The Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Sydney
Newsletter

Newsletter Vol.11
November 2008

Edited by
Gabrielle Singleton

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 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. This edition includes news of Centre activities, members’ research projects and publications, and teaching. 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

General Activities

I am extremely pleased with the Centre’s activities since our Newsletter of last May. Members of the Centre have been active on all fronts and our activities have been well attended.

Our regular month-end evening series lectures have all been well presented. My thanks to Geraldine Barnes and Juanita Ruys for taking the chair for me on 31 July and 28 August, when I was unable to be there.

- 31 July, Alfred Hiatt, Department of English, University of Leeds
  “Mapping the Antipodes before 1600”
- 28 August, Albrecht Classen, German Studies, University of Arizona
  “The myth of the medieval chastity belt”
- 25 September, Melanie Heyworth, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney
  “Sanctity in sexuality: awareness of the female body in the Old English life of St Mary of Egypt”
- 30 October, Margaret Clunies-Ross, English, University of Sydney
  “Images of Old Norse cosmology (the post-medieval reception of Old Norse cosmology in images)”. These were all well attended and the numbers coming to dinner afterwards have risen dramatically. On 30 October we tried for the first time the private dining room at the Nag’s Head hotel. Most people seemed to think that it was pretty good, although Margaret and myself made a bad choice of meal, on my recommendation. I was sure I had had it before but, if so, it wasn’t like that. Avoid the ‘Shoulder of Lamb’ if we go there again.

The Special Lecture given by Mark Pegg, Department of History, Washington University, on 13 August, “The Albigensian Crusade and the battle for Christendom” was also well attended and provocative, as lectures in this series are intended to be.

In Semester I next year we expect our regular series to include lectures from Hannah Burrows (Sydney), Wendy Scase (Birmingham), and probably Tony Pollard (Glasgow). Juanita Ruys will give the Special Lecture.

I attended the two Student Seminars organized by Melanie Heyworth, Jenny Green, and Hilbert Chiu and both were very enjoyable. Congratulations to Mel, Jenny, and Hilbert.

- 19 May, Bridgette Slavin, “Coming to terms with Druids in early medieval Ireland”, and Deslee Campbell, “Working women in the visual art of Byzantium and the Byzantine-influenced Western Mediterranean, AD. 395-1204”

I encourage more members of staff to attend these seminars to support our students. Our students are the future of the Centre and our lifeblood.
Congratulations to Jane Hardie on her organization of the Symposium “Cathedral, Court, City and Cloister : Spanish liturgical manuscripts at the University of Sydney and their International contexts”. This event was undoubtedly the highlight of the Centre’s activities this year and its successful organization is a great credit to her. The Symposium also made a small profit - goody!

Welcome to Daniel Hill, who has commenced a Ph.D. on Fourteenth-century Italian double-sided altarpieces under the supervision of Louise Marshall.

Discussion is ongoing over the Centre’s potential relationships with the World Universities Network (WUN) and the Co-Operative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network (CARMEN). On 1 October Margaret Clunies Ross and others met with Nicholas Haskins of the University’s International Office and members of a delegation from York University (UK). A follow-up meeting with Nicholas Haskins, the Board of the Centre, and others interested was held on 9 October. Participation by the Centre in WUN and CARMEN may (amongst other things)

- open up avenues to sources of funding
- facilitate staff and student exchanges
- facilitate the Centre mounting a conference on the future of research in Medieval Studies.
- facilitate the development of joint teaching projects such as the one on Arthuriana currently being developed by Andrea Williams and colleagues in Europe and North America.

