


NOUVELLES

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
JANUARY 2011

NOUVELLES



CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES

 January hath xxxj.dayes.

18 January 2011

CMRS Film Series: **The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939)**

Directed by William Dieterle, with Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara


7:30 PM, 038 University Hall

28 January 2011

CMRS Faculty Colloquium: **Daniel Collins**

B-mail: On the Pragmatics of Birchbark Communication in Medieval Novgorod

2:30 PM, 406 Hagerty Hall

 February hath xxviiij.dayes.

1 February 2011

CMRS Film Series: **Perceval le Gallois (1978)**

Directed by Eric Rohmer, with Fabrice Luchini, André Dussollier, and Solange Boulanger

7:30 PM, 038 University Hall

4 February 2011

CMRS Lecture Series: **Claire Waters, University of California, Davis**

Last Among the First: Salvation, Status, and Reversal in *L'Évangile de Nicodème*

2:30 PM, 090 Science and Engineering Library

10 February 2011

Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association (MRGSA) Open Forum & Lunch

12:30 PM, Location TBA

15 February 2011

CMRS Film Series: **Stealing Heaven (1988)**

Directed by Clive Donner, with Derek de Lint, Kim Thomson, and Denholm Elliott


7:30 PM, 038 University Hall

18 February 2011

CMRS Lecture Series: **Jamie Lara, University of Notre Dame**

De Gustibus: Translating Christian Piety for New World Cannibals

2:30 PM, 090 Science and Engineering Library

 March hath xxxj.dayes.

1 March 2011

CMRS Film Series: **The Visitors (1993)**

Directed by Jean-Marie Poiré, with Christian Clavier, Jean Reno, and Valérie Lemercier

7:30 PM, 038 University Hall

11 March 2011

CMRS Lecture Series: **Margaret Cormack, College of Charleston**

Miracles and Magicians: The Transformation of the Otherworld in Lutheran Iceland

2:30 PM, 090 Science and Engineering Library

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JANUARY 2011

CENTER FOR
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

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The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is an interdisciplinary unit in the College of Arts and Humanities dedicated primarily to the study of Europe from the end of the Roman Empire through the seventeenth century and its relations with other cultures, particularly in the Middle East and the Americas; analogous cultural developments in the Far East and in Africa also fall within its purview. The Center's activities include the promotion of teaching and research in all aspects of medieval and Renaissance culture, including art, music, literature, religion, history, philosophy, and government. The Center affords students and faculty a variety of opportunities to examine these various cultural forces as they interact with each other.

The activities of the Center include offering courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, administering an undergraduate major and minor, sponsoring a graduate certificate program and Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization, organizing a series of lectures and colloquia, providing graduate administrative and teaching associateships, and publishing a newsletter, *Nouvelles Nouvelles*. It also aspires to serve as a resource for medievalists and Renaissance scholars at other institutions throughout the state. The Center has acted as the headquarters for the New Chaucer Society and the operational home for university-wide planning to commemorate the quincentenary of Columbus' first voyage. We also have a series of occasional publications.



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Frank Coulson writes about Virginia Brown and the recent acquisition of her personal library and working papers by the OSU Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies.

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The cover image is of St. Sebaldus as a pilgrim. This woodcut was created by Hans Springinkle. The back cover image is from a sixteenth-century Book of Hours at the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library, MS Douce 135, fol. 2r.



New Year's Greetings for 2011. This quarter I am teaching Gothic Paris 1100–1300 again, one of the Center's most venerable Culture and Ideas GEC courses, and one of the oldest in our series of city courses offering an introduction to medieval and early modern studies through the focused lens of a few centuries of a great location. The pleasures of this course are many: inviting students up to the towers of Notre Dame for soaring views, examining the giant uncut gemstones on reliquaries, wondering what happened between Philip Augustus and Ingebourg of Denmark on that fateful wedding night. Considering the parallels between the riparian university capital cities of Paris and Columbus as students trace out the Seine, the Roman street axis, and the great churches, monastic centers, and palaces for their map quiz. This quarter's film series features four titles linked to medieval France:

the classic *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939) in which the cathedral is a character in itself, January 18; *Perceval le Gallois* (1978), in which the characters appear to march straight out of a manuscript playing vielles, February 1; *Stealing Heaven* (1988) recounting the steamy affair of Abelard and Heloise (it spends a bit less time on her mastery of dialectic than we do in class!), February 15, in time for Valentine's Day; and finally the wacky Jean Reno time travel comedy *The Visitors* (1993) on March 1.

"Translating Piety" has continued to prove a stimulating topic, bringing together scholars from many fields. In November, Jane Tylus of NYU spoke on "Translating Griselda: Holy Women and the Vernacular in Renaissance Italy." She looked at Petrarch's translation of the Griselda story into Latin, "ornamenting" it with that more "decorative" language, as well as infusing the story with a pious reading absent in Boccaccio's vernacular; and comparing this act of translation with St. Jerome's rendering into Latin of the apocryphal Chaldean book of Judith, to which he says he devoted only a single night's work, but offers it as a text that may serve as a model to women as to men. In December we welcomed Karen Sullivan of Bard College. Her talk, "Jean Gerson and his sisters: the Chancellor Writes in the Vernacular," dealt with the prolific preacher's French letters to his sisters, in which he addressed their concerns in a casual style, but presented their words and questions as much more formally scholastic and disputative, contrary to stereotypes of gendered discourse.

