1. Change at the Centre

Margaret Clunies Ross stepped down as Director on 30 June 2007 and Geraldine Barnes also decided that the time was right for her to step down as Associate Director. The Centre owes an enormous amount to both Margaret and Geraldine and I miss greatly the two people with whom I was associated in its foundation.

I have taken over as Director and an election was conducted among the members of the current Board to elect two new Associate Directors to hold office until the Annual General Meeting of 2007. I was pleased to be able to announce the election of Juanita Ruys and Andrea Williams as Associate Directors.

However, earlier this year a directive was received from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor that all Centres in the University of Sydney would be disestablished as of 30 September, unless re-established. On 17 September I submitted to the Dean a proposal to (re-)establish the Centre. He approved the continuation of the Centre and I delivered the proposal and other papers to the Provost on 20 September.

The University’s policy on Centres now requires them to be administered by an appointed Management Committee. The Management Committee (in our case to be known as the Board of the Centre) consists of the Director, the immediate past Director, and the two current Associate Directors (who all agreed to be nominated), and the University Officer (the Dean or his nominee, to whom the Director - in this case the Head of the School of Letters, Art, and Media - reports). Members of the Board will hold office for three years, in the first instance until 31 December 2010.

We are allowed to have an Advisory Committee to advise the Management Committee. It should be stressed that University policy is clear that an Advisory Committee advises but does not make decisions. Election of the Advisory Committee, consisting of two Members (members of the academic staff, other employees, Honorary Associates, or Research Fellows, of the University of Sydney), one Honorary Member (a member of the academic staff, other employee, Honorary Associate, or Research Fellow, of any other academy or institution of tertiary education), and two Student Members (one Undergraduate and one Postgraduate student of the University of Sydney) is currently under way. I envisage close co-operation between the Board and Advisory Committee. To facilitate this I have asked that the Director and Associate Directors be allowed to attend meetings of the Advisory Committee ex officio.

Over the next six months, the major task that I envisage for the Board and Advisory Committee will be to develop a Strategic Plan to ensure the survival of the Centre and its teaching and research programmes beyond 2010. I shall be looking for input from all members.

Personally, and I am sure that most members of the Centre will share this with me, I regret greatly the loss of our traditional democratic form of governance. However, there is no choice.
Nominations for membership of the Advisory Committee of the Centre received as of 12.00 noon Tuesday 27 November were:

(a) Members
2. Jane Hardie, nominated by Kathleen Nelson, seconded by Robert Curry
3. David Juste, nominated by Margaret Clunies Ross, seconded by Andrea Williams

(b) Honorary Member
Louise d’Arcens (Wollongong), nominated by Juanita Ruys, seconded by Daniel Anlezark

(c) Student Members
Postgraduate
1. Hilbert Chiu, nominated by Jenny Green, seconded by Chris Hughes

Undergraduate
1. Jenny Green, nominated by Hilbert Chiu, seconded by James Kane

2. Welcome

1. to Lawrence Warner who has left Adelaide to join the English Department here at Sydney. He is a specialist in Middle English literature, especially Piers Plowman.
2. to Hannah Burrows who replaces Tarrin Wills as Research Associate with Margaret Clunies Ross on the Skaldic Editing Project. Hannah comes from the University of York, UK, where she has just submitted her Ph.D. on literary-legal relations in medieval Iceland.

3. Promotions and Honours

1. Kathleen Nelson, Conservatorium of Music, was promoted to Senior Lecturer, Level C.
2. We congratulate Dan Anlezark for his award of Best Book Prize for his recent work Water and fire : the myth of the Flood in Anglo-Saxon England (Manchester UP, 2006). The prize was awarded in July by the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists at the Senate House, University of London.
3. We congratulate Michael Carter on his election as President of the Oriental Society of Australia and particularly on the publication of a Festschrift in his honour : Grammar as a window on to Arabic humanism : a collection of articles in honour of Michael G. Carter.
4. We congratulate Margaret Clunies Ross on the Symposium organised in her honour at Newnham College, Cambridge, 20-21 July 2007, on the occasion of a Festschrift presented to her entitled Learning and understanding in the Old Norse World : essays in honour of Margaret Clunies Ross.
5. Frances Muecke was elected to a Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

4. Teaching, 2007

The Centre offered four courses this year: MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages and MDST2608 The First Crusade (both co-ordinated by John Pryor), MDST2610 Medieval Cosmology (David Juste), and MDST3601 Medieval Latin Literature and Culture (Juanita Ruys). All have been outstandingly successful with highly enthusiastic students and were great fun to be involved in. My thanks go to all other staff and students involved in the teaching of MDST2601. I’ve learned a great deal from them.
The Written Record of the Middle Ages began with 21 students of whom 14 completed. High Distinctions 3, Distinctions 4, Credits 5, Passes 2, outstanding results for those who completed.

