

A decorative border from a medieval manuscript. The top section features a large red carnation-like flower on the left, with green buds and leaves. To its right are several smaller, stylized flowers in shades of purple and blue. The right edge of the border is a vertical strip with small red and green floral motifs. The bottom section of the border is divided into two panels. The left panel shows two figures in a field of tall, dark plants; one figure is kneeling and the other is standing and gesturing. The right panel shows a man in a red cap and blue tunic standing next to a large wooden tub, with another man in a green tunic and black cap standing nearby. The background of the entire border is a textured, golden-brown color.

Nouvelles *NOUVELLES*

Center for Medieval
and
Renaissance Studies

The
Ohio State University
October 2009

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

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Greetings

Greetings,

For those of us in the CMRS Office the Autumn Quarter has come in like a lion. Scarcely had we adjusted to the new crop of students appearing on campus, than a group of my fellow directors from Medieval Centers all over North America arrived at OSU for their annual gathering. Despite threatening weather on their first day, the campus was at its very best at the end of the week and we were able to show off our university to excellent effect. A reception at the Urban Arts Space, surrounded by a glittering exhibition of modern glass (if you haven't seen it yet, it's well worth the trip downtown), a medieval lunch in the Kuhn Honors House (catered by our faithful medieval chef, Daniel Myers), and a seminar on Teaching the History of the Book, held in the spectacular eleventh-floor lounge of our new Thompson Library, were probably the high points of their visit, but those who stayed over to Saturday afternoon were treated to a wonderful guided tour (given by OSU's Dick Shiels) of the Hopewell mounds in Newark. Those of us involved in the organizational side of things had had less time to enjoy the events, of course, but by this point we were beginning to relax and we were all properly overawed by this remarkable native American site, which I'm ashamed to say I had never visited before. How often does the need to entertain a visitor drive us to discover such treasures at our own back door. At all events, I'm glad to report that we sent these particular visitors back to their own campuses duly impressed by the many splendors of Ohio State and its surrounding area.

No time to draw breath, however; our movie series (*The Spanish Golden Age*) starts this week with a showing of John Lithgow's *Don Quixote*, and this will be quickly followed by the first lecture in our new series, *Keepsakes*,

Mementos, and Tokens, Anna Maria Busse Berger from UC Davis, speaking on ““Model Books and Compositional Practice in 15th-century Art and Music.” The following week James Robinson from the British Museum will be here to speak on “Sacred Mementoes: Reliquary Jewels of the Late Middle Ages” (please note that his lecture will be in University Hall 014, rather than in our usual meeting place of SEL 090). With hindsight we might have asked him to speak about the splendid Anglo-Saxon hoard unearthed this summer in Staffordshire, but of course we have only recently learnt of something he has known about for months; perhaps nonetheless he may be able to drop us some tidbits passed over by the journalists.

The start of every academic year seems to bring its share of sad news along with the excitement of new beginnings. Alan Brown, a long-time member of CMRS and formerly of the Department of English, died on September 17th. Those of you who knew Alan far better than I did will be glad to find a tribute to him written by Lisa Kiser in this issue.

And so to the new beginnings. We welcome Niamh O’Leary who joins the English department from Pennsylvania State, and two visiting fellows at the Center: Adam Davis from Denison University and Hannah Johnson from the University of Pittsburgh. Although a fellow of our friends at the Epigraphy and Palaeography Center, Carin Ruff, now at Cornell, will be known to many of you from her days at John Carroll University and we are glad to welcome her, too, to our community.

Finally, the new academic year brings a new face to the CMRS office: Daria Safronova is replacing Ryan Judkins as editor of *Nouvelles Nouvelles*. Her handiwork is on view in the following pages and I hope you agree with me that she has made an auspicious start.