This quarter we look forward to presentations by Claire Waters on February 4, "Last Among the First: Salvation, Status, and Reversal in *l'Evangile de Nicodème*," an apocryphal fourth-century Greek gospel which had great success in Latin and French medieval translations, and in Jacques de Voragine's Golden Legend. On February 18, Jamie Lara will speak on "De Gustibus: Translating Christian Piety for New World Cannibals," which promises to take our series beyond the western European confines into the realms of Colonial and Latin American studies.

We also hope you will join us for our faculty colloquia series, which the inimitable Dan Collins of Slavic Studies will kick off on January 28 with "B-mail: On the Pragmatics of Birchbark Communication in Medieval Novgorod," in which he will elucidate the singular survival of several hundred missives on this rather unusual writing support.

Our thanks to you, readers, for perusing this publication, and for being part of this community of thinkers. We appreciate the many compliments we have received on it. We are blessed with a talented staff who has managed to save money while making it more appealing than ever. Inspiration for austere times.

May your resolutions come to realization, may winter's beauties not go unappreciated, and may spring not hide her verdant promises long—

Sarah-Grace Heller
Acting Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Ohio State University Department of Theatre will present Shakespeare's *Othello* this February as a part of a three-year partnership between OSU's Arts Initiative and the Royal Shakespeare Company. The production is guest directed by Alison Bomber, Senior Head of Voice at the RSC, and stars the department's nine Master of Fine Arts actors. The production is a ninety-minute cutting based on the Royal Shakespeare Company's Young Person Shakespeare series, which brings vibrant, textually driven performances of Shakespeare to British schools. As a part of the Ohio State production, the Department of Theatre is offering four school matinees for area high and middle school students. Many of these students are involved in the RSC/OSU partnership's Stand Up for Shakespeare program, which uses Shakespeare in the classroom as a dynamic and performance-oriented educational tool.

The Stand Up for Shakespeare program has three basic tenants: kids should see Shakespeare performed live, they should start engaging with the texts earlier in their educational careers, and they should explore Shakespeare's language on their feet. Active since 2008 in the United Kingdom, the RSC/OSU partnership is bringing Stand Up to Shakespeare to American schools for the first time, beginning right here in central Ohio. The partnership is currently in its second of three years, with thirty-eight local teachers, as well as OSU's nine MFA actors, trained to use Stand Up for Shakespeare in the classroom. The third cohort of teachers will be selected this spring and trained this summer in Columbus, prior to the RSC's six-week residency at New York's Park Avenue Armory as part of the Lincoln Center Festival. More information on the partnership is available at <http://artsinitiative.osu.edu/stand-up-for-shakespeare-america.html>.



The winter quarter production of *Othello* will feature two distinct casting tracks, with two different actors performing the roles of Iago and Desdemona on alternating nights, allowing the cast to explore the multiplicity of character interpretations Shakespeare's text affords. The double casting of Desdemona and Iago not only allows two different actors to experience each role, but also provides a rich source of inquiry into the text as both the double-cast actors and those who play a single role are forced to listen and react to a different performance each night. Bomber's approach foregrounds the text and seeks to reveal the intricacies of one of Shakespeare's most intimate and complex tragedies, while furthering the mission of the OSU/RSC partnership and the Stand Up for Shakespeare program.

This term, audiences are invited to attend performances from both casts of *Othello*, and to attend a symposium on February 11 and 12 hosted by the Department of Theatre's graduate student organization, the Syndicate. The Symposium is entitled "*O! What Learning [Shakespeare] Is!*" *Exploring Practices and Pedagogy in Renaissance Theatre*. Information and tickets are available at <http://theatre.osu.edu>.

Contributed by Chelsea Phillips



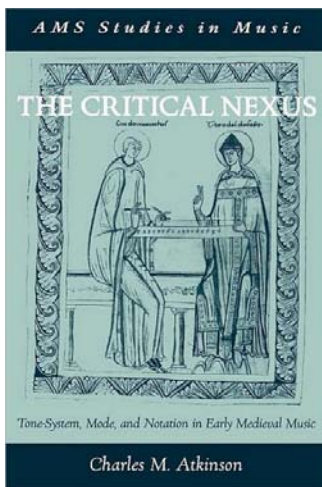
Early Music in Columbus is a concert series dedicated to presenting medieval, renaissance, and baroque music to Central Ohio audiences. This series sponsors at least six concerts per year. Early Music in Columbus was established in 1980 and is cosponsored by the Capital University Conservatory of Music.

This winter, the Orlando Consort will perform "Amoré: Love and Marriage in the Italian Renaissance" on February 18. This chamber ensemble from Britain is sure to delight Columbus audiences with a selection of music by Ciconia, Busnoys, Josquin Desprez, Mouton, Arcadelt, and Verdelot. *Nouvelles Nouvelles* readers will be familiar with The Early Interval, featured in the September 2010 issue, who will perform "Spanish Splendor" on March 11.

Visit <http://www.earlymusicincolumbus.org> for more information.

