Nouvelles

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
May 1998
Greetings

As the academic year ends, there’s much good news to report about CMRS. In addition to the grant we received from the Ohio Humanities Council last month, we’ve recently heard that our application to the Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Series has been funded by the Office of Research and the Graduate School. This grant will allow us to bring five speakers to campus next year for lectures and workshops on the theme of “Europe and the Rest of the World, 500-1650.” This grant was written by a group of graduate students which included Stacy Klein (English), Dawn Metcalf (History of Art), Sarah Pessin (Philosophy), Susanne Reece (History of Art), and R.J. Stansbury (History). We all owe thanks to them for their outstanding work on this project. And thanks as well should be extended to the Office of Research and the Graduate School for awarding CMRS an interdisciplinary seminar grant for the third year in a row. We’ve yet to choose speakers for this series but you can expect brochures in your mailbox at the start of the autumn quarter with names, titles and dates for each of the five lectures.

I can tell you that we have arranged a lively group of speakers for our series next year on “Visual Life.” These lectures will run from January through May 1999 and will include presentations by Gordon Kipling (English, UCLA), Sharon Takeda (Asian Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art), Michael Flier (Slavics, Harvard), Edward Muir (History, Northwestern), and Margot Fassler (Music, Yale). You can also expect a brochure about this series when the fall term begins.

There is also good news to report about scholars in the field who will be joining OSU during the academic year 1998-99. Medieval, renaissance and early modern studies will be strengthened by the addition of colleagues in various departments. Near Eastern Languages and Cultures has recruited Adena Tannenbaum and Daniel Frank who both work in medieval Hebrew studies. Barbara Hanawalt and David Cressy will be joining the Department of History, where their extraordinary accomplishments in English history will add great luster to the reputation of OSU. Caroline Bicks and Nancy Miller will add expertise in the study of renaissance literature in the Department of English, at Columbus and Mansfield respectively. We look forward to welcoming all of our new colleagues as affiliates of CMRS next year.

The end of this year brings with it as well the departure of the two gradu-
ate associates who have worked in the Center since 1995. Dawn Metcalf
will be starting as a teaching assistant in History of Art and pursuing her
work on medieval Italian pulpits, and R.J. Stansbury will be starting a
similar position in History and pursuing his dissertation research on
medieval sermons. They have served with great enthusiasm and skill as
the Center’s two GAs over the last three years. They have both worked
tirelessly in arranging our events, in preparing publicity materials, in pro-
ducing each and every issue of Nouvelles Nouvelles, and (not least!) in
helping to keep the director sane. But more than all of these accomplish-
ments, they have been a source of exciting ideas and good counsel while
they have worked in the Center. I will miss both of them and wish them
all the best of success in their new positions. We owe them both many,
many thanks for their dedication, commitment and imagination.

I look forward to seeing you at our end-of-the-year celebration on Thurs-
day, May 28 at 4:30 PM in Denney 311. We will give out the Stanley J.
Kahrl Awards and then hear a reading by Dick Davis from his splendid
translations of medieval Persian poetry. After Dick reads, we will have a
reception to celebrate the conclusion of the academic year 1997-98.
Let me end by thanking our faculty affiliates, our students and our
friends for their support of the Center during this year. It has been a
great pleasure to see so many of you at our events and to hear your en-
couraging words. Have a good summer and get ready for another year
of exciting lectures and workshops at CMRS.

Nick Howe
New Affiliate

Graeme M. Boone (Assistant Professor, School of Music History and Literature) - received his B.A. in music from the University of California, Berkeley in 1976, and his M.A. and Ph.D., also in music, from Harvard University in 1987. His doctoral thesis combined a close paleographical study of early fifteenth-century musical manuscripts with close musical analysis, in view of explaining the stylistic evolution of Guillaume Dufay, preeminent composer of the earlier fifteenth century.

Since that time, he taught at Harvard for a number of years and has continued to work in early-fifteenth-century music. His interests in this area are wide-ranging, but include the study of paleography, analysis and musical prosody. He has written on the relationship between manuscript accidentals, tonal organization, and musical language; on tuning, and its impact on musical conception; on the late medieval understanding of musical time, and its divergence from modern understanding; on early musical notation in the broader context of handwriting styles and functions; and on the relationship between textual prosody and musical rhythm in late medieval song. He has also begun research on a study of the striking parallels between counterpoint and architectural design in the fifteenth century.

Outside of fifteenth-century studies, his principal research interests have been in American popular and related music. He has edited a book of essays on rock, and written essays on blues, rock, rap music, and jazz. He is currently editing a collection of historical readings in jazz, to be published by W.W. Norton. And he has worked with Quincy Jones on a CD-ROM survey of American music.

