

# MSN

## Medieval Studies Newsletter

A publication of the Medieval Studies Institute at Indiana University

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## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF FALL 2005: TWO MONTHS OF EVENTS FOR MEDIEVALISTS AT INDIANA

For the Medieval Studies Institute, the beginning of this fall semester meant not only a change in the staff taking care of the Institute's daily affairs, but it also brought about a series of scholar events that captured the interest of many on campus.

The Institute's lectures series for this fall began September 16th at the Lilly Library with a talk offered by **Professor Hildegard Keller** who was this semester's Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor in Germanic Studies, from the University of Zürich.



Professor Keller's lecture, which was cosponsored with the Department of

Germanic Studies, was entitled "**Melusine's Verticality. Lines of Descent in Genealogical Narrative**". In his novel *Melusine* (1456), Thuring von Ringoltingen (c. 1415-1483), the son of a family that rocketed to the heights of the Bernese elite, plays with the parallels among the narrative, social and physical dimensions of verticality. In addition to providing a basic pattern in the cosmological and sociological thought in the Middle Ages, verticality also has a specific literary meaning within narrative structures. How does a genealogical novel mirror the ways in which the patrician class in an early-modern Swiss town adapted their literary culture to the rules of social climbing? The lecture explored this question with an occasional sideways glance at Thuring's source, the French verse

novel *Mélusine* by Coudrette.

**Jeffrey F. Hamburger**, Professor of Art and Architecture at Harvard University presented the Institute's second lecture entitled "**Representations of Reading--- Reading Representations: The Female Reader from the Hedwig Codex to Chatillon's Leopoldine au Livre d'Heures**".



Prof. Hamburger examined the ways in which medieval representations of the act of reading could be doubly used to depict the miraculous aspects of a saint. His talk focused predominantly on depictions of female holy figures engaged in reading, including Hedwig of Silesia.

Prof. Hamburger received his PhD from Yale University in 1987. His primary area of study is in the field of the

and Italian Department, and his specialization is in Medieval French Literature. He received his BA in French and English Literature and Languages from "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and he has a MSE in Secondary Education from the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. His current interests are in French hagiography and Marian Literature. He also enjoys teaching French to Indiana High School honor students in Brest, France during the summer through the Indiana University Honors Program.

Congratulations on joining the team and welcome!

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## NEW STAFF TO JOIN THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE TEAM



**Christine Dunn** is the new Assistant to the Director. She is a 4th-year doctoral candidate in the History Department. She is from Virginia where she earned her BA in History at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA. Her area of study is fourteenth-century female mys-



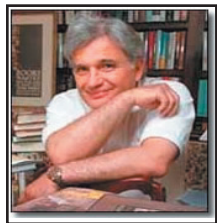
tics. When she is not in class, in the library, or learning the week's latest policy changes for reimbursements, she enjoys building sandcastles at the beach.

**Florin Beschea** is the new Graduate Assistant. He is currently a 4th-year doctoral student in the French

**FALL EVENTS** (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...)

relationship between art and spirituality. Hamburger's numerous publications include *The Visual and the Visionary: Art and Female Spirituality in Late Medieval Germany* and *St. John the Divine: Deified Evangelist in Medieval Art and Theology*. His forthcoming articles study this relationship in greater detail in two of the Middle Ages foremost material genres, that is, the Prayer book and the Miscellany: "*In gebeden und in bilden geschreiben*": Prints as Exemplars of Piety in Fifteenth-Century Cistercian Prayer Books" and "*The Writing on the Wall: Inscriptions and Descriptions of Carthusian Crucifixes in a Fifteenth-Century Passion Miscellany*."

On October 27th, the prominent



**Author Nicholas Basbanes** gave a wide-ranging lecture on the "**Scholarship: A Happy Consequence of Book Madness**". The collector of

manuscripts is of special interest to medievalists. Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1882), the self-described "*vellomaniac*", brought together a collection whose scope and importance went far beyond what he himself comprehended. It then took more than a century after his death to disperse his collection in various institutions. By intent or happenstance, book collectors help to preserve the materials that document our history, literature, and culture, often by following a principle codified in the 19th century by John Hill Burton: "*to find value where there seems to be none ... enabling the [collector], in the midst of a heap of rubbish, to put his finger on those things which have in them the latent capacity to become valuable and curious*" (*The Book-Hunter*).

Be sure to visit us on the web for more information on these lectures, lecturers and on the events the Medieval Studies Institute will organize or co-sponsor in the spring term of 2006.

**WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER - CHRISTINE AND THE FRENCH PILGRIMAGE**

When I was an undergraduate student, a professor read aloud to us the story of St. Foy, the thirteen-year-old virgin saint from the southwestern French village of Conques, and how she had cured a knight of a painful hernia. St. Foy had appeared to the knight in a dream and instructed him to go to the village blacksmith who was to hit him with an anvil. The desperate knight followed Foy's directions until he saw the actual black metal swinging towards his body. In his terror, the knight collapsed and consequently everything inside of him that had been displaced was now restored to its proper position.