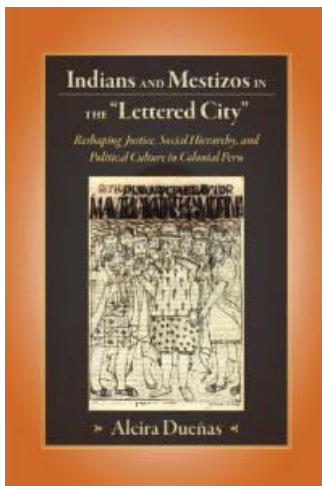
CELEBRATING THE ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CMRS AFFILIATES

Mira Assaf (English) presented “Caroline Shakespeare: A Reassessment of the Second Quarto of Othello (1630)” at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference at Owens College in Toledo, Ohio on 15 October 2010.



Charles M. Atkinson (Musicology) received the Otto Kinkeldey Award from the American Musicological Society. This award, one of the highest honors in the field, is given annually to acknowledge “a musicological book of exceptional merit published in any language and in any country by a scholar who is beyond the early stages of his or her career.” Professor Atkinson received the award at the national meeting of the AMS in November, 2010, in recognition of his book *The Critical Nexus: Tone-System, Mode, and Notation in Early Medieval Music*, American Musicological Society Studies in Music 6 (Oxford University Press, 2009). At the same meeting, Atkinson delivered a paper, “Fifteen Modes versus Eight: On the Ancient Greek Background of a Medieval and Renaissance Theoretical Conflict.” Recent publications of his include “*Ars grammatica* and the *Ars musica* in Carolingian Schools: Glosses on Martianus Capella and Boethius,” in *Papers Read at the 13th Meeting of the IMS Study Group CANTUS PLANUS, Niederaltaich/Germany, 2006, Aug. 29 –Sept. 4* (Institute for Musicology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2009); and “Frutolf (?) the Magician,” in *Lingua mea calamus scribae: Mélanges offerts à Marie-Noël Colette*, edited by Dom Daniel Saulnier, Katarina Livljanic and Christelle Cazaux-Kowalski, *Etudes Grégoriennes* 36 (Abbaye de St.-Pierre, 2009).

David A. Brewer (English) gave the plenary address, “The Literary Uses of Authorial Names,” at the Annual Meeting of the East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 5 November 2010. He also chaired the prize committee for the Innovative Course Design Competition of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. He presented “Value, Vernacular Theory, and ‘Things (including Authors)’,” and conducted a seminar for the Research on Authorship as Performance group at the Universiteit Gent in Belgium on 23 November 2010.



David Cressy (History) presented “New Directions in Research and Teaching on Early Modern Britain” at the North American Conference on British Studies in Baltimore on 13 November 2010. Cressy also presented a distinguished lecture on 5 November 2010 at The Ohio State University to commemorate his elevation to the King George III Chair in British History.

Andrea Crow (English) presented “Reassessing Q1 Romeo and Juliet’s Stage Directions” at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference at Owens College in Toledo, Ohio on 15 October 2010.

Alcira Dueñas (History) published *Indians and Mestizos in the Lettered City: Reshaping Justice, Social Hierarchy, and Political Culture in Colonial Peru* (University Press of Colorado, 2010).

Alan Farmer (English) presented “Shakespearean Revision and the Cultural Status of Playbooks” at the Rethinking Early Modern Print Culture Conference in Toronto, Canada on 23 October 2010.

John Friedman (English), member of the Ohio Medieval Consortium and Emeritus Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, published *Brueghel's Heavy Dancers: Transgressive Clothing, Class, and Culture in the Late Middle Ages* (Syracuse University Press: 2010).

Hannibal Hamlin (English) and **Norman W. Jones (English)** edited *The King James Bible after 400 Years: Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Influences* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

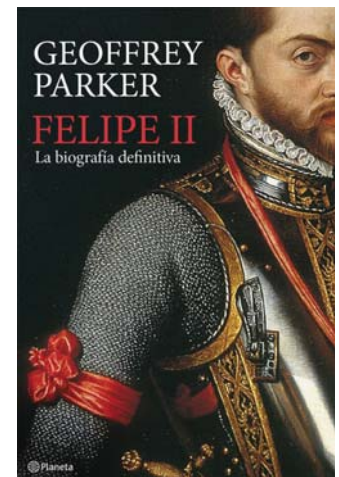
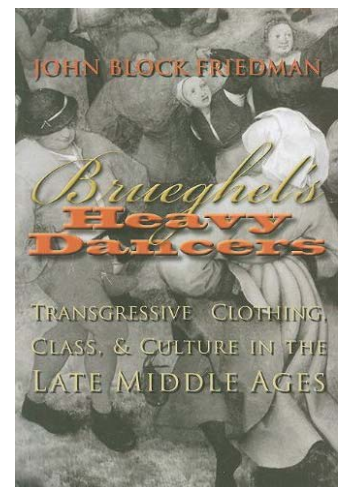
Sarah Grace Heller (French and Italian) published “Semiotics of Culture,” in *Handbook of Medieval Studies: Terms – Methods – Trends*, edited by Albrecht Classen (De Gruyter, 2010).