Among Us

Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures) received a Senior Fulbright Fellowship for research in Dresden, Berlin, and Wolfenbüttel for her study “The Culture of Violence in Early Modern Germany.” She presented a keynote lecture “The Witches’ Sabbath: Goethe’s Inner Demons” at Duke University at the

Elizabeth B. Davis - (Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese) was elected to a four-year term to the Board of the Society for Hispanic Renaissance and Baroque Poetry.

Donald R. Larson - (Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese) was elected to a three-year term to the Board of Directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater.

Dawn Metcalf - (Ph.D. Student, Department of History of Art) presented her paper “The Rise of Heresies and the Story of Cain and Abel on Modena Cathedral” at The Ohio Area Student Symposium in Cleveland on April 24th. She also placed third in the Humanities division of the 1998 Edward Hayes Graduate Research Forum at OSU with the presentation of a shorter version of the same paper.

John C. Rule - (Professor Emeritus, Department of History) published a “Foreword” to David Stewart’s Assimilation and Acculturation in Seventeenth-Century Europe: Roussillon and France (Greenwood Press, 1997). He delivered two lectures at the University of Winnipeg,
Canada, 14-15 October, 1997: “A Moderate Man: Louis XIV’s Last Foreign Minister, Colbert de Torcy,” and “Renaissance Stoicism: A True Revival?” At the annual meeting of the Western Society for French History he chaired and commented on a session, “The French Court in the 17th and 18th Centuries.” He chaired a session on “Strategy and Reform in the French Army, 1688-1815,” at the annual meeting of the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe 1750-1850.

CHRISTIAN ZACHER - (Professor, Department of English) presented “Motivations and Destinations of English Travelers,” at a Pennsylvania State University conference titled Way and Wayfarer: Travels in the Medieval World, in State Park, PA in April.

What I’ve Read Lately
by Professor Nicholas Howe
(Department of English)


Don’t worry: this isn’t a novelization of the famous line from Pulp Fiction about “getting medieval.” There’s no post-modern violence here, no clever manipulation of narrative sequence, not even a single pejorative use of the word “medieval” that I could find. Instead, Jim Paul has written a quiet, at times elegant meditation about the continuities and disjunctions of history as seen through the eyes of a weekend visitor to Los Angeles. The narrator, visiting the city of angels with his woman friend, spends Saturday and Sunday doing what seems natural in that place: brunch in a trendy restaurant, a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art, dinner at a trendier restaurant, a party with people from the edges of the movie business, then Sunday at the beach.

The attraction of this novel is not so much in its plot but rather in the ways the first-person narrator thinks about the world of Los Angeles as he moves through it. References to Jessica Lange and other movie stars, to Bob Fosse’s morality play All That Jazz, to
John Cage as class valedictorian at LA High in 1928, to images of Bertolt Brecht and his days in LA doing Galileo — all this and more moves through the medievalized filter of his mind. The play between the Southern California landscape and the medieval world leads to a series of reflections on the Venerable Bede, William of Ockham and Thomas Aquinas. Along the way, there is some fine and engaging writing, some wit, even some belief that at the edge of the apocalypse — and where better to wait for that blockbuster, cinemascope production at the end of the millennium than LA? — something can be learned from thinking back into the medieval past. Here’s the narrator on Saturday night thinking about LA medieval in a chapter called “The Cloud of Unknowing”:

Umberto Eco, for one, suggests that the Middle Ages ended in the thirteenth century when the scholastic Robert Grosseteste, in his groundbreaking experiments with optics, made a firm distinction between hallucination and sight. Before that the Middle Ages had proceeded in a universe of hallucination, writes Eco in his essay on Thomas Aquinas.

Maybe blue-screening, morphing, special effects, Photo-shopping, the making real of impossible images, maybe these technical advances herald a return to a world of collective hallucination, a return to the symbolic forest peopled with mysterious presences, that Eco says really might have to be reconstructed. Just a thoroughly contemporary narrator finding some solace, some sense of connection at the edge of the continent in the flow between our time and the Middle Ages. As he says, “The Middle

The virgin martyr Katherine of Alexandria is a surprising subject for a popular novel. Still more surprising is that Sheri Holman dilates on a dimension of Katherine’s legend that is almost guaranteed to repel contemporary readers: the saint’s relics. A Stolen Tongue is a mystery novel of sorts. Its protagonist and narrator is Felix Fabri (1441-1502), a Dominican friar from Germany, who, since the age of eighteen, has regarded Katherine as his spiritual bride. While traveling in the Holy Land, Felix is shocked to find that pieces of his beloved - her arm, her ear, her tongue - have been disappearing from the reliquaries that housed them. Can he recover the stolen body parts? Can he reach Katherine’s monastery on Mount Sinai in time to prevent the thief from stealing the rest of his wife? And can he survive the adventure with his faith intact? Though not for the squeamish, A Stolen Tongue is eminently entertaining. Holman is well informed about medieval travel lore, relic cults, Felix Fabri, and St. Katherine; moreover, her treatment of the bizarre, often macabre, theories of “translating” both texts and bodies is bound to engage the medievalist.

