The Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Sydney
Newsletter

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Edited by
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Website http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/medieval/

The Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney was formally inaugurated in August 1997 and is now embarked on its eleventh year of successful operation. The Newsletter is circulated electronically to all Members of the Centre (Honorary Research Associates and Fellows of this Centre; Staff and Student Members of the University of Sydney; Honorary Members: Staff and Students at other Universities and tertiary education institutions; Associate Members: University of Sydney alumni and the general public). Normally it appears biannually, in March and August, with 2007 an exception. It includes a programme of events for the coming semester as well as news of Centre activities, members’ research projects and publications, and teaching. We welcome members’ news items and contributions. Please send them to medieval.enquiries@arts.usyd.edu.au or gabrielle.singleton@arts.usyd.edu.au.
Vale

We note the passing of Peter Graham Young O.A.M., in his nineties, an Associate Member of the Centre from 1988, who continued to maintain his interest in its activities until very recently.

A Report From John Pryor

1. I am pleased to be able to confirm that, as a result of our representations last year, the Centre’s continuing existence was confirmed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor in December 2007. The precious letter is on file in my room.

2. At the same time, I was appointed Director of the Centre, to hold office for three years until 31 December 2010, at which time I shall retire.

3. My recommendations for the composition of the Board of the Centre, namely the University Officer [currently, Head of School of SLAM - Geraldine Barnes], the two Associate Directors [currently, Juanita Ruys and Andrea Williams], and the immediate past Director of the Centre [currently, Margaret Clunies-Ross], were also accepted. The members of the Board hold office for three years and it is expected that a similar Board will continue beyond 2010 after the Centre is reviewed.

4. At the same time, we were allowed to hold elections for an Advisory Committee (AC) to assist the Board and I was very pleased that the following were elected. Two Members of the Centre [currently Carole Cusack and Jane Hardie], one Honorary Member [currently, Louise D’Arcens], one postgraduate student [currently, Hilbert Chiu], and one undergraduate student [currently, Jenny Green]. Subsequently, the AC elected Jane Hardie as its Chair. Members of the AC also hold office for three years, except for the two students. Another election for their positions will be held at the commencement of Semester I in 2009. The AC is working extremely productively and I am grateful to its members.

5. I am pleased that the student members of the AC, together with Melanie Heyworth, have organized a student-run Seminar. I hope that all members of the Centre will give their support to our students.

6. Finally, I was on leave during Semester II 2007 and should like to thank very much Julie Ann Smith, who acted for me as Co-Ordinator of Medieval Studies.

From Room N306

John Pryor
Teaching

1. The Centre has four undergraduate courses on offer this year.
   MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages (Semester I, Co-Ordinator John Pryor)
   MDST2612 Byzantium between East and West (Semester I, Vrasidas Karalis)
   MDST2609 Crusade and Jihad (Semester II, John Pryor)
   MDST2611 Medieval Heroes and Heroines (Semester II, Andrea Williams)
   All have good enrolments, especially 2609 and 2611.

2. For 2009 the Board has decided to give MDST2601 a rest. It has been taught continuously since 1997 and it is felt that it is time to rotate it occasionally. From 2009 it will not be a requirement for a Major in Medieval Studies. That requirement will be replaced by simply at least 12 credit points (two Units of Study) of MDST courses. This change has been approved by Faculty.
   For 2009, our undergraduate courses will be
   MDST2607 Medieval Literary and Artistic Genres (Semester I, Co-Ordinator John Pryor)
   MDST2612 Medieval Cosmology (Semester I, David Juste)
   MDST2608 The First Crusade (Semester II, John Pryor)
   MDST2613 Sex and Sin in the Middle Ages (Semester II, Juanita Ruys & Melanie Heyworth).
   This looks like a very attractive range of offerings and I hope that it will maximize our student numbers in 2009, which will be a very important year in so far as the continuation of the Centre’s teaching programmes beyond 2010 is concerned.

