

MSN

Medieval Studies Newsletter

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ANNUAL MEDIEVAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM EXPLORED THE FAMILIAR, THE FOREIGN, AND THE FANTASTIC

Despite traditional notions of the Middle Ages that conceive of its peoples as insular and close-minded, medieval peoples were often confronted with foreign peoples, places, and ideas. This year's annual medieval studies symposium, "**The Foreign, the Familiar, and the Fantastic in the Middle Ages**," explored ways that notions of foreignness, familiarity, or fantasy were expressed in medieval culture. The symposium took place on March 26–27.

This year's symposium featured a diverse range of papers, panelists, and events. Although most presenters were from Indiana University, eight graduate students and faculty members from eight different universities all across the United States (and one from Taiwan) presented at the symposium. In total, seventeen papers were given in six organized panels, in addition to a musical performance, annual keynote address, and the Reader's Circle.

The first panel, "Domestic Maintenance through Foreign Adventure" examined how traveling and

place is connected to notions of foreignness. **Christopher David Beck** (Fordham University) discussed how letters of marque were used to defend city rights and property against foreigners. **Benjamin Douglas Ambler** (Western Michigan University) explored the familiar and the foreign in terms of both place and spirituality in the medieval proto-ethnography *The Book of John Mandeville*. IU alumnus **Stephen Atkinson** (Park University) delivered the final paper of the first panel, on communal and private spaces in Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*.

The second panel, "Constructing the Non-Christian Other in Christian Discourse," looked at how religion often acts as an arena where the foreign, familiar, and fantastic is interrogated. **Alexia Rostow** (University of Texas) examined how the *Bodley 764* bestiary represents foreign and familiar ani-

mals in terms of medieval Christian and Jewish stereotypes. **Damien Fleming** (IUPUI-Fort Wayne) continued this theme of Jewish stereotypes with his examination of representations of the Hebrew language by medieval Christian authors. **Emily Houlik-Ritchie** (IUB-English) ended the second panel with her treatment of Pedro I of Castile, informed both by chronicles and Chaucer's "The Monk's Tale."

The third panel, "Proximate Otherness: Exploring the Foreignness of the Familiar," turned to literature in English. **Timothy S. Miller** (University of Notre Dame) began the panel with his account of the similarities and differences between dream visions in medieval literature and contemporary fantasy novels. **Brittany Muscarella** (IUB-English) then turned to *Beowulf* and the *Nibelungenlied*, looking at how characters in both texts negotiate familiar and foreign behaviors. **Gretchen Hendrick** (University of Connecticut) concluded with her discussion of the Celtic influences on the Middle English *Pearl*.

Friday's events culminated in the annual reception and **Reader's**



Medieval map, with Jerusalem at the center and flanked by angels



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NEW MEDIEVAL FACULTY MEMBER JOINS HISTORY OF ART

Professor **Sarah Bassett** joined the History of Art Department last fall after twelve years at Wayne State University in Detroit. Broadly, Professor Bassett works on late antique and early medieval art and aesthetics. Her most recent book, *The Urban Image of Late Antique Constantinople* (Cambridge University Press 2004), looks at how statues brought from Rome to Constantinople were used to construct an urban identity. These statues in public places projected the idea of Constantinople as a “New Rome,” a modern and prosperous city that had yet inherited the culture of the ancient world. Professor Bassett’s current project looks at pre-iconoclastic Christian icons.



Like many of us, Bassett never expected to become a medievalist. She completed her B.A. in History of Art at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she only took one class on medieval art. At the University of Chicago where she completed her M.A., also in History of Art, Bassett wrote a thesis on landscape painting in eighteenth-century France. Fully intending to continue her studies on eighteenth-century art, Bassett enrolled in a PhD program at

Bryn Mawr. When her main advisor left Bryn Mawr for another position shortly after Bassett arrived, she changed her focus to late antique/early medieval art, inspired by a class she was taking at the time. Professor Bassett says that the sudden change in focus was not that surprising, because the fourth and

eighteenth centuries are similar in many ways. Both periods witnessed a seachange in culture, in the shift from paganism to

Christianity in the fourth century, and in ideas of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century. In both periods, Professor Bassett is interested in the continuities and changes in culture reflected in its art, and how people look back on the art of an earlier time.

