

NOUVELLES

Nouvelles



Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
February, 1998

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Ohio State University
256 Cunz Hall
1841 Millikin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210
Tel: 614-292-7495
Fax: 614-292-1599

World Wide Web
<http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs>

Nicholas Howe
Director

Suzanne Childs
Administrative Assistant

Dawn Metcalf
Ronald J. Stansbury
Graduate Assistants

Paula Melchert
Kris Penhorwood
Workstudy Students

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

In the midst of wonderful visits from Pamela Sheingorn, David Lindberg, Richard Hoffmann and Giles Constable, we've been busy working on events for next year. We've recently sent out grant proposals for various projects, including an interdisciplinary seminar series on "Europe and the Rest of the World, 500-1650" and a one-day public conference on "The Medieval and Renaissance Worlds in Contemporary America." It's too early to have any word about our proposals, but stay tuned for news in the next issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles*. To all those faculty affiliates and graduate students who assisted with our proposal, many thanks. Having your help and good counsel makes directing CMRS a great pleasure for me.

In the last *Nouvelles Nouvelles*, I wrote about the honors that have been won by some of our students. As it turned out, I wrote a bit prematurely because there's yet more good news. Karl Matthias, a major in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, was recently named one of the 50 top seniors in the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. Karl is writing an honors thesis under the direction of Professor Anthony Allen from the Department of French and Italian. Stacy Klein, who is writing a dissertation in Old English under my direction, has just accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the English Department at Rutgers University. Congratulations again to Karl and Stacy.

CMRS will shortly be announcing two GTA positions to start in the autumn quarter. In the meantime graduate students should think about applying for these positions and faculty can think about recommending students.

Best wishes for the end of winter quarter. And don't forget that next quarter we'll be hosting Anthony Cutler, Annabel Patterson and Richard Kagan in our series on "Communities and Identities in the Pre-Modern World." You can find details about each visit later in this issue.

Nick Howe

Among Us

Albert N. Mancini (Professor, Department of French and Italian) published an article entitled "Retorica e spettacolo del potere in alcuni libretti d'opera del medio Seicento veneziano" in *Rivista di studi italiani* (Toronto), 15.2 (1997): 93-120. He delivered the paper "Sperone Speroni (1500-1588), critico letterario: l'epica controriformista e il meraviglioso," at the joint ACTFL-AATI conference in Nashville on November 23, 1997; and presented the Editor's Report for the journal *Italica* at the annual business meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Italian, November 22, 1997. Professor Mancini will serve on the Faculty of the Italian School of Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, during Summer 1998 and teach a graduate course in Boccaccio's *Decameron* and the Renaissance novella.



CONGRATULATIONS!

GREGORY JUSDANIS (Department of Greek and Latin) will present his inaugural lecture entitled *Why Literature?* at 7:30 p.m. on April 7, 1998 in the Grand Lounge in the Faculty Club.

CMRS Corner

Stanley J. Kahrl Awards

CMRS would like to remind all faculty affiliates that we are currently accepting nominations for the Stanley J. Kahrl Awards, which are given to the writers of the best undergraduate and graduate papers. Nomination forms will soon be mailed to faculty affiliates. If you do not receive a form by the end of February, please contact CMRS and we will send you one as soon as possible. The nomination form is also available on our world wide web site (<http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs/>). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 17, 1998.



Small Grants Competition

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is pleased to announce the spring quarter competition for its Small Research Grant Program. Faculty affiliates and doctoral students with A.B.D. status are eligible to apply. Applications will be mailed out the first week of the spring quarter and are due by May 8, 1998. If you do not receive application materials, please contact Suzanne Childs at CMRS at (614)292-7495 or visit our world wide web site at: <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs/>.

WHAT I'VE READ LATELY

BY SARAH ILES JOHNSTON



(DEPARTMENT OF GREEK & LATIN)

Edward Muir, *Ritual in Early Modern Europe*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1997. Paper, 291 pages.

Muir explores the uses of ritual during a period that is particularly interesting for the subject, as it was during the early modern period, in the course of the Reformation and the conflicts leading up to it, that the very concept of "ritual" as an activity separable from other activities began to be developed. (Muir ascribes the first uses of this word to the 16th century; notably, it had a pejorative sense and was applied only to the practices of other people's religions.) Working from a definition of ritual as "basically a social activity that is repetitive, standardized, a model or a mirror [whose] meaning is inherently ambiguous," (pg. 6) he challenges Durkheim's fundamental distinction between the sacred and the profane by emphasizing how, in early modern Europe, people experienced the sacred within the profane world, using rituals that were intended to attract a lover, heal the sick, or calm deep anxieties. Moreover, regardless of what the Church decreed, Muir suggests, the laity had a pragmatic attitude towards ritual that led them to use whatever worked best, "without distinguishing sharply between the august rites of the liturgy and the more humble practices they could perform themselves" (pg. 16).