3. From 2009 also, the requirement for prospective IV-Honours students to complete Units of Study to the value of 12 credit points from the so-called List B (these are UoSs which in years past were widely used as ‘Honours qualifying’ courses) will be discontinued. It had to be because there are virtually no such courses now taught anywhere in the Faculty. This change has also been approved by Faculty.

4. The Report of the Faculty Committee appointed to review IV Honours, tabled at the last Faculty meeting, then referred to the Faculty’s Policy and Review Committee, to which objections could be made, came back to the Faculty Meeting of 5 May. This report contained two essential recommendations which would, in my opinion, if implemented have the effect of forcing a discontinuation of Honours in Medieval Studies. They are (1) that IV-Honours students should take course-work seminars unique to IV-Honours (i.e., not available to postgraduates or senior-level undergraduates) and (2) that, where departments are unable to offer such seminars, their students should take such seminars offered generically by Faculty.
   I responded at length to this absurd proposal, as did many others, and our students (co-ordinated by Jenny Green) also made their own submission.
   There are other aspects to the Committee’s proposals but, suffice it to say, in my opinion such a new system could not be implemented for 2009, and very improbably for 2010. There is widespread opposition to it from many departments around the Faculty and we shall have to see whether it finally ‘gets up’ at all. In the meantime, we may have bumper numbers of IV-Honours students in 2009-2010.

John Pryor
Reading Groups

The ‘Advanced’ Latin Reading Group has continued to meet (Fridays 1-3 p.m., either in John Pryor’s room or in the Holme Building cafeteria) whenever John Ward is in town. It is currently reading William of Malmesbury’s ‘Polyhistor’ – a fine amalgam of bowdlerised classical lore with medieval comments, a generally under-studied work. They are preparing an annotated translation of it. Anyone is welcome to join : contact John.Ward@usyd.edu.au.

The Old English and the Middle English Reading Groups continue to thrive as does the Medieval Latin Group. The Middle Welsh and Old Irish Reading Groups have been in abeyance while Bridgett Slavin was completing her Ph.D. (now submitted & awaiting acceptance). All are informal and open to anyone interested - students and staff alike - who doesn’t want to translate the text beforehand but is content to read it unseen (though ‘homework’ is not frowned upon as it helps those who haven’t had time!). For current information on times and places contact:

for OERG Melanie.Heyworth@arts.usyd.edu.au,
for MERG Kathy.Watson@student.usyd.edu.au,
for Medieval Latin Hilbert Chiu hchi3638@mail.usyd.edu.au;
and for future plans for MW/OI Bridgette Slavin, bsla7231@mail.usyd.edu.au.

We also now have a Medieval Latin Charters Reading Group which meets on Mondays at 12.00 in John Pryor’s room, Woolley N306.

Invitation

VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAMME, Swansea University Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research (MEMO)

The Centre invites applications at any time from Visiting Scholars who wish to be based in south Wales for periods from a few days up to one year. Swansea University has a good library collection and can be used as a base for visits to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth and to other major collections in the UK. Visiting Scholars are given a dedicated workstation with access to e-mail, printing, and photocopying.

For further details contact
Professor Helen Fulton, Director MEMO,
Department of English,
Swansea University, Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales, UK.

Conference

Symposium on Spanish Manuscripts

For July Jane Hardie has organised and convened a three-day International Interdisciplinary 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, will bring together musicologists, art historians, liturgiologists, and literary scholars from Australia, the USA, Spain, and Hong Kong. The papers from this Symposium will be developed into a monograph. For full details, see http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/libraries/rare/cathedral/.
Lectures & Papers

The Centre continues to present evening lectures by local medievalists and visiting scholars on a variety of medieval topics. All members and their guests are welcome at these free lectures delivered by experts in a manner accessible to those without specialist knowledge of the topics.

Unless otherwise indicated, evening lectures are at 5.30 p.m. on a Thursday (generally the third or fourth of the month) in the Common Room, Floor Four, John Woolley Building, A20, with refreshments beforehand from 5 p.m. (Unfortunately, University policy no longer allows us to use Centre funds for alcohol, so we now charge - minimally - for this. Juice is free, as are cheese and biscuits, etc., since we are allowed to use Centre funds for these.) Afterwards we take the speaker to dinner at a restaurant in Glebe and members are warmly invited to come along (approximately $35 a head). Please let us know by noon latest the day before if you want to join us.

