

# MSN

## Medieval Studies Newsletter

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## THOMAS DuBOIS TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT ANNUAL MEDIEVAL STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

**Thomas DuBois**, Birgit Baldwin Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been named the keynote speaker for this year's medieval studies symposium. Professor DuBois conducts research on a variety of Nordic topics, both medieval and modern. He holds a PhD in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania.



Professor DuBois' medieval research focuses on Nordic religions during the Viking Age, between the ninth and thirteenth centuries. He is particularly interested in how identity is expressed in instances of religious syncretism.

The symposium theme for this year

is "The Foreign, the Familiar, and the Fantastic in the Middle Ages." Professor DuBois will give his keynote address on this topic in a talk titled: "Threats to the East: The Foreign, the Fantastic, and the All-

Too-Familiar Eastern Populations in the Worldview and Statecraft of Medieval Scandinavia." (An abstract for the keynote address can be found at the end of this article).

The symposium as a whole hopes to address traditional notions of the Middle Ages that conceive of its

peoples as insular and close-minded, as living in a period of willful ignorance that lies in stark contrast to the cosmopolitanism and inquisitiveness that characterizes the Renaissance. This conception

of medieval peoples as being ignorant of other cultures has recently been challenged by scholars who point to moments of contact with the foreign. The fact remains, however, that in the Middle Ages there existed a tenuous relationship between the familiar and the foreign.

The presence of the fantastic complicates the dichotomy of the foreign and the familiar. Many instances of contact between foreign peoples and ideas were occasioned, e.g., by religious convictions. The most obvious example of this dynamic is the Crusades, but numerous other cases exist where the fantastic - the divine, the supernatural, etc. - is intimately bound up in navigating the tension between the foreign and the familiar. But scholars do not have to look only at the meetings of foreign peoples to uncover a concern about foreignness-the foreign can also be found at home. Here, too, in the realm of the familiar, religion provided a conceptual framework for thinking about foreign ideas, peoples, and phenomena. In such examples as demonic possession, saints' miracles, and the romance tradition, among many others, medieval peoples expressed concern with otherness and found ways to bring it into dialogue with their own familiar worldview.

The symposium will take place on March 26th and 27th. Abstracts will be accepted until February 2nd.

### ETHAN KNAPP LECTURE ON JANUARY 29TH

The Medieval Studies Institute and the Department of English are sponsoring a lecture to be given by Ethan Knapp, Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University. His talk is titled "Urban Allegories: Walter Benjamin and Medieval Temporalities." To read the abstract of Professor's Knapp talk, please visit the Medieval Studies website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~medieval>

The lecture will take place on January 29th at 4:30 in State Room West, at the Indiana Memorial Union. A reception will take place after the lecture.

(Continued on Page 2)

## IUSCHOLARWORKS PROVIDES NEW DIGITAL HOME FOR THE MEDIEVAL REVIEW

The full archives of The Medieval Review, a groundbreaking publication recognized as one of the first scholarly humanities publications to be made freely available online, are now preserved in IUScholarWorks.

IUScholarWorks, managed by the IU Libraries, is the university's online home for preserving and sharing research.

Founded by classicist James O'Donnell and medievalist Eugene Vance and published since 1993, The Medieval Review embraced an open-access method of publishing that abandoned paper and ink for the immediate and free access afforded by the Internet.

Archiving electronic journals can be a concern for editors, who often need solutions for migrating from one technology to another, or ensuring that years of work are preserved for the long term. "Authors want to know that their scholarship will outlive them. A print journal will survive as long as there are libraries," says executive editor Deborah Deliyannis, assistant professor of history. "But an online journal seems more ephemeral, and preserving it requires an ongoing commitment on the part of libraries. We are thrilled to be working with the IU Digital Library Program, because they are really at the forefront of this kind of undertaking."

The IU Libraries have not only added the entire run into IUScholarWorks repository in order to provide a stable, searchable archive but have also designed a prospective publishing platform for the review's continued publication.

"We are delighted to host The Medieval Review in IUScholarWorks," says Julie Bobay, associate dean for collections and digital publishing. "We are grateful to those who came before us in supporting TMR. As is often the case in scholarly endeavors, the work of colleagues elsewhere has laid the groundwork for us to take the next step, providing uninterrupted access for the thousands of readers who rely on it to do their scholarly work, as well as a more manageable and sustainable platform for the scholars who produce it."