The First Crusade began with 28 students, of whom 20 completed. High Distinctions 3, Distinctions 3, Credits 9, Passes 4, Fail 1.

Medieval Cosmology began with 26 students of whom 24 completed. High Distinctions 5, Distinctions 8, Credits 9, pass 1, F 1.

Medieval Latin Literature and Culture unfortunately had only one formal enrolment. High Distinction 1. It is hoped that we can find ways to increase enrolments in the future.

5. Reading Groups

(All Reading Groups are welcome to use my Room, Woolley N306, as long as they meet at times not inconvenient for me. Organisers will from next year need a letter of permission and must assume responsibility for the conduct of the groups and care of the room.)

1. The Old English Reading Group continues this year as a forum for Anglo-Saxonists of any experience to read Old English and discuss issues relating to the Anglo-Saxon period. Contact Melanie Heyworth: Melanie.Heyworth@usyd.edu.au.

2. The Middle English Reading Group continues to meet on a weekly basis with an enthusiastic membership including retired and current academic staff, post- and undergraduates. Contact Diana Jefferies: Diana.Jefferies@usyd.edu.au.

3. The Middle Welsh and Old Irish Reading Groups are in abeyance. For future plans for MW/OI contact Bridgette Slavin: bsla7231@mail.usyd.edu.au.

4. The Elementary/Intermediate Latin Reading Group meets on Thursday evenings, in N306. Contact Hilbert Chiu: hchi3638@mail.usyd.edu.au.

5. The Advanced Medieval Latin Reading Group meets periodically on Fridays, 1.00-3.00, in N306. Contact John Ward: John.Ward@usyd.edu.au.

6. At the request of Jenny Green, I shall start a Medieval Charter Reading Group in Semester One 2008. The group will meet occasionally (I can’t be there every Wednesday) on Wednesdays, 12.00-1.00/2.00, in N306. The emphasis will be on diplomatic and the uses of charters for historians as well as on the language of charters within the context of medieval Latin literature (in which I defer to Juanita!). Contact John Pryor: John.Pryor@usyd.edu.au.

7. I believe that there may be some interest in starting an Old French Reading Group.

6. Visiting Scholar, 2007

Dr Piers Mitchell, Honorary Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London and Orthopaedic Specialist Registrar, North West Thames Rotation, 01/01/2007 – 31/12/2007.

Piers gave two lectures in the Centre’s Thursday evening lecture series and one to MDST2608 The First Crusade.

7. Lecture Series

(a) The Monthly Lecture Series, on last-Thursday evenings, 2007. We had eight lectures this year.
Semester 1

29 March : David Juste, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
Deciphering Astrological Notes in an Eleventh-Century Manuscript - The Horoscope of Ademar of Chabannes

26 April : Bernard Muir, Department of English, University of Melbourne
Tradition & Innovation in the Illustrating of Terence’s Latin Comedies

24 May : Piers Mitchell, Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, & Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
The world of the Crusader surgeon

7 June : Monica Azzolini, School of History, University of New South Wales
The Politics of Prognostication : The Horoscope of Galeazzo Maria Sforza

26 July : Frances Muecke, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney
Poems on Rome from the circle of Pomponio Leto : history, topography, encomium

Semester 2

3 August : Sam Lieu, Professor of Ancient History & Co-Director of the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University
Gallipoli before Gallipoli : Kallipolis (Gelibolu) between Byzantium and the Catalan Grand Company

20 September : Piers Mitchell, Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London, & Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
Health and medicine in the Crusades

25 October : Kathryn M. Rudy, Keeper of illuminated manuscripts, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague
Nuns’ virtual pilgrimages to the Holy Land

The new Occasional Lecture Series on Wednesdays at lunch time.

The first of these lectures was given by me on Wednesday 17 October and was entitled “A medieval siege of Troy : the Third Crusade and the fight to the death at Acre, 1189-91”. It was presented in a different format and seemed to be well received. I hope to be able to continue the Series.

