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 in its twelfth 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. We welcome members’ news items and contributions. Please send them to medieval.enquiries@usyd.edu.au or gabrielle.singleton@usyd.edu.au.


Director’s Report

From Room N306

I am pleased to report that Semester I 2009 has been a productive one for the Centre. I thought all three of our Lectures for the Semester were excellent and would like to congratulate Hannah Burrows in particular. Both of our Undergraduate courses have been successful and I have, in particular, received informal glowing reports (more than one) about David Juste’s course on Medieval Cosmology.

Congratulations to Deslee Campbell whose Ph.D. thesis was passed successfully. Deslee will be awarded her degree in the near future. She is, I think, the fourth successful Ph.D. candidate of the Centre.

Hilbert Chiu has submitted his M.Phil. thesis and I have every expectation that he also will be successful. We also congratulate Hilbert on his marriage to Emily Baynham. The occasion was enjoyed by many members of the Centre, including myself. A photograph from the wedding is included in this Newsletter.

We welcome aboard Barbara Radzvevicius, who will begin IV Honours this coming semester.

Next semester we will have lectures from our own Louise Marshall, from Karen Pratt and Maurizio Campanelli, and special lectures from Mark Everist and Jacques Dalarun. We will also have our annual Brief Research Report day somewhat earlier this year, in October. The semester promises to be full and enjoyable.

Preparations continue for our application for funding from the International Office to mount an international conference on Innovations and future directions in research on the Middle Ages under the auspices of the Worldwide Universities Network. A number of nominations for overseas participants has been received and measures are being taken to firm up the nominations to be part of the funding proposal. If successful, the conference will take place from 6-8 August 2010. Nominations are not closed and further ones should be sent to me.

Our courses for 2010 have been finalized and we will have in Semester One “The legend of King Arthur” (Andrea Williams) and “The medieval Intellectual Tradition” (Vrasidas Karalis). In Semester Two, which will be my last teaching semester, I will go out with a bang with both “The First Crusade” and “Crusade and Jihad”. I will also be overseas from mid February to some time in March or April. I will be delivering a Keynote lecture at the Symposium, The Crusades : Worlds in conflict, in St Louis in mid February. I will then stay on in the USA with an NEH Fellowship at St Louis until I go to the Medieval Academy of America Meeting at Yale in mid March. I may then go on to the UK to consult MSS associated with the Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum project. During my absence an Acting Director will be appointed.

Finally, the first three-year renewal of the Centre will end in 2010, as will my tenure as Director. From the end of 2010 the Centre will embark on a new era. I have begun to take advice as to what procedures are necessary to see us through the required Review of the Centre in 2010 and as to how the next Director will be selected. Early in 2010 we will need to see what teaching programmes we can continue to mount beyond 2010.

John Pryor
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.

Reading Groups

The ‘Advanced’ Latin Reading Group has continued to meet (Fridays 1-3 p.m., either in John Pryor’s room, Woolley N306, or in the Holme Building cafeteria) whenever John Ward is in town. Last year it began reading William of Malmesbury’s ‘Polyhistor’ – a fine amalgam of bowdlerised classical lore with medieval comments, a generally under-studied work - and they are preparing an annotated translation. Anyone is welcome to join: contact John.Ward@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.

The Middle English and Old Norse Reading Groups continue popular but the Old English, Old Irish, Middle Welsh, and Medieval Latin Reading Groups are now in abeyance, as is a small Old French Reading Group (alias FROG, of course) which started up last year. We should be extremely happy to revive all of them; let me know if you would like to organise their resurrection.

