



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND
RENAISSANCE STUDIES

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Petites Nouvelles – Issue #3

October 19, 2020



Prague University Library XIV A 15 Thomas of Cant. Folio 34.

The following table of contents includes shortcut links; click on a title and you will jump directly to that section's full information in the newsletter.

*Suggestions and submissions of content for future issues are always welcome! Please contact either cmrs@osu.edu or spitulski.1@osu.edu with your ideas. The deadline for submitting items for inclusion in the next issue will be **Friday, October 30**.*

*Also, be sure to "like" us on **Facebook** and check out our **Instagram** and **Twitter** feeds for more news, links, & MedRen miscellany!*

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**Visit the Nouvelles
Archive**

Greetings

Dear Affiliates and Friends:

With the next issue of *Petites Nouvelles* not slated until next month, I have only this opportunity to share with you the above image from our slide archive that seems entirely fitting for the season – and “because 2020,” with our mysterious figure in seeming agreement given its apparent shrug!

We hope you’ll be able to join us for the Center’s upcoming symposium, “Virtual / Digital Archaeology: Places, Buildings, and Environments,” which will take place (virtually) this Friday, October 23 – additional information and registration link below if you haven’t yet visited the event page to get the Zoom link. This year’s event will only be a single-day affair on Friday, with plenty of time after each presentation to help replicate the roundtable portion of our past proceedings on Saturday mornings. Looking further afield, the first CMRS Colloquium of the year will take place two weeks from today at 4 p.m. (EST for those of you outside the time zone – don’t forget about the time change on the 1st!), with Professor Kirsten Mendoza of the University of Dayton. We’ll be circulating Prof. Mendoza’s summary in addition to meeting details toward the end of this week or early next.

A number of external events, calls for virtual papers, etc. have also recently come to our attention and are noted below. Please continue to let us know about any similar events you learn of, or if you have any news and notes of your own to share – these are always greatly appreciated!

Nick Spitulski
Administrative Coordinator, Humanities Institute

p.s. Please bear with me as I try to get a few final formatting quirks resolved: some of the margins in the text boxes below are not behaving as they should. I certainly have a new appreciation for the time spent by our former grad associates as they dealt with these bugs in *Nouvelles* and the weekly bulletins!

Codicology in the Age of COVID

In a typical year, the instructors of the Manuscript Studies course (MedRen 5610) build their syllabus around hands-on activities. First, students learn to “read” all the features of a medieval manuscript *except* the text (since there is no foreign-language prerequisite for this course), and then they put those skills to use while carrying out original research on a manuscript book or fragment housed in OSU’s Special Collections. Both of these activities demand many hours engaged in examining medieval manuscripts up close, absorbing the feel and sound and smell of manuscripts that come in all shapes and sizes, written on parchment and paper, ranging from an illuminated Book of Hours to a grubby, barely

legible scrap.

Obviously 2020 is not a typical year. Professor Eric J. Johnson, curator of OSU's Thompson Library Special Collections, and Professor Leslie Lockett, associate director of the CMRS and associate professor of English, have team-taught the course five times prior to this year. This time around, they were eager to find a way to keep students safe while still providing some of the hands-on work that is essential to the study of codicology (that is, the physical features of the manuscript book, such as its binding, the ruling of the pages, the condition of the parchment, the pigments used in decorating the pages). Certainly some portions of the course could be readily converted to a distance-learning format, such as Prof. Lockett's instruction in paleography (that is, how to read premodern scripts) and textual editing. But Prof. Johnson was determined that the hybrid format of the course – not to mention quarantining of library materials and a reduction in opening hours in the Special Collections reading room – would not diminish students' opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and research, even if these restrictions necessarily reduced the number of hours they could spend examining manuscripts in person.

Prof. Johnson has innovated several adjustments to the Manuscript Studies syllabus that have turned out not to be just compromise strategies for coping with COVID-era teaching: instead, each has increased opportunities for students to engage with the materials, with each other, and with professionals who work with manuscripts in the academic, museum, and commercial sectors.

- Students attended an online colloquium hosted by the Rare Book School, in which the panelists discussed the ethics of collecting and dealing manuscript fragments (specifically, fragments of books that were intact until recently but have been broken up and dispersed for commercial gain).
- For the major research project of the semester, students were formerly encouraged to work with a manuscript in OSU's holdings, but this year they can choose any of the tens of thousands of manuscripts that libraries around the world have made fully accessible in online digital images.
- Rather than packaging their research as a traditional paper and in-class presentation, as in previous years, current students will mount an online exhibition focused on the manuscript they've selected, using the platform of their choice.
- Having secured a sizable donation of funds for the purchase of one or more medieval manuscripts during the autumn semester, Prof.

Johnson arranged for the students to evaluate, discuss, and rank twenty manuscripts currently for sale by the Chicago-based dealership Les Enluminures, and their informed choices would determine which manuscript(s) OSU would acquire. As part of this project, the students had an online conference with the founder of Les Enluminures and her colleague who researches manuscripts for their dealer catalogue. The class posed specific questions about the manuscripts they had ranked at the top of their list, but they were also eager to hear what it takes to be a manuscript dealer or professional cataloguer in a non-academic setting.

Watch this space for updates: as the semester progresses, Prof. Johnson and Prof. Lockett will share more details about the manuscript(s) that the students selected to acquire from Les Enluminures, as well as links to the online manuscript exhibits curated by the students for their final projects!

Leslie Lockett
Associate Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Associate Professor, Department of English

Upcoming CMRS Events

Medieval Latin Reading Group: October 20

The Medieval Latin reading group will meet on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., during the Autumn 2020 semester, beginning Tuesday, October 6.