Professor Bassett has enjoyed her first year at IU. She particularly enjoys the university’s large and diverse academic community and its commitment to the humanities. Professor Bassett also welcomes the change in class size and student work ethic that she finds at IU.

Please welcome Professor Bassett to the IU medieval community.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE THANKS WAYNE STOREY FOR SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

The Medieval Studies Institute would like to thank Wayne Storey for his six years of service (2003 to 2009) as the Institute’s director. During his tenure, Wayne fostered a number of initiatives particularly the “Medievalia at the Lilly” series that allows students and faculty to engage with the University’s medieval manuscript collection and the MEST Journals’ office which currently supports the widely read online journal, *The Medieval Review*, as well as *Textual Cultures* and *Exemplaria*, and created a graduate assistant position for students to learn the process of journal-editing.

Wayne also brought to campus a number of well-regarded medievalists from around the world including Jonathan Alexander of New York University, Jeffrey Hamburger from Harvard University, Alessandro Vettori of Rutgers University, John Haines from the University of Toronto, and Michaelangelo Zaccarello from the University of Verona. Wayne additionally began a new tradition of bringing in well-known scholars from outside of IU to give the keynote address at the annual Symposium with Amy Hollywood from Harvard

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WALBRIDGE LEADS WORKSHOP ON MEDIEVAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHER

On Friday, April 2, Professor **John Walbridge** of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures led a graduate-faculty workshop, sponsored by the Borns Jewish Studies Program, on the medieval Jewish scholar and court official Ibn Kammuna, titled "Ibn Kammuna: A Jewish Philosopher and his Muslim Readers in Medieval Baghdad." Professor Walbridge offered both an introduction to the relatively unknown figure, who led a revival of the Neoplatonic Illuminationist school of philosophy in 13th century Baghdad, and a discussion of the philosopher's embeddedness in the philosophical discussions of his day.

The elderly Ibn Kammuna fled Baghdad in 1284 following a riot over one of his works, "Enquiries on the Three Faiths," which compared Judaism, Christianity and Islam, but his life and career reveal more accurately the interreligious dynamics of medieval Baghdad: the culture was one of religious toleration, in which Jewish and Muslim thinkers saw themselves as allies against Christian thinkers. Ibn Kammuna held an official state position, and was patronized by the Juwaynis,

a family of prominent officials in the Mongol regime. Trained as an ophthalmologist and coming from a long line of prominent Jews, he had a traditional cosmopolitan education and wrote several philosophical works informed by and responding to Muslim philosophy and which, in turn, were used by his Muslim and Jewish readers. He engaged in philosophical speculation about religion freely and non-polemically, operating under the notion that theology transcends religion. Even his "Enquiries on the Three Faiths," which was written and circulated in 1280, did not cause him trouble until the Juwaynis fell out of favor.

Despite an ignominious end, Ibn Kammuna had lived most of his life as a prominent and well-respected member of Baghdad's elite in an atmosphere of free philosophical interchange and interreligious toleration. His life demonstrates a truth all-too-rarely acknowledged: that conflict between Jews and Muslims is not a historical given, or a historical inevitability.

— Diane Fruchman

MEDIAEVALIA AT THE LILLY LIBRARY

The speaker for this year's *Mediaevalia at the Lilly* (April 26–27) was Dr. **Fulk Eisermann**, director of the Union Catalogue of Incunabula at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.

On Monday April 26th, Dr. Eisermann conducted a workshop on how to describe incunables in the Internet Age, drawing on his work as the head of the *Gesamtkatalogs der Wiegendrucke*, an online research tool used to document and identify incunable data. The workshop showed attendees how to use the extensive online database and also considered some incunables from the Lilly Collection. On Tuesday April 27th, Dr. Eisermann also give a public lecture at the Lilly Library on "Secrets of Success: Printers, Patrons, and Audiences in 15th Century Leipzig."

