Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

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

Spring is at hand and has brought with it extraordinarily good news for some of our faculty affiliates. It’s a great pleasure to report that three of our colleagues have won fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. Dick Davis of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures will use his to work on his project entitled “Translation and Literary Hybridity.” Dick taught a highly successful course for CMRS this past autumn on a related theme, the relations between Islamic and Christian literature in the Middle Ages. Joseph Lynch of History, and a former director of CMRS, will explore “Deathbed Conversion to the Monastic Life, 850-1250” on his Guggenheim Fellowship in academic year 2000-2001. Next year, he will pursue this project while a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. Robert Davis, also from our History Department, will work on his new book, White Slaves, Black Masters: the Italian Experience of Enslavement on the Barbary Coast, 1500-1800. Bob will also postpone his Guggenheim for a year while he takes up a fellowship at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C. Bob is currently teaching his popular undergraduate course on Venice as a city-state in the Italian Renaissance for CMRS.

This windfall of honors is yet further evidence of the remarkable range of faculty affiliates who work with the Center. It is also further proof of the centrality of Medieval and Renaissance Studies to the intellectual mission of Ohio State, in both teaching and research. I doubt many other universities can boast three colleagues from this year’s list of Guggenheim Fellows. And I’m certain that no other center, regardless of its scope or definition, can match the honors of these three affiliates of CMRS. And there’s one further cause for celebration: in a few years time, we will be able to read the books written by Dick, Bob and Joe during their fellowships!

Nick Howe
CMRS Corner

End of the Year celebration

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is pleased to announce its End-of-the-Year Celebration. The Stanley J. Kahrl awards will be presented to the writers of the best undergraduate and graduate papers written in medieval and Renaissance fields. The event will be Thursday, June 3, 1999 in the Grand Lounge of the Faculty Club at 4:30 pm. A reception will follow. Mark your calendars now and all are welcome to attend. For more information please contact the staff of the Center at (614) 292-7495.

Small Grants Competition

Just a reminder that applications for the spring quarter competition of the Small Research Grant Program are due by Wednesday, May 5, 1999. If you need application materials, please contact Suzanne Childs at CMRS (614) 292-7495 or visit our web site at: http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs.

Among Us

Nicholas Howe (Professor, Department of English) read “An Angle on this Earth: Sense of Place in Anglo-Saxon England” as the thirteenth annual Toller Lecture in Anglo-Saxon Studies at the University of Manchester, UK on March 11, 1999.


Harald Anderson who received his Ph. D. from Ohio State and was a graduate student affiliate of the Center has just published, “Note sur les manuscrits du commentaire de Fulgence sur La Thébaïde,” in Revue D’Histoire Des Textes 29 (1998): 235-8.
Local Events

Paintings from Dresden

The Columbus Museum of Art will present the exhibition Dresden in the Ages of Splendor and Enlightenment: 18th-Century Paintings from the Old Masters Picture Gallery. The works will be on display from April 23 through October 24, 1999. The museum will host a symposium entitled Splendors of Dresden: Discovering the Brilliance of an 18th-Century Art Center on Saturday, April 24, 10 am - 3:30 pm. The symposium will include a series of lectures, a luncheon, a concert and a viewing of the exhibition. Tickets must be purchased by April 21. For more information call the museum’s information line at (614) 221-4848.

Lectures in Musicology

Dane Heuchemer of Kenyon College will present a lecture entitled “It Takes a Village”: Town Manuscript Sources in Electoral Saxony ca. 1550-ca. 1600 on Wednesday, May 5 at 4:30 pm in the Music/Dance Library.

Thomas Heck of Ohio State University will present Musicians in Romanesque Tympanum Sculpture: Some Iconographic Considerations on Wednesday, May 12 at 4:30 pm in the Music/Dance Library.

International Conference

The Ohio State University will host a conference Religion and Science: Tension, Accommodation and Engagement which will be held May 2-4, 1999. Sessions are free and open to the public. For registration and program information please contact T.M. Rudavksy, Dept. of Philosophy,
Local Music

The final concert for the season of Early Music in Columbus will be The Early Interval—"Visions, Dreams & Memory," Music from Medieval & Renaissance Europe. The program will feature medieval and Renaissance music for voices and instruments and will include compositions inspired by the visions of Saint Godric and Hildegard of Bingen as well as selections from the 15th and 16th centuries. The concert will take place at the Huntington Recital Hall at Capital University on April 30, 1999 at 8:15 pm. For ticket information please call (614)861-4569.

Art History Lecture

The Department of History of Art will present the seventh Franklin M. Ludden Lecture in the History and Criticism of Western Art entitled "Mourning and Method" presented by Michael Ann Holly who is Chair of Art and Art History and Professor of Visual and Cultural Studies at the University of Rochester. The lecture will take place Thursday, May 6, 1999 at 4:30 pm in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater and is free and open to the public.
Internet News

The Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota along with the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities has established the Reformation Research Program Web Database. Former Ohio State CMRS director James Kittelson, who is a Professor of Church History at Luther Seminary, is director of the project. The database includes references for many Reformation texts published in German, Latin, French and English. For example, the keyword catechism brought up 341 references while the word Bucer offered 101 texts. This site could be useful to anyone considering archival work in Reformation Europe. The web address for this site is: http://staupitz.luthersem.edu/.

