



The MEDIEVAL STUDIES INSTITUTE *of Indiana University* NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30 No. 1 Fall 2020

This Fall, the pandemic continued to challenge us to find new ways to maintain community, connection, and commitments.

The Medieval Studies Institute has taken great pride in the flexibility and care shown by its students and faculty as our classrooms and events have adapted to online platforms. The programming offered by MEST may have been somewhat simplified—of necessity—but it was by no means diminished.

On November 13th, we welcomed IU alumna Dr. Diane Shane Fruchtman (Assistant Professor of Religion at Rutgers University) for our Alumni Lecture Series. Dr. Fruchtman presented her work, “Augustine and the Life of Martyrdom,” which examined some of the rhetorical techniques that Augustine of Hippo employed to induce a life of martyrdom in his audiences. The event was held via Zoom and has been recorded and shared on the Institute’s Blog at blogs.iu.edu/medieval.

We also saw many of our affiliated faculty and graduate students continuing to organize exciting and timely events such as the Race and Medieval Studies Roundtable held on September 17th and co-hosted by Dr. Liz Hebbard and Dr. Akash Kumar, who also organized *Jazzing up Dante: A Conversation with Sherman Irby*. The former event provided a space for medievalists to examine issues of Race and Medieval Studies as they come through

in our research, teaching, and our presence in the world at large; the latter was a conversation with renowned saxophonist and composer Sherman Irby, who recently completed the second part of his jazz adaptation of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*.

MEST GSAC was also busy organizing and hosting a series of social and professionalizing events for our graduate student medievalists, including a virtual readers’ circle and a panel of satirical presentations of graduate student work in Medieval Studies. Reading groups, including the Old Occitan Reading Group, Middle English Song School, and the Queer Medieval Reading Group (QMR), also continue to meet virtually.

Of course, planning for the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America has been ongoing and although the meeting will primarily be held via Zoom, IU is proud to host it alongside the MAA. The schedule is now available and registration is open through March 10th. Visit maa2021.indiana.edu for more information and to register.

We look forward to a return to in-person lectures, exhibitions, workshops, and receptions. Until then, we want to thank our staff, graduate students, and all affiliated faculty at IU for the hard work that they have and continue to put into maintaining our lively presence on campus despite the fact that so many of us remain, in fact, off campus.

IN THIS ISSUE

Fall Events.....	1	First-Year Fellowship.....	3	Awards Announcements.....	7
MAA to Meet at IU.....	2	MEST Spotlights.....	4-5	Director’s Letter.....	7
MEST GSAC Updates.....	3	Remembering Dr. Rosenberg...6		Contact Us.....	8

MAA 2021 ANNUAL MEETING AT IUB

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America will take place on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting is jointly hosted by the Medieval Academy of America and the Medieval Studies Institute of Indiana University. The conference program features a diverse range of sessions highlighting innovative scholarship across the many disciplines contributing to medieval studies. The conference will be hosted online, and will feature thematically-grouped sessions that place papers from diverse chronological, geographical, methodological, and disciplinary perspectives into conversation. The conference will begin on Thursday, 15 April and conclude on Sunday, 18 April—hosting more than 60 unique sessions in total. A virtual exhibition space featuring a variety of publishers will also be open during the conference.

The Medieval Studies Institute is particularly proud of its faculty and graduate students' involvement in the conference. The MEST Graduate Student Advisory Committee is bringing its annual Graduate Student Transcribathon to the MAA's meeting this year and has also co-sponsored a Graduate Student Social Hour and a session, "Graduate Medievalists and the Institutions We Work In: Community and Activism." In addition, faculty from across the campus are playing key roles in organizing panels and events.

The Medieval Studies Institute wants to recognize the hard work of the Program Committee, which is composed of faculty from across Indiana University and regional institutions. We thank the two Program Committee Chairs, Deborah Deliyannis (History) and Diane Reilly (Art History); Communications Chair, Kalani Craig (History); Local Arrangements Chair, Jeremy Schott (Religious Studies); as well as Committee Members, Asma Afsaruddin (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), Daniel Caner (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures), Giuliano Di

Bacco (Musicology), Nahyan Fancy (History, De Pauw University), Shannon Gayk (English), Ryan Giles (Spanish & Portuguese), Margaret Graves (Art History), Liz Hebbard (French & Italian), Sarah Ifft Decker (History & Jewish, Islamic and Middle East Studies, Rhodes College), Patty Ingham (English), Kevin Jacques (Religious Studies), Akash Kumar (French & Italian), Jennifer Lee (Art History, IUPUI), Amy Livingstone (History, Ball State University), Karma Lochrie (English), Manling Luo (East Asian Languages and Cultures), Dana Marsh (Music), Rosemarie McGerr (Comparative Literature), Joey McMullen (English), Morton Oxenboell (East Asian Languages and Cultures), Richard Sévère (English, Valparaiso University), Leah Shopkow (History), Barbara Vance (French & Italian), Sonia Velázquez (Religious Studies), Nick Vogt (East Asian Languages and Cultures), and Rega Wood (Philosophy) for their efforts in service to organizing this exciting conference.

