

MSN

Medieval Studies Newsletter

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IU WILL HOST VAGANTES 2012

MEST is proud to announce that Indiana University has been awarded **Vagantes 2012**. As the name implies, Vagantes is a traveling graduate student conference affiliated with the Medieval Academy of America and founded by graduate students in 2002. After the inaugural conference at Harvard, the annual conference has met in Toronto, Cornell, Notre Dame, UC Berkeley, Loyola, Ohio State, the University of New Mexico. The University of Pittsburgh will host Vagantes 2011. Any university can apply to host.

Hosting Vagantes will enrich our already excellent conference traditions in several ways. First, since Vagantes has been in existence for almost a decade, there are graduate students and medieval studies centers all over North America familiar with the conference. The

conference's affiliation with the Medieval Academy also heightens its visibility among medievalists (one Board member is also a member of the MAA's Graduate Student Committee to help maintain the conference's ties with the Academy). The number of abstracts sent in every year is quite high, and the geographic and institutional range is broad. Vagantes also allows the host committee a good deal of freedom in planning, which means that IU's usual traditions (such as the Readers' Circle) will certainly be part of the 2012 conference.

Furthermore, hosting Vagantes exposes IU's excellent medievalist community to graduate students (and some faculty) from around the country. The conference always features two keynotes—the first given by a faculty member at the host institution, the second by

a member of the future host's faculty. This coming spring in Pittsburgh, a member of the IU faculty will speak, introducing our medieval program to conference participants. Once awarded the conference, one graduate student is also appointed to be a member of the Vagantes Board of Directors. The Board contains members from the past, present, and future host institutions, creating continuity among conferences and allowing graduate medievalists to form relationships and gain familiarity with medieval studies centers across the country.

For more information, please visit www.vagantesconference.org. The website includes summaries and programs for each conference year. Finally, we would like to have an Indiana contingent at Pittsburgh this spring, so please, graduate students, consider putting in an abstract! The call for papers is available on the website, and abstracts are not due until **Oct. 25th**. Vagantes does not have a theme; it is designed to be of general interest, so any paper on a medieval topic is eligible.

-Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger
Vagantes Board of Directors, Elected
Member 2008-2011
PhD Student, Departments of English and Religious Studies

"WE KNEW NOT IF WE WERE IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH..."

MUSIC, LITURGY, AND BEAUTY IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

All Saints Orthodox Church and the Early Music Institute of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music will present a symposium for the musical heritage of Greek, Middle Eastern, Russian, and American Orthodox Christians, to be held at the Indiana University campus on Saturday, the 16th of October, 2010.

John Michael Boyer of the Orthodox vocal ensemble Cappella Romana, Dr. Alexander Khalil of University of California at San Diego, Dr. Kurt Sander of Northern Kentucky University, and Dr. Richard Toensing of

"We Knew Not..." continued on pg. 2

A PROFILE: KATIE LYN PEEBLES

Katie Lyn Peebles, double Ph.D. English and Folklore, minor Medieval Studies, started her semester as Assistant Professor of English at Marymount University, Arlington, VA, this fall. With the defense of her dissertation entitled "Medievalism's Inheritance: Early Inventions of Medieval Pasts," Dr. Peebles looked forward to a new chapter in her academic development and kindly shared her thoughts on her time at IU.

Active in both of her major departments, as well as the Medieval Studies Institute, Katie spoke of the wealth of "hands on" opportunities available to IU students. In the case of the Lilly Library, "hands on" is literal; students interested in items within the medieval collection can spend time with the manuscripts themselves. "It all makes so much more sense," she reported, "when coursework in paleography can be practiced by working physically with one of the many manuscripts in the collection." While working on her dissertation, Katie also worked in the Lilly and she spoke highly of its staff: their expertise and their willingness to help students explore the library's holdings. As she leaves Bloomington, Katie reported that access to the Lilly would be one of the aspects of her doctoral work that she would miss most.

"Hands on" applies as well to opportunities to develop as future faculty. An active participant in conferences—both as presenter and as volunteer—Katie pursued opportunities that allowed her not only to present her scholarly work, but also to work closely with fellow graduate students and faculty in the

organization of conferences and lectures. She cited working on the MEST Spring Symposium as an example of work that encouraged her to actively develop the service-side of her career as an IU doctoral student. This same work allowed her to deepen scholarly connections with faculty and students across disciplines. When asked about MEST's role in her own development as future faculty, Katie continued with the theme of scholarship, service, and interdisciplinarity: "participating in MEST activities as both student and volunteer provided me with pragmatic opportunities to develop as a scholar, yes, but I will really miss the opportunity to work with faculty and fellow students on the 'big picture': developing ideas, developing relationships with mentors, and creating projects that help to further the overall goals of departments and the university."

