

NOUVELLES

Nouvelles



Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
February 1999

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

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This publication is available in
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request. Please contact
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Greetings

During the spring quarter, the Center will offer perhaps its most diverse range of courses in recent memory. Our undergraduate courses will be two of our most popular: MRS 212, *Culture of a City State in the Renaissance: Venice*, taught by Robert Davis of History; and MRS 504, *Arthurian Legends*, taught by Karen Winstead of English. Fuller descriptions of these two and other courses are given later in this issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles*. Undergraduates have found both of these courses to be deeply interesting in the past, so please do mention them to any students you know with an interest in the medieval and renaissance periods. But please do so quickly because, if past experience is any guide, both will fill quickly.

Continuing our policy of offering 600-level courses on innovative subjects, we will also give two new courses: MRS 694, *The Anglo-Atlantic's First Century*, taught by Carla Pestana of History; and MRS 694A, *Research Resources in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, taught by Marti Alt of the University Libraries. Professor Pestana's course will mark the first time that CMRS has ventured across the Atlantic in order to examine England's encounters with this "strange new world." Those who heard the recent lecture by Prof. Karen Kupperman of NYU will know what wonderfully rich and curious materials are available for studying the first century of the Anglo-Atlantic. I'm especially pleased that CMRS is sponsoring this course because it contains our policy of moving outside of Europe to include the rest of the world in the pre-modern period.

Prof. Alt's course on library resources will introduce advanced undergraduates as well as graduate students to another "strange new world," that of electronic resources available for the medieval and renaissance periods. She has designed an innovative course that will bring together faculty from different fields and their counterparts in the libraries so that students can learn a wide variety of working methods. I was very excited when she proposed this course because it made me realize how very much I would have profited from such a course when I was in graduate school, though there were no electronic resources available back then. (We made do with wax tablets.)

Please tell your students about these courses. Strong enrollments next quarter will help us offer a similarly wide range of courses in the future.

Nick Howe

Among Us

Albert Mancini (Professor, Department of French and Italian) was appointed editor of *Italica*, the quarterly journal of the American Association of Teachers of Italian, for a second five-year term.

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 website: <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs>. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

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 Wednesday, May 5, 1999. If you do not receive application materials, please contact Suzanne Childs at CMRS (614)292-7495 or visit our website at: <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs>.

course offerings

For details about the Center's courses for the spring quarter please see pages 11-14 of this newsletter. Watch for more information about fall quarter offerings of Medieval Latin and the Golden Age of Islamic Civilization in an upcoming *Nouvelles Nouvelles*.

Local News

Report of Local Lecture

Odyssey of a Historian: From Number-Cruncher to Storyteller.

by John R. Wilson

As a graduate student at the University of Cambridge in the 1960's, David Cressy studied literacy rates in early modern England and discovered that 67 percent of men and 90 percent of women were illiterate. So when Cressy joined the Ohio State faculty last fall, it was perhaps natural that his old friend, Neil Tennant, a professor in the philosophy department, would ask him if he was still doing "that statistical stuff."

Historians' interest in demographic subjects, such as rates of birth, death, and illegitimacy, arose out of a desire to apply scientific principles to the study of the past. For Cressy and many others who started out investigating statistical issues of times gone by, the methodology has had its heyday. "Quantitative social history did change the world," Cressy said in his inaugural lecture Jan. 26. "But numbers tell only part of the story, keeping us at a clinical, magisterial distance from the subject. It's a kind of social history with the people left out."



To bring the people back in, Cressy has moved away from researching general data to analyzing specific cases — currently, he focuses on bizarre happenings in 16th-century England. Cressy spent more than half an hour telling the unusual story of a 27-year-old woman named Agnes, who supposedly gave birth to a cat in 1569.

Cressy isn't exactly sure how to explain the incident, since the documentary record only goes so deep. He noted that in the cosmology of the period, not only did people consider such an event possible, they also may have seen it as a portent of national weakness. But the motivations of Agnes or her midwife remain unclear. Why concoct a monstrous tale?

A complete answer isn't likely to be found. When Cressy looked in parish registers 30 years ago to see whether people signed their name or simply made an "X," he could be reasonably confident of getting reliable information about literacy. Agnes's world was less precise. "Stories like this really challenge us to think creatively and humbly about ever making sense of the past," Cressy said.



