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Medieval Studies Newsletter

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IU HOSTS 41ST MIDWEST MEDIEVAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Forty-First Midwest Medieval Conference was held at Indiana University, Bloomington from October 25th to the 27th. The conference was very well attended, with over eighty registrants and over sixty people attending the graduate student sessions.

Prof. Leah Shopkow (History) organized this year's conference, which featured a plenary lecture by William Chester Jordan and presentations by faculty and graduate students from over twenty different institutions, including two papers by IU graduate students Maria Krebs (French and Italian) and Katie Lynn Peebles

(English and Folklore). IU Chancellor Sharon Brehm delivered the conference's opening address, and the Lilly Library organized a special exhibit for the conference.

The theme for this year's conference was "New Wine in Old Bottles": Revising and Revisiting the Traditional Fields in Medieval History." Accordingly, many of the conference's papers considered the challenges faced by historians working in more traditional fields of the discipline.

For example, in his plenary lecture, "To Honor the Weapons of War: The Cult of Military Relics in the

Age of the Crusades," Prof. Jordan addressed the lack of sustained scholarly interest in weapons of war and the hunt, a subject traditionally dominated by "buffs," who do not generally concern themselves with the social and cultural significance of the weapons they study. Prof. Jordan was especially intrigued by the connection of tropes of love, humility, and compassion with medieval weapons and acts of religious violence.

The Midwest Medieval History Conference is an *ad hoc* group of historians and those interested in medieval history that meets each Fall at various host institutions in

the Midwest.

The conference last met at Indiana University in 1966, and next year's conference will be held at Notre Dame.

Prof. Shopkow would like to encourage graduate students to submit abstracts for next Fall's conference.



Koninklijke Bibliotheek
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PROF. JORDAN GIVES FIRESIDE CHAT, LECTURE ON FAMINE

Prof. William Chester Jordan remained in Bloomington for two days after the Midwest Medieval History Conference to hold an informal lunch with IU graduate students, participate in a Phi Alpha Theta fireside chat, and give a public lecture on "Sickness, Death and Devotional Practice During the Great Famine of the Early Fourteenth Century."



Prof. William Chester Jordan

Jordan lunched with graduate students from Comparative Literature, English, History, History and Philosophy of Science, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. During the lunch, he discussed the challenges of editing the supplements to the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. Last updated in 1986, the *Dictionary* lacks entries for such subjects as 'women' and 'charity.'

In his Mon. evening fireside chat, "Weapons, Relics and Crusades," Prof. Jordan elaborated upon the lecture that he presented as the keynote address for the Midwest Medieval History Conference. Prof. Jordan explained how the *misericordia* (mercy dagger) fit into the broader theme of killing your enemy as an "act of love" for Medieval Christians.

In his public lecture on Tues., Oct. 29th, Prof. Jordan discussed the nature of and the responses to the famines of the early fourteenth century. According to Prof. Jordan, many suffered not

from a lack of food during the famines, but from a lack of the variety of foods that was available before the famines. Consequently, much of the suffering during the famines was caused by diseases related to vitamin and nutrient deficiencies.

Prof. Jordan's talks were not without their humorous moments. During his lunch with graduate students and fireside chat, Prof. Jordan joked about "problem Joe and scrofulitic Brent," and he concluded his Tues. evening lecture on famine by reciting a charm for the prevention of sheep murrain.

On Mon., Oct. 28th, Prof.

PROF. GILLESPIE PERFORMS IN KOSOVO

Prof. Wendy Gillespie of the Early Music Institute and member of the consort Fretwork has recently taken part in the first concert by a British ensemble in Pristina, Kosovo since the early 1990's.

Sponsored by the British Council, the concert featured music from the late fifteenth century to the present, with works ranging from compositions by William Byrd to Elvis Costello, who wrote the song, "Put Away Forbidden Playthings," for the ensemble.

The concert took place in the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua in the British sector of Pristina, one of the few places to host concerts during the country's civil war. Although the war is over, the

city's struggling young chamber music series still lacks a concert hall, so its performances are held at the



Fretwork members Richard Campbell, Julia Hodgson, Wendy Gillespie, William Hunt, Susanna Pell and Richard Boothby

Church of Saint Anthony or in the local shopping mall.

Gillespie found that the

inhabitants of Pristina were still struggling to rebuild their bombed-out city but were making progress.

Fretwork is comprised of six viol players — Richard Campbell, Julia Hodgson, Wendy Gillespie, William Hunt, Susanna Pell & Richard Boothby — and counter-tenor Michael Chance.

The consort was recently nominated for a Gramophone award for its *Harmonia Mundi* recording of some of the earliest printed polyphonic music. For this recording, the group commissioned a set of viols based on much earlier models than those that they usually play.

The viol family of

instruments, or the Viola da Gamba, are bowed, string instruments that have subtle differences from members of the violin family. Both families of instruments appeared and co-existed in the late-fifteenth century.