Whether it was participating in conferences like Kalamazoo, teaching undergraduate courses, taking courses with IU faculty, or working together with other graduate students and IU faculty to host conferences like the Spring Symposium, Katie found that scholarly development often coincided with becoming actively involved in what IU, her departments and MEST had to offer.

"We Knew Not..." cont. from pg 1

University of Colorado at Boulder, will participate in a symposium titled "We Knew not if We Were in Heaven or on Earth: Music Liturgy and Beauty in Orthodox Christianity." They will each present a lecture recital, and the day will conclude with a panel discussion involving all four of them. It will take place in Sweeney Hall, room 015 of the Simon Music Center building, from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm on Saturday, 16 October. It is the first event of an intended series of educational events focused on the music of Orthodox Christianity.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring these four pillars of the Orthodox musical world under the same roof for the day," said Richard Barrett, choir director and cantor at All Saints. "John, Dr. Khalil, Dr. Sander, and Dr. Toensing represent a wide range of expertise, both in terms of their respective fields and their heritage. It is our intent that there will be something for everybody in the greater Bloomington community in this presentation."

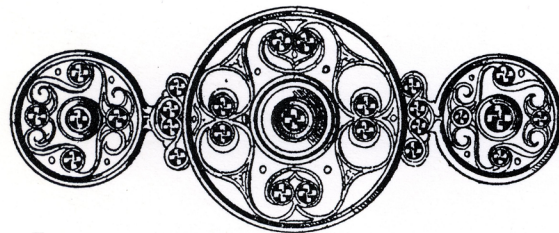
This event has been made possible by co-sponsorship from several IU departments, community organizations in Bloomington, and other external sources. In addition to the Early Music Institute, support has been provided by MEST, the IU Russian and East European Institute, the IU Center for West European Studies, the IU Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the IU Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Bloomingsfoods Market and Deli, and the Department of Sacred Music of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. This program has also been made possible through a matching grant from the Indiana Humanities Council in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities. "We have been amazed by the outpouring of support for this event from all corners," said Barrett.

MEST FALL RECEPTION

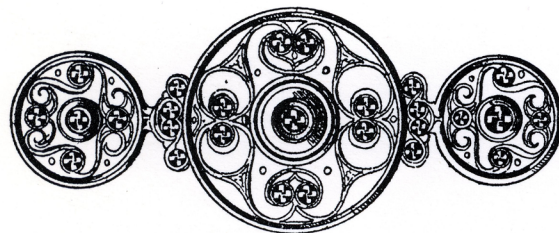
WOODBURN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010



(from left) Valerio Cappozzo holding daughter Alina,
Louise Cappozzo, Rosemarie McGerr



Shannon Gayk (L) and Deborah Deliyannis



From photo left: Christine Dunn, William Smith III,
Diane Fruchtman

2010 McROBBIE SCHOLAR

KALANI CRAIG

History student Kalani Craig was named this year's Andrea McRobbie Award Recipient. The award is presented by MEST in memory of Andrea McRobbie's interest in medieval studies. The mission of the award is that the annual income from the family's gift to the Medieval Studies Institute should be used to support an advanced graduate student engaged in "scholarship in medieval history, specifically some aspect of its social history or some theme in medieval social history related to its art, philosophy or literature." Nominees are not limited to History Dept. graduate students and may come from the fields of art history or literature and philosophy if their approaches follow socio-historical methods.

Kalani is currently working on her dissertation entitled "Struck by a divine blow: Divine and medieval agency in representations of conflict resolution by early medieval bishops, 500-1100 C.E." Her main research interest centers on the ways in which bishops document their involvement in conflict resolution. She is particularly interested in examining the ways in which the complementary forces of human and divine agency intertwine in documents designed to augment episcopal authority, many of which find their initial exemplar in the Roman *Liber Pontificalis* (book of the popes). As part of this line of research, Kalani is in France looking at gesta episcoporum (deeds of bishops) and other similar French sources written between the late sixth and late eleventh century. She will be extending this research to episcopal sources in Visigothic Spain and Norman England on another research trip planned for next summer.



CMLT STUDENT RECIPIENT OF 2010 MEST FELLOWSHIP, SALLY MORRELL

Sally Morrell, graduate student in Comparative literature, has been awarded the 2010 MEST graduate recruitment fellowship. Although the Medieval Studies Institute does not directly admit graduate students, it does offer support to departments in order to encourage medievalists to attend Indiana University. The recruitment fellowship provides one year of fellowship support for a student entering one of the graduate programs participating in MEST. After the first year, the student is eligible for a teaching appointment or some other form of support. Last year's recipient was Giulia Benghi, a graduate student in Italian.