After my own journey to Conques this summer which included train rides from Paris to Toulouse, Toulouse to Rodez, and then a winding bus ride

up to Conques, I came to the realization that medieval pilgrims must have been hard core when they journeyed to visit the saint. The village is located with the Auvergne Valley region that is comprised of steep hills and gorges filled with fog.

Conques has not changed much since the Middle Ages. Local villagers sold souvenirs to remind us of our encounter with St. Foy and every night the monks invited us to join them in the chapel to sing vespers. The day that I visited was dedicated to handicapped visitors; the small plaza in front of the church was filled with wheelchairs. Throughout the Middle Ages and later St. Foy had a reputation for curing not only hernias but all sorts of other physical ailments including blindness, infertility, and lameness.

I had to wonder if any of these guys were also praying to her for a cure.

St. Foy is known for her curing miracles but being near her actual reliquary statue is almost a miracle in itself. A golden statue encrusted with jewels and seated on a throne, St. Foy is an unapologetic fusion of Christianity and paganism. She looks a little bit like C3PO from the Star Wars scene when he was worshipped by the Ewoks. She sparkles and radiates. She bedazzles. Walking out of the Conques treasury museum, I felt dizzy from her hypnosis and had to sit down. The local villagers during the French Revolution chose to risk death by secretly hiding their saint in the homes rather than handing her over to the authorities. Just about any-



one who has stood in the presence of this saint would probably do the same thing. The people of the village of Conques are lucky to have such a focal point of their community as St. Foy. But every time I look at my candle from her church that I have placed in my kitchen window, I feel that I too have been inducted into this community.

- Christine Dunn

## FACULTY NEWS

The Medieval Studies Institute is delighted to welcome the most recent arrival in the English Department: Assistant Professor **Shannon Gayk**, Ph.d. from the University of Notre Dame. Please join us in welcoming her.

More news from the English Department: **Patricia Clare Ingham**, Associate Professor of English announces the publication of two articles this year: a chapter on "**Psychoanalytic Criticism**" in the volume *CHAUCER: AN OXFORD GUIDE* edited by Steve Ellis (Oxford UP, 2005) and an essay entitled, "**Losing French: Translation, Nation, and Caxton's English Statues**" in a volume entitled *CAXTON'S TRACE*, edited by William Kuskin (South Bend: Notre Dame University Press, 2005).

Also, Professor **Karma Lochrie** and Professor **Patricia Clare Ingham** are currently at work on co-editing a special issue of the *JOURNAL OF MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES* on the topic of "**Medieval and Early Modern Utopias**".

**Wendy Gillespie** (Professor of Music in the School of Music and Interim Director of the Early Music Institute) had several wonderful medieval moments in Solesmes in June, where, she says, "*so much of the scholarship regarding chant has been going on for many years*".

She was lucky enough to attend all the sung services that those venerable monks opened to the public for three days. Some 50 monks participated in the Office and the Mass every day, and the experience was not like any other. Highly recommended to all for an atmosphere of amazing spirituality and very beautiful singing in a rural vil-

lage in France.

Wendy is also pleased to announce that one of her ensembles, the viol consort **Phantasm**, is now the official viol consort in residence at Oxford. This means several trips a year to that most venerable medieval city full of fantastic libraries, including meals at high table, and recordings to be made in some of its medieval chapels.

And, to continue with the news coming from the unstoppable English department, Betsy Williamson, announces that her article "**Boundaries of Difference in the Vinland Sagas**" has been accepted for publication by the journal **Scandinavian Studies**, and will be appearing in the final 2005 issue.

Professor **Christopher I. Beckwith** (Central Eurasian Studies) completed his Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship (Tokyo, Japan, 2004-2005) this summer and began tenure of his **Guggenheim Fellowship** (awarded 2004, deferred to this year, 2005-2006). He published an edited book, "**Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages II**". Leiden: Brill, 2005. Among the parts authored by him are: Introduction: Toward a Tibeto-Burman Theory, pp. 1-38; The Sonority Sequencing Principle and Old Tibetan Syllable Margins, pp 45-55; and Old Tibetan and the Dialects and Periodization of Old Chinese, pp. 179-200. In addition, he published "**The Chinese Names of Tibet, Tabghatch, and the Turks**" in "**Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi**", 2005, and had four research papers accepted for publication. Professor Beckwith also was invited to give a lecture, "**Noun Classification, Social Classification and Biology: Toward a Theory of Sublinguistic Categori-**

**zation**", at RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Saitama/Tokyo, on January 25, 2005, and gave a paper, "**The Location and Linguistic Identification of the Koguryo Language**" at the Conference on the Language(s) of Koguryo and the Reconstruction of Old Korean and Neighboring Languages, in Hamburg, September 23-24, 2005.