The series *Mediaevalia at the Lilly Library* (directed by **Cherry Williams**, curator of manuscripts at the Lilly, and Professor **Hildegard E. Keller**, Department for Germanic Studies) aims to both better exploit and publicize the collection by bringing in established scholars and experts for a lecture and a workshop with hands-on-approach for students and faculty. The series is sponsored by the Medieval Studies Institute and the Lilly Library. In seeking to combine lectures with workshops, our goal is to make abstract ideas, as presented in the classroom, concrete by confronting students with the intractable nature of sources and giving them some sense of just how much can be gleaned from handwriting, type, parchment, paper, watermarks, title pages, musical notation, format, decoration, in short, all material aspects of the book over the course of the period stretching from Late Antiquity to the Reformation, i.e., comprehending at the outset the transition from roll to codex and, at the end, the shift from manuscript to print.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY (BLOOMINGTON) PARTICIPANTS IN THE 45TH ANNUAL CONGRESS ON MEDIEVAL STUDIES

Session number and title		Time	Location	Participant	Role
22	Continuity and Difference: What Distinguishes Medievalism from Neomedievalism (A Roundtable)	Thursday 10:00 AM	Fetzer 1035	Brent Addison Moberly	Presenter
85	In Honor of Lawrence M. Clopper I: Langland (A Panel Discussion)	Thursday 1:30 PM	Schneider 1220	Shannon Gayk	Presenter
96	Courtly Translations	Thursday 1:30 PM	Bernhard 211	Samuel N. Rosenberg	Presenter
				Katie Lyn Peebles	Presenter
141	In Honor of Lawrence M. Clopper II: Church and Stage	Thursday 3:30 PM	Schneider 1225	Brent Addison Moberly	Presider
143	Holy Women	Thursday 3:30 PM	Schneider 1255	Steve Stanzak	Presenter
222	The Good Church in Fourteenth-Century England	Friday 10:00 AM	Schneider 1275	Lawrence M. Clopper	Presenter
265	In Honor of R. Allen and Judy Shoaf: Theories of Medieval Literature I	Friday 1:30 PM	Valley I 109	Patricia Clare Ingham	Presider
284	Romancing History I: Genealogy and Succession at the Crossroads of Genre	Friday 1:30 PM	Schneider 1280	Elizabeth A. Williamsen	Organizer & Presider
343	Dreamers in Comic Literature: Gentle, Genteel, and Genital	Friday 3:30 PM	Fetzer 2040	Jacques E. Merceron	Presenter
350	Romancing History II: Power and Propaganda at the Crossroads of Genre	Friday 3:30 PM	Schneider 1275	Elizabeth A. Williamsen	Organizer
	Gaming Neomedievally: A Festive Video Game Workshop and Poster Session	Friday 7:00 PM	Fetzer 1045	Brent Addison Moberly	Presenter
406	Resources, Sources, and Machaut's Motets (A Roundtable)	Saturday 10:00 AM	Schneider 1220	Justin Lavacek	Presenter
436	A Non-moveable Feast: Ethical Eating as Social Practice in Anglo-Saxon Law and Literature	Saturday 1:30 PM	Valley I 101	William Travis Hinkle	Presenter
443	Political Satire in Medieval Italy	Saturday 1:30 PM	Valley I Shilling Lounge	H. Wayne Storey	Respondent
	Performing Malory: Arthur and Accolon (A Readers' Theater Performance)	Saturday 6:30 PM	Valley III Stinson Lounge	Katie Lyn Peebles	Reader
580	Petrarch and the Middle Ages	Sunday 10:30 AM	Fetzer 2016	H. Wayne Storey	Presenter

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM (Continued from Page 1)

Circle at Woodburn House. This year, the event included readings in ten different languages, all organized around themes of familiarity, foreignness, and the fantastic. The readings ranged from an Arabic elegy, a Coptic hymn, a Middle English conduct manual, heroic legends in Old Irish and Old Norse, a Middle High German saints' life, romances in Castilian and Old French, and a treatise by Bernard of Clairvaux on religious knights. In addition, **Richard Barrett** (IUB-History) performed a Byzantine Greek chant.