Colleen Kennedy (English) presented “The Taming of A/The Shrew: Shakespeare’s Source and Revision” at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference at Owens College in Toledo, Ohio on 15 October 2010.

Scott Levi (History) published the chapter, “Commercial Structures” in *The New Cambridge History of Islam, vol. 3, The Eastern Islamic World, Eleventh to Eighteenth Centuries*, edited by David Morgan and Anthony Reid (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Andrea Ottone (History) presented ‘Volea predicar nuova legge, et dar nuove leggi.’ Tommaso Campanella, Political Reformism Under Shelter of Utopism,” at a conference on “Forbidden Ideas: Controversial Modes of Engagement in Italian Intellectual Tradition,” at UCLA on 29-30 October 2010.

At a ceremony held at the University of Burgos, Spain, on 15 September 2010 **Geoffrey Parker (History)** first received an honorary doctorate of letters and then delivered the Inaugural Lecture for the university’s 2010-2011 academic session on “La crisis de la década de 1590: Felipe II y sus enemigos ante el cambio climático.” Two days earlier, his Spanish friends and colleagues held a *simposio* at the same university that evaluated the impact of his publications since 1976 on the study early modern history in Spain. The following week he was interviewed by several Spanish newspapers, and appeared live on Televisión Española, about his new book *Felipe II: la biografía definitiva*, now in its third printing. On 22 September he took part in a live segment of the program “En días como hoy”, hosted by Juan Ramón Lucas for Radio Nacional de España. On 23 September he debated Professor Rolf Strøm-Olsen of the Instituto de Empresa in one of the featured “encounters” at the annual Hay Festival in Segovia on the topic: “From Climate Change to Economic Crisis: the Challenges of Leadership in Historical Perspective.”



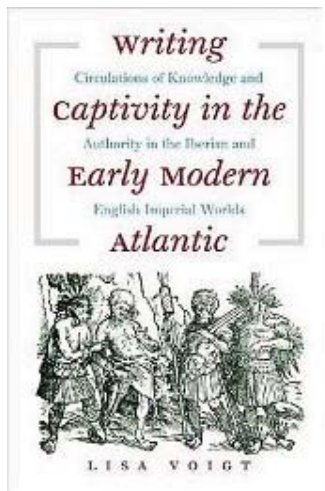
Adena Tanenbaum (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures) presented “Cruel Oppressors and Evenhanded Judges: Ambivalences Toward Muslims and Islam in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer hamusar*” at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston in December 2010.

Heather Tanner (History) organized a session entitled “Lordship, History, and the Dominae of Northern France” for the Charles Homer Haskins Society’s annual conference at Boston College on 7 November 2010, and presented “Rebellion and the Countess” at this session.

Dale Van Kley (History) gave two invited talks: “L’abbé Grégoire et un petit retour aux ‘Origines religieuses de la Révolution française,’” for a colloquium entitled “L’abbé Grégoire et la Séparation de l’Eglise et de l’Etat,” at the Conservatoire National des Arts et des Métiers in Paris on 20 October 2010; and “The Catholic Enlightenment in the Crucible of the French Revolution: The Political Theologies of Nicola Spedalieri and the Pietro Tamburini,” an introduction to and discussion of a paper for MacMillan Center at Yale University on 1 November 2010.

Lisa Voigt (Spanish) received the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize from the Modern Language Association of America for an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures. Voigt’s book, *Writing Captivity in the Early Modern Atlantic: Circulations of Knowledge and Authority in the Iberian and English Imperial Worlds*, was singled out as an outstanding example of research that is both interdisciplinary and comparative and for its substantive contribution to history as well as literary studies. Voigt received the award at the January 2011 meeting in Los Angeles.

Luke Wilson (English) presented an invited talk, “Miltonic Utensils,” to the Renaissance Graduate Seminar of the English Faculty at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England on 2 November 2010.



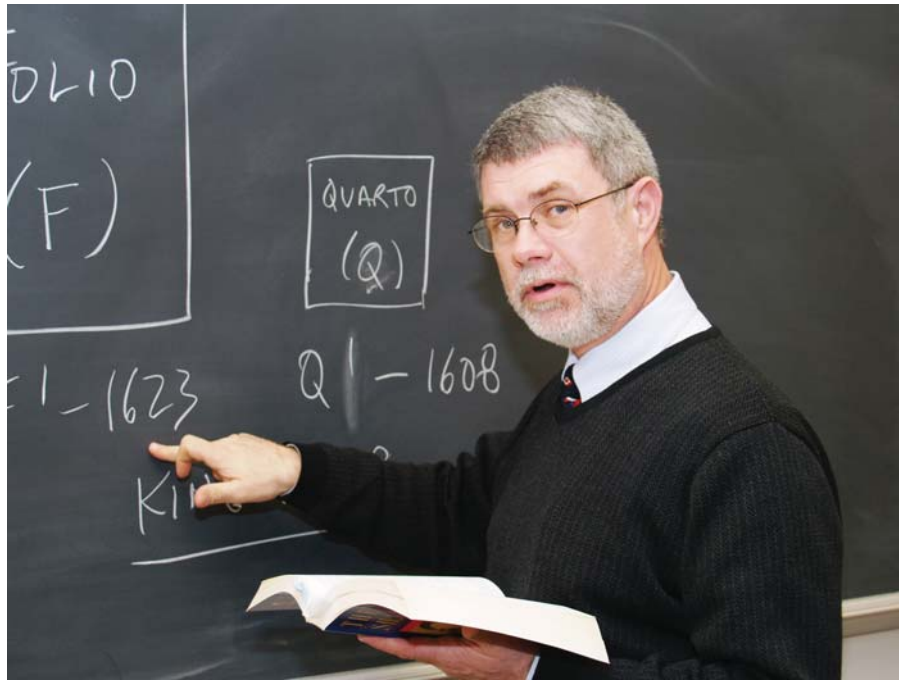
Center for the Study of
Religion
at Ohio State

