide Web site. Our address is: http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs/

Among Us

Emeritus Professor Keith E. Mixter’s book General Bibliography for Music Research, third edition, has just been published by Harmonie Park Press as No. 75 of its series Detroit Studies in Music Bibliography. In addition, his article “Franco-Flemish Musicians at the Austrian Court c. 1440” is scheduled to be published in the conference proceedings of the International Conference Austria 996-1996: Music in a Changing Society.


Call for Papers

CMRS has received the following call for papers:
Loyola College in Maryland is seeking abstracts for papers for its conference The New Europe at the Crossroads at St. John’s University, York, England, August 3 to 7, 1997. One-page abstracts are due February 1, 1997.

For more information on this call for papers please contact Dawn Metcalf at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies by phone: (614) 292-7495, e-mail: metcalf.21@osu, or in person at 256 Cunz Hall.

Upcoming Conferences
For more information, please contact Dawn Metcalf, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., Columbus, OH 43210 (614)292-7495

CMRS has received the following announcement:

The Society for Medieval Archaeology will host an international conference entitled Expressions of Cultural Identity: The Archaeology of Regions and Nations in Medieval Europe, at the University of Glasgow from April 4 to 6, 1997. Registration forms are available at CMRS.

Local Lectures

Alice Clark will present her paper “Secular-Song Tenors and the 14th-Century Motet” as part of The Ohio State University School of Music’s Lectures in Musicology. This presentation will take place on Wednesday, February 12 at 4:30 p.m. in the Music/Dance Library.

Habent Sua Fata Libelli
Keith E. Mixter

In the spring of 1986, Professor Robert Tibbetts, then head of the Special Collections Room of The Ohio State University Library, drew my attention to musical inserts sewn into a copy of Vincent de Beauvais’ Opuscula (Basel, 1481). The volume was acquired by the library in 1953. These parchment inserts, used to strengthen the full leather binding, were formed from a single leaf which had been cut in half vertically. The first half was wrapped at the edge around the first gathering of the book, while the second half was wrapped around the final gathering, Q. The leaf displays musical notation on both recto and verso sides, the former
Upcoming Events of CMRS

The following are details of the next four events from the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies’ two lecture series:

Organizing the Past: Perspectives on Cultural Periods

LEE PATTERSON
(Department of English, Yale University)
Chaucer on the Couch: Medieval Writing in a Culture of Psychoanalysis

Friday, April 4, 1997 at 4:30 p.m.
in Room 311 of Denney Hall
on The Ohio State University Campus

Manuscript Culture:
The Interdisciplinary Foundations of Medieval and Renaissance Studies

Michael Camille
(Department of History of Art, University of Chicago)
The Sensuous Page: Medieval Manuscripts and the Five Senses
Thursday, January 30, 1997 at 4:30 p.m.
in Room 262 of Hopkins Hall,
on The Ohio State University Campus

Workshops:
Friday, January 31, 1997
A faculty workshop will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Room 260 Cunz Hall.
A graduate student workshop will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Room 300 Cunz Hall.

**F. C. Robinson**  
(Department of English, Yale University)  
Back to the Manuscript  
Thursday, February 13, 1997 at 4:30 p.m.  
in Room 311 of Denney Hall  
on The Ohio State University Campus

Workshops:  
Friday, February 14, 1997  
A graduate student workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 260 Cunz Hall.  
A faculty workshop will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Room 260 Cunz Hall.

**John Dagenais**  
(Department of Spanish, UCLA)  
Suppressing the Evidence: Medievalists, Medieval Manuscripts, and the Ethics of Editing  
Thursday, February 27, 1997 at 4:30 p.m.  
in Room 300 Cunz Hall  
on The Ohio State University Campus

Workshops:  
Friday, February 28, 1997  
A graduate student workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 260 Cunz Hall.  
A faculty workshop will be held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Room 260 Cunz Hall.

Preregistration for workshops is encouraged.
containing ten staves, making up five systems of polyphony, the latter also showing ten staves, of which six form three polyphonic systems to which are added four monophonic lines.

According to an inscription on the flyleaf, the volume was owned by Wolfgang Eysingeringer, vicar of the village church in Traunkirchen, Austria, who professed in 1489 at the Benedictine monastery of Lambach. On this occasion, part of his endowment was this volume, which he first caused to be bound. From an investigation of contemporary bindings, it could be determined that the volume was not bound in Lambach but rather at the monastery of Kremsmünster, whence must have come the musical fragment. From paleographical and music notational evidence, it appears that the approximate date of the leaf is 1300 and the general area of origin Vienna.

After determining that the music in this fragment is a two-voiced Marian sequence, a search was made in the fall of 1986 at Kremsmünster by means of grants from The Ohio State University and the National Endowment for the Humanities in the hope of finding other related fragments. Although this search proved fruitless, the Gregorian chant basis for the lower voice of the polyphony, namely the monophonic sequence “Digni dignis fulgent signis,” for the Feast of the Martyrs, was discovered there in a manuscript notated in staffless neumes. Consultation with sources for this chant which bear staff notation allowed comparative study of the chant basis with the version found in the lower voice of the polyphonic sequence. The verbal text was paraphrased for the Marian sequence recorded in the OSU fragment. The discovery of the text and chant aided immeasurably in the editing of the music of the fragment.

Although the central development of this genre of composition lay elsewhere, the discovery of this previously unknown composition provides documentation of the application of this genre in peripheral areas such as Austria. Of added interest is the manner in which chant and text were paraphrased to provide a composition for an entirely different liturgical use.