MERG meets at 1 p.m. for an hour every Wednesday (sometimes even on holidays and semester breaks - we’re very keen!) and ONRG meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The Reading Groups 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 MERG, April Rose Bertels-Garney and, for Old Norse, Hannah Burrows and, for future plans for OERG, FROG, OIRG, MWRG, Gabrielle Singleton.
Calendar

Scottish Heritage Week 2009 Special Lecture

Thursday 25 June 7.00 p.m.
Common Room, John Woolley Building
Anders Ahlqvist, Professor of Celtic Studies, University of Sydney
‘The Origin and Development of Scottish Gaelic’

First Semester Evening Lectures

Thursday 26 March
Dr Hannah Burrows, University of Sydney
‘Side-splitting stories : humour in the Sagas of Icelanders’

Thursday 30 April
Professor Wendy Scase, University of Birmingham
‘Rhetorical education and responses to Piers Plowman in the fifteenth century’

Thursday 28 May
Professor Robert Rouse, University of British Columbia
‘Writing the world : itinerary, geography, and intercultural relations in medieval Romance’

Second Semester Special Lecture

Wednesday 26 August, 12.30-2.00 p.m.
Common Room, John Woolley Building
(followed by late lunch at the Nag’s Head or alternative)
Mark Everist, Professor of Music, University of Southampton
‘Medieval music in the matrix of medieval textualities’

Second Semester Evening Lectures

Thursday 6 August, 5.00 for 5.30 p.m.
Common Room, John Woolley Building
(followed by dinner at a local restaurant)
Dr Louise Marshall, Senior Lecturer, Art History and Film Studies, University of Sydney
‘Bodies and buboes : the cult of St Roch in Renaissance Italy’
[This would normally be on Thursday 30 July but it is felt best to avoid first week of semester]
Wednesday 16 September, 5.00 for 5.30
Common Room, John Woolley Building
(followed by dinner at a local restaurant)
Dr Karen Pratt, Senior Lecturer, French Department, King’s College, London
‘Voice, gender, and authority in late medieval French literature’
[Dr Pratt’s itinerary necessitates the change from the expected Thursday 24 September]

Thursday 29 October, 5.00 for 5.30
Common Room, John Woolley Building
(followed by dinner at a local restaurant)
Dr Maurizio Campanelli, Department of Greek and Latin Philology, Sapienza University of Rome
‘Describing Rome in the Middle Ages’

Annual Brief Research Reports Day
& Lunch

Wednesday 14 October (time to be advised)
Common Room, John Woolley Building

Morning Lecture,
Annual General Meeting,
& Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 25 November (time to be advised)
Room N401, John Woolley Building

This will be preceded by a lecture by
Professor Jacques Dalarun, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris
‘Robert of Arbrissel and the foundation of Fontevrault’
Members’ Activities

Emily Baynham and Hilbert Chiu were married on 21 March 2009.

Hilbert has since been awarded his M.Phil., with High Distinction. “The examiners’ reports were glowing.”
John Beston sent off an article at beginning of May to *Neophilologus* on ‘Sex and Other Games in Jean Renart's “Le Lai de l'ombre”' and (modestly) expects it to be accepted.

Amy Brown who graduated (First Class Honours) last year. sent some photos; here is one.

The title of Amy’s thesis was *Swa swa bec tæca n: books and the creation of social order in the political thought of Archbishop Wulfstan II of York*. (*Swa swa bec tæcan* means *just as books teach.*)

Hannah Burrows has had published ‘“In this country, what is found in books is to be law” : Legal Knowledge, Literacy, and the Shifting Spheres of Power in Commonwealth Period Iceland’, *Quaestio Insularis : Selected Proceedings of the Cambridge Colloquium in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic*, 8 (2007 [2008]), 36-50 and has another article forthcoming which should appear next month. She gave the paper ‘Enigma Variations : Heidreks saga's wave-riddles and Old Norse poetic language for the sea’ at the ANZAMEMS conference, Hobart, December 2008, and will present the paper ‘The Secret Lives of Lawspeakers : the portrayal of lögsgumenn in the Íslendingasögur’ at the 14th International Saga Conference, Uppsala, Sweden, 9-15 August 2009; the paper will also be published in the preprints.
Mike Carter has been reappointed an Honorary Professor with the CMS until next August. Since his last reappointment in August 2008 the following have appeared:


and proofs have been received and returned for ‘Mystical Grammar or Grammatical Mysticism? A Sufi Commentary on The Ajurrumiyya’, in Monika Gronke and Marco Schöller (eds.), Festschrift for Werner Diem.