From 1996 to 2007, The Medieval Review was published thanks to the generous support of the Medieval Institute and the Department of History at Western Michigan University, and its website was housed by the Scholarly Publishing Office at the University Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Since 2007, it has been sponsored by the Medieval Studies Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. Editors Deliyannis and Diane Reilly, Associate Professor of the History of Art, are IU faculty members.

IUScholarWorks is supported by the IU Libraries and the IU Digital Library Program, a collaborative effort of the IU Libraries and University Information Technology Services.

– IUScholarWorks Staff  
iusw@indiana.edu

## THOMAS DUBOIS TO GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS (continued from page 1)

To submit an abstract, please visit [www.indiana.edu/~medieval/symposium](http://www.indiana.edu/~medieval/symposium)

### ABSTRACT

From the time of Snorri onward, writers and residents of the northwestern corner of Europe attached symbolic import to geographic locations to the south and east. From a Midwestern perspective, such a tendency can seem familiar and natural: just think of what one means by saying we live in the "heartland," or what people in the region mean when they talk about "back east" or "out west." In the Nordic version of such discourse, "south" represented all that was unambiguously powerful and prestigious. "East," on the other hand, connoted all that was tinged by the danger and allure of forbidden alterity: dubious sexual liaisons, recalcitrant pagan religiosity, unbridled access to magical assistance, and the mysterious threat of a competing form of Christianity. In my paper, I explore the meanings of the east in Scandinavian sagas and other texts, from narratives of Viking Age forays into eastern realms, to accounts of Scandinavian dealings with Sámi, Finns, and Balts, to St. Birgitta's impassioned call for her kinsman King Magnus to lead a crusade to convert or destroy the "pagan" Orthodox. I hope to suggest some of the ways in which such symbolic use of geography served to marginalize-externalize-sources of cultural and religious diversity within Scandinavia, while also justifying the military subjugation of peaceful communities to the east.

## IU LILLY LIBRARY CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Lilly Library celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The Lilly Library houses Indiana University's rare book and manuscript collection, which includes a large number of items from the medieval period.

On January 19th, the exhibit "Treasures of the Lilly Library" opens to the public and runs until May 8, 2010. The exhibit highlights the strength and versatility of the library's collections and includes a number of items of interest to medievalists, including: the Guinifortus copybook; a late-9th century *vita* of Saint Martin by Sulpicius Severus (the Lilly's oldest complete manuscript); an 11th century Kufic Qu'ran; a mid-14th century English Bible; a late-14th century Missal for the use of Rome; an early 15th century Gradual from Bohemia;

and two Old English fragments by Aelfric from the early 11th century.

The Lilly will also host an open house on January 22nd to celebrate the new exhibit as well as the completed renovation of the Reading Room. The open house runs from 5 to 9 PM, with remarks at 5:30 PM.

Continuing the anniversary celebration, in the Fall of 2010 Christopher de Hamel will curate an exhibition with an accompanying catalog entitled "Gilding the Lilly: One Hundred Medieval Manuscripts." He will also be giving the annual Friends of the Lilly dinner talk, to be held in the IU Auditorium on November 11th.

## NEW MEDIEVAL FACULTY MEMBER JOINS NELC

Asma Afsaruddin joined the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures in Fall, 2009 as Professor of Islamic Studies. Professor Afsaruddin received her PhD from John Hopkins in 1993. She previously taught at the University of Notre Dame and at Harvard University. Her research interests include Islamic religious and political thought, Qur'an and Hadith, Islamic intellec-



tual history, and gender. She is the author and or editor of four books, including *The First Muslims: History and Memory* (2008) and *Excellence and Precedence: Medieval Islamic Discourse about Legitimate Leadership* (2002). Her research has been funded by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation, among others.

## MEDIAEVALIA AT THE LILLY LIBRARY

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

On Monday April 26th, Dr. Eisermann will conduct a workshop on "How to describe incunables in the Internet Age" and "Scholarly research facilities for 15th century printing available on the Internet." The workshop also will present opportunities to work with both original source materials as well as electronic resources. On Tuesday April 27th, Dr. Eisermann will give a public lecture, to be held at the Lilly Library. His topic will be: "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.