After further methodological groundwork in which he discusses rites of passage and ritual calendars of the time, Muir applies his hypotheses to Carnival practices and then to the Reformation itself. The section on Carnival is valuable not so much for any new theoretical approaches to the carnivalesque that it offers (although he does tweak Bakhtin a bit by emphasizing the ease with which Carnival laughter can turn to violence) as because it nicely demonstrates the theories with ample and interesting historical material. The section on the Reformation includes a good overview of the witchcraze and an interesting analysis of government as a ritual process.

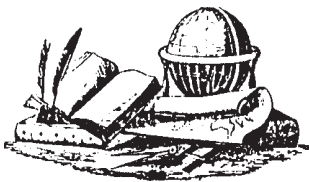
The Cambridge series in which Muir's book appears ("New Approaches to European History") is intended, according to the publisher, to "provide concise but authoritative surveys of major themes and problems in European history." The publisher claims that the series is oriented towards undergraduates, but I would most certainly add that Muir's entry provides a useful and provocative discussion for a scholar who, like me, was familiar with the theoretical issues but not fully familiar with the historical material.

Upcoming Conferences and Programs

(For more information, please contact Dawn Metcalf,
CMRS, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., 43210-1229; (614)292-7495)

Reading and the Book in the Middle Ages

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium will be held at the University of the South in Sewanee on April 3 and 4, 1998. This year's theme is "Reading and the Book in the Middle Ages." Registrations should be received by Friday, March 27, 1998.



Summer Medieval Studies Program

The Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame will offer courses on medieval Latin, paleography, and medieval liturgies as part of its Summer Medieval Studies Program that will run from June 22 through August 4, 1998. Registration must be received by May 19, 1998 and

Upcoming Events Hosted by CMRS

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies will host the following presentations from its lectures series in the spring quarter:

Communities and Identities in the Pre-Modern World

Anthony Cutler

(Department of Art History, Pennsylvania State University)

Byzantium and Islam: The Arts of Emulation

Thursday, April 9, 1998

at 4:30 p.m. in Room 262 Hopkins Hall

Conversations with Anthony Cutler will take place on

Friday, April 10, 1998

in Room 300 Cunz Hall.

Faculty and graduate students will meet
from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Lunch will be provided.

Annabel Patterson



(Department of English, Yale University)

Catholic Communities and the Arts

Thursday, April 30, 1998
at 4:30 p.m. in Room 311 Denney Hall

Conversations with Annabel Patterson will take place
on Friday, May 1, 1998
in Room 300 Cunz Hall.

Faculty and graduate students will meet
from 10:00 a.m. until noon.
Lunch will be provided.

Richard Kagan

(Department of History, Johns Hopkins University)

Cartography and Community in the Hispanic World, 1500-1750

Thursday, May 14, 1998
at 4:30 p.m. in Room 311 Denney Hall

Conversations with Richard Kagan will take place on
Friday, May 15, 1998 in Room 300 Cunz Hall.

Faculty and graduate students will meet
from 10:00 a.m. until noon.
Lunch will be provided.

Spring Quarter 1998

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 215



GOTHIC PARIS: 1100-1300

Directed by Professor Anne Morganstern

(Department of History of Art)

Gothic Paris was the city of Philip Augustus, St. Louis, Thomas Aquinas, the masters of the emerging university, and the builders of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. The largest metropolis of Northern Europe by the thirteenth century (population ca. 80,000), and the residence of the Capetian kings, Paris celebrated its first great age in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries when French culture dominated the civilization of Europe.

In MRS 215, we shall study the city's major institutions: the church, the royal government, and the university, and explore medieval French culture. Guest lecturers from the departments of History, Philosophy, French and Italian, Classics, and Music History will lecture and lead discussions on the church, the state, the Crusades, philosophy, literature, book production, music, and art. Literary readings will include excerpts from the Song of Roland, the Lais of Marie de France, the Jeu de saint Nicolas, the tale of Aucassin and Nicolette, and poems by Rutebeuf.