Mike has attended the conference of the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists, Leipzig 24-28 September 2008, as a member of the Union’s committee, and a workshop in Bonn on 16 January 2009, ‘Verbal festivity in Arabic and other Semitic Languages’, which was organised by Lutz Edzard (Oslo University) to celebrate two birthdays, those of Werner Diem (Cologne University) and of Mike, who chaired one of the sessions.

The 2008 issue of the on-line Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies was dedicated to him for his 70th birthday. It contains his complete bibliography to date in pp. 1-10, and can be accessed at: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/jais/

And beside all this he has been busy refereeing articles, supporting promotion applications, writing blurbs, and is currently working on some other reviews and articles. The chances of his finishing the History of Arabic this year have ‘dwindled to zero thanks to unforeseen consequences of the GFC. But [Mike] continues to plug away at it’.

Margaret Clunies Ross recently attended the international conference ‘Writing down the Myths’ at the University of California Los Angeles from 16-19 April organised, through the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, by Professors Joseph Nagy and Kendra Willson. Margaret was one of the invited speakers and gave a paper on ‘Snorri Sturluson and Norse Mythology’. She will be attending and giving papers at the 14th International Saga Conference, to be held in Uppsala, Sweden, from 9-15 August. Her paper will be entitled ‘Poets and Ethnicity’. In the two days preceding the saga conference, Margaret and the other editors of the international project, Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages, will be holding a 2-day meeting (8-9 August), also in Uppsala. They expect the publication very soon of Volume II of the skaldic edition, Poetry from Kings’ Sagas 2, edited by Kari Ellen Gade of the University of Indiana, Bloomington.

Carole Cusack, of 29 successful applicants from the four Schools, has been awarded $7,395 by the Faculty of Arts Research Support Scheme (FARSS) for her projected book Invented religions: imagination, fiction, and faith which investigates five contemporary Western religions founded since the late 1950s (disseminated chiefly by underground publishing and the Internet) that are intentionally parodic, ludic, and fictional. These are Discordianism (1959), the Church of All Worlds (1961), the Church of the Sub-Genius (c. 1979), Jediism (late 1990s), and the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (2005). Issues explored include the deregulation of Western religion and emergent new
forms; the extent to which parody religions develop as “living faiths” for adherents; the role of humour, mockery, and parody in postmodern religion; and fictions as scripture.

Geraldine Barnes also will be at the 14th International Saga Conference, in Uppsala in August, and will present her paper ‘Byzantium in the riddarasögur’.

Rif Ebied has been appointed Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University for a further period of three years in acknowledgement of his ‘valuable contribution to the Centre for Early Christian Studies and to ACU National in general’. He attended, presented papers at, and chaired sessions of

- 2008 National Association of Professors of Hebrew Conference on The Hebrew Language and Literature, McGill University, Montreal, June 2008
- ARAM’s 25th International Conference on The Decapolis : History and Archaeology, Oxford University, 7-10 July 2008
- International Conference on Coptic Studies, Cairo, September 2008
- 10th Symposium Syriacum and 8th International Conference on Christian Arabic Studies, Granada, October 2008
- 7th Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, January 2009.

Rif has had published An Anthology of Arab Wit and Wisdom. Gorgias Press, Piscataway (2008) and the articles


He has been appointed Co-Editor of Sayyab Translation Journal (STJ) and Supplements on Translation Studies, London, UK., and Co-Editor (with Dr Erica Hunter) of Corpus Codicum Mandaearum for publishing works related to the Mandaean Language and Religion by Brepols, Belgium; and has accepted an invitation to be an Editor of the English Language Section of Journal of Assyrian Academic Studies

Diana Jeffries and Bryce Douglas-Baker, student members of CMS, have achieved their Ph.D.s. Left to right, are Bryce Douglas-Baker, Hannah Burrows, Helen Young, Alex Jones, Dan Anlezark, and Lawrence Warner, all but one members of the CMS.