## FACULTY & STUDENT NEWS

**Asma Afsaruddin**, incoming Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, recently published “The Hermeneutics of Inter-Faith Relations: Retrieving Moderation and Pluralism as Universal Principles in Qur’anic Exegeses” in the *Journal of Religious Ethics* 37 (2009); and “Lessons from the Past: Piety, Leadership, and Good Governance in the Risalat al-‘Uthmaniyya,” in *Al-Jahiz: a Muslim Humanist for Our Time*, edited by Tarif Khalidi et al. (Beirut: Orient Institut, 2009). She is currently completing a book-length manuscript titled *Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought and Practice*, under contract with Oxford University Press. In 2009, Afsaruddin gave several invited lectures and conference presentations in different venues, including a keynote address at Merrimack College, Massachusetts, titled “Christians and Muslims: Excavating the Past and Envisioning the Future,” on October 28, 2009; the paper “Dying in the Path of God: Martyrdom, Celestial Re-

wards, and the Construction of Moral Excellence,” at the conference “Roads to Paradise: Eschatology and Concepts of the Hereafter in Islam,” held at Goettingen University, Germany, May 27-29, 2009; and the paper “Early Competing Views of Jihad in the Musannafs of ‘Abd al-Razzaq al-San’ani and Ibn Abi Shayba” at the conference “Rethinking Jihad: Ideas, Politics, and Conflict in the Arab World and Beyond,” held at Edinburgh University, Scotland, Sept. 7-9, 2009. She chaired the panel “Islam, Christianity, and Judaism in the Medieval Period,” at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association held in Boston, November 21, 2009. Afsaruddin continues her work as co-editor of the Islam section of *Religion Compass*, an on-line encyclopedia published by Wiley-Blackwell.

**Brooke Greene**, graduate student in Early Music Performance, partially completed a Masters in Early Music Performance at IU, including studies in medieval music and litera-

ture. She is currently on leave until August 2010. In May 2009, Brooke directed a performance of Machaut’s *Remede de Fortune* for the Bloomington Early Music Festival Fringe.

In November 2009, at the Peacock Theatre, Hobart, Tasmania, Brooke directed and played vielle in a show she created called *Queer Medieval Tales*. These were two stories narrated by actor Robert Jarman with music from 14th century France and associated improvisations, with projections of related images from 14th century French and Italian manuscripts. The script for Lancelot and Galehaut was abridged from *Lancelot and the Lord of the Distant Isles or, The Book of Galehaut Retold* by Patricia Terry and Samuel N. Rosenberg, (David R. Godine Publisher, 2006). Yde and Olive was based on a conflation of John Bouchier, *The Boke of Duke Huon of Burdeux*, (16th century) and a translation by Noémie Young-Studer.

On January 19 and 20, Brooke is presenting two performanc-

### 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

es of *O Fortuna!* for Hobart's MONA FOMA Festival. *O Fortuna!* is a new show based on the *Complainte* from Machaut's *Remede de Fortune*. **Margaret Dolinsky**, Associate Professor of Fine Art, has also contributed to this project. For more info, visit <http://www.mofo.net.au>.

**Diane Reilly**, Associate Professor of Art History, has spent her fall sabbatical in France, where she has been at work on her project "The Cistercian Reform and the Art of the Book in Twelfth-Century France." She will be presenting some of the fruits of her research at the upcoming Medieval Academy meeting at Yale.

Graduate student in folklore and medieval studies (and Special Projects Assistant for the Medieval Studies Institute) **Steve Stanzak** has been awarded the Esther L. Kinsley Master's Thesis Fellowship for

his M.A. thesis "Growing Faith through Wonder: Sacred Narratives in Chaucer's 'The Prioress's Tale.'" The fellowship is awarded each year to one graduate student at Indiana University.

**Stephen Wailes**, Professor Emeritus of Germanic Studies, is co-editing with Phyllis Brown (Santa Clara University) a *Companion to Hrotsvit of Gandersheim*, to be published in 2011 by Brill. This collection of original essays by scholars from Great Britain, Germany, and North America will cover all aspects of the life and work of Hrotsvit, who was a contemporary and perhaps an acquaintance of Otto the Great. One of her works reflects his coronation as Emperor of the Romans in 962. Wailes is contributing two essays to the book, one on the historical and social contexts of Hrotsvit's career, and the other on her eight legends in verse.