We have had four lectures this semester, three on Thursday evenings and one Wednesday lunchtime Special Lecture.

On Wednesday 19 March John Pryor lectured on “A view from a masthead : the First Crusade viewed from the Sea”, which was followed by late lunch at the Nag’s Head. On Thursday 10 April Torfi Tulinius, Professor of French and Medieval Literature, University of Iceland, lectured on “Narratology, psychoanalysis, and the sagas : new insights into the structure of Ærbyggia Saga” and on Thursday 8 May Edward James, Professor of Medieval History, University College, Dublin, our Visiting Professorial Fellow this semester, lectured on “Oral transmission and oral tradition in early medieval societies”. On Wednesday 28 May Professor Keith Busby, Department of French and Italian, University of Wisconsin-Madison will lecture on “French Arthurian Romance and ‘manuscripture’ [i.e. reading texts in manuscripts as opposed to editions]”.

On Monday 19 May our Students inaugurated a Student Seminar Series with two presentations, by Bridgette Slavin on “Coming to terms with Druids in early medieval Ireland” and by Deslee Campbell on “Working women in the visual art of Byzantium & the Byzantine influenced Western Mediterranean, A.D. 395-1204”. The evening was well attended and a resounding success, thanks to the organisers, Melanie Heyworth, Jenny Green, and Hilbert Chiu. We hope that the series will continue as successfully next semester and urge all members to support the series and our students.

Next semester we shall have four normal lectures and one Special Lecture. On Thursday 31 July Dr Alfred Hiatt (Leeds) will lecture on “Mapping the Antipodes before 1600”.

At noon on Wednesday 13 August, also in the Common Room, John Woolley Building, Professor Mark Pegg (Washington University, St Louis) will lecture on “The Albigensian Crusade and the battle for Christendom”. Professor Pegg is a world-renowned expert on southern French heresy, the Inquisition, and the Albigensian Crusade. His recent book A most Woly War: the Albigensian Crusade and the battle for Christendom has been attracting rave reviews. The lecture will be followed by lunch at the Nag’s Head.

For 2009, the Centre invites you to ‘offer your services’ – please let us know if you would like to give a lunchtime paper or evening lecture, so we can arrange the schedule in good time.
Members’ Activities

Dan Anlezark spoke on ‘The Old English Dialogues of Solomon and Saturn and the Homiletic Tradition ’ in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on 8 May 2008.

John Beston’s English translation (the first) of Jean Renaut’s long (some 8,000 lines) poem *Galeran de Bretagne* (from 1200) was published in April 2008 by Edwin Mellen Press. His article on the poem, “Une belle conjointure : The Structure of Galeran de Bretagne!”, was published in *Neophilologus* in January, 92 (2008): 19-33; another has been accepted for publication in the same journal.


Accepted for publication are

Mike’s other activities comprised
A talk to the Linguistics Department, University of Sydney, ‘Problems in writing the history of Arabic’ (giving the talk was actually one of them) June 2007.
Writing and sending out the *Newsletter of the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists* (some 280 copies), October 2007.
An appearance in November 2007 at the University of Ghent as examiner at the doctoral defence of Amal Maroughi, whom he had supervised for some time by correspondence. She successfully defended her thesis, and has since been appointed as an Arabic language teacher at Cambridge University.
Chairing a panel at a conference on Humour, Women’s College, University of Sydney, with a short presentation, February 2008.

Advising a colleague at Oslo University on the manuscript collections of Timbuktu.

His continuing connection with the Sibawiki Project. Norwegian funding was obtained to continue with the project on a small scale: several more chapters will be added (the work is being done in St. Petersburg).