For more information about Fretwork please visit their website:

<http://www.fretwork.co.uk/>

PROF. CARMICHAEL TEACHES ABOUT PLAGUES

This Fall, Prof. Anne Carmichael (History) is teaching her course entitled "The Black Death." The course explores a variety of human reactions to mortality crises as well as the meanings of the word 'plague', whether used as a metaphor, a warning, or a summary of calamity of death and dying.

The course also introduces students to a broad span of European and world history from 1300 to 1920—the centuries when great plagues regularly reappeared.

Over 200 students are enrolled in the course this Fall. Students attend lectures and meet in discussion sections. They are also encouraged to discuss course topics on online message boards.

The courses' AIs are given the titles: leader of the rats, leader of the germs and leader of the fleas.

BARDZELL BRINGS DANTE TO COLD FUSION

Comparative Literature Graduate Student Jeffrey Bardzell has recently had his book on developing multimedia eLearning applications, *Macromedia MX eLearning: Advanced Training From the Source* (August 2002), published by Microsoft/Peach Press.

In the book, readers learn how to use Dreamweaver, Flash, and ColdFusion to build, among other things, an interactive map of Dante's *Inferno*, a Drag-and-Drop infernal monsters game, a Flash-based Dante exam, and a Circlefinder application (in which the user plays Minos' assistant and helps condemned souls find their proper circle).

Bardzell chose to pattern his lessons upon the works of Dante because of his

interest in the author. Bardzell is currently writing his dissertation on medieval grammar theory, modern semiotics, and medieval allegory.

According to Bardzell, his book strives to better integrate technology and teaching.

Bardzell's book has received glowing reviews from Amazon.com customers. The website's reviews emphasize the readability and clarity of the work and the extent to which Bardzell's explanations are easy to follow.

"Until now," writes one reviewer, "learning to build interactive learning modules was a chore that many people labored through alone, pulling bits and pieces from here and there until they were finally able to cobble

something together."

Bardzell has also published *Special Edition Using Macromedia Fireworks MX* (July 2002), and his *Macromedia Dreamweaver MX Dynamic Applications: Advanced Training from the Source* will be published in Jan. 2003.

Bardzell is a PhD candidate in comparative literature and is the founder of Allecto Media. He has taught literature for the past seven years as an Adjunct Faculty member of Literature at Ignatius University and as a teacher at Indiana University, Mary Washington College and the Taipei Language Institute.

Bardzell has also worked as an Education Policy Analyst for the State of Indiana for three years and still consults for them.

submit student and
faculty news or story
suggestions to
mest@indiana.edu

PROF. LINDENBAUM TO TEACH PRACTICAL PALEOGRAPHY

This Spring Prof. Sheila Lindenbaum will teach M600: Practical Paleography. The course is meant to prepare graduate students to work in archives of medieval documents and literary manuscripts. It will be a skills course, offering intensive practice in transcribing the kinds of handwriting the members of the class are most likely to encounter in their own work, with a particular emphasis on the difficult late medieval cursive scripts.

The course will also cover how to set up a manuscript project for dissertation and funding purposes, how to prepare in advance to visit an archive, and what to expect when you get there—in short the process will be demystified. Putting students in touch with print and web resources for locating manuscripts and documents will be an important part of the course.

Students will also read a small sampling of recent articles that illustrate the most interesting applications of manuscript study to literary texts, history and the arts. Students will complete a short project at the Lilly on a manuscript of their own choice.

According to Prof. Lawrence Clopper, "the most important reason for taking such a course is that it will train you to work on medieval documents in some pretty spectacular repositories."

"It really is awesome," says Clopper, "to be able to pick up a medieval manuscript and read it. In addition, there is increasing interest in manuscript culture among most of the medieval disciplines, and it is satisfying to be able to work with new materials rather than trying to figure out some way to come up with something new about texts that have been overanalyzed."

If you would like more information about the course please visit the MEST website or email Prof. Lindenbaum at lindenb@indiana.edu.

FACULTY NEWS

Christopher Beckwith (Central Eurasian Studies) edited the book *Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages* (Leiden). Published in Jan. 2002, the book includes papers by several Tibeto-Burmanists (two by Beckwith himself) and several glossaries. The medieval languages covered in the book are Old Tibetan, Old Zhangzhung, Pyu, Old Burmese, Tangut, Old Newari and Old Manipuri (Early Meithei). The volume is the product of the first Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium that was held in Leiden in 2000; Beckwith organized and chaired the Symposium. Last June, Prof. Beckwith gave his paper "On Korean and Tungusic Elements in Old Koguryo" at the 47th International Conference of Eastern Studies held at Tokyo and Kyoto. He has also finished organizing the second Medieval Tibeto-Burman Languages Symposium. It is scheduled to take place in Oxford in September, 2003.

Lawrence Clopper (English) will be the respondent for the session "Medieval Drama: New Directions for Research" at this year's Modern Language Association Conference in New York.