Sally received her B.A. in Literature at Harvard, working in French and Persian. She has spent time in France, studying as an undergraduate in Paris and Lille. Sally's main interests are comparing European

and Middle Eastern traditions, looking at the relationship between image and text, and exploring translation through the study and application of translation theory. At IU, Sally looks forward to exploring the Lilly Library collection and deepening her knowledge of comparative literary traditions both in CMLT and MEST. Sally is also excited that IU will host *Vagantes* in 2012.

Congratulations, Sally, and welcome to IU and the MEST community.

REGA WOOD'S "INCIPIENT ANGLICANA"

September 8, 2010 -Inconsistency seems to be one of the primary traits of Incipient Anglicana Script, according to Dr. Rega Wood of Stanford University.

In the first MEST lecture of the year, Wood shared examples from her own research, including manuscripts in the Lilly collection, to introduce the audience to the vagaries of this difficult script. Otiose strokes and loops often complicate recognition for paleographers and Wood's research focused on attempting a stylistic checklist that would better streamline the script's identification.

Wood's research focuses on Incipient Anglicana as an early development of a book script that was heavily influenced by the documentary script used in English Charters. As part of her

project, Wood traveled to Oxford where, despite reviewing roughly 200 manuscripts, fixing an exact date and place of origin was difficult because of the script's inconsistency. With its earliest examples seemingly falling between 1265-1275, Incipient Anglicana script shares traits with other scripts but seems to be influenced by the use of a narrow-nibbed pen, which allowed for faster, multi-directional movement and the drawing of circles.

After providing her audience with general Anglicana traits --forked ascenders, upright or left-leaning script, and its distinctive "r" among others -- Wood invited participants to test their reading skills with selections provided by the Lilly.

LORENZO DiTOMMASO DISCUSSES THE "FIFTEEN SIGNS OF DOOMSDAY"

On September 22, Medieval Studies welcome back Prof. Lorenzo DiTommaso, Department of Religious Studies at Concordia University in Montreal. DiTommaso gave a lecture titled "The Fifteen Signs of Doomsday," in the Slocum Room of the Lilly Library.

In his talk, DiTommaso outlined the various signs found within medieval texts and traditions that indicated the end-times were near. Posing the question of what elements within a culture lead its members to look to the Apocalypse, DiTommaso then challenged his audience to explain why so many persons within our own society believe the Apocalypse to be near. As an example, DiTommaso pulled out an adver-

tisement from the previous day's USA Today that listed the signs indicating that Jesus was coming soon.

DiTommaso ended his talk with the unconventional assertion that academics, in fact, have a responsibility to encourage others to employ their own agency in determining the future rather than passively expecting super-natural events to transpire. By weaving together such diverse topics as medieval manuscripts, Martin Luther King Jr. and the film, *The Matrix*, DiTommaso reminded all of us of the many unrealized continuities between the Middle Ages and our culture.

- Christine Dunn

SUMI AND AL-MUSAWI LECTURES ON MEDIEVAL ARABIC POPULAR NARRATIVE

APRIL 2010

With support from the Center for Global Change, MEST, the Center for African Studies & the Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology, and organized under the auspices of the NELC IU Arabic Literature Seminar directed by Prof. Suzanne Stetkevych, the NELC Department hosted two visiting lecturers during April 2010. On April 9, Akiko Motoyoshi Sumi, Professor of Cross-Cultural Studies, Kyoto Notre Dame University (MA in CMLT/IU 1999; PhD in NELC/IU 2001) gave a lecture entitled "The 101 Nights and 1001 Nights" in which she analyzed the ways in which the frame story of the Maghribi collection of the *101 Nights*, with its emphasis on doubling and mirroring, differs from that of the better known *1001 Nights*. She is currently working on a Japanese translation of the collection.

On April 23, Iraqi scholar and critic Prof. Muhsin Jassim al-Musawi, Professor of Arabic Literature, Columbia University, presented "The Islamic Context of the *1001 Nights*," based on his 2009 Columbia UP book of the same title. He argued that the tales, growing and taking shape in the early Abbasid period, were reciprocal to and opposite to the rising tendency among jurists to establish a codified discourse in order to regulate the emerging urban population in the Islamic center.