Best Wishes,

Richard Firth Green

Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies



Just Around

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The highlight of this years' Welcome Week was, as always, the Student Involvement Fair on the Oval. Despite a persistent drizzle that a couple of times turned into a real shower (not strong enough to cause a proverbial flood but enough to drench a seeking soul), more than five hundred OSU student organizations, departments, and community agencies tried to promote their cause and recruit new members. Amidst them, in the north-western corner of the Oval one could see a group or, rather, two separate groups of strangely dressed people. Theirs were not the colors of scarlet and grey – hooded cloaks, laced up corsets, and plumed hats did a good job of concealing their identity. The first group demonstrated a somewhat mischievous spirit: one could feel transported directly into the medieval summer fair, right at the moment when big kegs of cider are opened, and all the good lads and lasses are ready to dance and sing.



The second group was in a somewhat somber mood – the three ladies present on the scene could not be mistaken for dairy maids. Their dresses were of luxurious velvet, their hair was covered by elaborate hair nets, and their safety was guarded by a very serious looking sire whose heavy mace spoke louder than words, even if pronounced with a Middle English accent. The effect produced on passers-by was similar, though – strange looks, giggles, and, sometimes, a sporadic interest. The two groups, however, seemed unperturbed by the fact.

Upon closer inspection, it turned out that their missions were very different. The Medieval and Renaissance Performers Guild (the cast of the Council for the Medieval and Renaissance Faire, an OSU tradition for 36 years) happened to consist of fun-loving individuals that joined it for no particular reason in mind, just to fight with swords, sing old English songs in a circle, sew their own



clothes, and simply be different. Open to the public and especially welcoming to freshmen, they represent a tightly knit community of friends that heavily depend upon each other when all their seemingly effortless medieval existence is tested by two major public performances, a Midwinter Madrigal Feast in late February and the Renaissance Faire at OSU in May. It is on these occasions that the five Marshals (the heads of the five sub guilds – Dance, Fight, Music, Song, and Garb Guild respectively) decide whether their “folks” are ready to participate in the real thing. The “garb” (a self-made medieval costume, the the accent, the moves – these things cannot be

learnt overnight; only weeks of practice and friendly support bring results.



Later that day I also attended the guild's weekly performance on the Oval and was literally transported into Medieval England: live music (flute, violin, and guitar – all scores found in OSU's extensive collection of medieval music), medieval dances on the grass (the merit goes to our own renowned dance department), polyphonic singing, and all of this against the background of OSU's own medieval towers of Orton and University Halls and the elegant masonry of Hayes Hall!

Members of the second group, The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Society (a student branch of a well-established Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), an international organization dedicated to researching and “reliving” the life of medieval Europe) were obviously in pursuit of the ultimate historical truth. Elaborate dresses, custom-made weaponry and helmets evidently





were the product of some thorough scientific research that left no doubts as to the seriousness of their medieval intentions. Investigation led to my witnessing of some real fighting – large-framed men and strong-willed women in padded iron armor hitting each other with real swords. Their fights were not staged, and their bruises and concussions were more than real – they did hurt!

As to the difference in organization between the two societies, SCA's weekly gatherings do not require any scheduled

performance; their emphasis is on learning and networking. Indeed, it felt like being part of a big family – half of the people were married, the other half were successful career men and women, and all of them were very supportive of newcomers and ready to share secrets of their trade, be it the armor padding, sword thrusts and ripostes, beading, knitting, medieval cooking, and even beer and cider making! Like the guild, SCA also meets on campus, only across the Olentangy river, in Kottman Hall. Unlike the guild, The Society for Creative Anachronism is very hierarchical; it has Kingdom Seneschals, Chroniclers, Chatelaines, Earl Marshals, and even Webministers.



Obviously, the question arises - if one were a student, which society would one be most likely to join? Where would one feel most comfortable? Which society is more authentic? It seemed only natural that the two groups should meet on the neutral territory – the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, for some hearty feasting and merry making, and if not to join forces, then at least actively share the experiences. CMRS will be happy to provide “the grounds” and will continue to follow the story as it unfolds.