In Semester II this year Jenny Green undertook a Reading Course with me for her IV-Honours degree on the sources for the Third Crusade. James Kane, Keagan Brewer, and Charlie Dalziel-Charlier sat in on it, as also did Andrea Williams when she could. In the course of this, we became very interested in a Latin account of the aftermath of the battle of Hattin and the Third Crusade known as the Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum. The work was once attributed to Ralph of Coggeshalle because all three manuscripts in which it survives have other works of Ralph in them. It has only ever been published twice, by Joseph Stephenson in 1875 and Hans Prutz in 1876, both of whom appear to have been unaware of each other’s work. Stephenson used one of the surviving English manuscripts, Prutz the Bibliothèque Nationale manuscript. We now propose to re-edit the text, translate it, and do an extensive study of the work to accompany it. James Kane has begun the translation and Jenny Green is obtaining copies of the three known manuscripts. I have agreement in principle from Ashgate to publish the edition and facing translation.

I am grateful to the members of the Board of the Centre (Geraldine Barnes, Margaret Clunies Ross, Juanita Ruys, and Andrea Williams) for their time and efforts this year. Geraldine will be on leave next year and will need to be replaced as the ‘University Officer’ by someone else nominated by the Dean.

I am also grateful to the members of the Advisory Committee (Hilbert Chiu, Carole Cusack, Louise D’Arcens, Jenny Green, and Jane Hardie) for their efforts. Members of the Committee may feel that, since the Advisory Committee can’t actually make decisions, its existence is rather pointless. However, I value its advice greatly and appreciate the effort put in by its members. I regard it as the elected face of the membership of the Centre.
Teaching

Undergraduate

The Centre has had 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 had good enrolments, especially 2609 and 2611. Of those who finished MDST2601, we had one HD, four Ds, 8 Credits, and three Passes. Of those who finished MDST2612, we had 5 HDs, 12 Ds, and 8 Credits.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, for 2009 the Board has decided to give MDST2601 a rest. It has been taught continuously since 1997 and it is felt time to rotate it occasionally. From 2009 it will not be a requirement for a Major in Medieval Studies. That requirement will simply be at least 12 credit points (two Units of Study) of MDST courses. In 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.

Honours

We have four IV-Honours students this year

Erica Steiner: Thesis “The dating and datability of Beowulf: an historical and eschatological content” (supervisor, Dan Anlezark), awarded Second Class Honours, Division One, June 2008

Amy Brown: Thesis “Books and the creation of social order in the political thought of Archbishop Wulfstan II of York” (supervisor, Dan Anlezark), completing November 2008

Tahlia Birnbaum: Thesis “Gift exchange in Anglo-Saxon England” (supervisor, Dan Anlezark), completing June 2009


Other students intending to commence IV-Honours in 2009, include James Kane, Elinor Langtry, and Keagan Brewer.
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 (in years past 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.

I met with Professor Roslyn Pesman, the officer appointed by the Dean to oversee the introduction of the proposed new Faculty structure for IV-Honours teaching to discuss my concerns about the effect that the proposed new structure would have on our Honours teaching, in particular the requirement that seminars for IV-Honours students be discrete and that IV-Honours students should not take Undergraduate or Postgraduate Units of Study.

I pointed out that Medieval Studies would not be able to mount such Units of Study and I also criticized the proposed Faculty-based Units of Study.

I received a fair and positive hearing. Professor Pesman is opposed to IV-Honours students taking Undergraduate or Postgraduate Units of Study but conceded the effect this would have on small departments and interdisciplinary programmes such as our own. We talked about the possibility of our applying for special permission for our IV-Honours students to access Undergraduate or Postgraduate Units of Study but as a discrete cohort, with their own work requirements. Reading courses were also discussed. I was informed that the idea for Faculty-based Units of Study has been scrapped, which is pleasing.

Professor Pesman undertook to inform me before the finalized proposal goes forward for implementation.

Postgraduate

We currently have two postgraduate research students

Hilbert Chiu, M.Phil.: Thesis “Academic Theology and the Medieval Concept of the Manichee: an Inquiry into the Academic Origins of the Inquisition” (supervisor Lyn Olson), completing 2009

and


John Pryor.