The panels continued in full-swing on Saturday morning. The first panel of the day, "Foreign Bodies, Familiar Dangers," broadly looked at foreignness in relation to larger cultural constructs such as marriage, kingship, and language. **Yung-Chih Cheng** (National Dong Hwa University) began the morning by examining the symbolic significance of Beowulf's celibacy in light of Germanic royal culture. **Katie Lyn Peebles** (IUB-English and Folklore) next compares several medieval tales that center on a woman's susceptibility to plots against her life, analyzing the ways these tales implicate women's roles in medieval culture. The last paper of the morning, by **Joshua R. Held** (IUB-English), explored how Chaucer used, represented, and appropriated foreign French vocabulary in his work.

In the late morning, **Thomas DuBois**, Birgit Baldwin Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, delivered the keynote address, titled "Threats to the East: The Foreign, the Fantastic, and the All-Too-Familiar Eastern Populations in the Worldview and Statecraft of Medieval Scandinavia." Accompanied by dozens of images, DuBois explored the ways that

Scandinavian sagas conceptually mapped the familiar, the foreign, and the fantastic in terms of geography. In the Nordic sagas, "south" represented power and prestige, while "east" signaled the danger and magic associated with paganism. DuBois examined how these stereotypical notions of geography were used by to marginalize peoples and justify military campaigns.

After a brief lunch in the Federal Room, the symposium continued with its afternoon panels. The first afternoon panel, "Religious Authority as Foreign and Familiar," interrogated religion as a contested site for fantastic authority. **Nicholas Hunot** (IUB-History) began by discussing a seventh-century Spanish hagiography from Mérida. Hunot demonstrated how this hagiography granted Mérida bishops both sacred and secular authority. **Richard Barrett** (IUB-History) next looked at two liturgical traditions that both commemorated the Council of Chalcedon. Barrett explored how Byzantine and Coptic liturgies employed similar rhetoric to highlight people and events that created their distinct identities. **Christine Dunn** (IUB-History) finished the panel with an examination of Jacopone of Todi and the idea of the annihilation of the free will. This concept allowed Jacopone to reorient his own Franciscan identity and to achieve spiritual union with God.

The final paper panel of the symposium, "Miraculous Transfor-

mations: Vernacular Responses to Church Authority," explored how devout women devised vernacular ways to practice Christianity. **Steve Stanzak** (IUB-Folklore) began the panel with a comparison of sacred legends and secular folktales that feature cross-dressing women, demonstrating the ways that belief change the shape of the narrative. **Fredericka Schmadel** (IUB-Folklore) concluded the panel with a description of numerous confessions between a beguine and her confessor. Schmadel tracked the gradual role reversal that ensues and its implications in light of medieval gender roles.

The symposium closed with a musical performance by **Wolodymyr Smishkewych** (IUB-Jacobs School of Music), held in Beck Chapel. Smishkewych took on the role of a *kozbar* (medieval Kievan-Rus bard), accompanying



Wolodymyr Smishkewych at work

himself on the *gusli* (a medieval Slavic lyre) to tell the story of *The Lay of Igor*. Smishkewych offered a musical reconstruction of the narrative based on extensive research on Ukrainian and Russian folk poetry and epic storytelling. English subtitles were projected above Smishkewych, who controlled their pace with a device attached to his *gusli*. The captivating and dramatic performance provided an appropriate end to the symposium; it brought together the new and the old, the foreign and the familiar, and was itself, fantastic.

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

Asma Afsaruddin, Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Adjunct Faculty in Religious Studies, published the article “Arabo-Islamic Literature: Continuities and Transformations,” in the *Sage Handbook of Islamic Studies* (London: Sage Publications, 2010), and the chapter “Delineating Fault-Lines within Islam: Muslim Modernists and Hard-Line Islamists Engage the Shari‘a,” in *Between Renewal and Tradition: Shari‘a as Discourse in Encounter with Europe*, ed. Jorgen S. Nielsen and Lisbet Christoffersen (London: Hurst, 2010). She was recently appointed a senior editor of the new *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women and Islam*, scheduled to be published in 2012.