From the medieval battlefield,
CMRS special correspondent Daria Safronova



For more information:

[Council for the Medieval and Renaissance Faire](http://cmrf.org.ohio-state.edu/)

<http://cmrf.org.ohio-state.edu/>

[President: Jennifer Torpie: torpie.1@osu.edu](mailto:torpie.1@osu.edu)

[The Medieval and Renaissance Performer's Guild](http://guild.org.ohio-state.edu/index2.htm)

<http://guild.org.ohio-state.edu/index2.htm>

[Director: Stephanie Chounet: chounet.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:chounet.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

[The Society for Creative Anachronism](http://www.sca.org/)

<http://www.sca.org/>

[Medieval and Renaissance Studies Society](http://www.sca.org/)

[President: Kate Tuley: tuley.2@osu.edu](mailto:tuley.2@osu.edu)

New Faculty



Adam Davis
Visiting Scholar at CMRS

Adam J. Davis, who is an Associate Professor of History at Denison University, is a Visiting Scholar this year at OSU's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He received a Ph.D. in medieval history from Princeton University in 2001, and taught at Yale before coming to Denison in 2003. In 2006 he published *The Holy Bureaucrat: Eudes Rigaud and Religious Reform in Thirteenth-Century Normandy* (Cornell University Press).



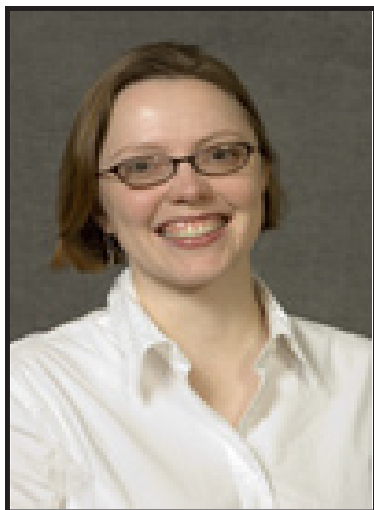
A charter in which Lady Isabelle de Raiz gives in perpetual alms her carpenter and his family to the domus Dei of Saint Etienne in Troyes, 1205. The charter is in Archives départementales de l'Aube, 40H16)

Adam has been the recipient of a Bourse Chateaubriand, as well as fellowships from the Lilly Foundation and the Mellon Foundation. His current book project, supported by a Robert C. Good Fellowship, explores the formation of a charitable society in twelfth and thirteenth-century northern France through a study of hospitals for the poor and sick. Adam is also co-editing a special issue of French Historical Studies, "Towards a French History of Universal Values: Charity, Human Rights, and Humanitarianism." Adam looks forward to getting to know members of the CMRS community this year.



13th century Hospital (Tonerre, France)

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Hannah Johnson
Visiting Scholar at CMRS

Hannah Johnson is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh. She is currently in Columbus on sabbatical leave, and looks forward to becoming familiar with CMRS affiliates! Before taking up her current position, she received her Ph.D. from Princeton University, and an M.A. from the University of York's Centre for Medieval Studies. She is currently completing a book about recent historiography on the medieval ritual murder accusation. Also described as a blood libel, the legend of ritual murder is part of a spectrum of false claims that Jews made ritual or therapeutic use of Christian blood. The book, *Crimes and Libels: Historiography, Ethics, and the Ritual Murder Accusation in Jewish History*, investigates how recent controversial debates about the ritual murder accusation have unfolded over the intractable problem of defining a historiographical reality at work behind the legend. This question operates as an interpretive faultline in scholarship on the topic, and is bound up with ethical concerns about historical responsibility, memory, and the politics of interpretation. Recent historiography, she argues, has exposed a series of

incommensurable ethics at work, from a now-traditional ethics of moralization visible in the work of Israel Yuval and Elliott Horowitz, and an explosive anti-memorial ethics, characterized by a troubling combination of radical skepticism and indecision in Ariel Toaff's 2007 book, *Pasque di Sangue*.

Johnson's major interests are intellectual history and historical writing, and she regularly teaches medieval genres that complicate our understanding of truth claims, such as saints' lives, travel narratives, and historical accounts. She recently published an article on one of the earliest and most detailed texts recording a ritual murder accusation in *New Medieval Literatures* entitled, *Rhetoric's Work: Thomas of Monmouth and the History of Forgetting*. Current and future projects include completing an article on the politics of bare life in the *Vita Haroldi* and editing a special issue of the journal *postmedieval, The Middle Ages and the Holocaust*. In spring 2010, she will take up an internal fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh's new Humanities Center, but also plans to continue living in Columbus with her husband, Eric.