Journals of Local Interest



DISCOVERIES is an interdisciplinary publication primarily devoted to brief articles, notes, and book reviews about all aspects of the Renaissance, including literature, history, art, music, science, and philosophy. Original poetry and art on Renaissance themes are also considered for publication. Articles should be no more than eight pages, exclusive of footnotes and other end material. Book reviews (other than extended review articles) should be approximately 800 words. For further information on submissions and subscriptions, contact the editor: Phoebe S. Spinrad, Department of English, 522 Denney Hall. Phone: 258-5433; or e-mail: <pspinrad@worldnet.att.net>. DISCOVERIES is now being indexed in the MLA Annual Bibliography and the Music Index and will be in the next edition of the MLA Directory of Periodicals.



Prose Studies announces a call for essays for a special issue on the topic of Medievalism: The Later Reception of the Middle Ages. Essays are invited on all aspects of the later ideas and uses of the Middle Ages in any form of nonfiction prose. The deadline for submission is June 1, 1999. Two copies should be sent to: Clare A. Simmons, Co-Editor, Prose Studies, Department of English, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210-1371. Inquiries can be directed to Clare Simmons at: <simmons.9@osu.edu>.

Local Language Study

The Hilandar Research Library (HRL)/Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies (RCMSS) and the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University will host a three-week intensive summer institute in Columbus, Ohio, June 21 - July 9, 1999. Two courses will be offered: Practical Slavic Paleography (Slavic 870) and Readings in Church Slavonic (Slavic 812), both of which will use manuscript materials on microform from the Hilandar Research Library's extensive holdings. Participants will have the opportunity to work with original manuscripts and to conduct their own individualized research in the HRL. A program of lectures on related topics, as well as films and other activities are planned. Applicants must have a B.A. degree and a reading knowledge of at least one Slavic language. Preference will be given to applicants with a reading knowledge of Church Slavonic or some other pre-modern Slavic language. A limited amount of financial assistance will be available. Deadline for application is May 15, 1999. The Medieval Slavic Summer Institute will be held pending sufficient enrollment. For further information and to obtain an application, please contact one of the following: Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, The Ohio State University, 225 Main Library, Columbus, OH 43210, (614)292-0634, e-mail <hilandar@osu.edu>; or Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures, Ohio State, 232 Cunz Hall, Columbus, OH 43210, (614)292-6733 (Contact: Daniel Collins), e-mail <collins.232@osu.edu>.



Announcements

Mediaeval Latin Workshop

Cornell University is offering an intensive summer program in Mediaeval Latin June 2-June 25, 1999. The three-week course is intended primarily for graduate students or teachers in any field of Medieval Studies who must be able to read Medieval Latin and who require an intensive refresher course. The workshop will include grammar, and reading prose and poetry both seen and at sight. There will also be an introduction to the bibliography and study of Mediaeval Latin. The course is designed

for people who have had a minimum of one year of college Latin or the equivalent. For more information or to apply, send a letter of application listing the Latin courses you have taken along with your Latin reading to Professor Danuta Shanzer, Department of Classics, Cornell University, 120 Goldwin Smith Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607)255-8640. e-mail <drs8@cornell.edu>. Deadline for submission of application is April 15, 1999.

“What I’ve Read Lately”

by Elizabeth B. Davis

(Department of Spanish and Portuguese)

With thanks to the students of Spanish 852, AU 1998

A recent seminar on women writers of early modern Spain led me to an essay in a book that is not in our library, but probably ought to be: Culture and Identity in Early Modern Europe (1500-1800). Essays in Honor

of Natalie Zemon Davis (eds. Barbara B. Diefendorf and Carla Hesse, University of Michigan Press, 1993). This collection of essays, authored by Davis’s former students, is organized around the concept of history as “a dialogue and sometimes a debate with the past”—Natalie Davis’s deceptively simple formula for avoiding the danger of anachronism by allowing early modern subjects to speak in their own voices, even when we do not particularly agree with what they have to say. Perhaps nowhere is the challenge of listening to and interrogating early modern subjects greater than in the study of women’s spiritual autobiography of this period. Jodi Bilinkoff’s contribution to the book, an essay titled “Confessors, Penitents, and the Construction of Identities in Early Modern Avila,” reminds us of some of the reasons why.