"Sumi" continued on pg. 7

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

Asma Afsaruddin, Professor of Islamic Studies in NELC and Adjunct Professor in Religious Studies recently published the chapter "Where Heaven and Earth Meet: Remembering Muhammed as Head of State," in *The Cambridge Companion to Muhammed*, ed. Jonathan Brockopp (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press 2010), pp.180-198; and the entry "A'isha bt. Talha" in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3rd ed. (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2010). In late May, she was invited to participate in the annual Building Bridges seminar convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, at Georgetown University, Washington D.C. This year's seminar focused on the topic "Tradition and Modernity." Through the spring semester 2010, Professor Afsaruddin also gave invited papers and presentations at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Yale Divinity School; the Berkley Center at Georgetown University; University of Notre Dame; and George Mason University.

David Brakke, Professor of Religion, is spending fall semester on sabbatical at the University of Muenster, Germany. He is at work on a critical edition and translation of the fifth volume of the Discourses of Shenoute of Atripe (348-465).

IU faculty and graduate students traveled to Siena, Italy this past summer to present papers at the **17th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society**, July 15-19, 2010. Assistant Professor of Middle English Literature **Shannon Gayk**

presented her paper "John Capgrave's Material Memorials." **Kerilyn Harkaway-Kreiger**, PhD candidate, English & Religious Studies, presented "The Apophatic Image and the Pearl of Greatest Price." Associate Professor **Patricia Ingham**, English, presented "Of 'Elvysch Lore': Alchemy and the Secret of Novel Experiences." **Rosemarie McGerr**, Professor of Comparative Literature, presented "A Tale of Royal (Dis)Continuity: the Preamble to the New Statues of England." Finally, English PhD candidate **Deborah Strickland** presented "Anxious Auctoritas: Chaucer's Narrative Strategies in *The Legend of Good Women*."

Samuel N. Rosenberg, Professor emeritus, Dept. of French & Italian, has recently published "*Sottes chansons contre Amours*": *Parodie et burlesque au Moyen âge. Textes présentés, édités et traduits par Eglal Doss-Quinby, Marie-Geneviève Grossel et Samuel N. Rosenberg*. Paris: Champion, 2010.

Professor Rosenberg also retired from the Editorship of ENCOMIA, the annual publication of the International Courtly Literature Society. The new Editor is Prof. Logan E. Whalen of the University of Oklahoma.

When a speaker scheduled to speak at the University of Southern Indiana Medieval Club cancelled without warning, **Fredericka Schmadel**, stepped in and delivered a lecture for the 87 students and some faculty in attendance. The lecture allowed Schmadel (currently teaching undergraduate survey courses in

the humanities at USI) to give an extended version of a talk given at IU's Medieval Conference, Spring 2010, entitled "Free Spirit Mysticism, a Medieval Folk Movement."

Suzanne Pinckney

Stetkevych, Professor of Arabic Literature, NELC and Adjunct CMLT, organized under the auspices of NELC and the IU Art Museum: *Intersections: Middle Eastern Poetries and/ in the Arts* for National Poetry Month, April 1, 8 & 15, 2010, at the IU Art Museum. She directed and organized guest Lectures on Medieval Narrative (in English) and the NELC Arabic Workshop *Lectures and Seminars in Poetry and Theory* (in Arabic) April 9-10 and April 23-24, 2010.

In March, she presented a paper in Arabic on Performance Theory and the poetry of al-Ma'arri at the International Conference International Conference on Issues of Methodology, Dept of Arabic Language & Literature, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In May, she presented "Enter the Qasida: Critical Approaches to the Arabic ode: Abu Firas al-Hamdani's Rumiyyah to Sayf al-Dawlah" at the Teaching Arabic Literature Conference, Columbia University.

She has organized two Arabic literature panels for the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in San Diego, in November, and will present her own paper: "Irony, Teleology and the Stopping at the Ruins in a Luzumiyyah of al-Ma'arri."

FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

In December, she will present, in Arabic, a paper on hermeneutics and the sources of creativity in al-Ma`arri's *Luzumiyyat* at the Fifth International Conference on Literary Criticism, Cairo, Egypt.

Her book *The Mantle Odes: Arabic Praise Poems to the Prophet Muhammad*. Indiana University Press, 2010, has now officially appeared, as has the Arabic translation, by Hassan Ezz el-Din of her 2002 IU Press book, *The Poetics of Islamic Legitimacy, under the title Al-Qasidah wa al-Sultah* from the Egyptian National Center for translation. Her study, "From Jāhiliyyah to Badī'iyah: Orality, Literacy, and the Transformations of Rhetoric in Arabic Poetry," presented at the Orality and Literacy VII Conference, Rice University, 12-14 April, 2008, has appeared in *Oral Tradition* 25/1 (2010): 1-20.