At the Library...
by Assistant Professor and General Humanities Bibliographer Marti Alt

AS161 .B39 MAIN

BL627 .C87 FIN

BP188.8.E3 T39 MAIN
Taylor, Christopher Schurman. In the Vicinity of the Righteous : Ziyara and the Veneration of Muslim Saints in Late Medieval Egypt. Leiden;
N6811.5.P3 K65 FIN.

NA1123.R56 A4 FIN.

NB623.V6 M37 FIN.

PN1751 .E49 MAIN

PQ6059 .M28 1998. MAIN

PR658.F45 F56 1999 MAIN

Q143.B795 G37 1999 MAIN

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.
The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents the fourth and fifth presentations of the five part series:

Visual Life: Varieties of Cultural Performance in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance:

Seeing is Believing: The Semiotics of Dynasty and Destiny in Muscovite Rus’

by Michael S. Flier
(Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University)

on Thursday, April 29, 1999 at 4:30 p.m.
in Room 300 of Cunz Hall on The Ohio State University Campus

A Conversation with Michael S. Flier
for both faculty and graduate students
on Friday April 30, 1999 from 10:00 a.m. through 12 noon in Room 408 of Cunz Hall on The Ohio State University Campus.

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

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

on Thursday, May 13, 1999 at 4:30 p.m.
in Room 122 of the Main Library on The Ohio State University Campus
A Conversation with Margot Fassler
for both faculty and graduate students
on Friday May 14, 1999 from 10:00 a.m. through 12 noon in Room 300
of Cunz Hall on
The Ohio State University Campus.

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies presents the final lecture in the series

EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, 500-1650:
LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY: STUDYING THE INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES OF MEXICO AFTER THE SPANISH CONQUEST

by James Lockhart
(Department of History,
University of California,
Los Angeles)

on Thursday May 20,
1999 at 4:30 p.m. in
Room 300 of
Cunz Hall
on The Ohio State Uni-
versity Campus

A Conversation with James Lockhart
for both faculty and graduate
students will be held on Friday
May 21, 1999 from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. in Room
408 Cunz Hall on The Ohio State University Campus
The Jeweled Style: Poetry and Poetics in Late Antiquity (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989) is Michael Roberts' argument for rehabilitating the reputation of late Latin poetry. However, its implications go well beyond that argument. In this stimulating book, Roberts penetrates the sensibility behind the techniques used by Latin poets such as Ausonius and Paulinus and links it to the art of the same period. He argues that by late antiquity, the goal of the arts was to dazzle the reader or viewer with the interplay of details rather than to express an elegant whole. As he puts it (118), "Late antique taste did not tolerate the plain and the unadorned; brilliance of effect, the play of contrasting colors, is all." In his view, the aesthetic is not confined to poetry but can be found in the arts and literary criticism. Roberts emphasizes the prominence of the art of leptologia, the lavish description of details in the course of a poem or narrative. Taking several examples from poets and artisans, he analyzes the artistry used in composing even such unpromising passages as Cyprianus Gallus's list of the jewels on the breastplate of the biblical High Priest and Ausonius's description of a collection of fish on a plate. In each of these passages, the separate elements of a list are not subsumed under a whole; rather, each is made to stand out--to shine, as it were--lending a shimmering effect.

My attention was drawn to this book by a recent article by Patricia Cox Miller in the Journal of Early Christian Studies (6 [1998]: 113-38), in which she relates Roberts' insights on late antique aesthetics to contemporary Christian art and literature, describing what she, following Roberts, calls an "aesthetics of discontinuity" in Christian poetry, hagiography, and sarcophagi of the fourth century. Miller's article demonstrates the
relevance of this book to those of us engaged in the literature and culture of several communities in late antiquity. For while Roberts’ explicit aim is more a positive aesthetic appreciation of late Latin poetry than the conventional one, his book can be read as an argument for a deeper understanding of a Late Antique mentalité, which values neither classical proportion nor narrative shape, but the arraying of separate elements for effect. This sensibility governs the composition of such diverse media as mosaics, monumental sculpture, and dress. In fact, Roberts cites as evidence the “crisis of the toga” in late antiquity described by Marrou, in which the simpler classical dress was replaced increasingly by the toga picta inwoven with segmenta. Moreover, Roberts shows that this style was not confined to one religious or ethnic group; it can be found equally in pagan and Christian poetry.

As someone engaged in the study of the elaborate Hebrew liturgical poetry of late antiquity known as piyyut, I find Roberts’ arguments relevant and intriguing. Indeed, one of the signal examples of the “jeweled style”-poet’s description of the High Priest’s breastplate—figures prominently in the Hebrew poems for Yom Kippur that are the subject of my current research. In both literatures, nothing is allowed to stand for itself; profusion of synonyms, either in series or as substitutes for common words, constitutes much of the poetic art. These affinities bode well for further collaborative research into the cultures of late antiquity.
Calls for Papers

For more information on submission procedures for the following calls for papers, please contact Jill Fehleison at CMRS by phone (614)292-7495 or by e-mail <fehleison.1@osu.edu>.