RCMSS Graduate Associate

The Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies expects to be able to hire a Graduate Research Associate for a three- (possibly four-) quarter appointment beginning Summer or Autumn Quarter, 1998. Applicants should:
♦ Be a full-time graduate student in good standing as of Summer/Autumn Quarter 1998
♦ Be available to work twenty hours a week during regular office hours (9:00-5:00)
♦ Have completed course work in Old Church Slavonic
♦ Have knowledge of one or more Slavic languages
♦ Have previous work experience with Cyrillic manuscripts (desirable)
♦ Have some computer experience

Primary duties are related to assisting the Center’s Director and its staff in various research and Center related activities. GRA’s are also expected to provide research assistance to visiting scholars of RCMSS. Duties may also include library tasks. Letters of application with curriculum vitae should be submitted no later than May 31, 1998 to:
Dr. Predrag Matejic, Director
The Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies
225 Main Library
1858 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1286
(614)292-0634

CALLS FOR PAPERS
(for more information, please contact Dawn Metcalf, CMRS, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., Columbus, OH 43210-1229; (614)292-7495)

The MEDIEVAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDWEST will hold its fourteenth annual conference on Stark Campus of Kent State University, September 24, 25 and 26, 1998. The conference coordinators invite submissions for papers on all aspects of medieval studies. Participants must be members of the Medieval Association of the Midwest by the time of the conference. One-page abstracts must be received by June 1, 1998.
The sponsors of the interdisciplinary colloquium, *John Foxe and His World*, invite abstracts for papers that focus on Foxe’s Acts and Monuments (“The Book of Martyrs”), in particular, or on other subjects related to Foxe and the world he lived in. This conference will take place April 29 through May 2, 1999 at The Ohio State University. One-page proposals must be received by September 30, 1998.

**Research and Fellowship Opportunities**

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

**PIMS Licence in Medieval Studies**

The Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies Council announces a new post-doctoral award of the Licence in Medieval Studies. Applicants must have completed all requirements for their doctoral degree, normally within the last five years. The object of the program is to provide an opportunity for the development of the Research Fellow’s interests in the context of the Institute’s library resources. The Licence in Medieval Studies will be awarded to those Fellows who have completed during their tenure a research project deemed by Council to be worthy of publication. Applications are expected to work with primary sources. Applications may be made for a period of one year and are due by August 15, 1998.

**At the Library...**

by Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt

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The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents its

End-of-the-Year Celebration with

Dick Davis reading translations of medieval Persian poetry from his book Borrowed Wares

Thursday, May 28, 1998 at 4:30 p.m. in room 311 Denney Hall
on The Ohio State University campus

The public is cordially invited to attend the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies’ End-of-the-Year Celebration. The Stanley J. Kahrl awards will be presented to the writers of the best papers on medieval and renaissance topics. Afterwards, Dick Davis (Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) will read from his book of translations of medieval Persian poetry entitled Borrowed Wares. All are welcome to attend this reading by a member of the faculty of The Ohio State University. A reception will follow the presentation.

For more information, please contact the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at (614) 292-7495 or by e-mail at <cmrs@osu.edu> or visit our web site at <http://www.cmrs.ohio-state.edu>.
The Medieval and Renaissance Worlds in Contemporary America

See how the medieval and renaissance periods have been revived in our culture in this one-day conference comprised of the following speakers:

Sharan Newman, mystery novels of the medieval world.
Charles Atkinson, the current revival of early music in America.
Carl Lindahl, medieval and renaissance fairs as cultural events.
Carol Clover, movies and the medieval era.
Aaron Betsky, medieval and renaissance styles in American architecture.

Saturday, October 24, 1998
on The Ohio State University Campus

This conference is free to the public.

Sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

For more information, contact CMRS by phone (614)292-7495 or by e-mail at <cmrs@osu.edu> or visit us on the web at http://www.cmrs.ohio-state.edu.

This program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
In this course we will survey the history and culture of the Celtic lands (especially Ireland, Scotland, and Wales), with the emphasis on developments between the fall of the Roman Empire and the end of the Stuart Dynasty in Britain. Much of the course will focus on the literature, the arts, and the languages, especially Irish and Scottish Gaelic. There will also be considerable attention given to the cultural contacts between the Celtic peoples and their neighbors.