In this essay, Bilinkoff (also the author of The Avila of Saint Teresa. Religious Reform in a Sixteenth-Century City, Cornell University Press, 1989) examines the complex relationship between five holy women of Avila and their confessors between the years 1500 and 1650. The very spiritual gifts that made these women intriguing to sixteenth-century spiritual directors might make them appear odd to us: they experienced visions, voices, ecstatic trances and levitations; they suffered from illnesses



and eating disorders that seemed connected to spiritual meanings; they exhibited an obsessive desire to take communion daily and some of them exercised prophetic powers. In an era when the dominant attitudes about women were marked by misogyny, it was not uncommon for such women to be accused of fraud and denounced to the Inquisition. Sometimes their confessors were persecuted, as well.

What, then, could entice religious men to take responsibility for the souls of the holy women of Avila? According to Bilinkoff, the reward did not lie in the elements of “control, domination, and censorship in confessors’ treatment of women,” but rather in the numerous benefits derived from association with visionary women. These included spiritual gains, greater status in Avila’s religious community, reaffirmation of the priest’s sacramental function and apostolic role as preacher and teacher, and ultimately, the confessor’s heightened ability to define his own identity by participating in the writing of the penitent’s spiritual (auto)biography. Though male confessors exercised great power over women’s texts, Bilinkoff points out that “the women, after all, provided the subject matter and the point of reference.” The relationship between penitent and confessor was thus one of interdependence, and it tended to be much more nuanced than is commonly thought today.



Jodi Bilinkoff’s essay is grounded in some of the most important studies of early modern women’s spirituality and writing. Focusing on one key aspect of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spanish spiritual autobiographies, it is a solid addition to an important book on the topic of cultural identity in medieval and Renaissance Europe.



Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Upcoming Lectures for the Spring Quarter 1999:

These following three lectures are part of the lecture series ,
Life: Varieties of Cultural Performance in the Middle Ages and
the Renaissance

Visual

developed by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.



Edward Muir (De-
partment of History, North-
western University)

The Eye of the
Procession: Ritual
Ways of Seeing in the
Renaissance

on Thursday, April 15, 1999

in Room 122 of the Main Library

Conversations will take place on Friday, April 16, 1999.

Michael S. Flier (Department of Slavic Languages and Litera-
tures, Harvard University)

Seeing is Believing: The Semiotics of Dynasty and Des-
tiny in Muscovite Rus'

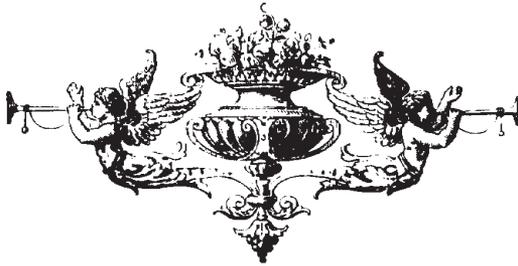
on Thursday, April 29, 1999 in Cunz Hall Room 300

Conversations will take place on Friday, April 30, 1999.

Margot Fassler (Department of Music History
and Liturgy, Yale University, and
Director, Yale Institute of Sacred Music)

**The Songs of the Jesse Tree: From Fulbert of
Chartres to Hildegard of Bingen**

on Thursday, May 13, 1999 in Room 122 of the Main Library
Conversations will take place on Friday, May 14, 1999.



This is the last lecture in the series
Europe and the Rest of the World: 500-1650
sponsored by an Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Program Grant from the
Office of Research and the Graduate School of The Ohio State University.

James Lockhart

(Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles)

**Language and Society: Studying the Indigenous Peo-
ples
of Mexico after the Spanish Conquest**

Thursday, May 20, 1999 in Cunz Hall Room 300.
Conversations will be held on Friday, May 21, 1999.

Lectures presented by the Center begin at 4:30 p.m.,
conversations take place
in Cunz Hall 300 from 10:00 a.m. through noon unless otherwise

CULTURE OF A CITY STATE IN THE RENAISSANCE: VENICE

Spring Quarter 1999

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 212

directed by
**Professor Robert
Davis**
*(Department of
History)*

MTWRF 1:30-2:18
UG 5 credit hours
University Hall 38



This course will provide students with a case-study introduction to the Italian Renaissance via the city of Venice. This course will:

- approach Venice's beginnings, its rise to mercantile and military prominence, its political and class structure, and its eventual decline in order to set a context for its cultural flowering in art, architecture, music, and literature.