At-Large Lectures in Religion Series

The OSU Center for the Study of Religion hosts several lectures annually; the final three lectures of the year will certainly be of interest to many readers. On February 25, Ra’anan Boustan from UCLA will present “Heikhalot Literature and Byzantine Court Ceremonial: Jewish Mysticism in a Christian Empire.” On April 4, Bissera Pentcheva of Stanford University will present “Hagia Sophia and the Aesthetics of the Sea.” The last lecture in the series will be presented by Miri Rubin of the University of London on April 29. She will discuss “The Virgin Mary: The Challenges to the Historian of Religious Cultures.” These lectures will be held in Thompson Library, Room 165 at 4:30 PM. For more information, please visit <http://religion.osu.edu/>.

CMRS ALUMNI

Many students have benefitted from CMRS programs, courses, and activities. We hope you enjoy reading about the professional accomplishments of the following alumnus who was a previous winner of the Stanley J. Kahrl Award for an Outstanding Graduate Essay, awarded annually by CMRS.



Thomas G. Olsen completed his Ph.D. in English in 1997, writing his dissertation, “Circe’s Court: The Uses of Italy in English Writing, 1530-1685,” under the supervision of John N. King (director), Christopher Highley, Frank Donoghue, and David Frantz. Now Associate Professor and Chair of the English Department at the State University of New York at New Paltz, he teaches courses in Shakespeare and Renaissance studies and participates in New Paltz’s Medieval and Early Modern Studies minor program. In 2004 he was awarded the SUNY-wide Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. In recent years he has periodically taught the summer course “Renaissance Culture and the Printing Revolution” at Yale’s Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library and has delivered lectures on Shakespeare and on early print under the auspices of the New York Council for the Humanities.

In addition to two CMRS research awards and the Stanley J. Kahrl Award for his essay “The Tangles of Neaera’s Hair: Truth, Error and Eros in Milton’s Poetic Vocation,” at Ohio State Olsen was awarded the Elizabeth Howald Tuition Scholarship, a Presidential Fellowship, a Graduate Student Alumni Research Award, the English Department’s Estrich Prize for Best Graduate Seminar Paper, and an Estrich Fellowship for support of his dissertation.

Olsen has published articles and book reviews in journals such as *Reformation*, *The Yale Library Gazette*, *Shakespeare Yearbook*, *Annali d’Italianistica*, *Italica*, *Prose Studies*, and *The Sixteenth Century Journal*. His “Apolitical Shakespear; Or, The Restoration *Coriolanus*,” published in *Studies in English Literature*, was based on his Estrich Prize paper, originally written in Frank Donoghue’s seminar on Restoration and eighteenth-century literature. In 2004 his edition *The Commonplace Book of Sir John Strangways 1645-1666* was published by The Renaissance English Text Society and Arizona State’s Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He is currently at work on a study of the queen figure in the legendary King Lear story.

VIRGINIA BROWN AND THE CENTER FOR EPIGRAPHICAL AND PALAEOGRAPHICAL STUDIES

by Frank T. Coulson
Professor and Director of Palaeography



Virginia Brown, who was arguably one of the foremost palaeographers of the twentieth century and the world's leading authority on the Beneventan script, died from complications of pancreatic cancer on 4 July 2009. Virginia had taught at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at Toronto since 1970, where she had responsibility for the courses on textual editing and Latin palaeography. She was a devoted teacher and a much-loved mentor to her students, many of whom have gone on to have distinguished careers in medieval studies (including our own Drew Jones in the Department of English). Her training of future generations of palaeographers was recognized by the Medieval Academy of America, which honored her in 2007 with its Award for Excellence in Teaching. The importance of her research has been highlighted through the many symposia and Festschrift volumes published in her honor, including a conference at Ohio State in 2005 on the occasion of her 65th birthday.

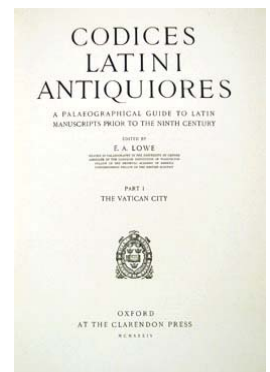


Virginia was a long-time supporter of the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies. She frequently came to lecture to my palaeography seminar on the Beneventan script, what she was wont to call “the precious script.” And she regarded Ohio as “the promised land” of manuscript studies for two reasons: the state was rich in fragments of manuscripts dismembered and then sold by the Cleveland dealer, Otto F. Ege, and because the state housed Beneventan fragments. Over the last twenty years, Virginia and I, often accompanied by Anna A. Grotans, had occasion to take “road trips” to explore private and public libraries in Ohio. On one particularly memorable trip in 2002, Virginia discovered at the Toledo Museum of Art a beautiful leaf from a Beneventan missal (preserved in a box of fragments), as well as twenty new Ege fragments from a private collection in Toledo. These had been purchased from Otto F. Ege's daughter in the mid 1960s with money won on the original *Jeopardy*—certainly a unique provenance for a manuscript collection!