The MAA 2021 Program may be viewed in full at maa2021.indiana.edu. Registration may be completed at the same; the cost for this year's virtual conference ranges from \$15 to \$50.



UPDATES FROM MEST GSAC

The Medieval Studies Institute Graduate Student Advisory Committee, which represents graduate student interests to the Medieval Studies Institute Board and faculty, remained active with a series of virtual meetings and events. Two events, in particular, were oriented toward encouraging a sense of community among medieval graduate students. The first was the new GSAC Halloween social, a panel of faux conference presentations students created from their very real research. Subjects included medieval ghost stories, what to do when a spider joins in on the eucharistic celebration, and the very obvious meaning behind medieval marginal illuminations. The event, modelled loosely on the annual Pseudo-Society panel held at Kalamazoo, will likely return next Fall.

Additionally, GSAC held its now-annual Friendsgiving Readers' Circle, an event at which graduate students can share their favorite texts in medieval languages. This year, GSAC is not organizing its usual Spring symposium—instead they are co-hosting and sponsoring a series of events in conjunction with the Medieval Academy of America, held at IU Bloomington this year. GSAC is co-hosting the panel, “Graduate Medievalists and the Institutions We Work In: Community and Activism,” (11am Friday 4/16); bringing its annual Transcribathon to MAA (6pm Thursday 4/15); and sponsoring a graduate student social immediately following the Transcribathon (8pm Thursday 4/15).

In addition to these events, GSAC regularly hosts the Bad Medieval Movie night, professionalizing events, and acts as graduate students' voice in course offerings, speaker selections, MEST events planning, and more. We encourage all graduate students interested in medieval studies to add your voice to this collective endeavor! MEST GSAC is a great way for medieval studies graduate students to stay connected, meet fellow medievalists from other departments, and participate in academic, professionalizing, and social events. GSAC encourages medievalists from all departments to become active so they may have a say in the development of GSAC events. Those interested in learning more should contact the current GSAC President, Maggie Gilchrist, at magilch@iu.edu or the current GSAC Vice-President, Gregory Tolliver, at gretolli@iu.edu.



FIRST-YEAR FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

MEST's first-year fellowship recipient this year is Garrett Mikulka.

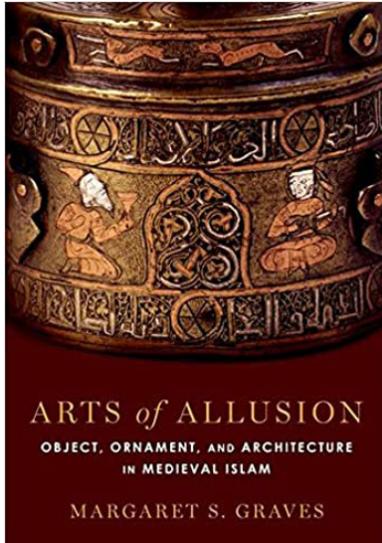
Garrett is a first-year PhD student in the Department of English. His primary interest is in late medieval devotional literature and religious expression, with recent research on Walter Hilton's Scale of Perfection and the influence of incarnational theology on his epistemology.





FACULTY AND STUDENT NEWS AND AWARDS

Margaret Graves, Associate Professor of Art History, won the Medieval Academy of America's 2021 Karen Gould Prize in Art History for her recent publication, *Arts of Allusion: Object, Ornament, and Architecture in Medieval Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).



Wayne Storey, emeritus, former director of the Medieval Studies Institute and current president of the Society for Textual Scholarship, edited a special issue of *The Romantic Review* entitled "The Pleasures of Dante's Text/Il piacere del testo dantesco," issue 112.1

(2021). Recently, he published "Borghini's Dilemma. Print Thinking and the Digital," in *Textual Cultures* 13.1 (2020) and the "Postfazione" to *Teoria e forme del testo digitale*, edited by Michelangelo Zaccarello and Greta Mazzaggio, Roma: Carocci, 2019. He continues his work on the Petrarche.org project with Isabella Magni, John Walsh and Marco Aresù, for which he is also completing a new translation of Petrarch's *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta* that will accompany the archive's rich-text editions and material commentary.