You can contact Hannah at
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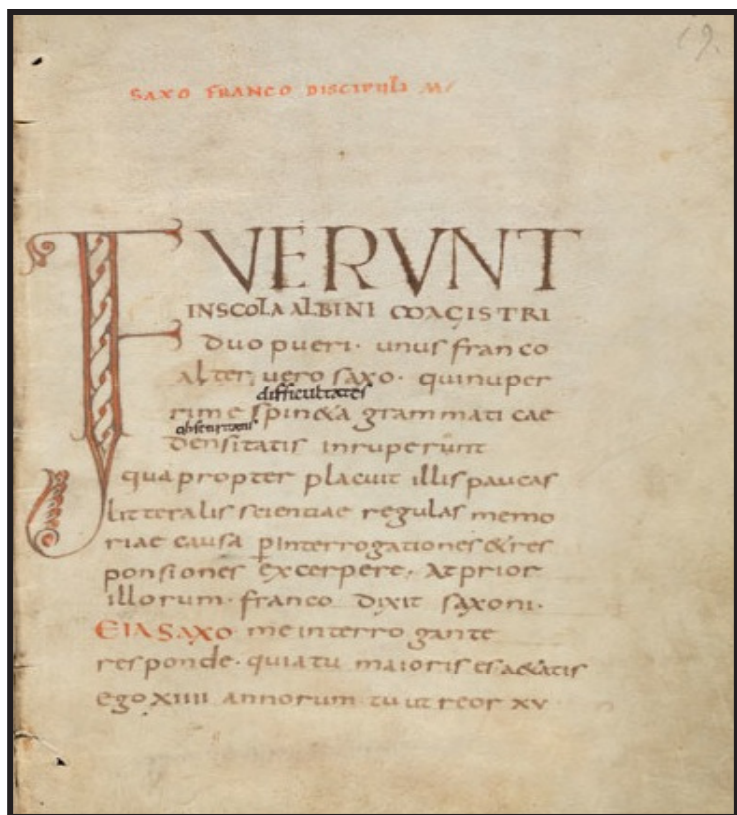


Carin Ruff
Visiting Scholar in Palaeography and Epigraphy

I am spending the autumn quarter as Virginia Brown Fellow at the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies, working on a critical edition of Alcuin's Grammar. The Grammar takes the form of a dialogue between a pair of schoolboys, a Saxon and a Frank, who quiz each other about the parts of speech. The Grammar has one joke in it, which is one more than most medieval grammars have. The edition of the grammar is part of a larger project that will also include a teaching-oriented commentary on the version of the text found in the earliest witness, Codex Sangallensis 268, and a volume of facing translations of Alcuin's grammatical and rhetorical works for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library.

For the last three years, I have taught Medieval Latin and paleography for the Medieval Studies program at Cornell. Before that, I taught Old English and History of the English Language in the English Department at John Carroll University and spent a visiting semester teaching Medieval Latin at Berkeley. My PhD is from the Center for Medieval Studies, Toronto, and before becoming a medievalist, I was a rare book librarian. My research has mainly focused on pre-Conquest Anglo-Latin, especially grammars, metrical treatises, and glossing in the seventh and eighth centuries. The Alcuin

project takes me back to longstanding areas of interest: early medieval Latin pedagogy and manuscript studies. I am thrilled to be back among medievalist friends in Ohio and to able to hold the fellowship named for Virginia Brown, whom we lost this summer and who was a very important mentor to me at Toronto.