In her will, Virginia stipulated that her private library and her working papers were to be given to the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies at Ohio State. The remarkable nature of that collection was only made manifest as Wendy Watkins, Curator of the Center, set to work cataloging it. It contained nearly seventy boxes of materials, including facsimile editions, obscure and very hard-to-find catalogs, and a rich collection of microfilms which Virginia had assembled during her illustrious career. In particular, Virginia's life-long mission to track down every known manuscript and manuscript fragment written in Beneventan meant that she had in her library virtually everything ever published on that script, and thus in one fell swoop the Center has become the place in North America to conduct research on Beneventan script.



Virginia's library is particularly rich in facsimile editions and catalogues of manuscripts. Among the many treasures can be found a complete run of E. A. Lowe's monumental *Codices Latini Antiquiores*. As many of you know, Virginia was Lowe's assistant at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and was responsible for seeing through the press the final volumes of the series after Lowe's death in 1970. Other particular highlights include *La Libreria di Guarnerio d'Artegna*, twenty-seven



volumes of the *Catalogo delle Biblioteche d'Italia*, and Albinia de la Mare's study, *Miniatura Fiorentina del Rinascimento 1440–1525. Un Primo Censimento*. Amongst important facsimiles can be found the manuscript of Peter the Deacon's *Registrum* (housed at Montecassino), and the important Beneventan manuscript of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (housed at the Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples) and naturally my own favorite. In sum, the collection of books, containing some 1200 titles and valued at over \$50,000, has increased immeasurably the holdings of our Center, and we are confident that it will be used extensively by faculty members here at Ohio State and by visiting scholars studying at the Center as Virginia Brown Fellows.



In addition to her library, Virginia left to the Center her working papers. At the time of her death, Virginia was involved in several important scholarly enterprises. She served as editor-in-chief for the *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, inaugurated by Paul Oskar Kristeller in 1960. Virginia herself published in the *Catalogus* the articles on Caesar, Cato, and Columella, and she was at work on the Virgil section at the time of her death. Virginia was indefatigable in tracking down new contributors and in encouraging current contributors to complete their assignments (*experto crede!*) Virginia, with her colleague Roger E. Reynolds, also edited a series called *Monumenta Liturgica Beneventana*. Several volumes have now appeared, and the series will continue under

the capable direction of Richard Gyug, one of Virginia's former students. Amongst the Virginia Brown papers may be found all of her working notes on these projects, in addition to contributions from other scholars completed during her tenure as editor.

A second area of interest to Virginia, and one richly represented in her working papers, is the Beneventan script. This minuscule was written in the Southern part of the Italian peninsula, particularly at the renowned abbey of Montecassino. Virginia was responsible for the revision of Lowe's *The Beneventan Script* (1980), and she published six new Lists of Addenda to the known manuscripts in Beneventan (these appeared in *Mediaeval Studies* from 1978–2008). Virginia's papers contain all of her drafts for these books and articles—Virginia worked, it must be remembered, to a large degree in the “pre-computer” age—and these transmit her detailed descriptions of manuscripts which she saw *in situ*.



Lastly, Virginia's collection contains a rich store of memorabilia and artifacts related to the study of palaeography in the twentieth century. There are engaging photographs of such renowned palaeographers as Ludwig Traube, E. A. Lowe, and Bernard Bischoff. The letters and correspondence found therein reveal the personal side of many of these formidable scholars—Tilly de la Mare, the great scholar of humanistic script, thanking Virginia for her lovely hospitality; Bernard Bischoff responding to Virginia's queries on his article “Addenda to *Codices Latini Antiquiores*,” published in *Mediaeval Studies* in 1985 and originally produced on his 1926 typewriter replete with white-out to correct typos. And, of course, there are magnificent pictures of Virginia herself, from a young graduate student (and a veritable Lesley Gore doppelgänger) to her final years as a revered and much loved scholar.



The Center is honored to house Virginia's library and papers, and we are naturally extremely grateful to her and her husband, the eminent Harvard historian, James Hankins, for their many acts of kindnesses. Virginia was a formidable scholar and an editor who could turn a good article into a first-rate one. But she was also a charmer who possessed a unique combination of Southern hospitality and good humor. The cancer which cruelly and so swiftly took her deprived the scholarly community of her final research agenda. But her legacy will live on through the many scholarly enterprises she fostered and through the fellowships endowed in her honor.



MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION



The fall 2010 MRGSA event, a Meet-and-Greet, was a great success. Nearly twenty students discussed potential activities and goals for the organization. Photos by Sarah Peters Kernan.

format that is most appropriate to your goal; it may consist in the formal reading of a paper, a Power Point slideshow, or a simple handout. Prepared discussion prompts are also welcome.