8.. Library

Jane Hardie was successful in an application to the Library Expensive Items Allocation for $1,300 to purchase on microfilm/CD the Misal de Toledo (Misal Rico de Cisneros) and the Misal de Toledo (Toledo Biblioteca del Cabildo Mss 56-1-56-10), which are of interest and importance to her work on the Spanish liturgical manuscripts held in the Rare Book Library of Fisher Library.

The Centre received an allocation of $2,938 to spend on library purchases. With this we purchased 23 items and these should become available by early 2008. The Centre was subsequently able to purchase an additional 14 items, at a total cost of approximately $1,500, through the generosity of surplus library allocation from the Department of English.

Thanks to Juanita Ruys for handling the Library for us.
9. Research Funding

Elizabeth Bonner, Columbia University (NY) Institute for Scholars, Reid Hall (Paris), Fellowship for the Northern academic year September 2007 to June 2008, for “The Stuarts of Aubigny and their family archive”.

Tom Burton (on SSP in the UK) has been appointed to a Visiting Fellowship at the University of Southampton from June to December.

Louise D’Arcens, Stephanie Trigg, and Andrew Lynch, ARC Discovery Grant for “Medievalism in Australian cultural memory”.

Nick Eckstein, ARC Discovery Grant for “The anatomy and physiology of Renaissance Florence: the dynamics of social change in the fifteenth century”.

Jane Morlet Hardie, 2007-2009 ARC Network for Early European Research (NEER) funding for the Research Cluster “Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister: Western music and its sources 1100-1750”.

Frances Muecke, University of Sydney 2007 R&D Grant for “Flavio Biondo, Roma Triumphans: the invention of Rome” and a grant from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation to visit the Houghton Rare Book Library, Harvard University, in 2007-8.

10. Travel Funding

Louise Marshall, University of Sydney School of Language, Art, and Media grant to attend the 32nd Congress of the international committee of the history of art, “Crossing cultures: conflict, migration, convergence” and present the paper “Shaping the sacred in Cycles of St Roch: a new plague saint for Renaissance Italy”.

Lawrence Warner, University of Sydney School of Language, Art, and Media grant to attend, in November 2007 at the University of Tasmania, both the Bibliographical society of Australia and New Zealand’s “Spaces of print: exploring the history of books” conference, presenting the paper “A fourteenth-century legal manuscript in Sydney and its relationship to Edward III, Piers Plowman, Henry VIII, (and others)”, and the ARC NEER Knowledge networks and reading communities Cluster’s “Useful knowledges and vernacularity: manuscripts, readers, and information in late medieval England” conference, presenting the paper “Unnoticed fragments of Gower and John of Bridlington and why they haven’t been noticed”. In December he will return to Hobart to present a paper as response to Professor Carolyn Dinshaw “Queer history/temporalities” project at the ARC NEER Knowledge networks and reading communities Cluster’s “Time and temporalities” conference.

11. Conferences here in 2007

1. The Department of Hebrew, Biblical, and Jewish Studies hosted two International Conferences on Hebrew and Mandaean Studies respectively in early July, both chaired by Rifaat Ebied. The Centre for Medieval Studies made a subvention of $1,000.

   (a) The 25th International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture, was held at the Sydney University Village. Over sixty papers of a high level of academic content, including some seven presentations by staff members and postgraduate students from SLC, were presented.
(b) the ARAM (an Oxford-based Academic Organisation) **International conference on Mandaean Studies**, was held at Sancta Sophia College and brought together a large number of scholars, Ph.D. candidates, and members of the Mandaean community in Sydney and Melbourne.

2. **The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium**

The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium took place between the 10th and 14th of July. Convened by Dr Andrea Williams from the Department of French Studies and funded by SLC, the Faculty of Arts, and the Centre for Medieval Studies, the conference brought together many of the leading international scholars in the area of Arthurian Studies. The Centre made a subvention towards the Colloquium’s Reception of up to $1,000 [actually $990].

The general theme of the conference was “New approaches to old problems”, with plenary lectures given by Emeritus Professor Peter Field of the University of Wales, Bangor, Professor Keith Busby of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Professor Norris Lacy of Pennsylvania State University.