Diana’s thesis was on ‘Sir Thomas Malory’s Tale of the Sangreal and the justification of Violence’ and Bryce’s on ‘Virtue and Kingship in Chaucer's Knight's Tale’.

David Juste, as mentioned in our last Newsletter, spent November in Paris as ‘professeur invité’ by the CNRS and the University of Paris-VII. While there, he gave three papers, the last on ‘The cosmology of Roger Bacon’, at the international conference ‘La cosmologie aux XIIe et XIIIe siècles’ organised by Barbara Obrist (CNRS/University of Paris-VII, 29 November 2008). (For the first two papers, see previous Newsletter.)

In the first semester 2009, David has been running his seminar on Medieval Cosmology (MDST2610). 32 students were enrolled.

David has also been invited to Munich as ‘Visiting scholar’ at Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Lehrstuhl für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, for both July and August, to participate in the project ‘Transfer of Knowledge between East and West’ (supervised by Dr Benno van Dalen) and, in particular, to prepare a catalogue of medieval Latin translations of works on cosmology, astronomy, and astrology, in collaboration with Charles Burnett.
**Jethro Lyne**, a PhD candidate, is presenting a paper entitled ‘Heresy and Early Gothic Portal Design’ at the July International Medieval Congress hosted by the University of Leeds.

**Frances Muecke** gave a class at the University of Rome in May on Caspar Ursinus Velius' poem on Rome (elegy 4.3) (1513).

**Penny Nash** has just received the Ernest Bramsted Prize (shared) for Modern or Medieval European History. 'Awarded annually to a student in History IV for outstanding work in the field of modern or medieval European history, provided that the work is of sufficient merit [this prize was e]stablished in 1970 in recognition of the contribution of Associate Professor Ernest K. Bramsted (lecturer 1952-67) to European Historical Studies.' Penny also plans travelling to southern France with a special small group tour with John James for about 10 days in June to visit the cathedrals of Southern France, starting at Chartres. She will also be visiting the exhibition of two hundred works from Mount Athos - from the collections of nine monasteries and from the church of Protaton in Karyes - in Paris; thence to Istanbul, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. Penny has promised to let us know all about it all for the next newsletter.

**John Pryor** reports that he has been engaged all Semester with his students (Keagan Brewer, Charlie Deyel-Charlier, Jenny Green, and James Kane) on their project of translating and commenting on the *Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum*. All other projects have had to be suspended, although he has just received the proofs of a paper, “A medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution: Crusading by Sea *ca* 1096-1204”, which will appear in *Tradition and Transition*, to be published by Texas A & M Press, proceedings of a Symposium held at College Station, November 2007, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the publication of the most important underwater archaeological investigation ever undertaken in the Mediterranean, the Seventh-Century Yassi-Ada shipwreck.

The translation of and commentary on the *Libellus* have revealed a fascinating and complex text. It is permeated throughout by 12th-century Mariology. John and his students have not resolved the question of the authorship and dating of the text and have varying opinions about that. The problem is compounded by the fact that the text as we have it has later accretions. The point at which the accretions begin is easy enough to establish but the ‘original’ section before that may itself have been built upon a now-lost original continuation of the Chronicle of William of Tyre. John himself believes now - no promises for the future - that the ‘original’ section of the text as we have it was written by an English Cistercian as an *excitatorium* for the Third Crusade, probably in 1188. It may well have been addressed to Archbishop Baldwin of Canterbury.

**David Scott-Macnab** was in Sydney for some months last year but has returned to South Africa to take up the position of Associate Professor in the Department of English, University of Johannesburg. Universitätsverlag Winter Heidelberg has published David’s *The Middle English Text of The Art of Hunting by William Twiti: Edited from an Uncatalogued Manuscript in a Private Collection, Ashton-under Lyne, with a Parallel Text of The Anglo Norman L’Art de Venerie by William Twiti, Edited from Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, MS 424/448*, as No.40 in their Middle English Texts Series.