Professor **Edward Watts** in the History Department announces the recent publication in *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies*, of the article entitled "*Where to Live the Philosophical Life in the Sixth Century? Damascius, Simplicius, and the Return from Persia*". He has also another article forthcoming in December in the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* entitled "*Winning the Intercommunal Dialogs: Zacharias Scholasticus's Life of Severus*."

### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As noted on the first page of this semester's Newsletter, Medieval Studies has been undergoing a number of changes. At the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year we wished our wonderful colleague of three years, Brent Moberly, well in his new teaching endeavor and in the final push to finish his thesis, and we welcomed two new assistants to the MEST office: **Christine Dunn** and **Florin Beschea**. Both come to MEST with very professional tools and training but with the very same passion for medievalia. And the results of their hard work has already been seen in numerous changes in the office, the MEST website and our public events and publicity. I want to thank them both for the extraordinary sense

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## GOT NEWS?

*If you have news that you would like to share with us,  
please e-mail it to mest@indiana.edu.*



## MEST CONTACT INFORMATION

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are: **Christine Dunn**, **H. Wayne Storey**, and **Florin I Beschea**. If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, please contact Florin Beschea at [mest@indiana.edu](mailto:mest@indiana.edu).

**mest@indiana.edu**: for general correspondence with the Institute, or for administrative matters with Christine, or newsletter and publicity issues with Florin.

**mestdir@indiana.edu**: for direct and confidential communications with the Director; this is an administrative account we have established that will transfer from director to director. Please note that [dirmest@indiana.edu](mailto:dirmest@indiana.edu) is a personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two e-mail accounts, we also maintain three distribution lists: [mest\\_students](mailto:mest_students), [mest\\_faculty](mailto:mest_faculty), and [mest\\_instruct](mailto:mest_instruct), which are used to communicate with students, general faculty, and medieval faculty, respectively.

-H. Wayne Storey  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED...)

of collaboration and genuine passion with which Christine and Florin taken on the tasks that MEST and its numerous contacts ask of them on a daily basis. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to meet them at one of the three MEST events this autumn, I hope you'll have the chance to drop them a line at [mest@indiana.edu](mailto:mest@indiana.edu) and get acquainted.

At a conference this summer in Stirling, Scotland, on the topic of "Textual Culture," I had occasion to speak with many medievalists, old friends and new acquaintances, about the nature of our discipline, a singular form that makes most of us uncomfortable given the wide range of interests included under the umbrella of "Medieval Studies." The conference investigated, both from theoretical and historical-material points of view, the methodological implications of the approaches we might expect to find under such a rubric. It also pointed out how extraordinarily diversified the constituencies of medieval and early modern studies can be. Nevertheless the thing that brought all these diversified specialists together was the text in context and its often manifold reception in diverse cultural settings. What seems to divide us at times in our interests – be they theoretical or historical or linguistic – can actually become a useful tool in reapproaching texts and in investigating generally the shifting definitions of our field.

### New Directions in Medieval Studies: Over 40 Signed Up

In the spring term of 2006, a new direction in Medieval Studies courses will be offered. The new course, "Medieval Provence," examines the rise and fall of Old Occitan culture in the Middle Ages not just from the point of view of the region's literary heritage, but also of its material and political culture. The course will also include a basic introduction to the language of medieval Occitania. This course will be preparatory

to a new 300-level course that will continue with Old Occitan studies. A graduate component of this new instructional program will be offered in the fall term of 2006 in combination with a course on the literary and material relations between Occitan and thirteenth-century Italian poetry. Graduate students wishing to have a grounding in Old Occitan language and syntax for the graduate course in the fall semester should contact Professor Storey ([hstorey@indiana.edu](mailto:hstorey@indiana.edu)) about signing up for M815 in the spring term of 2006.

"Medieval Provence" (MEST M200) will be taught by **Wayne Storey**, a specialist in Italian and southern French literature and manuscripts of the Middle Ages. To date the course has registered over 40 students.

### Events to come

This spring 2006 will see the continuation of the Medievalia at the Lilly series with a lecture by Dario Del Puppo (Trinity College) on the De Cessolis manuscript (De ludo scachorum). Among other guests, in February, Medieval Studies will co-sponsor a lecture by Theresa Coletti (University of Maryland) on Umberto Eco and the Middle Ages. In April we will be joined by Michelangelo Zaccarello, previously of Oxford University and now chair of the Masters Program in History of the Book at the University of Verona, who will offer two talks for MEST. And, of course, there will be the time-honored Medieval Studies Conference (details to follow separately).

The Advisory Committee in Medieval Studies welcomes the first of two members of the class of 2006-2008, Juan Carlos Conde (Spanish and Portuguese); a second member will be elected in January 2006 (stay tuned). The Committee consists of: Juan Carlos Conde, Kari Gade (Germanic Studies); Karma Lochrie (English), and Rosemarie McGerr (Comparative Literature).

- H. Wayne Storey