


# MSN

## Medieval Studies Newsletter

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## Students Prepare for 15th Annual Medieval Symposium

Graduate students Nate Smith and Betsy Williamsen have been chosen to chair this year's Medieval Studies Symposium. This year's theme, "Beyond Vice and Virtue: Rethinking Medieval Cultures," promises to bring together a wide range of medieval scholarship. The Symposium allows IU medievalists to enjoy presentations by, and socialize with, faculty and graduate students.

The symposium will take place on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5. It will feature papers and panel discussions by IU faculty and graduate students as well as a catered lunch and potluck dinner. The Early Music Institute will present the symposium's opening

concert the weekend before, on Saturday, March 29.

The brainchild of Comparative Literature



"Prayer for a Soul in Purgatory."  
From Jacobus de Voragine, *The Golden Legend* (1948) p. 650.

professor Clifford Flanigan, the symposium was originally organized by a collection of graduate students who met weekly as the Medieval Reading Circle. The event

was designed primarily as an opportunity to highlight the breadth and quality of Indiana University's medieval scholarship. Still organized by graduate students today, the symposium also provides the opportunity for the diversity of departments embraced by the Medieval Studies Institute to come together and connect both intellectually and socially.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Medieval Symposium.

Nate Smith and Betsy Williamsen are both graduate students in the department of English. Nate is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate interested in the Renaissance reception and appropriation of late-medieval (especially Chaucerian) dream visions,

with a focus on the social history of reading, seeing, and hearing in the period. Nate's former symposium involvement includes moderating a session last year, working on publicity and food committees as well as presenting a paper two years ago.

Betsy is a fourth-year graduate student working on her Ph.D. and is interested in Old English, Middle English, and Old Norse Literature. Travel writing and fictional literature in which the theme of travel is important particularly intrigue her. For past medieval symposia, Betsy has served on the publicity committee for three years, the program committee for two and has worked on a panel committee. She has also co-chaired the Medieval Film Series for the last two years. Besides teaching in the English department, Betsy works in the Lilly Library and serves on the English department's Graduate Student Advisory Committee.



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### Call For Papers

#### *Beyond Vice and Virtue: Rethinking Medieval Cultures*

Papers on all aspects of vice and virtue in the Middle Ages are welcome. Papers from faculty and graduate students in any medieval field of study, East or West, are encouraged; topics may include, but are not limited to, those related to moralities, ethics, spirituality, philosophy, war and crime, science and learning, art and architecture, music and literature, politics, influential figures, authority and subversion, commerce ideology and belief, or language and power.

Please submit one-page abstracts by February 18, 2003, to the following address:

Medieval Symposium Committee  
Medieval Studies  
Ballantine 442

E-mail submissions to [mest@indiana.edu](mailto:mest@indiana.edu) are welcome.

Submissions should be anonymous; please include a cover sheet with paper title, name, phone, e-mail, and department address. Please also indicate any A-V equipment needed for your paper presentation. Papers should not exceed a 20-minute reading time.

## Prof. Deliyannis Teaches E103: Sacred Places

This spring Prof. Deliyannis is teaching E103, "Sacred Places." The goal of the course is to take a comparative view of sacred places through the study of architecture and sculpture. In most parts of the world, religious activity is linked to specific places that have ritual, mythical, or historical significance.

These "sacred spaces" become the focus of ritual activity, pilgrimage, and symbolism, and are usually endowed with buildings and art that celebrate the sanctity

of their respective settings, create a sense of awe, and accommodate the activities



and people who travel to visit them.

Students will learn about a different culture each week, ranging from ancient Rome

to Teotihuacan. The holy places of these cultures will be examined in terms of the festivals and religions with which they are associated. Topics include: Egyptian, Greek, and Mesoamerican religions, as well as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

Through a comparative framework the students will consider why the selected sites became holy to certain peoples or civilizations. They will also explore how the sites and structures were construed to convey a sense

of transcendence and awe, and how the structures were planned to accommodate assembled groups of people and their festivals and rituals. Other topics include: the nature of the processions of the faithful, the symbolic meaning of the considered sites, and whether the sites' functions and significance have survived to the present day in either unaltered or reconfigured form.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/collections/dido/classes/e103/syllabus.html>

## Medieval Film Series Offered in Conjunction with CLC L225: The Modern Middle Ages

This semester's medieval film series is being offered in conjunction with graduate student David Marshall's Collins Living Learning Center course, L225: The Modern Middle Ages. The purpose of the course is to consider the ways in which the medieval period has been recycled in contemporary American pop-culture.

Thus, this semester's films represent recent Hollywood attempts at appropriating the Middle Ages to address concerns of contemporary American culture.