This is a picture of the opening page of the earliest witness to the text Carin is editing. Image taken from: St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 268, p. 19 (<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch>)

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Niamh O'Leary

Post Doctoral Fellow and Senior Lecturer in English

I am thrilled to join the English department at Ohio State this fall as a CIC Postdoctoral Fellow. Originally from northwestern Connecticut, I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Connecticut and my graduate work at Penn State University. In early September, I defended my dissertation, *Acting in Concert: Female Camaraderie in Early Modern Drama*. My dissertation considers the relationship between friendship and alliance. I argue that the binary opposition between dyadic female friendship and the satirical model of the gossips' meeting has precluded further attention to other forms of female sociability. Drama, as the genre of attachment, provides access to a whole landscape of female alliances, communities, and camaraderie. I examine several instances of female alliance in Renaissance drama, demonstrating that they have both the affective charge of friendship and the larger numbers and potential threat of gossips' meetings. I discuss the trope of grieving lover and the uses of complaint poetry within drama; the transitional moment of marriage; and the various attachments associated with maternity, both through the traditions of childbirth and the folklore surrounding breastfeeding. To focus solely on the history of female friendship as the history of the dyad is to tell a woefully incomplete tale. If instead of privileging

exceptionalism and the dyad—a model of friendship that relies heavily on the notion of the autonomous, humanist subject—we attend to attachment, we uncover a rich cultural history of alliance.

At Penn State, I enjoyed teaching many different courses, running a reading group for English majors, mentoring new Graduate Instructors, serving as the co-leader of a faculty and graduate student Renaissance Reading Group, taking on various roles in our graduate student organizing council, and playing three seasons of intramural sports a year. I was fortunate to receive a grant from the Folger Institute at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. in the 2007-2008 academic year, where I participated in a year-long dissertation seminar and benefited greatly from working in the archives. This year, I look forward to getting to know a new campus and a new department as I mount a full job search and revise my dissertation as a book project. My current research interests include community and revenge tragedy and dramatic representations of communities of working women. I am eager to explore the OSU community, and to learn from both the faculty and graduate students here, as well as from the many exciting visiting speakers.



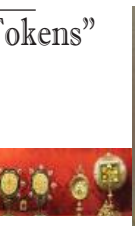
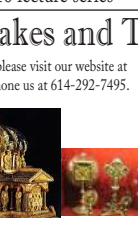
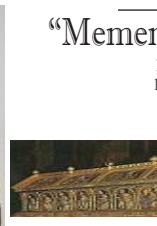
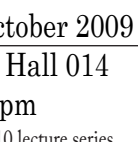
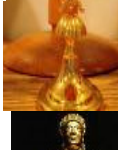
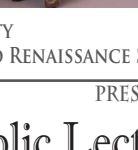
An illustration from ch. 4 of Eucharius Rosselin's *Der Rosengarten* or *The Rose Garden*, a 1513 book about childbirth. The image depicts a woman in labor, on a birthing chair, with her midwife and a gossip. (This particular image is from the second edition, 1515. It was translated by Thomas Raynalde into English in 1626 and circulated widely.)

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Upcoming Lectures

Friday, October 16, 2.30pm

University Hall 014



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

PRESENTS

Annual Public Lecture

James Robinson

Curator of Medieval Collections
Department of Prehistory and Europe

The British Museum

Medieval Jewel Reliquaries as Mementos

Friday, 16 October 2009

University Hall 014

2:30 pm

part of our 2009-10 lecture series

"Mementos, Keepsakes and Tokens"

For additional information, please visit our website at
<http://cmrs.osu.edu> or telephone us at 614-292-7495.

Upcoming Conferences

November 6-7, 2009

Texts and Contexts



A Manuscript Conference at OSU
sponsored by
The Center for Epigraphical and
Palaeographical Studies

The conference seeks to investigate the textual traditions of various texts and genres, including texts in classical Latin, mediaeval Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Middle English, and the vernaculars.

Plenary Speaker:
Scott Gwara, University of South Carolina
America's Orphan Manuscripts

<http://epigraphy.osu.edu/conference/>

Graduate Students

MRGSA:

The Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association was created to provide both an academic and a social forum for graduate students. As an interdisciplinary association, MRGSA is designed to give students the opportunity to meet one another and to discuss their research and other related topics, such as the status of the current job market, research strategies, grant information and the like. The association also works closely with CMRS in order to facilitate meetings with visiting scholars and make them available to students. Notably, MRGSA, along with support from the CMRS, MFC, and many other departments at OSU, hosted *Vagantes* in March 2008. *Vagantes* is the premiere graduate medieval conference in the U.S. Please contact the Center for a list of meetings and dates, or visit <http://cmrs.osu.edu/mrgsa>.