Congratulations

to Lorna Barrow on her graduation (her Ph.D. thesis was on "Royal Women as Gift-Exchanges in Marriage in Fifteenth- and Sixteenth-Century Scotland"),

to Amy Brown whose paper 'Gender, Power and Heroism in Ælfric's Judith' was selected by the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship as the Best Paper by an Undergraduate Student in Medieval Feminist Scholarship,

to Carole Cusack who has been promoted to Associate Professor in recognition of her significant contributions in research, teaching, and service,

to Russell Poole who was elected a Fellow of the New Zealand Academy of Humanities in 2008,

to Diane Speed who is now Dean and CEO of the Sydney College of Divinity and has been appointed as a Professor,

and to John Pryor who has just been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities.
Visitor

Albrecht Classen, University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Arizona, was the Centre’s guest for a week in August, arriving on Friday 22nd when he enjoyed a pleasant lunch at the Nag's Head where he met informally several of our staff and students. The following Monday ABC Radio National’s Rachael Kohn interviewed him (this link - http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ark/stories/2008/2346956.htm - does work; it just takes an age, so carry on reading until it pops up) on the medieval chastity belt for her programme The Ark. On the Tuesday Professor Classen gave an open lecture in the Medieval Studies unit of study, MDST 2611, Heroes and Heroines, on “The Problematic Hero in Medieval Literature: Nibelungenlied, Erec, and Tristan”. On the Wednesday he met Department of Germanic Studies staff and students; and on the Thursday evening gave for our Centre a well-attended and entertaining lecture, 'The Myth of the Medieval Chastity Belt', complete with most intriguing PowerPoint slides. This was recorded by the University's Media Office and is available at http://www.usyd.edu.au/podcasts/index.shtml as a podcast. We were pleased that Mrs Classen and their son could join us for dinner afterwards. Professor Classen left Sydney next morning for a short antipodean lecture tour of the University of Western Australia, Monash University, and the University of Auckland. While here he made the most of the resources of Fisher Library, writing an article. He extends his thanks to all Centre for Medieval Studies staff and students for their hospitality and interest.

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.
In 2008 the Centre for Medieval Studies was allocated $1,494 for spending on monographs for Fisher Library, supplemented by $96 later in the year as unspent Faculty funds were redistributed amongst smaller departments who had already exhausted their allocation. The following items were purchased with these funds and are now available in Fisher Library:


John Marenbon, *From the Circle of Alcuin to the School of Auxerre : Logic, Theology and Philosophy in the Early Middle Ages* (Cambridge UP, 2006)

Albrecht Classen (ed.), *Sexuality in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times : New Approaches to a Fundamental Cultural-Historical and Literary-Anthropological Theme*. Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture, 3 (Berlin and New York : De Gruyter, 2008)


C. Martello, C. Militello, A. Vella (eds), *Cosmogonie e cosmologie nel medioevo. Atti del convegno della Società Italiana per lo Studio del Pensiero Medievale (s.i.s.p.m.), Catania, 22-24 settembre 2006* (Brepols, 2008)

In addition, following a request from a Medieval Studies postgraduate student, the Library will purchase from its own funds a second copy of the *Old French-English Dictionary*, ed. Hindley,
Langley, and Levy, which will be housed in the Research Library and will be available for borrowing; this will supplement what is currently the only copy of this dictionary in the Library, which is kept in the Reference section and not for loan.

Library staff are currently undertaking a review of the Reference section with the intent of streamlining it, as many resources here are now outdated or are available in more accessible electronic form. The review may involve removing some items to either Storage or the Research Library. Library Liaison Officers will be informed when the review reaches a section relevant to their discipline so that they can advise on the process of relegation or otherwise.

In 2009 Fisher Library will be undertaking a massive relegation of the Research Library. This will be done largely to bring the shelving into conformity with Occupational Health and Safety Standards, which require greater distance between sets of shelves, and shelves which are more accessible in height. The relegation will begin early in the year with books in the fields of Medicine, Science, and Information Technology. I will inform the Centre for Medieval Studies when the relegation reaches any disciplines that may be of interest to our members. Members may be interested to know that there are currently still some half a million library items that are catalogued on the old card system only (never having been borrowed since computerised records began in 1971), and these will obviously be the first target for relegation.