All films will be shown at Swain Hall East 140 at 7 P.M. Swain Hall is located on Third Street between Rawles Hall and the School of Law.

### Feb. 12 Christopher Lambert's *Beowulf*

The epic eight-century poem of Saxon lore gets moved into the Scandinavian future in this science fiction adaptation of *Beowulf*. Here,

*Beowulf* (Christopher Lambert) rescues a damsel in distress, Pendra (Patricia Velasquez), who is being menaced by two men with large swords and bad tempers. *Beowulf* hears tell of Grendel, a force of evil that feasts on the flesh of warriors of Hrothgar (Oliver Cotton), who are holding their ground in the outpost. Directed by Graham Baker. UK/USA (1999).

### Feb. 26 *A Knight's Tale*

This medieval adventure tale is very loosely inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* and mixes the anachronistic elements of modern-day rock music and colloquialisms with a period setting and characters. William Thatcher (Heath Ledger) is a lowborn 14th century squire who, in a fit of inspired spontaneity, replaces his deceased employer as the competitor at a jousting competition. Jousting is a pastime only

permitted by knights, who are of noble birth, but Thatcher wins and decides to continue his new pursuits. With the help of his fellow squire friends Wat (Alan Tudyk) and Roland (Mark Addy) and none other than the gambling-addicted Geoffrey Chaucer (Paul Bettany), Thatcher has soon won a championship in London. His victories inspire the affection of a female fan, Jocelyn (Shannyn Sossamon), and the ire of a competitor, Count Aدهmar (Rufus Sewell), but Thatcher's ruse is threatened with exposure. Directed by Brian Helgeland. USA (2001)

### March 26 *First Knight*

In this rendition of the Arthurian legend, Sir Lancelot (Richard Gere) threatens to supersede the aging King Arthur (Sean Connery) by winning the love of his young wife Guinevere (Julia Ormond). The script focuses on the triangle of the

three principals: the older man's reluctance to relinquish his love and power to the younger man destined to supplant him; the young woman torn between her loyalty to her aged husband and her love for his rival; the young man balancing the demands of loyalty to his sovereign with the rewards of true love. Directed by Jerry Zucker. USA (1995)

### April 16 *Red Sonja*

Brigitte Nielson appears as warrior-woman Sonja who unites with a couple of other gladiator types (including Arnold Schwarzenegger) to overthrow the evil queen Gedren (Sandahl Bergman) and avenge the deaths of Sonja's family. Directed by Robert Fleischer. USA (1985)

submit student and faculty news or story suggestions to [mest@indiana.edu](mailto:mest@indiana.edu)

## FACULTY NEWS

Dyan Elliott (History) commented on a panel on "History and Psychology" for the American Society for Church History at the American Historical Association in Chicago, 4 January. She has also received a COAS Arts and Humanities Institute fellowship for the next academic year. Finally, Prof. Elliott's article, "True Presence/False Christ: The Antinomies of Embodiment in Medieval Spirituality," has appeared in *Mediaeval Studies* 64 (2002).

Wendy Gillespie, Acting Director of the Early Music Institute, is a member of the otherwise British viol consort Fretwork. Fretwork made a CD for Harmonia Mundi USA at historic Forde Abbey, a medieval monastery which became a family house in the sixteenth century and remains one today, though it is open to the public periodically. Prof. Gillespie found that it was most amusing to be told at breakfast (the members of the consort lived there, too), "Clear your things out of the room into the wardrobe; your bedroom is open to the public today!" She remarked that it was also amusing to notice that many of the bathroom fixtures (not medieval, of course!) were made by the well-known Thomas Crapper of Chelsea. Working from facsimiles without the benefit of modern editions and playing on a specially commissioned set of early Renaissance viols, the group recorded music from the first collection of polyphonic music ever printed. The inspiration of the venue, the music and the instruments seemed to have worked, since the disc was decreed an "Editor's Choice" in the June issue of *Gramophone Magazine*, and subsequently nominated for a Gramophone Award for 2002.

Consuelo Lopez-Morillas (Spanish and Portuguese) has had her article "La autoría del manuscrito coránico morisco T235," published in *Morada de la palabra: Homenaje a Luce y Mercedes López-Baralt* (San Juan: University of Puerto Rico, 2002). She has also published a book review of J. A. Abu-Haidar's *Hispano-Arabic*

*Literature and the Early Provençal Lyrics* (Richmond, Surrey, 2001) in the *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 13 (2002). Prof. Lopez-Morillas has also been elected to the Executive Committee of the Division on Spanish Medieval Language and Literature of the Modern Language Association.