For more information, you can visit the course page by going to: http://www.english.ohio-state.edu/People/odlin.1/courses/
Victor Hugo once wrote: “Errer (i.e. to wander) is human; flâner (i.e. to stroll and look around) is Parisian.” In this course, we shall practice the art of flânerie, somewhat anachronistically, in the streets of Paris during the “Gothic” period (roughly from 1150 to 1350). Selected “stops” in representative places (such as Notre Dame, Saint-Denis, les Halles, la Sorbonne, etc.) will allow us to explore the political, intellectual, spiritual, artistic and literary dimensions of Parisian (and French) culture at a time when Paris became one of the most prominent cities of Western Europe. Our Parisian wanderings will thus function as a point of departure from which to investigate the larger context of the Gothic period in France. The aim of the course is to gain a fuller sense of the evolution of medieval French culture using a wide range of perspectives and examining topics such as everyday life, knighthood, the birth of the university, sacred and secular art, courtly love and the rise of vernacular literature. Literary readings will include, among others, excerpts from the Song of Roland, the Lais of Marie de France and the tale
This course will introduce the student to the historical development and range of medieval Latin from the fall of the Empire to the beginning of the Italian Renaissance. Using Harrington’s *Medieval Latin* (second edition, revised by J. Pucci), the class will read representative texts from such diverse genres as theology, philosophy, satire, lyric and history. The focus of the class will be on increasing the student’s reading abilities in medieval Latin. The course should be of interest to students in history, English, vernacular literatures, philosophy, art history, and music theory.

CMRS 694 will serve as the introductory course in a sequence of courses in medieval Latin to be offered next year during Autumn, Winter and Spring Quarters. Please contact Professor Coulson at (614)292-2744 or <coulson.1@osu.edu> for further information.
Despite the religious and political divide between them - displayed most spectacularly by the Crusades and the expulsion of the “Moors” from Spain in 1492 - the literary cultures of medieval Christendom and medieval Islam were extraordinarily similar to one another. They shared many of the same stories, many of the same strategies for telling these stories, and much of the rhetoric by which these strategies were put into effect; further, they saw literature in very similar ways and expected it to do more or less the same things. We shall examine these similarities - and some inevitable differences - by reading (some completely, some in extract) paired texts (one from each cultural/religious area) that deal with the following topics: romance and chivalry; hagiography; travel literature; pilgrimage (literal and allegorical); frame narratives; mysticism; courtly love. All texts not in English in the original, i.e. most of them, will be read in English translation.
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BF1563.A77 1992 - MAIN

BR756.S56 1997 - MAIN

DC73.7.M8 1996 - MAIN


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DS432.A25 S23 1996 - BSL

GR135.A26 1996 - MAIN

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PN669.B78 1998 -ETC

PN682.S75 S77 1997 - MAIN

PQ4471.F36 E5 1997 - MAIN

PR1730.G7 1997 - MAIN

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PR2064.R66 1998 - MAIN

Q125.2.J33 1998 - MAIN

SF291.G48 1997 -VET

Z7070.N48 1997 - MAIN

Location key:
MAIN = Main Stacks, Main Library
EHS = Education/Human Ecology/ Social Work Library
VET = Veterinary Medicine Library
ETC = English, Theatre, Communications Reading Room, Main Library
BSL = Black Studies Library, Main Library
MUS = Music/Dance Library
BUS = Business Library
WMN = Women’s Studies Library, Main Library
SEL = Science and Engineering Library
FIN = Fine Arts Library, Wexner Center

For a complete listing of Medieval and Renaissance books recently acquired by the University Libraries, please visit the Center’s web page at <http://www.cmrs.ohio-state.edu>.

Announcements

A Revelry of Voices, Guitars & Lutes

The Lute Society of America with Early Music in Columbus presents A Revelry of Voices, Guitars & Lutes. Performances include “A Potpourri of Renaissance Music,” “Music for Romantic Baroque Guitars of Unique Sizes and Shapes,” “Sixteenth-Century Italian and French Music” and many more. These concerts will take place July 5th through July 9th in the Huntington Recital Hall. For more information please call (614)861-4569.

Activities...

If you have 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 awarded. Please be sure to include your name, department, rank (i.e. Assistant Professor, Ph.D. candidate) and all other pertinent information. Submission deadline for the next publication is Friday, October
9, 1998. Please send submissions to the Editor, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, The Ohio State University, 256 Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Rd., Columbus OH 43210-1229 or send them by e-mail to <cmrs@osu.edu>.

**Cover Page:** An image of St. Jerome taken from the cover of *Medieval in L.A.* For a review of this book, please see Nick Howe’s “What I’ve Read Lately” beginning on page 7.

**Endplate:** This image of “Lover’s Embracing” by Afzal Al-Husayni (c.1647; Victoria and Albert Museum) was taken from the back cover of Dick Davis’ book, Borrowed Wares. For information about CMRS’s end-of-the-year celebration when Dick Davis will read excerpts from his book, please see page 12.
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