Cynthia Bannon, Professor of Classical Studies, published a Casebook on Roman Water Law.

Rosemarie McGerr, Professor of Comparative Literature, published an essay, "Gender and Representation" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature: The Medieval World*, ed. Ken Seigneurie, Christopher Lupke, Frieda Ekotto, and B. Venkat Mani (Wiley Publishing Company, 2020). She also completed "The Multilevel Polyphony of Machaut's *Livre dou Voir Dit* and

its Afterlife" for a collection of essays called *Polyphony and the Modern*, ed. Jonathan Fruoco (forthcoming from Routledge Publishing in 2021).

Christopher Beckwith, Distinguished Professor of Central Eurasian Studies, published an article on the creation and spread of the monastery-college: "Vihāras in the Kushan Empire" in Payne, Richard E. and Rhyne King, eds. (2020), *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan: Rule and Resistance in the Hindu Kush, circa 600 bce - 600 ce. Classica et Orientalia* 24. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 157-167. He also published two book translations: *Sizhou-zhi lushang-de diguo* Beijing: Zhongxin chuban jituan, 2020; and *Imperia jedwabnego szlaku*. Warsaw: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 2020.

Patty Ingham (Professor, English) and **Liz Hebbard** (Assistant Professor, French) were awarded a Public Arts and Humanities Project grant to found the IU Book Lab. The Book Lab, housed in the new



Cook Center for Public Arts & Humanities, is a research and maker space dedicated to the History of the Book and to pursuing current innovations in Book Arts and Book Design. The Book Lab focuses on the book as a physical art object, cultural object, and historical technology for writing, teaching, learning, reading. Our experiments and presentations engage books of different kinds: chapbooks and chapter books; miniature books and giant books; picture books and comic books. We aim to complement archival research with experimentation and collaboration in all aspects of the book arts, from the cultivation of plants for paper fibers and inks, to the creation of digital fonts based on historic typefaces. The Book Lab will officially launch in early spring 2021 by moving into its new space in Maxwell Hall and holding its first lab meeting soon thereafter.

Akash Kumar, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of French and Italian, published “Appreciating the Whole: Dante Now,” in *Dante Studies* 137 (2020): 178-186; and “Chess and

Cultural Crossings in Boccaccio,” in *Games and Visual Culture in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, ed. Elizabeth Lapina and Vanina Kopp (Turnhout: Brepols, 2020).

Shannon Gayk, Associate Professor of English, published a pair of essays on The Fifteen Signs of the Judgment: Apocalyptic Ecologies: Eschatology, the Ethics of Care, and the Fifteen Signs of the Doom in Early England,” in *Reassessing Alabaster Sculpture in Medieval England*, ed. Jessica Brantley, Elizabeth Teviotdale, and Stephen Perkinson, 229-260 (Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 2020).

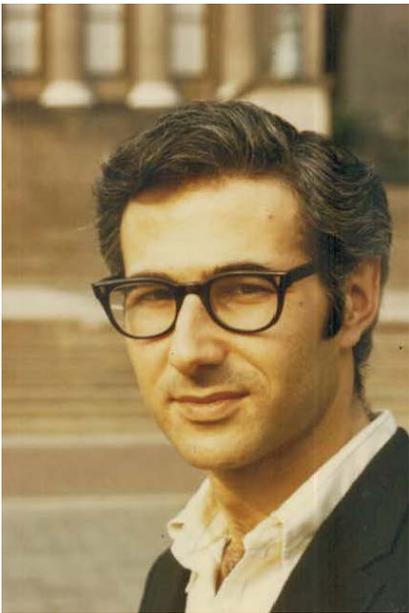
Asma Afsaruddin, Professor in the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures recently published the following: “Jihad and the Qur’an: Classical and Modern Interpretations” in the *Oxford Handbook in Qur’anic Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2020, 512-526; “Women and

the Qur’an,” also in the *Oxford Handbook on the Qur’an*, 527-537; “Jihad in Islamic Thought,” in the *Cambridge World History of Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 448-469; “Knowledge, Piety, and Religious Leadership in the Late Middle Ages: Reinstating Women in the Master Narrative,” in *Knowledge and Education in Classical Islam* (Brill, 2020), 941-595; “The Concept of Revelation in Islam,” in *Revelation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Walter de Gruyter, 2020), 144-193; “The Vocabulary of Revelation: Divine Intent and Self-Disclosure in the Qur’an,” *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* 22.1 (2020): 192-215; and “Learning and Scholarship: Unearthing the Roots of Humanism and Cosmopolitanism in the Islamic Milieu,” in *Cosmopolitan Civility: Global-Local Reflections in Honor of Fred Dallmayr* (State University of New York Press, 2020), 97-110. She is currently editing the *Oxford Handbook of Women and Islam*, forthcoming 2022.