Professor **Christopher I. Beckwith** (Central Eurasian Studies) has been awarded the 2009 PROSE Award of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing (PSP) Division of the Association of American Publishers

(AAP), in the category “World History & Biography/Autobiography,” for his book *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).

He has also received a Long Term Research Fellowship, awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He will be in Japan this summer at the Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, working on an ethno-linguistic history of East Asia tentatively entitled *Between Blue and Yellow Seas*.

At the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, in Venice, Professor **Arthur Field** (History) gave a paper on “Poggio, Women, and Humor” (April 10). Earlier in the week he attended a conference in Padua on medieval universities.

Diane Fruchtman, PhD Student in Religious Studies, will

be presenting a paper, “Stoic Paradigms in Augustine’s Account of Grace and Free Will” at the North American Patristics Society annual meeting in Chicago, May 27-29. The paper argues that Augustine’s familiarity with Stoic determinism as represented by Cicero and Seneca enabled him to see predestination as unproblematic while most of his contemporaries balked at the idea.

Emily Houlik-Ritchie, graduate student in English, has been accepted to participate in an NEH Summer Teaching Institute taking place in Oxford from July 6 to August 11. The theme of the institute is “Representations of the ‘Other’: Jews in Medieval Christendom.”

Eugene Kleinbauer, Professor Emeritus of Art History, has published the paper “James D. Robertson’s Photographic Views of Constantinople (1853),” in *Anthemata Eortika: Studies in Honor of Thomas F. Mathews*, ed. Joseph D. Alchermes et al (Mainz, 2010),

FOLLOW THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE ON FACEBOOK!

The MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE now has a page on Facebook. We will post announcements, events, conferences, and happenings in our community on the page. In addition, you can post your own announcements to the page and send messages to members of the MEST community.

To become a fan, either type in the link below into your browser or simply search for “Medieval Studies Institute” on the Facebook webpage.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bloomington-IN/Medieval-Studies-Institute-Indiana-University/264035160103>

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

pages 204–215. All twenty photographs in the album are discussed and illustrated.

Katie Peebles (Departments of English and Folklore) is moving to Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. She will join the faculty in the Department of Literature & Languages as an Assistant Professor of English, specializing in medieval literature.

Professor **Diane Reilly** (History of Art) has been awarded a Visiting Foreign Researcher Award to Universiteit Gent for the month of July. While there, she will be leading a workshop, with Benoît Tock of the Université de Strasbourg, and Steven Vanderputten at Universiteit Gent, called *The Beginnings of the Cistercian Abbeys: Institutional Perspectives*, in Ghent, Belgium, on July 9.

She will also give a paper, “The Bible as Bellwether: manuscript Bibles in the context of spiritual, liturgical and educational reform, 1000–1200,” in the workshop *Form and Func-*

tion in Late Medieval Bibles, at the Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh, also in July.

Brad Storin, Doctoral Candidate in the Religious Studies, is presenting a paper at the North American Patristics Society in May entitled, “In a Silent Way: Asceticism and Literature in the Rehabilitation of Gregory of Nazianzus.” It argues that Gregory’s ascetic vow of silence after the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381 worked in concert with one of his most prolific literary campaigns both to rehabilitate him within his Constantinopolitan and Cappadocian social networks and to prepare him to resume the Nazianzan episcopacy that he abandoned in the mid-370s.

In addition, Storin’s translation of Origen’s fragments from his homilies on 1 Corinthians has been accepted for publication as a book by the Society of Biblical Literature Press, Text-Critical Studies Series.