There is money available each year for the purchase of Expensive Items (such as monographs, microfilms, or CDs, costing over AUD$500). Members should consider in advance if there is any resource they think the Library should have that would fit this criterion and be ready to provide the relevant information and justifications when applications are called for in May of next year.

Juanita Feros Ruys
Associate Director

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. It is still 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.

The Old English, Middle English, and Medieval Latin, Reading Groups continue popular. While Bridgett Slavin was completing her Ph.D. thesis (now submitted and awaiting acceptance), the Middle Welsh and Old Irish Reading Groups have been in abeyance; we hope these will be revived next year. 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 KathyWatson@student.usyd.edu.au,
for Medieval Latin HChi3638@mail.usyd.edu.au;
and for future plans for MW/OI Gabrielle.Singleton.usyd.edu.au (but not before next March please!).

We also now have a Medieval Latin Charters Reading Group which meets on Mondays at 12.00 in John Pryor’s room.
Between 2002 and 2007 the University of Sydney acquired a number of manuscripts of liturgical chant of probably Spanish origin and use. These are: one book of fragments (fifteenth century and earlier); six books of sixteenth-century material for the Mass and Office, one containing a thirteenth-century bifolium fragment as part of its binding; and three eighteenth-century monastic antiphonals. Central to this collection is a group of five sixteenth-century manuscripts that may be related to the complex of sources at Salamanca cathedral recently discovered and studied by James Boyce. The latest acquisition is a beautifully illuminated and decorated Processional.
This Symposium brought together an international interdisciplinary group of scholars (musicologists, art historians, and liturgists) who have a special expertise in the contents and decorative agendas of such manuscripts. The invited scholars presented, each from the perspective of his or her own research, material for the cathedral, the court, the city, or the cloister, and had as their aim the exploration of issues raised by the Sydney sources, within broader contexts generated by their own related research from the wider European tradition.

The Symposium took place over three days, with some public sessions given over to formal papers, and others in which members of the core group of invited scholars participated in working sessions on matters specifically related to the Sydney manuscripts. These working sessions (held in Fisher Library with the manuscripts) were open to a small number of postgraduate students, library staff, and other members of the academic community. In addition, as the library intends to digitize the Sydney manuscripts, making them available to the international scholarly world, the Library Team presented an open session on the Collection, Preservation, and Digitization of these manuscripts.

The Library hosted a reception for participants, following the Keynote Lecture, and the Symposium included an Exhibition of Manuscripts and a short concert of music related to the papers. This concert was sponsored by the Instituto Cervantes and took place at Christ Church St Laurence on Thursday July 10 at 6.30 p.m. His Excellency the Spanish Ambassador welcomed the audience to the concert and speakers at the Symposium introduced the musical items, all drawn from their research.
After the Concert in Christ Church St Laurence - L-R Grayson Wagstaff (USA), Jane Hardie (CMS), Juan Ruiz (Granada), His Excellency Sr Cosano, the Spanish Ambassador, Maricarmen Gomez (Barcelona), Juan Carlos Asensio (Salamanca), Jordi Ballester (Barcelona), with Neil Boness (Rare Book Librarian) in the background.

The Symposium itself was sponsored by the Co-Operation Program between the Ministry of Culture of Spain and the Australian National University, the Australian Research Council’s Network for Early European Research (NEER), the University of Sydney (Faculty of Arts, Centre for Medieval Studies, School of Languages and Cultures, School of Letters, Art, and Media, Library), B&B Design Australia, and the Instituto Cervantes in Sydney. It brought together scholars from Spain, the United States, Hong Kong, and Australia as speakers, and attenders came from all over Australia. Not only was the Symposium full but also the concert attracted a full Church.

A selection of the papers is now being expanded into a book edited by Kathleen Nelson, to be published by the Institute of Mediaeval Music (Ottawa) in 2009.

Postscript: Since the Symposium in July, the Library has acquired several more Spanish Liturgical manuscripts for this collection.
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 ($30-40 a head). Please let us know by noon latest the day before if you want to join us.