INSTITUTE BLOG: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Institute’s Blog (blogs.iu.edu/medieval) celebrates the work of MEST’s faculty and students as they bring the Middle Ages to life both on and off campus. If you have pedagogical, research, or community activities pertinent to your interest in the Middle Ages, please share them by contributing to one of our monthly posts. Send your inquiries or proposals to the MEST Communications Assistant, Kayla Lunt, at kalunt@iu.edu.

Remembering Professor Samuel N. Rosenberg



*Samuel N. Rosenberg, c. 1962,
soon to arrive in Indiana.*

This scholar's career and accomplishments have been addressed in Jacques E. Merceron's contribution to the FRIT newsletter and are further explored in Christopher Callahan's "In Memoriam, Samuel N. Rosenberg (1936-2020)," soon to appear in TENSIO. I can only hope to complement their work with personal observations and with recollections that Sam shared over the years.

When Sam arrived in Bloomington in 1962, he expected his future

publications to consist of syntactic analyses of modern French (like his dissertation). Getting settled was a challenge. Sam had started work on the thesis at Johns Hopkins in 1960; then came a Fulbright year in Paris, a year of teaching at Columbia, and now a job as lecturer in an Indiana town where the only cheeses available were American and Velveeta. After a little more than a year in Bloomington, Sam and his wife politely divorced. In 1965, doctorate finally in hand, Sam advanced from lecturer to assistant professor. Around this time, it became clear that Meillet's foundational work on Indo-European had to be translated into English. And that a better grammar and workbook were needed for teaching modern French. And that there was no adequate scholarly anthology of Old French lyric for graduate courses. To ply his trade properly, Sam would have to forge certain tools—either alone (the translation) or in collaboration (the grammar and the anthology). The truly transformational collaboration was with Hans Tischler—a full professor of musicology with two doctorates—who unfailingly treated this young philologist with the respect and collegiality of a peer. This was Sam's model for collaboration through the rest of his life. It worked not just because it was polite; it worked because he managed to connect with first-rate collaborators, some of them still early in their careers or not yet recognized for the quality of their work. Somewhat similarly, Sam found great pleasure in the meetings of the Old French reading circle, where bright people put in the work to make sense of difficult texts. His mentoring of graduate students sometimes extended through the difficult early years of their careers, and their success brought him great satisfaction.

In some ways, academic culture was very different in Sam's early days. He made no effort to publish his dissertation (on the syntax of the French pronoun *ce*), but an editor approached Sam, and the thesis was published without revision. He did nothing to request tenure: one day, Sam simply got a congratulatory phone call. On the other hand, preparing an anthology of Old French lyric required years of traveling to far-flung libraries, struggling to get access to manuscripts, squinting at microfilm, and assembling binders of photostats. Learning the art of scholarly editing took time, first as Sam collaborated with Willi Apel on a collection of 14th-century French secular songs. Then the first two dissertations that Sam supervised required him to guide Charles R. Mudge and Richard A. Schutz through the editing of medieval song manuscripts. Sam felt that he was learning at least as much as he was teaching. Once the team of Rosenberg and Tischler had a complete manuscript for Chanter *m'estuet*, getting a publishing contract took a very, very long time, and even then with the requirement that the authors hire someone to typeset camera-ready copy... in Old French!

The rest of Sam's career is a more familiar story. From childhood, he had been very disciplined: procrastination and carelessness were unimaginable. One simply sat down and did one's work, whether it took an hour or a decade. He also had a fundamental belief that one has duty to make a contribution, and he saw writing and editing as a way he could fulfil that responsibility. The years of editing *Encomia* were particularly demanding, generally with more than 12 hours at the computer every day for years, bringing the journal onto a steady publication schedule and greatly expanding the review section, while Sam's own scholarship was on hiatus. He finally withdrew, about the time his health became less reliable. At the end of 2014, Sam was about halfway through a book translation when he had a stroke. He had to relearn how to type. At first, it took an evening's labor for him to type two sentences of a translation. Progress was fairly steady, and the translation was completed months later. Eventually, his eyesight became so poor that he translated only poetry. Still, Sam maintained regular work habits, and he produced a very impressive corpus of translated 19th-century verse (even after the Verlaine book). One evening in June 2020, he finished his evening's work at the computer, retired for the evening, and within a few hours needed to go to the emergency room. He had always insisted that he would not live if he could not work, and within about two weeks he was gone. His epitaph will read, in English and Hebrew, "His books were his garden. —after Judah ibn Tibbon (12th c.)."