Medieval Feminist Collective:

The Medieval Feminist Collective was created to provide a forum for the discussion of gender studies among interested graduate students. Despite its name, both medieval and Renaissance students are welcome, as are examinations of femininity, masculinity, and broader ideas of gender. Please contact the Center for a list of meetings and dates.

Reading Groups

The CMRS sponsors reading groups for Medieval Latin (contact Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)), Old French (contact Prof. Richard Firth Green (green.693@osu.edu)), and Medieval Occitan (contact Lisa Bevevino (bevevino.1@osu.edu)). Reading groups have already started, but in most cases, members are welcome to join at any time.



CMRS Film Series Fall 2009

The Spanish Golden Age

All movies will be shown in University
Hall Room 038 at 7:30. Free Pizza and
Pop will be served.

Tuesday, October 6

Don Quixote

Starring John Lithgow
Directed by Peter Yates

Tuesday, October 20

Alatriste

Starring Viggo Mortensen
Directed by Augustin Diaz Yanes

Tuesday, November 3

Juana La Loca

Starring Pilar Lopez de Ayala
Directed by Vicente Aranda

Tuesday, November 17

Lost in La Mancha

Starring Jeff Bridges
Directed by Terry Gilliam



At the Library

Books New to the University Libraries

Compiled by Eric Johnson

Associate Curator, Rare Books and Manuscripts

Two newest acquisitions:

Manuscript leaves: 2 leaves from a 15th century German Diurnal, a book containing only the daytime offices of the Divine Office.

Incunabulum: Guillelmus Peraldus. *Summa de virtutibus et vitiis*.

Printed by Angelus and Jacobus Britannicus, 24 December 1494.

The Peraldus is likely a second edition of this extremely influential text on the cardinal virtues and their opposing vices. Peraldus (ca. 1200-1271?), a Dominican preacher, originally wrote his *Summa de vitiis* in ca. 1236 and his *Summa de virtutibus* around 1248, but by 1250 the two works were circulating together so often that they were frequently recognized as a single work. Peraldus's *Summae*



became two of the most important preachers' and confessors' handbooks of the later Middle Ages: the *Summa de virtutibus* survives in over 300 manuscripts, while the *Summa de vitiis* has come down to us in approximately 500 manuscript copies. Together the two works are replete with hundreds of exempla, historical and fanciful anecdotes, and quotations from Classical, Patristic, and contemporary authorities. Through their influence on preaching and confessional practice, Peraldus's *Summae* and the moral and pastoral theology they promote extended beyond the clerical realm to impact the everyday lives of late-medieval Christians across Europe. In spite of their long-lived popularity and their influence on famous texts like Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and countless vernacular preaching handbooks, the *Summae* have yet to appear in an authoritative modern edition or translation, a fact that makes early printed editions of Peraldus's work indispensable resources for scholars.

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Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund



As we approach the \$35,000 mark, the Howe fund is over halfway to reaching its endowment target of \$50,000. This sum may look like a tall order for a small program like the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, but I intend to make this particular fund our flagship appeal over the next few years, and with a display of the same kind of generosity and good will that typified Nick Howe himself, I'm very confident we can make it.

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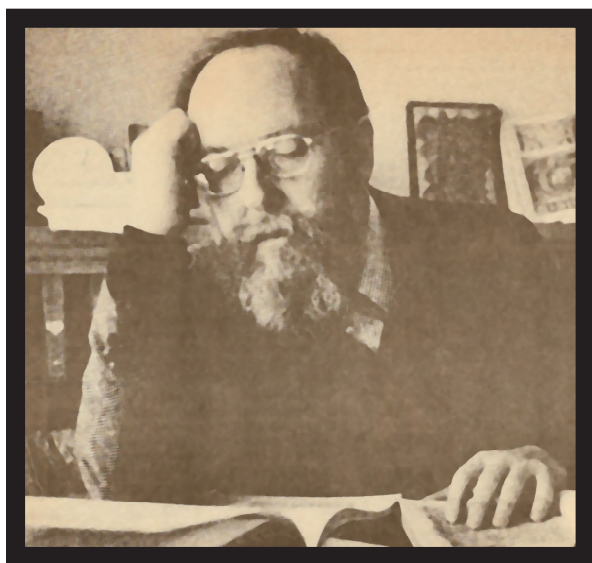
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With most sincere thanks,

Richard Green

In Memoriam



Professor Alan Brown in 1978.