Jacques Merceron's (FRIT) *Dictionnaire des saints imaginaires et facétieux* was voted among the 20 best books of the year 2002 by the leading literary magazine *Lire* (France) in 12th rank (all categories combined). Since its publication in August, it has been reviewed in 33 national, regional, and Catholic daily and weekly publications in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Canada. Prof. Merceron's book was also the focus of a 30-minute radio program on "France Culture" and was featured in other radio programs in France, Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium. To date, Prof. Merceron has given two magazine and six radio interviews about the work.

Emanuel Mickel (FRIT) was a featured lecturer at the University of Notre Dame for their French Week celebration beginning Nov. 6 that was sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and the Medieval Institute. His topic was "The Other and the Enemy: Great Fears in Medieval French Literature and Civilization."

William Newman (History and Philosophy of Science) has recently taken part in a television project for the BBC and Nova. Newman recreated some of Newton's alchemical experiments in the IU chemistry laboratory.

Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych (NELC) gave an invited lecture at Grand Valley State University in Michigan on Nov. 14, 2002, entitled, "A Stroll in al-Ma'arri's Garden: Poetry and Irony in an Islamic Paradise." She also organized and chaired a panel "From Classical to Post-Classical: The Arabic Qasida and the Interplay of Genres" to which she contributed her own paper, "From Court Panegyric to Prophetic

Praise: a Study in Generic Tension" at the Middle East Studies Association meeting in Washington, D.C., Nov. 23-26, 2002. Her book, *The Poetics of Islamic Legitimacy: Myth, Gender, and Ceremony in the Classical Arabic Ode*, appeared in Nov., 2002, with Indiana University Press. She continues to serve as the editor of the *Journal of Arabic Literature* (E.J. Brill, Leiden) and the Brill Series in Middle Eastern Literatures.

Wayne Storey (FRIT) presented his study in early October (3-5) on the notion of the book in Petrarch's epistolary collection, the *Familiars*, at the conference dedicated to the *Familiars* at Gargnano, on Lake Garda ("Il liber nella formazione delle *Familiars* di Petrarca").

Hans Tischler's (Music) latest book was published in November 2002, *The Earliest Laude: The Cortona Hymnal* (The Institute of Mediaeval Music, Ottawa, Canada).

## Student News

Dane Daniel's (History and Philosophy of Science) articles, "Paracelsus on the Lord's Supper: *Coena Dominj Nostrj Jhesu Christj Declaratio*. A Transcription of the Leiden Codex Voss. Chym. Fol. 24, f. 12r-29v1," and "Paracelsus' *Declaratio* on the Lord's Supper. A Summary and Remarks on the Term *Limbus*," have been published in *Nova Acta Paracelsus* (2002).

### Middle High German Reading Group Resumes

BH 664, Thurs. 12:15 -1:15 pm.  
Contact: Dr. Sid Johnson  
(johnsons@indiana.edu)

The Middle High German reading group is currently reading Hartmann von Aue's *Gregorius*.



# Coming Attractions

A list of semester events to watch for. Please note that all dates are tentative and we will notify you as to the exact times, locations, and titles for each of the talks.

## **English Department Candidate Visits and Talks**

**Prof. Patricia Ingham**

February 11

Prof. Ingham is currently an Associate Professor of English as well as the Director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA). Her most recent publication is *Sovereign Fantasies: Arthurian Romance and the Making of Britain* (2001).

**Prof. Nancy Warren**

February 17

Prof. Warren received her Ph.D. in English Literature in 1984 from Indiana University and is currently an assistant professor of English at Utah State University. Her most recent publication is *Spiritual Economies: Female Monasticism in Later Medieval Europe* (2001). She is also a co-editor (along with Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski and Duncan Robertson) of *The Vernacular Spirit: Essays in Medieval Religion* (2002).

## **Medieval Studies Coffee Hour**

Thursday, February 20th

Ballantine 004, 4 PM

**Prof. Bridget Balint** (Classics) will be presenting an informal talk about her current work. There will be coffee from the Runcible Spoon and snacks.

## **Visiting Scholars**

**Dr. Christopher De Hamel**

March 24 and 25

Dr. De Hamel is the author of *The Book: The History of the Bible* (2001) and *A History of Illuminated Manuscripts* (1986). He was the head of the Western Manuscripts department at Sotheby's, London, and is now the Keeper of Manuscripts at the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

**Prof. Elizabeth Archibald**

March 31

Prof. Archibald is a senior lecturer in Medieval English at the University of Bristol. Her most recent publication is *Incest and the Medieval Imagination* (2001).

## MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

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