—Jeffrey S. Ankrom (Sam's husband)

1936 - 2020



Letter from the Director

Dear Medieval Studies Faculty, Students, and Friends,

With the new semester well under way and the snow finally melting, I am glad to have the opportunity to look back at the events of last Fall while being reminded to look forward to all that the Spring has to offer.

Last Fall, we held our annual Alumni Lecture (given by Dr. Diane Fruchtman, Rutgers University) as well as a roundtable on Race and Medieval Studies (featuring Dr. Liz Hebbard, Dr. Akash Kumar, Dr. Morten Oxenboell, and Abby Ang). This Spring, we will host the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America as well as a number of workshops celebrating works-in-progress by faculty and students.

Thanks for the success of these events and the community that MEST supports through them is owed to all of you who, despite virtual meetings and disparate time zones, remain committed to medieval studies in Indiana.

I particularly want to express my gratitude to Shannon Gayk for her service as Director; to the Executive Committee, Stephanie Klausung, and Julia Mobley for helping with the leadership transition; and to Natalie Levin (Assistant to the Director), Kayla Lunt (Communications Assistant), and Jennifer Lopatin (TMR Editorial Assistant) for all they continue to do to support MEST's day-to-day operations.

It is a privilege to be MEST's Director and to be given the opportunity to serve this thriving and vibrant community.

In anticipation of all that spring will hold,

Jeremy Schott

Spring Award Competitions & Deadlines

MEST Grants-in-Aid Grants-in-aid in the amount of \$500-\$1500. Uses might include, but are not limited to: purchasing books and archival images, journal orders or subscriptions, digital resource subscriptions, or covering other costs in support of ongoing PhD study. Submit an application in the form of a letter of approximately two pages, outlining how the funds will be used. Applications should be submitted as PDF attachments to both mest@iu.edu and mestdir@iu.edu. Deadline March 15th.

C. Clifford Flanigan Fund Provides travel assistance for graduate students studying the Middle Ages to attend conferences. **Shirley Jean Cox Medieval Studies Conference Travel Fund** Provides travel support to present academic research at major conferences (excluding Kalamazoo), awarded on a competitive basis. During COVID-19 travel restrictions, these funds may be requested instead to cover the cost of registration for online conferences and/or other costs that would facilitate participation in conferences, symposia, and the like. Deadline for applications for these awards is March 12th, 2021.

Undergraduate Cox Thesis & Paper Prize Deadline for submissions is April 9th.

Learn more at medieval.indiana.edu

CONTACT MEST

The members of the administrative staff of MEST are:

Jeremy Schott, Director

Natalie Levin, Assistant to the Director

Kayla Lunt, Communications Assistant

If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, or for general correspondence with the Institute, please contact Natalie at MEST@INDIANA.EDU.

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 the personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two email accounts, we also maintain six distribution lists: one for undergraduate students, one for graduate students, one for alumni, one for faculty, one for core faculty, and one for community members.

If you would like to be added to any of those lists, please contact Natalie at MEST@INDIANA.EDU.

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Help Support the Work of the Medieval Studies Institute

Why? Your tax-deductible financial contribution allows MEST to continue to provide a diverse array of lectures, programs, and fellowships that promote the scholarship and teaching of the Middle Ages.

What? Gifts can be directed to any following funds:

- The Medieval Studies Institute General Fund: Your donation will provide general support to the Institute, helping us host events, invite speakers, and continue with our outreach.
- The Medieval Review Support Fund: Gifts will support the Medieval Review, an open-access journal that publishes reviews of books in medieval studies.
- The C. Clifford Flanigan Awards: Your donation will help support medievalist graduate students.
- The Shirley Jean Cox Undergraduate Fellowships: Your donation will help fund our two undergraduate prizes (for the best thesis and paper in medieval studies) and several grants to support undergraduate summer study, study abroad, or internships.

How?

- By mail: Checks made out to “Indiana University Foundation” may be mailed to The Medieval Studies Institute, Lindley Hall 201G 150 S Woodlawn Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405
- On our website: <https://medieval.indiana.edu/about/alumni-giving/index.html>
- Recurring bank or payroll deductions: Perhaps the easiest way to offer ongoing support of the work of the Institute, you can make a recurring monthly, quarterly, or annual gift that is deducted from your credit card or bank account. IU Employees can also set up recurring donations through payroll deduction. See <https://www.myiu.org/recurring-gift>.