Tentative Agenda for Winter Open Forum and Lunch

12:30–12:40	Arrive, begin lunch
12:40–12:55	Presentation 1
12:55–1:10	Discussion
1:10–1:25	Presentation 2
1:25–1:40	Discussion
1:40–2:00	MRGSA general meeting

We currently seek two graduate student presentations for the February 10 Open Forum and Lunch. Please RSVP to Michele Fuchs, MRGSA Treasurer, at fuchs.38@buckeyemail.osu.edu if you would like to share a presentation.

Graduate students in medieval and renaissance fields of study are invited to join our first **MRGSA Open Forum and Lunch** at **12:30 PM** on **Thursday, 10 February 2011**, at what we hope will be the first of a quarterly series of roundtable discussions. All students are invited, whether or not you have participated in MRGSA in the past. The aim of these meetings is to encourage interdisciplinary conversation among aspiring medieval and renaissance scholars at OSU. We hope that each Open Forum will permit graduate students to learn from one another in an environment that is free of the types of pressures that occur in a standard classroom or conference setting, to be creative with their ideas, and to ask serious questions and participate in engaging discussion. We will have the opportunity to share and discuss our current research and ideas, receive constructive feedback, learn about the activities of their peers in other disciplines, and keep up to date on current research and pedagogical methods in the humanities. In addition, we will occasionally invite a faculty guest to discuss practical career issues such as publishing, creating a CV and job portfolio, etc.

Students are invited to give a short presentation (15 minutes maximum) about a current research project (e.g. seminar paper, article for publication, dissertation chapter), methodological question (e.g. seek advice about a specific research or writing task), pedagogical issue (e.g. how to organize an effective lecture course) or other issue of choice. The possibilities are, indeed, ‘open’ for you to decide what topic you would like to bring to the table, whether specific to a current task or general. Choose a presentation



Digital Manuscript Collections and Paleography Tools

Digitized manuscripts have become increasingly important to scholars and students. Many museums, libraries, and archives worldwide have initiated digitization efforts. As manuscripts have been placed online, paleography tools have also developed online; websites like Medieval Writing (<http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/writing.htm>) and Comptes des châtelainies Savoyardes (<http://www.castellanie.net>) contain paleography guides and exercises for students. Below is a brief listing of digital manuscript collections which may prove useful to CMRS affiliates.

Bodleian Library Digital Library, Oxford University
<http://www.odl.ox.ac.uk/digitalimagelibrary/index.html>

CDLM: Codice diplomatico della Lombardia medievale
<http://cdlm.unipv.it/>

DIAMM: Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music
<http://www.diamm.ac.uk/index.html>

Digital Scriptorium
<http://www.digital-scriptorium.org>

e-codices: Virtual Manuscript Library of Switzerland
<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en>

Enluminures (images from over 100 French libraries)
<http://www.enluminures.culture.fr/documentation/enluminure/fr/>

MANUS: Censimento dei manoscritti delle biblioteche italiane (images from over 100 Italian libraries are represented)
<http://manus.iccu.sbn.it>

Manuscripta Medievalia (Over 60,000 manuscripts and fragments from the German-speaking world)
<http://www.manuscripta-mediaevalia.de>

Roman de la Rose Digital Library (about 130 *Roman de la Rose* manuscripts)
<http://romandelarose.org>

The Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center

You may consider visiting or sending your students to visit the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center in Columbus. This museum was featured in the January 2009 issue of *Nouvelles Nouvelles*, and its collection has only grown since that time. The museum contains a wide variety of artifacts and documents, including medieval and early modern. The museum's holdings include a large collection of bibles, dating from 1563 to the twentieth century, a chalice with a heart-shaped amethyst previously owned by Mary, Queen of Scots, a 1607 papal document, and a very large collection of relics. Please visit <http://www.jubileemuseum.org> for more information.

Medieval and Renaissance Podcasts on iTunes

You can find a wealth of podcasts on iTunes and iTunes U on medieval and renaissance topics. It is easy to locate video and audio podcasts on a wide variety of topics. A few examples are:

- Paul Freedman lectures on “Medieval Crusades and Today's Global Conflicts” (Yale University iTunes U)
- David Abernathy lectures on “Trans-Saharan Trade Routes and Medieval Kingdoms of the Sahel” (Stanford University iTunes U)
- Caroline Walker Bynum lectures on “Holy Pieces: Attitudes Toward Parts and Wholes in Late Medieval Devotion” (Stanford University iTunes U)
- Geoffrey Parker lectures on “Climate and Catastrophe: The World Crisis of the 17th Century” (University of Washington iTunes U)
- Early Book Lecture Series (University of Arizona iTunes U)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art

It is very easy to access these free podcasts. Simply open iTunes on your computer, and then you can browse iTunes U for topics which interest you, or search for specific terms, lecturers, and topics in the search function of iTunes.

Michael J. Zwettler
1940-2010

Michael J. Zwettler, Associate Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, died of cancer on 25 January 2010. He was a well-loved member of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (and its earlier incarnations, beginning with “Department of Romance Languages – Arabic Section”) where he taught Arabic language and literature for thirty-five years.