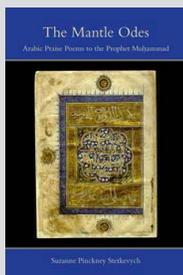
## UPCOMING MEDIEVAL LECTURES

**Karen Winstead**, associate professor of English at Ohio State University, will be participating in the Comparative Literature 60th Anniversary Conference, titled "Comparative Literature and the Future of the Humanities." Professor Winstead is an expert in medieval saints' legends. The conference will take place on February 26–27.

**David Nirenberg**, Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Professor of Medieval History and Social Thought at the University of Chicago, will give a lecture at Indiana University on **March 9th**. Professor Nirenberg's work focuses on interactions between Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The lecture is sponsored by the Medieval Studies Institute and the Borns Jewish Studies Program.

## New Books by Medieval Studies Faculty

Brepols Publishers have recently published *Poetry from the Kings' Sagas 2* (2 volumes) by **Kari Gade**, professor and chair of Germanic Studies. This is part of the Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages project, an enormous, international, multi-year undertaking to re-edit the entire skaldic corpus. These two volumes present the large and important body of skaldic poetry preserved in sagas of legendary and historical medieval Scandinavian kings, mainly those of Norway.



Professor **Suzanne Stetkevych's** book on *The Mantle Odes: Arabic Praise Poems to the Prophet Muhammad*, which is centered on an exploration of the ritual supplicatory structure of al-Busiri's medieval devotional masterpiece, *The Burdah*, is available for pre-order with Indiana University Press. It will be available in July (hardback \$75.00, paperback \$29.95). For more information, visit the IU press website: <http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/>.

## 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.

## MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

Indiana University  
Ballantine Hall 650  
Bloomington, IN 47405-7103  
(812) 855-8201  
mest@indiana.edu  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~medieval/>

## MEDIEVAL SYMPOSIUM UNVEILS NEW SYMPOSIUM WEBSITE

The Medieval Studies Institute this November unveiled a new website for its annual medieval studies symposium. The new website is powered by Open Conference Systems, an open source web publishing system created by the Public Knowledge Project. The symposium website is integrated into the existing medieval studies webpage.

The new symposium website has several new features. The website not only hosts the symposium's call for papers and program,

but will also contain completed conference papers if presenters decide to include it an online "conference proceedings." The website will also create an archive of each symposium, providing an important archival record for the institute that can be viewed by any visitor.

Also new is the ability for presenters to submit their abstracts through the webpage itself, streamlining the submission and review process.

## LANGUAGE READING GROUP INFORMATION

### Middle English ("Song School")

The Song school (the Middle English reading and paleography group) meets weekly. 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

The Old English reading group meets every other Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. at the Pourhouse on Kirkwood. The group this semester is reading primarily poetry. Please contact Brittany Muscarella (bamuscar@iemail.iu.edu) for more information.

### Middle High German

There is a Middle High German reading group that is now meeting every Thursday from 11-12 in BH664 (seminar room at the end of the hall). Currently they are reading Konrad von Würzburg's Herzmaere (Reclam edition); the group has an On-course site where a pdf of the text can be found, so it does not have to be purchased. Anyone who is interested may contact Megan Barrett (mebarret@indiana.edu) or Sharon Wailes (smunger@indiana.edu) to be added as a participant to the site. No prior knowledge or experience of Middle High German is necessary, although some knowledge of modern German is required. Each person reads as much or as little as he or she wishes, depending on his or her

comfort level.

### Greek

The Ecclesiastical Greek Reading Group (select texts from the Septuagint through the Cappadocians) meets every Friday morning at 11 A.M. at the downtown Scholar's Inn Bakehouse (map). Please contact Diane Fruchtmann (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 in Geology 407 on Wednesdays at 4:30 P.M. at the Pourhouse on Kirkwood. The group is currently reading Geoffrey of Monmouth. Please contact Brittany Muscarella (bamuscar@iemail.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 Brent Moberly (bmoderly@indiana.edu) and Erin Sweany (esweany@indiana.edu). If you are interested in joining, please contact Brent or Erin for details about the next meeting. One semester of Old Norse or equivalent experience is required.