This semester’s regular evening series lectures were by, in July, Dr Alfred Hiatt (Leeds), on “Mapping the Antipodes before 1600”; in August, Professor Albrecht Classen (Arizona), on “The myth of the medieval chastity belt”; in September, Melanie Heyworth (Sydney), on “Sanctity in sexuality: awareness of the female body in the Old English life of St Mary of Egypt”; and, in October, Margaret Clunies Ross (Sydney), on “Images of Old Norse cosmology (the post-medieval reception of Old Norse cosmology in images)”. All these lectures were well attended, especially the last, which for latecomers was standing-room-only!

As mentioned in the Director’s Report, in first Semester next year we are looking forward to lectures from Hannah Burrows (Sydney), Wendy Scase (Birmingham), and probably Tony Pollard (Glasgow).

The Centre invites everyone else so inclined to ‘offer your services’ for Semester Two (Semester One’s schedule happily is already full) – please let us know if you would like to give a lunchtime paper or evening lecture.

Special Lectures

In August, Professor Mark Pegg (Washington University, St Louis), gave a well attended Special Lecture on “The Albigensian Crusade and the battle for Christendom”.

On 22 September John Pryor addressed the Friends of Fisher Library on the subject of the facsimiles and edition of documents from the Archivio Segreto Vaticano on the Trial of the Templars. The lecture was held in the Fisher’s Rare Books Library and was very well attended. The lecture was prepared previously as a Special Edition of the Centre’s Newsletters and may be viewed on our Website at http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/medieval/index.php?page=newsletters -

Juanita Ruys will give a Special Lecture in 2009.
Members’ Activities

Mike Carter reports that most of the items listed in the last two Newsletters as in press, in proof, or submitted, have since appeared, except for the paper given at the Sardinia conference of the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists (2006), which has just passed the proof stage. Of his new work, ‘Pragmatics and contractual language in early Arabic grammar and legal theory’, in Approaches to Arabic Linguistics. Presented to Kees Versteegh on the Occasion of his Sixtieth Birthday, ed. Everhard Ditters, Harald Motzki, Leiden/Boston 2007, has appeared; the article ‘sabab’ for the Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics and a review of R. Talmon, Eighth Century Iraqi Grammar, Winona Lake 2003, for Bibliotheca Orientalis have both been submitted and proofs returned; and the chapter ‘Mystical grammar or grammatical mysticism? A Sufi commentary on the Ajurrumiyya’, for a volume in honour of Werner Diem, Cologne, ed. Marco Schoeller, has been submitted and proofs are awaited. In progress are an article on Muslim education, for Diogenes (the journal of UNESCO), by invitation, deadline March 2009; and, for the Journal of Islamic Studies, reviews of Werner Diem, Wurzelrepetition und Wunschszat. Untersuchungen zur Stilgeschichte des arabischen Dokumentes des 7. bis 20. Jahrhunderts, Wiesbaden 2005 and of R. Frank, Early Islamic Theology : the Mu’tazilites and al-Ash’ari, Aldershot 2007, Volume II of Frank’s collected articles. As Mike reviewed Volume I last year (JIS 18, 2007, 466–468), he expects to be asked to review Volume III when that appears.

Among Mike’s other activities he attended, and chaired a panel at, the 24th Congress of the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists, Leipzig, 24–28 September. He’s now preparing to attend a workshop on Arabic grammar in Cologne, 16–17 January 2009, fares and accommodation paid. The workshop is organised by Lutz Edzard, Oslo University, and the occasion is a celebration of two birthdays, those of Werner Diem and himself.

Mike continues to slog away, with diminishing enthusiasm, at the History of Arabic which he hopes to finish within about a year. He’s still working half-heartedly on checking the grammatical manuscripts for the revised Chester Beatty catalogue (Dublin).

A pleasing footnote : his supervisee who successfully defended her doctoral thesis in Ghent last year (Newsletter 2007) has just been appointed to a teaching position in Cambridge.