Michael was perhaps best known for his monograph *The Oral Tradition of Classical Arabic Poetry: Its Character and Implications* (1978), in which he applied the Parry-Lord theory of formulaic composition and rendition to early Arabic poetry. In doing so he covered a much wider range of material than might be expected, with the result that the book remains essential reading for anyone concerned not only with early poetry but with the development of the Arabic language. Scholars have debated at length the question of the language of this poetry: was it the everyday language of the Bedouin, as tradition claimed? Michael argued no, it was a special idiom reserved strictly for formal occasions. Utilizing various dialectal features and archaisms (of which the *iʿrāb*, the system of case and mood markings, was one), and his arguments have become a standard component of the discussion on the history of Arabic.

The Oral Tradition of Classical Arabic Poetry remains a fixture on PhD reading lists for its important treatment of poetic and linguistic topics, and if not everyone was convinced of the suitability of applying oral-formulaic theory to Arabic poetry, there was nonetheless near-unanimity that the exercise was an especially stimulating one, in the best intellectual sense. It is a mark of his scholarly integrity that he was fond of recommending, unprompted, to colleagues and students the annotated translation of Gregor Schoeler’s articles, *The Oral and the Written in Early Islam* (2006), even though one of the chapters is devoted to a harsh critique of Michael’s book. Asked about this, he said, “It’s very intelligent criticism, and I have no problem with that, in fact I appreciate it.” (Of course, he did add, when prompted, that he hoped to respond to Schoeler someday.)

Michael was clear about his scholarly interests. Not for him the vulgarities of the modern period, which seemed in his view to begin sometime in the late Abbasid era (“anything after the Mongols,” he loved to say, “you can read about in the newspapers”). He was drawn further and further back in time, in a quest to reveal more about the period (and the language) that captivated him. His last great project was an extensive study of the oldest substantial example of written Arabic, the Namāra inscription, found in southern Syria and dated to the early fourth century CE. This required a massive amount of training and familiarity with Roman and early Sāsānian history, various forms of Aramaic, Epigraphic South (as well as North) Arabian studies and the genealogy and tribal history of the pre-Islamic Arabs, among other topics. All this Michael undertook with the remarkable blend of avid enthusiasm and meticulous attention to detail that characterized everything he did. Several articles from this project have been published, and Professor Linda Jones Hall of St. Mary’s College in Maryland will be leading an effort to bring his nearly-completed typescript to completion and to see it through publication.

His perfectionism made the prospect of submitting something to print an agonizing one. The downside of this was that his list of publications is not long; the upside was, as he liked to point out, that he had absolutely no qualms or regrets about what he had written, and he was justly proud of whatever appeared under his name. One of Michael’s most singular qualities was the pleasure he took in having such high standards and expectations. He clearly enjoyed playing the pedant, never happier than when simmering with indignation at some linguistic impropriety or crime against philology. But below the simmering indignation there was a grin and an admission that although he took such things seriously, he didn’t really take them *that* seriously... He never laughed at others, but he constantly made fun of himself.

Seldom *bien pensant*, always *bon vivant*, he let his conversation reflect his enthusiasms and his generosity: “You really must eat at Chez Fulān and tell me what you think, and when will someone do a proper investigation of the origins of Arabic prose, and why is there no expanded English translation of Reckendorf’s *Arabische Syntax* and wouldn’t that be that a good project for you, and would you like these tickets to *Tosca* tonight because due to a scheduling conflict I’ll be at a lute concert...”

He is survived by his partner Eugene Meyers and his sister Rebecca Zwettler. Michael did not want a funeral or memorial service. He asked instead that his friends gather in the springtime and hold a party in his memory and this we did. There was not much discussion of Michael’s academic achievements and erudition that day. Although his death is a great loss to scholarship, those who knew him will feel even more deeply the absence of his wit, his good cheer and his kindness.

Bruce Fudge
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

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NICHOLAS G. HOWE MEMORIAL FUND

The Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory of the distinguished medievalist. As a respected scholar of the literature and culture of medieval England and former Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (1995–2002), he demonstrated leadership, devotion, and excitement in all his teaching and scholarly endeavors. Established in 2006, the fund is dedicated to supporting travel costs for graduate students pursuing studies in medieval and early modern topics at OSU. Happily, the fund has recently surpassed \$50,000, an entire year ahead of our five-year fundraising goal!

The annual distribution from this fund will begin to be used this year. First preference will be given to students traveling to appropriate research repositories. Second preference will be given to students traveling to conferences/seminars. The Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, in consultation with a committee of faculty affiliates of the Center, is responsible for adjudicating all applications for funding. Applications will be available soon for interested graduate students. **Contributions to the fund are still warmly welcomed.**

If you wish to learn more or contribute to the **Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund (#480256)** or the **Medieval Studies Center Fund (#307850)**, which supports ongoing activities of CMRS, you can do so in three ways:

1. Donate online at <https://www.giveto.osu.edu/igive>

2. Send a check to:

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
308 Dulles Hall
230 W. 17th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1361

3. Send a check to:

M.J. Wolanin
Director of Development
020 Mershon Center
1505 Neil Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43210-2602