- focus directly on Venice's role as a gateway between East and West, as well as its influence on the Renaissance in "mainland" Italy.

- explore Venice's fundamental contributions to modern economic and political practice, including the city's influence on our own Constitution.

Spring Quarter 1999

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 504

THE ARTHURIAN LEGENDS

*directed by Profes-
sor Karen Winstead
(Department of
English)*

Mondays and
Wednesdays
11:30-1:18

UG 5 credit hours
University Hall 38



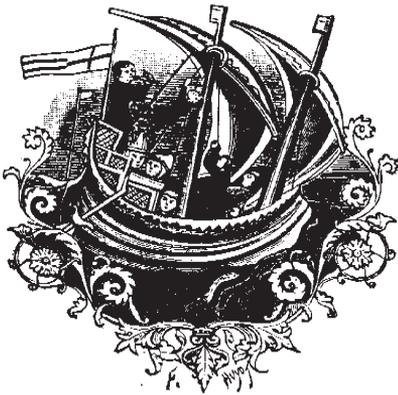
This course will examine the rich tradition of medieval Arthuriana. We'll study the earliest legends of Arthur, Guinevere, Merlin, Lancelot, and other characters whose names are familiar even to those who have never read their stories. We will explore legends, such as the Quest for the Holy Grail, that have been retold through the centuries and are still being told in modern novels and films, and we will consider what such legends have meant, both to their medieval audiences and in our own day. Texts will range from some of the earliest Arthurian legends in the Welsh Mabinogion to Thomas Malory's late fifteenth-century epic of Arthur's fall. We'll also consider Arthur's representation in medieval art and pageantry.

Spring Quarter 1999

Medieval and Renaissance Studies 694

The Anglo-Atlantic's

First Century



*directed by Profes-
sor Carla Pestana
(Department of
History)*

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:30-3:18

UG 5 credit hours

University Hall 90

This course will explore the first century of England's engagement in the wider Atlantic World. From the 1560s, when John Hawkins undertook slaving voyages in an effort to break into the Spanish-American market in African slaves, to the 1660s, when the English held colonies in North and South America and the Caribbean, the English became increasingly active in the Atlantic – as traders, pirates, conquerors, colonizers, and slave masters. Using both contemporary documents and recent histories, the course will examine England's encounters in this "strange new World." It will look particularly at interactions with non-English peoples and at the growing sense of the English as a people with an imperial mission

Spring Quarter 1999

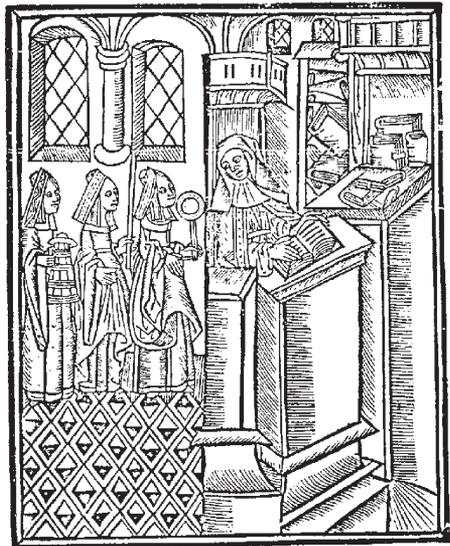
Medieval and Renaissance Studies 694A

RESEARCH RESOURCES IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES *directed by Professor Marti Alt* *(University Libraries)*

Tuesdays and Thursdays
2:30-4:18 p.m.

UG 5 credit hours

This course will present the range of resources available for advanced study and research in the medieval and Renaissance periods. These resources include print and on-line reference and bibliographic materials, including those available in locations other than The Ohio State University Libraries. Content of the course will include readings, examination of specific tools, a bibliographic project, and guest lectures by faculty librarians and researchers who will share with the students their own research experiences.



At the Library...

by Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt



BR350.Z95 M37 1999 - MAIN

McKee, Elsie Anne. Katharina Schutz Zell. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1999. 2 v. (Studies in Medieval and Reformation thought, v. 69).