5 Credit Hrs. - Lecture/Discussion

T, R: 10:30-12:30 - University Hall 38

Spring Quarter 1998

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 694

ERASMUS THE

HUMANIST

directed by

Professor Harry Vredeveld

(Department of Germanic Languages
and Literatures)



Albrecht Dürer's engraving of
Erasmus, 1526

5 Credit Hrs.

M, W, F 11:30-12:48

Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536) was a many-sided, hugely influential figure in the northern Renaissance. He was a poet and letter-writer, textual scholar and translator, an educator, satirist, and theologian. This course aims to introduce students in particular to Erasmus as a humanist poet, rhetorician, and satirist. The first part of the class will focus on his career as a poet. In the second part we will sample some of his other writings, notably his correspondence, the "Praise of Monasticism," and "In Praise of Marriage" as well as "Handbook of the Christian Soldier" (Enchiridion), "The Complaint of Peace," and the Colloquies. The final part of the course will deal with his most famous and enduring work, "The Praise of Folly."

The format will be largely in the Erasmian style of the informal colloquy: we discuss Erasmus's text and hear student presentations on specific topics. Grading will be based partly on the quality of the classroom contributions, partly on the strength of the written paper.

By the end of the course the student should have a clear understanding not only of Erasmus's life and work, but also of the hu-

Spring Quarter 1998

Medieval and Renaissance 694a



Thomas Aquinas: Philosophical Themes in the Summa Theologiae

directed by
Professor Peter King
(Department of Philosophy)

5 Credit Hours
M, W 1:30-3:18



prospective students may apply for one of two tuition scholarships.

Local Lecture

Tamar Rudavsky (The Ohio State University) will give a lecture entitled, "Genesis, Big Bang Cosmology and God: A Jewish Appraisal" at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 1998 in room 347 University Hall (Philosophy Commons). This lecture is part of the Thomas and Diann Mann Distinguished Symposium Series on Science, Religion and Judaism.

Announcements

Viva Victoria

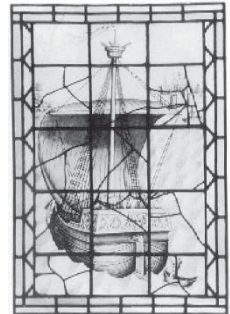
On March 13, 1998, The Early Interval will join with the BelCanto Singers under the direction of Stephen Caracciolo in a celebration of the 450th birthday of the Spanish Renaissance composer Tómas Luis de Victoria. The program features performances of vocal and instrumental works by Victoria and his Spanish contemporaries and is entitled Viva Victoria. For tickets or more information, please call (614) 861-4569.

At the Library...

by Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt

BR161.V65 1997 MAIN-Main Library.
Volz, Carl A. The Medieval Church: From the Dawn of the Middle Ages to the Eve of the Reformation. Nashville: Abingdon Press, c1997. 256p.

BR170.M33 1997 MAIN-Main Library.
MacMullen, Ramsay. Christianity and Paganism in the Fourth to Eighth Centuries. New Haven: Yale University Press, c1997. 282p. ill.



BX330.A55 1997 MAIN-Main Library
Antonopoulou, Theodora. The Homilies of the Emperor Leo VI. Leiden; New York: Brill, 1997. 308p.

BX4659.G7 W56 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

Winstead, Karen A. *Virgin Martyrs: Legends of Sainthood in Late Medieval England*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997. 201p. ill.

D125.M28 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

MacGregor, Arthur. *A Summary Catalogue of the Continental Archaeological Collections: Roman Iron Age, Migration Period, Early Medieval*. Oxford: Archaeopress, 1997. 288p. ill. maps.

DD173.H45 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

Heinig, Paul-Joachim. *Kaiser Friedrich III. (1440-1493): Hof, Regierung und Politik*. Koln: Bohlau, 1997. 3 v. 1791p.

DF721.A94 1994 MAIN-Main Library.

Augustinos, Olga. *French Odysseys: Greece in French Travel Literature from the Renaissance to the Romantic Era*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, c1994. 345p. ill.



DS110.A78 J65 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

Johns, C. N. *Pilgrims' Castle ('Atlit), David's Tower (Jerusalem), and Qal'atar-Rabad ('Ajlun): Three Middle Eastern Castles from the Time of the Crusades*. Aldershot; Brookfield: Variorum, c1997. ill. maps.

HQ792.E8 L47 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

Lett, Didier. *L'enfant des miracles: Enfance et société au Moyen Age: (XIIe-XIIIe siècle)*. Paris: Aubier, c1997. 396p.

JC121.T5 L3 1965 MAIN-Main Library.

Lachance, Louis. *L'humanisme politique de saint Thomas d'Aquin, individu et état*. Paris: Editions Sirey; Montreal: Editions du Levrier [1965]. 398p.

JN137.C37 1997 MAIN-Main Library.

Carpenter, Christine. *The Wars of the Roses: Politics and the Constitution in England, c. 1437-1509*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997. 293p. ill. maps.

PA8035.S35 1995 MAIN-Main Library.

Schmidt, Paul Gerhard. *Das Interesse an mittellateinischer Literatur*.