Mike is still slogging away at the *History of Arabic*, with increasing desperation; working on recataloguing the grammatical manuscripts in the Chester Beatty collection; and correcting the English translation of *Arabische Chrestomathie* by Fischer/Bräunlich for colleagues in Oslo. *Diogenes* has invited him to write an article on Muslim education, due March 2009; and the *Journal of Islamic Studies* has asked for reviews of W. Diem, *Wurzelrepetition und Wunschsatz*, due late 2008, and of the second volume of R. M. Frank *Philosophy, Theology and Mysticism in Medieval Islam* due early 2008. He will attend the conference of the *Union of European Arabists and Islamicists* in Leipzig, next September, but is unable to prepare a paper (see above).

On 2 April Margaret Clunies Ross, with the assistance of Hannah Burrows, convened an Old Norse symposium (with funding courtesy of NEER) which was followed on 4-5 April by a two-day meeting of the General Editors and Research Associates of the Skaldic Editing Project, at the Wombeyan Caves, NSW. The symposium speakers are listed on the appended programme.

Margaret’s article ‘Stylistic and Generic Definers of the Old Norse Skaldic Ekphrasis’ appears in *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* 3 (2007), 161-85. She is editor of *Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages*. Vol. VII. Poetry on Christian Subjects. Parts 1 and 2. Turnhout: Brepols, 2007. lxix + 1040 pp., which was recently celebrated at a literary lunch at the Centre, during the course of which she was asked about her Honorary Doctorate conferred at Gothenburg in 2000. She responded by modelling for us her laurel wreath (no long verdant) and top hat. Undergraduate Brenton Clifford couldn’t resist a couple of photos!
Most of Matthew Glozier’s time in 2007 was devoted to co-editing, with Dr David Onnekink from Utrecht University, *War, religion, and service : Huguenot soldiering, 1685–1713*, a collection of essays for Ashgate’s ‘Politics and Culture in North-West Europe 1650-1720’ series. One chapter, on Huguenot soldiers in Russia, is by Matthew and another, on Huguenot soldiers in the Dutch army, he jointly authored with David Onnekink. The volume was a major undertaking over 3 or 4 years, drawing together scholars from Britain, Ireland, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, and, of course, Australia. Late in 2007 he began work on a chapter on warfare, soldiers, and armies in Scotland, 1560-1625, commissioned by Edinburgh University Press for the new *A Military History of Scotland* to be edited by Professor Matthew Strickland (Glasgow University) et al.

Jane Hardie is the convenor of the ARC/NEER-funded Research Cluster “Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister : Western Music and its Sources 1000-1750” located at the Centre for Medieval Studies and consisting of scholars from across Australia, the US, and Spain. It has an ongoing programme of publication and conferences planned for the next several years. She is also co-convenor and organizer of the International Symposium Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister : Spanish Liturgical Music Manuscripts at the University of Sydney and their International Contexts to be held at the University of Sydney, July 9-11 2008. This Symposium has 15 speakers from Spain, Australia, the USA, and Hong Kong. Jane herself will be giving the invited paper ‘Salamanca’s Siblings : Fisher Mss 327, 349 and 351’.


David Juste, for his former Ph.D. supervisor, co-edited the festschrift volume *Mélanges offerts à Hossam Elkhadem par ses amis et élèves* (Brussels, Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique, Numéro Spécial 83, 2007, 494 pp., with Frank Daelemans, Jean-Marie Duvosquel and Robert Halleux). This volume contains two of David’s contributions (in French), ‘Eulogy Hossam Elkhadem’ (pp. 21-22) and ‘The Planetary Sphere of MS Vatican, BAV, Pal. lat. 1356 (Twelfth Century). An Unpublished Piece of Gerbert’s Astronomy?’ (pp. 205-221).