BV193.G7 P43 1998 - MAIN

Pfaff, Richard William. Liturgical Calendars, Saints, and Services in Medieval England. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 1998. 1 v. : ill.

CB351.C65 1998 - MAIN

Cowan, Alexander. Urban Europe, 1500-1700. London; New York: Arnold, 1998. ix, 229 p. :ill.

D201.3 .E73 1998 - MAIN

Erkens, Franz-Reiner. Konrad II.: Um 990-1039: Herrschaft und Reich des ersten Salierkaisers. Regensburg: Pustet, 1998. 245 p.: ill., maps.

DA150 .A6 1998 - MAIN

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Trans. and Ed. by M.J. Swanton. New York: Routledge, 1998. xxxvi, 363 p.: ill., maps.

DG738.13 .M68 1998 - MAIN

Mouakis, Athanasios. Republican Realism in Renaissance Florence: Francesco Guicciardini's *Discorso di Logrognò*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998. 171 p.

DS135.I85 G46 1999 - MAIN.

Rossana, Urbani. The Jews in Genoa. v. 1: 507-1681. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1999 (Studia post-biblica, 48).

E162 .M32 1998 - MAIN

Mapp, Alf J. Three Golden Ages: Discovering the Creative Secrets of Renaissance Florence, Elizabethan England, and America's Founding. Jr. Lanham, Md.: Madison Books: 1998. xii, 656 p.: ill.

ML172 .H23 1998 - MUS

Haar, James. *The Science and Art of Renaissance Music*. Ed. by Paul Corneilson. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1998. xiv, 389 p.: ill.

N7619.5.I8 W66 1998 - FIN

Woods-Marsden, Joanna. *Renaissance Self-Portraiture: The Visual Construction of Identity and the Social Status of the Artist*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998. viii, 285 p.: ill.

ND623.G6 F7 1998 - FIN

Franciscanism, the Papacy, and Art in the Age of Giotto. Ed. with introductions by Andrew Ladis. New York: Garland Pub., 1998. ix, 440 p. : ill. (Giotto and the world of early Italian art ; 4).

PA8030.C47 S65 1998 - MAIN

Somerset, Fiona. *Clerical Discourse and Lay Audience in Late Medieval England*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998. ix, 241 p. (Cambridge studies in medieval literature; 37).



PA8118.G7 S3 1998 - MAIN

Collectanea Pseudo-Bedae. Ed. by Martha Bayless & Michael Lapidge; School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1998. xiii, 329 p. (Scriptores Latini Hiberniae; v. 14).

PQ4225.E8 S838 1997 - MAIN

Women poets of the Italian Renaissance: Courtly Ladies and Courtesans. Ed. by Laura Anna Stortoni; Trans. by Laura Anna Stortoni & Mary Prentice Lillie. New York: Italica Press, 1997. xxxiii, 267 p.: map.

PR658.S42 E63 1999 - MAIN

Enacting Gender on the English Renaissance Stage . Ed. by Viviana Comensoli & Anne Russell. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999. 270 p.

Z6620.R6 M3 1998 - MAIN

Maksimovich, K.A. *Pandekty Nikona Chernogortsa: v Drevnerusskom Perevode XII Veka (iuridicheskie teksty)*. Moskva: "Iazyki Russkoi Kultury" 1998. 574 p.

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.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs>>.

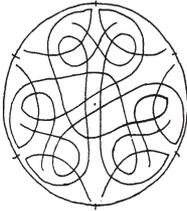


Internet News

from R. J. Stansbury

Ohio State participates in a service called Journal Storage or JSTOR. This web site contains archived articles from a number of important journals including AHR, Renaissance Quarterly, Speculum, William and Mary Quarterly and the Shakespeare Quarterly, among many others. In order to protect sales, these archives usually do not contain the most recent issues. For example, the Speculum archive contains issues from 1926 to 1993. The pages appear to have been scanned in as an image file rather than straight text. But you can still read and print these pages directly from your web browser. It is an extremely useful service. You can find this service at <<http://www.jstor.org/>>.

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, 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, April 9, 1999. 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: A parchment from a book of Raymond de Beziars located in the Museum of the Middle Ages in Paris. The image was sent to the CMRS by Jaye Puckett an undergraduate affiliate.

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1998-1999

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