Anna Hansen’s chapter ‘Fosterage and Dependency in Medieval Iceland and its Significance in Gisla Saga’ appears in Youth and Age in the Medieval North, Shannon Lewis-Simpson ed. (Brill) and acts as a companion piece to the chapter ‘Bonds of Affection between Children and Their Foster-Parents in Early Icelandic Society’ in Emotions in the Household, Susan Broomhall ed. (Palgrave).

Jane Hardie - not content with all the work involved with achieving the momentous Cathedral, Court, City and Cloister Symposium in July (report above, other details on our website at http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/medieval/index.php?page=events&id=cathedral_court_city_cloister), including giving the paper “Salamanca’s Siblings : Fisher RB Add Mss 327, 349 and 351” - in May attended the State Library of Victoria’s The Medieval Imagination Conference at which she gave the paper ‘A Cluster of Cantorales: Rediscovering a Context for a Group of Sydney Manuscripts’. Next January she will present an invited paper to the American Academy of Liturgists in Baltimore and to a Graduate Seminar in Musicology at Catholic University in Washington.

Iain Gardner (with Jason BeDuhn and Paul Dilley) has been awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for his Project ‘The digital restoration of the Dublin Kephalaia codex and its importance for the history of religions’.
Rosemary Huisman’s article ‘Narrative sociotemporality and complementary gender roles in Anglo-Saxon society: the relevance of *wifmann* and *wepnedmann* to a plot summary of the Old English poem *Beowulf*’ has appeared in the *Journal of the Australian Early Medieval Association, 4.*


Jethro Lyne is looking forward to exchanging lecturing commitments and full-time work at the Art Gallery of NSW for a year in a cottage in the English countryside on the Welsh borders (Herefordshire or Shropshire), ‘for the sheer fun and beauty of it’ and ‘zipping down to France’ when he needs to gather further material for his doctoral work - on early twelfth century northern French portal sculpture, more particularly on a group of apocalyptic portals associated with the Royal Portal of Chartres and, more particularly still, on the archivolt figures that surmount the main scene on the tympanum in each portal – and to consider and write upon the visual and textual material already gathered from previous research trips to France.

Roxanne Marcotte has been awarded an ARC Discovery Grant (2009-2011) for her Project “Soul Searching in the Islamic East: Self-knowledge and the Avicennan Legacy in the 13th Century Islamic East”.

In January and February Frances Muecke spent five weeks at Harvard’s Houghton Library chained to their newly identified copy of Domizio Calderini’s Commentary on Silius Italicus. A result of this visit was her ‘Reader’s Choice’ exhibit at the library, highlighting three Silian incunabula. During the same trip she gave seminar papers on ‘Silius Italicus in the Renaissance’ at Brown and Columbia Universities. This year she has continued to work on Calderini’s commentary, the reception of Silius Italicus in the Renaissance (see [http://www.repertoriumpomponianum.it/themata/silius.htm](http://www.repertoriumpomponianum.it/themata/silius.htm)), and Biondo’s *Roma triumphans.* (Her entry for the *Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of St Augustine* is now on a restricted website [http://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/~augustine/](http://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/~augustine/)).

Ursula Potter’s article ‘To School or Not to School: Tudor Views on Education in Drama and Literature’ is in *Parergon* vol. 25.

The paper he gave at the Tradition and transition : maritime studies in the wake of the Byzantine shipwreck at Yassi Ada, Turkey Symposium at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 2-4 November, entitled ‘A medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution : Crusading by Sea ca 1096-1204’, which he gave again at the the International Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East in Avignon, 27-31 August 2008, has now been written up and submitted and will be published in the proceedings of Tradition and transition. He is currently engaged in writing a chapter, provisionally entitled ‘Maritime technologies’, for The Cambridge History of War. Volume Two : War and the medieval world.

He is also writing, together 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 that 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 who held 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.

In the meantime he continues work on his next major book, Crusading by sea : the maritime history of the Crusades, 1097-1291.