During the conference, colleagues from Worldwide Universities Network affiliated institutions met to discuss possibilities for future collaborative research, teaching, and exchanges. One outcome was the decision to create a new undergraduate Unit of Study (for 2009) on Arthurian Literature which will be team-taught (via videolink and on-line discussions) by colleagues in the UK, the US, and the Netherlands, as well as here in Sydney. In Sydney it will become an MDST Unit of Study.

3. **The Fourth Australian Early Medieval Association Conference**

Carole Cusack organised The Fourth Australian Early Medieval Association Conference, University of Sydney, 26-28 September, subsidised by the Centre for Medieval Studies, on the theme “Conversion and cultural transformation”. Twenty-six papers were given, including 10 by postgraduate students. Lyn Olson’s new book, *The early Middle Ages: the birth of Europe* was launched at the Reception on 26 September.

12. **Research Report, 2007**

An extensive report on members’ research activities was given in the Centre’s Newsletter of October 2007 edited by Gabrielle Singleton, for which we extend to her our sincere thanks. That report is far too long to rehearse *in toto* here and I merely single out what I consider to be some of the highlights. Apologies to those who may feel dispossessed.

1. I am pleased that our postgraduates are so active in presenting papers at conferences but urge them to remember the main game.

2. **Michael Carter**’s research output continues to defy belief. By my count he has published 8 articles and chapters this year as well as completing and submitting another 5 more.

3. We congratulate **Jose Manuel Cerda**, an erstwhile Student Member, whose Ph.D. thesis, *The councils of Henry II in England*, has been successful.


5. **Margaret Clunies Ross**’s peripatetic activities continue to amaze.

6. **Jane Hardie** has been active on the conference circuit in Sydney, Zurich, and Brisbane and has published a chapter, “Salamanca to Sydney: a newly discovered manuscript of the Lamentations of Jeremiah”, in *Music in Medieval Europe* (Ashgate, 2007), 11-22.
7. Melanie Heyworth has been in the UK finishing the research for her book, *Forsaking sex: Aelfric’s discourse of marriage*, and has published three new articles in 2007.

8. Perhaps the Centre’s most outstanding publication for the year has been David Juste’s monumental *Les Alchandreana primitives: étude sur les plus anciens traités astrologiques latins d’origine arabe (Xe siècle)* (Leiden-Boston, Brill, 2007) [Brill’s Studies in Intellectual History, 152], xvi+727 pp. During a six-week research trip to Europe, David finished collecting the material for the first two volumes of his *Catalogus codicum astrologorum Latinorum* (catalogue of the Latin astrological manuscripts) which will be devoted to the manuscripts of, respectively, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris.

9. Louise Marshall travelled to Italy on a University R & D grant, researching early Renaissance fresco cycles of the life of St. Roch (appealed to for protection against bubonic plague). She met officials and members of the Italian Association of St. Roch and Paolo Ascagni, Director of the Associated International Scholarly Committee for Studies on Saint Roch (*Comitato Internazionale Storico-Scientifico per gli Studi su San Rocco e la Storia Medievale*).


11. Kathleen Nelson’s chapter “Commemorations of the light; the Exultet in Toledo sources from ca 1200 to ca 1600” has appeared in *Commemoration, ritual and performance: essays on medieval and early modern music*, Jane Morlet Hardie and David Harvey eds (Ottawa, 2007).


13. John Pryor completed a long article entitled “A view from a masthead: the First Crusade from the sea”, the first ever comprehensive and systematic study of all maritime aspects of the First Crusade, which has been accepted for publication in 2008 in the journal *Crusades*. He will give lecture versions of this next year in Sydney and in Vancouver.


15. Juanita Ruys has presented, in Sydney, Adelaide, Tuscon, and Perth, a series of lectures on medieval women’s Latin writing, on Heloise’s Ep. IV, and on parent-child didactic literature. She also went to Europe to finalise research on Abelard’s *Carmen ad Astrolabium*. Her proposal (together with John Ward and Melanie Heyworth) for a volume of papers based last year’s Classics in the Classroom conference has been accepted by Brepols. She has had a proposal for a book on medieval parent-child didactic literature accepted for publication by de Gruyter in the series Fundamentals of Medieval Culture.