The XIIIth Medieval-Renaissance Conference at Clinch Valley College, Wise, Virginia will be held September 16-18, 1999. The keynote address entitled “The Wife of Bath as ‘Mother Tongue’: Chaucerian Allegories of Vernacular Practice” will be given by Dolores Warwick Frese from the University of Notre Dame. Submissions are welcome on all topics of interest to Medieval and Renaissance scholars, including: History, Philosophy, English and Foreign literature, Art, Music, and Pedagogy. Submit a brief abstract and one-page vita to: Tom Costa, Dept. of History and Philosophy or Amelia Harris, Dept. of Language and Literature or Ken Tiller, Dept. of Language and Literature, Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia, Wise, VA 24293. Preliminary screening begins May 1st and the final deadline is June 10th, 1999.

The University of Notre Dame is hosting an interdisciplinary conference for graduate students working in the Middle Ages entitled, Revising Genealogies. It will take place September 9-11, 1999. The conference will offer the term “genealogy” for redefinition and reinterpretation and welcomes papers from all fields. Plenary speakers will include Jill Mann, Paul Saenger, Gabrielle Spiegel, and Paul Strohm. Deadline for submission of individual papers or complete three-paper panels is May 14, 1999. Abstracts should be sent to: Conference Committee, 356 O’Shaughnessy Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556; or by e-mail to: <siobhain.bly.1@nd.edu>.

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Arizona
State University invites session and paper proposals for its sixth annual interdisciplinary conference, February 17-19, 2000. The theme of the conference is “Fear and Its Representation in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.” The plenary speaker will be R. I. Morre (University of Newcastle), author of The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Power and Deviance in Western Europe, 950-1250. Send two copies of session proposals or one-page abstracts, plus two copies of your C.V. to: Robert E. Bjork, Director, ACMRS, Arizona State University, Box 872301, Tempe, AZ 85287-2301. Contact the ACMRS web site for more information at: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs>.

The Thirty-Fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies announces the advance notice for its call for papers. The deadline for proposals by organizers of sponsored and special sessions is May 15, 1999, and the deadline for individual paper proposals is September, 15, 1999. The conference will take place May 4-7, 2000. More information about submission procedures will be announced in the July Call for Papers.

The Publications of the Medieval Association of the Midwest (PMAM) which is a journal published annually dedicated to scholarship on the Middles Ages. The publication is currently accepting submissions of articles for Volume 6 from members of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. The articles may be based on conference papers given in MAM-sponsored sessions at the Congress of the Medieval Institute, M/MLA or MAM conferences. Members may also submit articles unrelated to conference papers. Articles can be from 3,000 to 10,000 words and the deadline for submissions for the current volume is July 31, 1999. For further information contact the editor, Karen Moranski, English Department, Brookens 487, University of Illinois at Springfield, PO Box 19243, Springfield, IL 62794-9243; (217)206-7440; <moranski.karen@uis.edu>.
Announcements

French Research Center

The Centre D’étude Supérieur De Civilisation Médiévale (CESCM) at the Université de Poitiers is offering several programs for 1999 including a summer session September 2 through 24, 1999. The program will offer students, researchers, and professionals from around the world the chance to utilize the CESCM’s library, collection of medieval French inscriptions, and explore the monuments around Poitiers. For more information about the seminars planned, scholars participating and conditions of admission please contact the editor of Nouvelles Nouvelles at CMRS. The CESCM also has information about its programs, research facilities, and publications on its web site at: http://www.mshs.univ-poitiers.fr/cescm/cescm.htm.

Intensive Latin

The University of Virginia is offering a Summer Latin Institute from June 14 to August 13, 1999. The intensive course will cover two years of college-level Latin. Students who do not need college credit but wish to acquire Latin reading skills may choose a non-credit option at a lower tuition rate. No previous knowledge of Latin is required for participation in the program. For application forms, fees, deadlines, and other information please see the UVA Summer Foreign Language Institute web site at: http://www.virginia.edu/~summer/page4.html. There is also a Summer Latin Institute web site at: http://www.virginia.edu/~classics/sli99.html.
Reminders

Kalamazoo

The Thirty-fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies will be held May 6-9, 1999 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The pre-registration deadline was April 15th, but you may register upon arrival. Registration materials will be available in the lobby of Harrison-Stinson Hall.

Springtime Fair

The Medieval and Renaissance Faire at the Ohio State University will take place rain or shine Saturday, May 1, 1999 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on the South Oval behind the Ohio Union. CMRS will have a table so come by and visit us there. For more information about this event see the web site of the Council for the Medieval and Renaissance Faire at: http://www.osu.edu/students/cmrf/.
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, May 7, 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 <cmrs@osu.edu>.

Cover Page: The Small Wild Goose Pagoda was built in the early 8th Century A.D. to house Buddhist manuscripts. It is located in Xi’an, China. The top two stories of the pagoda were damaged by an earthquake.
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