Bradley K. Storin's article, "In a Silent Way: Asceticism and Literature in the Rehabilitation of Gregory of Nazianzus," will be published in the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 19.2

(Summer 2011). This article is an expansion of a paper I presented at the North American Patristics Society on May 29, 2010.

Storin, a PhD candidate in Early Christian Studies, will also present a paper entitled "Officium Nostrum: Receiving the Letter in Late Antiquity" at Vandalia, a joint IU-OSU conference that examines late Roman and medieval history

April Witt, ABD CMLT, starts her new position as Research Associate (Textual Editor) at the Peirce Edition Project for the Institute for American Thought at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. She will help establish critical editions for the Peirce Edition Project, a projected 30 volume series. She would like to thank Dr. McGerr & Dr. Storey for their mentorship.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING MEST EVENTS

www.indiana.edu/~medieval/

"Sumi" cont. from pg. 5

These jurists' handbooks and epistles define professions and groups and ways of assessment that administer both economy and morals. the narrative appeal of the tales in an Islamic context.

The tales convey an awareness of this codification in narratives of professionals, markets, domestic life, but also of spaces that fall outside the reach of authority. This tension between a regulatory discourse and urban needs creates a disequilibrium that is the power behind the narrative appeal of the tales in an Islamic context.

For more information about this conference, please visit the IU Arabic Literature Homepage

<http://www.indiana.edu/~nelc/AL/Seminar.html>



IU alumna Akiko Motoyoshi (photo lower right) after her April 9, 2010 lecture, *The 101 Nights and the 1001 Nights*. The lecture was co-sponsored by NELC and MEST. Please see page 5 "Sumi and al-Musawi Lecture on Arabic Popular Narrative, April 2010" to read the full story. Also pictured: (continuing around the table counter-clockwise) Stephen Vinson, Asma Afsaruddin, Rosemarie McGerr, Jaroslav Stetkevych, Suzanne Stetkevych, Nazif Shahrani.

MEST CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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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MEST ESTABLISHES GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With an introductory meeting held this past June, graduate students moved to establish a graduate student advisory committee within the Medieval Studies Institute. Appointing **Grant Simpson** as interim chair, MEST GSAC held its first official meeting on Friday, October 1st. Meeting results, including names of newly elected GSAC officials, will appear in the next MEST newsletter.

When asked why he volunteered to act as interim chair, Simpson, a PhD student in English with a minor in English and Germanic

Philology, stated that “graduate students have always been a big part of the Medieval Studies Institute. I’m thrilled that, with the formation of MEST GSAC, we will be able to better contribute to the Institute by providing a forum for generating ideas and voicing opinions about graduate medievalist needs, as well as providing the basic organizational structure for organizing our annual graduate-student-organized conference.

Please visit the new webpage for GSAC agenda items at www.indiana.edu/~medieval/graduate_GSAC1.html

LANGUAGE READING GROUP INFORMATION

Middle English (“Song School”)

The Song school (the Middle English reading and paleography group) meets every other week from 12:30-1:30 in the Parker Library (442 Ballantine). Future meetings are scheduled for: Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 17, Dec. 1. All are welcome and no preparation is needed. Anyone with questions can contact Professor Shannon Gayk at (sgayk@indiana.edu) for more information.

Old English

updated information coming soon

Middle High German

The Middle High German Reading Group will meet on Tuesday afternoons, 2:30-3:30 P.M., Ballantine 664. The group will be reading and discussing Hartmann von der Aue’s *Der arme Heinrich*. The group is open to all and no preparation is required, although a knowledge of Modern German would be helpful. Please contact Colin Grant (cojgrant@umail.iu.edu) for more information.

Greek

The Ecclesiastical Greek Reading Group (select texts from the Sep-

tuagint through the Cappadocians) meets every Friday morning at 11 A.M. at the downtown Scholar’s Inn Bakehouse (map). Please contact Diane Fruchtman (dsfrucht@indiana.edu) for more information. Graduate students, undergraduates, faculty, and community members are welcome to attend.

Medieval Latin

The Medieval Latin Reading Group meets weekly: Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:30 P.M. at the Pourhouse on Kirkwood. Please contact Brittany Muscarella (bamuscar@imail.iu.edu) for more information.

Old Norse Saga

The Old Norse Saga reading group meets once a month at a time and place decided at each meeting. The current goði (chieftains, i.e. student organizers) are Andrew Kostakis (akostaki@indiana.edu) and Justin Glover (jdglover@indiana.edu). If you are interested in joining, please contact Andrew or Justin for details about the next meeting. One semester of Old Norse or equivalent experience is required.