Participants in the Medieval Latin reading group are not required to prepare the readings ahead of time, and nobody should feel obligated to participate aloud, if you're more comfortable listening. We are happy to accommodate participants with all levels of Latin expertise, including those who have never tried Latin or who have forgotten everything they once knew.

If you would like to receive the Zoom meeting link and be added to the mailing list for future links and readings, please contact CMRS Associate Director Leslie Lockett at lockett.20@osu.edu.

MRGSA Happy Hour / Reading Group: October 21

Please join the Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association this Wednesday for its monthly happy hour and the new reading group series that will precede it. The Zoom invite is below. As a reminder, you do not have to participate in the reading group to attend the happy hour - just jump on the call at or after 5:30pm on Wednesday.

If you want to participate in the reading group (starting at 4 pm), this month we're focusing on Teaching Race B4 Race. We've selected two articles, one medieval and one early modern. Feel free to read only the one in your area, or both, or mix things up! We'll discuss the articles as well as teaching strategies and experiences. Again, this is casual, so if you can't make it for the whole time, that's totally okay!

Readings:

- Hall, Kim F. "Beauty and the Beast of Whiteness: Teaching Race and Gender." *Shakespeare Quarterly*, vol. 47, no. 4, 1996, pp. 461–475. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2870958. Accessed 28 Sept. 2020.
- Wade, Erik. "Representation and Inclusion in the Old English Classroom" *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*, vol. 27, no.2, 2020, pp. 19-40.

Zoom invite:

[https://osu.zoom.us/j/96466394599?](https://osu.zoom.us/j/96466394599?pwd=NHA1Z1dYUXJiQjRpeXo1bFpPSiJSQT09)
[pwd=NHA1Z1dYUXJiQjRpeXo1bFpPSiJSQT09](https://osu.zoom.us/j/96466394599?pwd=NHA1Z1dYUXJiQjRpeXo1bFpPSiJSQT09)

Old French Reading Group: October 22

Meet Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm to read aloud in Medieval French and learn about the language and culture -- for scholarly inquiry or sheer amusement.

No prior experience needed!

Contact Prof. Sarah-Grace Heller (heller.64@osu.edu) for Zoom login info and more information.

2020-2021 Symposium on Digital Archaeology

Friday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Zoom

Presenters - Janelle Jenstad (University of Victoria), Anthony Masinton (Independent Scholar), Jim Knowles (North Carolina State)



*****Free and Open to the Public*****

If you require an accommodation such as live captioning or interpretation to participate in this event, please contact cmrs@osu.edu. Requests made by about 10 days before the event will generally allow us to provide seamless access, but the university will make every effort to meet requests made after this date.

**Additional
Information**

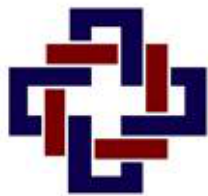
SAVE THE DATE:

2020-2021 CMRS Colloquium Series

Monday, November 2, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Zoom

Kirsten Mendoza

**Additional
Information**



2020-2021 Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Directory

The annual CMRS directory of affiliated OSU faculty and MedRen faculty at other institutions of higher education across the state of Ohio has been updated and both components, as well as the CMRS advisory committee for the 2020-2021 academic year, have been posted in the “About” section of the CMRS website, <https://cmrs.osu.edu/about>. If you are aware of any faculty in our fields and presently teaching at an Ohio college or university who are not reflected here, please let us know!



Due to the ongoing health crisis, the **2021 International Congress on Medieval Studies** will be held virtually, from May 10 to May 15, 2021. Organizers are working with the event management service Confex to develop a robust, flexible program, including support for an online exhibits hall.

**Additional
Information**

[Upcoming Call for Papers](#)

News & Notes

MEDREN and affiliated course listings for Spring 2021 are now posted on the CMRS website. Enrollment windows begin opening today, so be sure to take a look at these lists as you plan your class schedule for next term!

CMRS Courses Page

[Upcoming Conference](#)

**Jewish Romance in the
Middle Ages: Literature,
Piety, and Cultural
Translation**

Sunday, October 25, 2020
11:00am - 2:00pm EST

Admission:
Free, but register in advance

Location:
Online

Contact:
Yale Institute of Sacred
Music

Conference Page

[Upcoming Forum](#)



The **20th Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies** will be held virtually March 18–20th, 2021 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The conference will take place over Zoom and will include Vagantes SWAG boxes, virtual workshops, professional development, and interactive activities. Abstracts are due Monday, November 30th, 2020. Please either apply yourself or pass this along to student/colleagues who would be interested in participating.

Additional Information

Upcoming Call for Papers

Reclaiming Losses: Recovery, Reconquest, and Restoration in the Middle Ages

We warmly invite all interested contributors to submit a proposal abstract to Eric Medawar (emedawar@princeton.edu) by



Race in Early Modernity

November 19, 2020
1:00pm EST

Panelists:

Carol Mejia LaPerle (Wright St)
Kirsten Mendoza (U Dayton)
Amrita Dhar (Ohio State)
Mira Assaf Kafantaris (Ohio State, Arizona CMRS)

Moderator:

Jennifer Higginbotham (Ohio State)

Admission:

Free, but register in advance

Location:

Zoom

Additional Info & Registration Link

November 6, 2020. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of the conference organizers, Eric Medawar (emedawar@princeton.edu) or Rachel Gerber (ragerber@princeton.edu).

**Full CFP and
Conference Info**

Next Issue: November 2 Submission Deadline: October 30



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Center for Medieval and
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