13. **Financial Reports**

As of 31 October 2007 our accounts contained the following:

1. D3501 00000 (our recurrent account) : $45,292. This account has been deliberately run down by $4,037.
2. D3501 11111 (our ‘investment’ account) : $55,947. This account has increased by $6,382.
3. D3501 D1055 (a special account for conference monies) : $332.
4. D3503 11111 (the Australian Language Usage Centre) : $24,422. This account falls under our auspices for historical reasons. I am assured by the Dean that, should that Centre be wound up under the current review of centres, its funds will be transferred to us.
5. Jane Hardie’s conference fund contains $5,000.
6. Our account for sales of CDs contains $1,462.
7. Total accumulated funds : $132,155, of which $107,733 are currently available to us.

Current requests for clarification.
1.. $5,000 from an anonymous donor.
2.. $2,000 from NEER.

14.. Teaching, 2008

Next year we shall offer four courses :

MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages (Co-Ordinator John Pryor), Semester 1 - pre-enrolments 20
MDST2609 Crusade and Jihad (John Pryor), Semester 2 - pre-enrolments 32
MDST2612 Byzantium between East and West (Vrasidas Karalis), Semester 1 - pre-enrolments 16
MDST2611 Medieval Heroes and Heroines (Andrea Williams), Semester 2 - pre-enrolments 46

15.. Conferences here in 2008

1.. Symposium on Spanish Manuscripts
In July 2008 Jane Hardie will convene a three-day international symposium “Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister : Spanish liturgical music manuscripts at the University of Sydney and their international contexts”. This Symposium, hosted by Fisher Library and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney, will bring together musicologists, art historians, liturgiologists, and literary scholars from Australia, the USA, Spain, and Hong Kong. The Symposium’s papers will be developed into a monograph.

2.. Symposium on Old Norse and Icelandic studies
There will be an Old Norse and Icelandic Studies research cluster symposium, sponsored by NEER, at the University of Sydney on 2 April 2008, to which all research-active scholars and postgraduate students of Old Norse in Australia have been invited. The Symposium will be open to Centre members and will be held in the Rogers Room, John Woolley Building. There is no set Symposium theme. Invitees have been encouraged to present papers on their ongoing research or work in progress. The Symposium will be followed by a 2-day meeting of the General Editors of the Skaldic Editing Project (funded by the ARC and several overseas funding bodies) at the Wombeyan Caves on 3-4 April.

16.. Other Centre activities in 2008

(a) The Centre’s Monthly Lecture Series.

Offers to give lectures have been received from Yvette Debergue, Melanie Heyworth, and Margaret Clunies Ross. I (John Pryor) also wish to try out a lecture I have to give in Vancouver in April next year.
Negotiations are also in train with Keith Busby (Arthurian Studies - University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Simon Barton (Reconquista Spain - University of Exeter) both of whom intend to be in Australia at some time next year. Other offers and notification of other international scholars who may be in Australia next year are invited. The Board will decide on the programme for next year when it meets after the election of the Advisory Committee.

(b) The new Occasional Lecture Series on Wednesdays at lunch time. For this new series of lectures with a difference, of which there will be only one per semester, I have asked our two Associate Directors to give them next year: Andrea Williams in Semester One and Juanita Ruys in Semester Two.

(c) I am also keen to recommence Study Days for members of the Centre and the Public and would welcome proposals.

16. Staff of the Centre for 2008

1. John Pryor, Director
2. Juanita Ruys, Associate Director & ARC QEII Senior Research Fellow
3. Andrea Williams, Associate Director
4. David Juste, U. of S. Postdoctoral Research Fellow
5. Honoraries
   Elizabeth Bonner, Honorary Associate
   Michael Carter, Honorary Professor
   Robert Curry, Honorary Senior Lecturer
   Matthew Glozier, Honorary Associate
   Jane M. Hardie, Honorary Senior Lecturer
   Max Walkley, Honorary Senior Lecturer
   John O. Ward, Honorary Reader
6. Applications for Honorary Associates to be presented to the Advisory Committee & the Board
   Cathy Curtis, Ph.D. Cambridge
   Sarah Randles, Ph.D. ANU

18. Centre Visitors next year

(a) Edward James, University College, Dublin: Visiting Research Fellow in the CMS for nine weeks, 31 March - 2 June, 2007. “Oral transmission and oral tradition in early medieval societies”.
(b) Keith Busby, Professor of Medieval French, University of Wisconsin.
(c) Simon Barton, Professor of History, University of Exeter.
(d) Torfi Tulinius, Professor of French, University of Iceland.
(e) Albrecht Klassen, University of Arizona.

John Pryor
27 November 2007