In May Juanita presented a number of workshops in Medieval Latin paleography and a lecture entitled ‘Twelfth-Century Texts : The Rise of New Genres’ at the PATS (Postgraduate Advanced Training Scheme), ‘Reading the Pre-Modern : European Palaeography and Diplomatics’, at the University of Western Australia. On the same trip, at the Fifteenth Annual Perth Medieval and Renaissance Group (PMRG) Symposium, she gave a plenary lecture ‘Feminizing the Discourses of Monastic Temptation and Nocturnal Emissions in the Middle Ages : Heloise’s Letter IV’. In July she presented a paper at the Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature Conference at the University of Edinburgh entitled ‘Experience and the Courteour : Reading Epistemological Revolution in a Sixteenth-Century Middle Scots Text’; she also presented a version of this at the University of Sydney’s EMLAC October meeting. She took a research trip in July to view manuscripts of parent-child didactic texts in Paris, Venice, and Rome. In August she ran the Lake Macquarie half-marathon and with thanks to generous sponsorship from friends, family, and members of the CMS, was able to
raise $2,000 for the Wheelchair Sports Association, for their annual Christmas Kids Camp. In December she completes her grading as a 2nd dan blackbelt in Taekwondo.

Julie Ann Smith’s articles ‘The Virtue of Stillness : Abelard and Monastic Silence’ and ‘Debitum Obedientie : Heloise and Abelard on Governance at the Paraclete’ are in the American Benedictine Review 59:3 and Parergon 25:1 respectively.

Max Walkley at the Centre's AGM day last November reported on his ‘research in progress’ with his paper ‘Jehan de Journi's last fabliau, or, how a leopard cannot change its spots’. After much rewriting and further research, this is about to appear as ‘Jean de Journi's surviving fabliau?’, in the New Zealand Journal of French Studies (vol 28, No.2).

John Ward is plodding on with his previously mentioned tasks: the edition of William of Champeaux’s commentaries on the ‘De inventione’ of Cicero and the ‘Ad Herennium’ (with John Scott and Juanita Ruys) and he reports that the most interesting fourteenth-century variant of these glosses (a Bruges manuscript) has now been transcribed and analysed by John Scott (maybe an unmissably exciting CMS talk on this later on!!); the ‘Repentant Abelard’ (with Juanita Ruys); his ‘Census’ of manuscripts of the ‘De inventione’ of Cicero and the ‘Ad Herennium’ and the closely related ‘Catalogus’ volume; the annotated translation of Alan of Lille’s ‘De fide catholica’ (with John Scott and Hilbert Chiu); the annotated translation of the ‘Polyhistor’ of William of Malmesbury (with the Friday Latin group); ‘Sex with the Devil’ (with Sharon Davidson); papers for Leeds Medieval Congress (on the ‘De fide catholica’) and Montreal (International Society for the History of Rhetoric, on ‘Alcuin and pragmatic uses of classical rhetorical theory from the Carolingian Renaissance to the eleventh century’) 2009, etc.

In July this year he attended the Leeds Medieval Congress and then acted as ‘respondent’ for a Kings College Cambridge Conference on Medieval Grammar and Literature (organised by, among others, Rita Copeland, Pennsylvania). After completing some work on medieval abridgements of Pliny’s ‘Natural History’ at the British Library and some manuscript work on his ‘Census’ at Oxford Duke Humphrey end of the Bodleian Library, he attended the fifth International Conference on The Medieval Chronicle, held at the Institute of Byzantine Studies, School of History and Anthropology, Queen's University, Belfast, and gave a paper on ‘William of Malmesbury’s ‘Polyhistor’ as chronicle’. The keynote speaker there was Roger Scott, of the Classics and History Department, University of Melbourne, a peer of John’s in classics, as students, years ago at Melbourne.

John is scheduled to give a paper and to perform in some capacity at the forthcoming Hobart ANZAMEMS conference. He also gives forewarning of an illustrated lecture on ‘Castles and fiefs in Tokugawa Japan and the Medieval West’ at some stage in the future . . . .