David also delivered the following talks:
- *Science and magic in the early Middle Ages*, seminar ‘Science et Magie au Moyen Age’ organised by Jean-Patrice Boudet and Nicolas Weill-Parot, Université de Paris VIII, 8 February 2008 (in French)
- *Nemroth’s “horologium rotundum” and the calculation of the horoscope in the early Middle Ages*, conference on Greek, Arabic and Latin cosmology organised by Barbara Obrist, Centre d’Histoire
• *The Astrolabe: The Instrument of Medieval Astronomers and Astrologers*, Night Talks Series, the Australian Museum, Sydney, 3 April 2008


• *The astrological Rome since Fritz Saxl (1934)*, commented visit of the Villa Farnesina as closing session of the conference ‘Music and esotericism’ [see above], 18 April 2008 (in French)


**Conor McCarthy**’s *Seamus Heaney and Medieval Poetry* was published in February by D.S. Brewer, details at [http://www.boydell.co.uk/4384141X.HTM](http://www.boydell.co.uk/4384141X.HTM).


John Pryor was on leave last Semester and spent most of it working on the chapter on the Third Crusade and the siege of Acre for a new book on the maritime history of the Crusades. On 17 October he gave a lecture to the Centre based on that research and entitled ‘A medieval siege of Troy: the Third Crusade and the fight to the death at Acre, 1189-1191’.

John has accepted an invitation to write a chapter, provisionally ‘Maritime technologies’, for The Cambridge History of War. Volume Two: War and the medieval world, and is also writing, with Michael Jeffreys, an article about the reported offer – by Alexios I Komnenos to Bohemond of Taranto when the latter passed through Constantinople during the First Crusade – of lands 15 days’ march in length and 8 days’ march in width somewhere beyond Antioch. The veracity of this report has been much disputed but John and Michael believe they can prove, through a combination of written sources and seal evidence, that it was intended to be a marcher lordship in the lands of upper Mesopotamia between the Tigris and the Euphrates centred on Edessa, lands which by 1097 had drifted out of direct Byzantine control and were in the hands of many Armenian lords with imperial titles of various kinds. John and Michael will argue that Alexios intended to use this offer of a land grant to Bohemond, together with the title of Grand Domestic of the East, to restore direct imperial control over these territories.

His paper ‘Soldiers of fortune in the fleets of Charles I of Anjou, King of Sicily, ca 1265-85’ was published in Mercenaries and Paid Men: the mercenary identity in the Middle Ages, J. France ed. (Leiden, Brill, 2008), pp. 119-41, and ‘The Chain of the Golden Horn, 5-7 July 1203’ (with Peter R. Wilson) was published in In laudem Hierosolymitani: studies in Crusades and medieval culture in honour of Benjamin Z. Kedar, I. Shagrir, R. Ellenblum, & J. Riley-Smith eds (Aldershot, Ashgate, 2007), pp. 369-84.

In November 2007 at the Symposium Tradition and transition: maritime studies in the wake of the Byzantine shipwreck at Yassi Ada, Turkey, at the Institute of nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, he gave a paper entitled ‘A medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution: Crusading by Sea ca 1096-1204’. In February 2008 he gave a lecture entitled ‘A view from a masthead: the First Crusade viewed from the sea’ at the presentation conference for Beni Kedar in Jerusalem and again in April at a Workshop in honour of Professor Richard W. Unger on the occasion of his retirement, at the Department of History, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. An article based on these lectures will appear in Crusades next year. In late August 2007 he will give a paper in Avignon at the International Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, again on the topic of a medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution ‘Crusading by Sea ca 1096-1204’.

Juanita Feros Ruys has several publications to report, namely


Julie Ann Smith’s publications are


2007 ‘“What Now Lies Before Their Eyes” : Mapping the Christian Holy Land‘, Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism 4 http://www.jgrchj.net.current

2007 ‘“My Lord’s Native Land” : Mapping the Christian Holy Land’, Church History 76:1, pp. 1-31