William Newman's (History and Philosophy of Science) book *Alchemy Tried in the Fire: Starkey, Boyle, and the Fate of Helmontian Chymistry* (Chicago) will be published December 2002. Prof. Newman co-authored the book with Lawrence Principe, a professor from The Johns Hopkins University's Department of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology.

Hans Tischler's (Music) article "Newly -Discovered Addenda to the Trouvère Repertoire" has been published by *Current Musicology*, and his article "The Intriguing Forms of Trouvère Poems and Melodies" has been published in *Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology*. His latest book *The Earliest Laude*, published by the Institute of Medieval Music in Ottawa, was released at the end of November.

STUDENT NEWS

Christopher M. Cain (English) presented his paper "The Status of OE<a~o>_[+nas] as a Linguistic Variable" at the Philologists in Germanic Studies at Illinois and Indiana (PIGSTII) meeting on Nov. 2.

John Durbin (Germanic Studies) presented his paper "Can we find a middle ground? Intersections of syntax and semantics" at the Philologists in Germanic Studies at Illinois and Indiana (PIGSTII) meeting on Nov 2.

Maria Krebs (French and Italian) presented her paper "Odi et Amo: Hippolyte Delahaye's Dissatisfaction with Hagiography" at the Forty-First Annual Midwest Medieval Conference. She has a future faculty fellowship at Butler this year.

Katie Peebles (English and Folklore) presented her paper "One Man's Middle Ages: John Aubrey and Early Antiquarianism" at the Forty-First Annual Midwest Medieval Conference.

Janine Larmon Peterson's (History) article, "The Transmission and Reception of Alberic of Montecassino's *Breviarium de dictamine*," will be appearing in *Scriptorium* 57:1 (2003).

Betsy Williamsen (English) presented two papers "Identity and Otherness in *The Journey of William of Rubruck*" at "In Transit: Third International Conference on Travel Writing and Travel Writers" on Oct. 25 in Cleveland and "Exploration and Otherness in the Vinland Sagas" at the Philologists in Germanic Studies at Indiana and Illinois (PIGSTII) meeting on Nov. 2 at Indiana University, Bloomington.

ALUMNI NEWS

Rebecca Krug (English), a 1996 PhD graduate, has had her book *Reading Families: Women's Literate Practice in Late Medieval Europe* published by Cornell University Press.

Reading Groups Continue

Middle English (Song School)

BH 671, Mon. 4 - 5 pm
Contact: Dr. Larry Clopper
clopper@indiana.edu

The group is currently reading *Piers Plowman*.

Middle High German (MHG)

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

The MHG reading group is currently reading Hartmann von Aue's *Gregorius*, a story about a lad who is the product of an incestuous brother-sister relationship and who eventually ends up marrying his mother (an Oedipus story with a twist), then spends 17 years doing penance on a rock in the middle of a lake. He is eventually called to Rome to become Pope and ultimately gives absolution to his mother. It is a great story!

MEST Ornament Graces IU Visitor Center Tree



Similar to the reliquaries of *olde*, the MEST Christmas ornament features a Lego knight and peasant enshrined in a translucent plastic sphere. It will be on display until early Jan. at the IU Visitor Information Center, located in suite 104 of the Carmichael Center (corner of Indiana and Kirkwood).

PIGSTII RETURNS TO INDIANA

The eighth annual meeting of PIGSTII (Philologists in Germanic Studies at Illinois and Indiana) took place at Indiana University on Sat., Nov. 2. Over thirty people attended this year's event, which included papers by IU graduate students Chris Cain (English), John Durbin (Germanic Studies), and Betsy Williamsen (English), as well as an informal gathering at the home of Prof. Kari Gade.

Alternating annually between Indiana University, Bloomington, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, PIGSTII affords graduate students the opportunity to interact with and present their research to faculty

and graduate students working in Germanic Studies at either university.

Three graduate students from each university present papers at the symposium. The presentations are drawn from dissertation work or course papers and are recommended by professors in Germanic Studies and English for the symposium. Presentation topics include Germanic literature, philology, or linguistics and can cover the late classical period to the High Middle Ages.

The symposium's acronym is popularly ascribed to Prof. Ted Anderson, who established the symposium with Prof. Gade and Illinois Prof. Marianne Kalinke in 1994.

PHI ALPHA THETA HOSTS FIRESIDE CHAT SERIES

The Phi Alpha Theta history club hosts a number of Fireside Chats throughout the academic year. The talks cover a wide range of topics, including medieval. Phi Alpha Theta has recently hosted Fireside Chats on *Alchemy* and also on the *Crusades*.

According to Ashley Large, the club's secretary, "the Fireside Chat series is an excellent way for students to interact with distinguished professors on a very personal level."

"The chats," says Large, "are also

meant to break up the lecture dynamic by promoting free and open discussion on a variety of topics. If you have an unanswered question on a particular topic that has not been addressed in class, this is the perfect time to bring it up."

For more information about Phi Alpha Theta or the Fireside Chat series please contact Ashley Large at asalarge@indiana.edu or visit their website:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~pathonor/>.

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