UPCOMING MEDIEVAL WORKSHOP

“Doing Archival Research:
What to know before you go”

10:00-12:00, Monday, May 3

The Slocum Room
at the Lilly Library

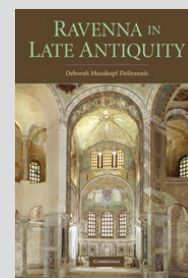
Have you ever wondered what you should know when planning a trip to work on manuscripts and early printed books? How do you find the materials you need? What do you need to take? What should you say when you contact libraries or archives? What do you need to prove your scholarly credentials? How do you handle the materials once you get there? How do you make the most of your time?

In this short workshop we will cover these questions and any others that you bring. Note that this is not a paleography workshop (we will not talk about how to read different scripts), but rather a brief introduction to archival research methods.

RSVP to **Penelope Anderson**
(pea@indiana.edu) or **Shannon Gayk**
(sgayk@indiana.edu)

New Books by Medieval Studies Faculty

Cambridge University Press has recently published *Ravenna in Late Antiquity*, by Professor **Deborah Deliyannis** (Department of History). From the publisher’s description: “Ravenna was one of the most important cities of late antique Europe. Between 400 and 751 AD, it was the residence of western Roman emperors, Ostrogothic kings, and Byzantine governors of Italy, while its bishops and archbishops ranked second only to the popes. During this 350-year period, the city was progressively enlarged and enriched by remarkable works of art and architecture, many of which still survive today. Thus, Ravenna and its monuments are of critical importance to historians and art historians of the late ancient world. This book provides a comprehensive survey of Ravenna’s history and monuments in late antiquity, including discussions of scholarly controversies, archaeological discoveries, and new interpretations of art works. A synthesis of the voluminous literature on this topic, this volume provides an English-language entry point for the study of this fascinating city.”



MEST CONTACT INFORMATION

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are: **Rosemarie McGerr** (Director), **Christine Dunn** (Assistant to the Director), and **Steve Stanzak** (Special Projects Assistant). If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, please contact Steve Stanzak at mest@indiana.edu.

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

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 is a personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two e-mail accounts, we also maintain three distribution lists: mest_students-l, mest_faculty-l, and mest_undergrads-l, which are used to communicate with graduate students, medieval faculty, and undergraduate students respectively.

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WAYNE STOREY (Continued from Page 2)

University providing the first address in 2006.

Prof. Storey's interests include Humanist Italian and Latin Literature, manuscript studies, Occitan lyric, material philology, and textual editing and we have been fortunate to be the audience of his lively readings of Italian at the Reader's Circle—which we hope he will continue in future years. As director, Prof. Storey will

best be remembered for his passion for bettering the Institute, his insistence on promoting an inclusive community of medievalists from a wide-range of disciplines, his culinary sophistication (I would like to personally thank him for introducing me to *crème brûlée*), and his ability to keep a sense of humor in any situation.

— Christine Dunn

ONLINE COMMUNITY *DIGITAL MEDIEVALIST* PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR SCHOLARS

Medievalists have a long pedigree of producing digital projects. In fact, the first work of humanities computing, a project started by Fr. Roberto Busa in the 1940s, dealt with Aquinas. Nonetheless, navigating the novelties of the digital humanities world can be as difficult for medievalists as for others. For example, learning TEI (the document markup language of the Text Encoding Initiative) is a daunting task but there are plenty of medieval scholars who have walked that path before.

Many such scholars inhabit the virtual community known as Digital Medievalist (DM). DM is a community of practice engaged in exchanging information among medievalists who work with electronic projects. Its participants range from experts to novices working on multiple periods and locales and its makeup is similarly heterogeneous: DM consists of a peer-reviewed online journal (also called Digital Medievalist), an e-mail mail-

ing list, a wiki, news server, and Twitter feed (@digitalmedieval). DM also hosts sessions each year at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

While DM has an elected board of directors, basic membership requires only that one get involved by joining the mailing list, editing the wiki, or contributing in some other fashion. The mailing list is an excellent place to pose questions about methodology, best practices, or the nuances of specific technologies as they apply to digital medieval research. DM members collectively have quite a bit of experience and expertise in not only the digital humanities but in general medieval studies and textual editing, as well.

Visit the DM website at <http://www.digitalmedievalist.org/>.

— Grant Simpson