For further details, including an edition and analysis of the music, see my article “A Newly Discovered Medieval Polyphonic Sequence,” in Musica Disciplina XLIV (1990), 233-53.

Internet News:
The following sites and many others are linked to the CMRS Internet Resources Web Page <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs/resources/index.html>. If you have any questions or would like to tell us about new sites, please contact R.J. Stansbury <stansbury.4@osu.edu>.

- The “On-line Calendar of Saints’ Days” is a hypertext guide to the feast days of Christian saints. It is based on several different dictionaries of saints (but primarily on Hermann Grotefend’s Taschenbuch der Zeitrechnung). Unlike many of those other dictionaries, however, this one is organized by date, rather than by the name of the saint. When you look up a day, you will find the names of the saints celebrated on that day, together with the names of some of the places in which the feast is (or was) especially important. <http://gpu.srv.ualberta.ca/~ggunhous/grotefend/home.htm>. You can also find biographies of a number of saints at <http://www.pitt.edu/~eflst4/saint_bios.html>.

- The Web Site for the Medieval Academy of America continues to grow. Information about upcoming conferences, and particularly internet and other electronic resources, are posted on this site. <http://www.georgetown.edu:80/MedievalAcademy/>.

- Labyrinth Home Page is one of the most widely known and recognized sites for Medieval Studies. It contains a large number of resources for Medieval Studies such as a library of texts, professional publications and organizations, pedagogical resources, and text, image, and archival databases. <http://www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/labyrinth-home.html>.

- The Department of History at Copenhagen University is proud to present a searchable image-database containing approximately 3,000 images of medieval wall-paintings from churches across Denmark (more images are added regularly). The database supports Boolean text-searches of the descriptive text (i.e. the Church name, motifs, genres, painters, age, etc.) attached to each image. An English language version will be finished in the beginning of June. <http://kalk.historie.ku.dk/>

- The On-line Medieval and Classical Library
(OMACL) is a collection of some of the most important literary works of Classical and Medieval civilization. It has a search capability by title, author, genre, and language and is useful for teaching. <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/OMACL/>


**At the Library**

by Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt


Announcements

Intensive Latin

The Classics Department of The Ohio State University will offer a new 10-week Intensive Latin Workshop during summer quarter, 1997. This workshop will cover Latin 101-104. This will be an excellent choice not only for talented undergraduates who need to satisfy the Arts and Sciences foreign language requirement but also for graduate students who need to fulfill the Latin 571-572 series for graduation. This workshop will satisfy the prerequisites for 200-level reading courses and most students will be able to enroll in 600-level author and genre courses. For more information please contact the Department of Classics at (614) 292-2744.

Images in Ivory

The Detroit Institute of Arts will host an exhibition entitled, Images in Ivory: Precious Objects of the Gothic Age, from March 9 until May 11, 1997. In addition to offering a glimpse into the lives of people living in the 1200’s to the 1400’s, the nearly 100 examples of devotional and everyday objects from many of the world’s greatest museums tell the story of the growth and eventual demise of this exquisite medieval art form. This exhibition complements the ICMA sessions on “Gothic Ivories” which will be held at Kalamazoo in May, 1997.

Early Music in Columbus
The Early Interval will celebrate its 20th anniversary in “An Evening with Ben Jonson” on March 7 and 8, 1997 in Mees Auditorium of Capital University. The program provides a unique glimpse of life in London at the beginning of the 17th century by combining theater, music, and dance. Concerts begin at 8:15 p.m. and are preceded by a 7:45 p.m. lecture. For more information please call (614) 861-4569.

Poculi Ludique Societas

On Midsummer’s Day, 1998 (Saturday, June 21), Poculi Ludique Societas will present a full production of the York Cycle of biblical plays. For this production, PLS will act as producing body, and invites theatre groups from all over the world to bring individual plays. This group formally invites you to bring to Toronto a play from the York Cycle. A list of the plays and some technical information is available from CMRS. For more information please write to: Poculi Ludique Societas, 39 Queen’s Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C3; e-mail: plspls@chass.utoronto.ca; or visit their web site: http://www.epas.utoronto.ca:8080/-medieval/www/pls.

Medieval Palestine

The Society for Medieval Archaeology is planning a trip to Israel and perhaps neighboring countries in 1998 to examine the mandate of the Department of Antiquities as well as explore major buildings - churches, castles, towns, and rural settlements - of medieval Levant. This trip will only happen if there is sufficient interest and the more participants there are, the cheaper it will be. For more information please contact the CMRS.

Activities:

If you have any information about your professional or scholarly activities which you would like to have included in the next edition of the CMRS Newsletter (Nouvelles Nouvelles), please submit it by campus mail. Such activities include publishing books, articles, or reviews, papers or lectures, awards received, services done, and research grants. Please be sure to include your name, department, rank (i.e. faculty, Ph.D. candidate)
and all other pertinent information. Submission deadline for the next publication is February 15, 1996. Please submit them to: Dawn Metcalf, Editor, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, The Ohio State University, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1229 or by e-mail: <metcalf.21@osu.edu>.

Cover Image: Members of the The Ohio State University Excavations team record details of the walls of a castle and church on the island of Dokos. This project was executed under the direction of Professor Timothy E. Gregory and was supported in part by a CMRS grant. (For more details, see page 6 of this issue).
Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
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1995-1996

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