On September 17, CMRS lost a distinguished affiliate with the death of Alan Brown. Alan Kelsey Brown was a faculty member in the English Department from 1970 until his retirement in 1997. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1969 with a concentration in Old English Language and Literature. After teaching briefly at The University of Arizona, he was hired by Ohio State to teach classes in Old English as well as the History of the English Language.

In his years at Ohio State, Alan always had a circle of devoted graduate students who were attracted not only by his deep philological expertise but also by the inimitable joy with which he exercised it. During his career, he taught Old English to hundreds of students, making the subject come alive by his ability to actually perform the ancient poetry in the classroom. Using his knowledge of early musical modes and his careful analysis of the bard-scenes in old Germanic poetry, he constructed an Anglo-Saxon lyre—upon which he would perform sections of the poetry that students were in the process of studying. Certainly one of his most memorable

contributions to the university community at large was his annual appearance at the Medieval/Renaissance Fair. Dressed in robes and with lyre in hand, he would perform Beowulf from memory, a performance that took several hours to complete. Thronging together at his feet were scores of undergraduates, entranced both by the music and by the costumed figure giving it voice.

Alan's scholarship was characterized by great philological learning as well as an appreciation for medieval material culture. He published essays on subjects such as the OE compass points; the unusual Anglo-Saxon compound word referring to Paradise (*neorxnawang*); the firedrake in Beowulf; and the etymology and meaning of the Old Irish *astal* and its relationship to a similar word in Old English. Alan was an expert, too, in the Latin-Old English glossaries of the Pre-Conquest period. With a mastery of Latin, Old French, Old Spanish, Old and Middle High German, the medieval Scandinavian languages, the Celtic tongues (including what little is known about medieval Pictish!), and the medieval English vernaculars, Alan served as the unofficial CMRS linguist, generously sharing his knowledge with all of us. The greatness of his learning, however, never tainted him with pride; he was a modest and gentle man in his dealings with those less learned than he.

What many may not know is that Alan was also a world-renowned contributor to the field of California history. His studies of California place-names, his publications on the aboriginal peoples of the American West, and his award-winning translation of the journals of Juan Crespi and Pedro Font (two early Franciscan missionaries in California) gained him an international reputation among historians of Spanish-American relations.

Even after his retirement, Alan continued to present papers at conferences and to pursue his scholarship. A frequent visitor to OSU Library's Rare Book Room in the last years of his life, Alan was an inspiration to those of us who hope to continue our serious work even after we are released from the pedagogical duties that define our daily lives.

Autumn

AUTUMN hath all the summer's fruitfull treasure;
Gone is our sport, fled is poor Croydon's pleasure.
Short days, sharp days, long nights come on apace,
Ah! who shall hide us from the winter's face?
Cold doth increase, the sickness will not cease,
And here we lie, God knows, with little ease.

From winter, plague, and pestilence,
good Lord, deliver us!

London doth mourn, Lambeth is quite forlorn;
Trades cry, woe worth that ever they were born.
The want of term is town and city's harm;
Close chambers we do want, to keep us warm.
Long banished must we live from our friends;
This low-built house will bring us to our ends.

From winter, plague, and pestilence,
good Lord, deliver us!

Thomas Nashe



Thomas Nashe, an Elisabethan satirist, poet, and pamphleteer is best known as the author of the first picaresque novel in English "The Unfortunate Traveller, or the Life of Jack Wilton" (1594).

Thomas Nashe in leg irons, ca. 1597. Woodcut.

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