John O. Ward, John Scott, and Hilbert Chiu are preparing an annotated translation of the De fide catholica (Contra haereticos, against Cathars, Waldensians, Jews, and Saracens) of Alan of Lille, a key intellectual figure at the end of the so-called ‘Twelfth-century Renaissance’. They plan to translate the Migne text, but are investigating other manuscripts to ‘control’ the Migne text. They have completed a first version of their translation and are in contact with leading scholars on the subject. John is writing a chapter on the ‘end’ of the so-called ‘Twelfth-century Renaissance’ in a volume being prepared by the research ‘cluster’ which Juanita Ruys organised (with NEER inspiration) on the so-called ‘Twelfth-century Renaissance’. Progress is also being made on his and Juanita’s book The Repentant Abelard, a study of Abelard’s classical and rhythmic poetry of the 1130s, and on the joint edition of William of Champeaux’s glosses on Cicero’s De inventione and the Rhetorica ad Herennium, to be published by Brepols. This latter volume is being prepared by Juanita Ruys, John Scott, and John Ward. Progress is also being made on a Census of manuscripts and early printed texts of Cicero’s De inventione and the Rhetorica ad Herennium (together with certain related works), a preliminary exercise for the entries on these two classical texts for the Union Académique Internationale series ‘Catalogue of translations and commentaries written in the middle ages on classical works’, Virginia Brown ed.


Leon Wild, an M.Phil. student in the Department of Studies in Religion, University of Sydney, gave the paper ‘The Raven Banner at Clontarf, the context of an Old Norse legendary icon’ at the Vikings and their Enemies symposium at the University of Melbourne, 24 November 2007. At the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 between the Scandinavian settlers of Dublin and their enemies, the forces of Brian Boru the High King of Ireland, an ominous rôle is ascribed to the Scandinavian forces’ ‘Raven Banner’. Leon’s paper sought to explore the sources and context of the Raven Banner and to show
that its description is very consistent with mythological ideas strongly connected to the chief god of the Norse world, Óðinn.

At the Sydney Symposium in Old Norse-Icelandic Studies, University of Sydney, 2 April 2008, Leon gave the paper ‘Ravens in Old Norse myth and literature’ which considered two instances of ravens in Old Norse literature: an overview of Óðinn’s mythic ravens together with some details about why ravens are associated with Óðinn, leading into a specific literary example, that of Flóki Vilgerðarson’s ravens in the settlement of Iceland.
Programme

8.45 - 9.15 Registration

9.15 - 9.30 Opening remarks

9.30 - 11.00 Session 1 - 'Other' Worlds. Chair: Lauren Goetting (Indiana) (TBC)
   Geraldine Barnes (Sydney), """"Things Greek and the riddarasögur": A Reconsideration"
   Anna Hansen (Sydney), 'Characteristics of Fantastic Space in the Sagas'
   Leon Wild (Sydney), 'Ravens in Old Norse Myth and Literature'

11.00 - 11.30 Morning coffee

11.30 - 1.00 Session 2 - Cultural Issues behind Saga-Telling. Chair: Sam Fletcher (Sydney)
   Lisa Bennett (Flinders), 'Two Important Sites of Cultural Memory in the Íslendingasögur'
   Hannah Burrows (Sydney), 'Cold Cases: Law and Legal Detail in the Íslendingasögur'
   Kári Gíslason (QUT), 'Within and Without Family in the Icelandic Sagas'

1.00 - 2.00 Lunch

2.00 - 4.00 Session 3 - Poetry and Poetics. Chair: Diana Whaley (Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
   Kari Ellen Gade (Indiana), "...en kenningar auka mönnum engan styrk, en myrkva fagnað" - at least in Hádirlag
   Bernard Mees (RMIT), 'Between Prose and Poetry'
   Torfi Tulinius (Reykjavík), 'Sonatorrek'
   Tarrin Wills (Aberdeen), 'The New Meissner'

4.00 - 4.30 Afternoon tea

4.30 - 6.00 Session 4 - The Viking Diaspora: Then and Now. Chair: Emily Baynham (Sydney)
   Katrina Burge (Melbourne), 'Winds of Change: The Impact of Climate and Weather on the Viking Age'
   John Kennedy (CSU), 'Medieval Scandinavia and the General Reader: English-Language Books on the Vikings for the Non-Specialist, with Emphasis on their Treatment of Sweden'
   Shane McLeod (UWA), 'Migration and Acculturation: The Norse Experience in Ninth-century England'

6.00 Close

Post-conference drinks and dinner, for those interested, at a local restaurant.

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