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, 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

Direction

2009 has been the second year of operation of the Centre since its ‘re-establishment’ at the end of 2007.

The Centre has been managed by myself as Director, with the assistance of an appointed Board and an Advisory Committee elected by Members of the Centre.

I am grateful to the members of the Board (Anne Dunn, Margaret Clunies Ross, Juanita Ruys, and Andrea Williams) for their time and efforts this year.

I am also grateful to the members of the Advisory Committee - Hilbert Chiu (resigned), Carole Cusack, Louise D’Arcens, Jenny Green (resigned), and Jane Hardie (Chair) - for their efforts. Members of the Committee may feel that, since the Advisory Committee can’t actually make decisions, their contribution is rather pointless. However, I value the Committee’s 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

(a) Undergraduate

The Centre offered four courses this year : MDST2607 Medieval Literary and Artistic Modes (Co-Ordinator John Pryor), MDST2608 The First Crusade (John Pryor), MDST2610 Medieval Cosmology (David Juste), MDST2613 Sex and Sin in the Middle Ages (Juanita Ruys and Melanie Heyworth). All have been outstandingly successful with highly enthusiastic students and were fun to be involved in.

In 2010 our undergraduate courses will be

MDST2614 The Legend of King Arthur (Semester I - Andrea Williams, Co-Ordinator of scholars from Penn State, Madison Wisconsin, Bristol, and Utrecht Universities, to be taught internationally)
MDST2615 The Medieval Intellectual Tradition (Semester I - Vrasidas Karalis)
MDST2608 The First Crusade (Semester II - John Pryor)
MDST2609 Crusade and Jihad (Semester II - John Pryor)

(b) Honours

We have had five IV-Honours students this year

Jenny Green : Discontinued.
James Kane: Thesis, Sui Generis: a study of the Latin continuation of William of Tyre (supervisor John Pryor), completed in November. First Class Honours and the University Medal.
Elinor Langtry: Discontinued.

Two others commenced mid year

Brenton Clifford: discontinued because of illness and, it is hoped, returning next year.

Next year


(c) Postgraduate

Two postgraduate research students completed this year

Hilbert Chiu, M.Phil. and Deslee Campbell, Ph.D.

Visiting Scholar

Dr Judy Quinn, formerly of the University of Sydney’s English Department and now at Cambridge, will be our Visiting Scholar in January-February next and we hope there will be another Visiting Scholar in 2010.

Publication Series

In 2009 several proposals were received and considered or are being considered for the new Medieval Voyaging series.

The first volume in the series will be The Epiphany of Hieronymus Bosch (on the medieval apocalyptic background to the depiction of the assembly of nations in the work of Hieronymus Bosch) by Debra Strickland, Associate Professor in English and Medieval Studies, University of Toronto. Previous monographs by Professor Strickland are Saracens, Demons, and Jews: Making Monsters in Medieval Art (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2003) and Medieval Bestiaries: Text, Image, Ideology (Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 1995).


By the end of this year, we anticipate a revised pro forma for a volume on the depiction of Greeks in medieval Latin, English, and French literature.

The editorial board has received a preliminary proposal for a volume of edited essays on medieval and early modern travel to India, arising from a conference at Jadavpur University. We currently await submission of the formal proposal by its editor.

The editors received an excellent proposal for a volume in the Making the Middle Ages series. Unfortunately, the Brepols board did not approve it.
WUN and CARMEN

In July the Centre applied to the University of Sydney’s International Office for funding to host an international conference here in August 2010 on the theme ‘New directions and Initiatives in Medieval and Renaissance Studies’. The objective was to use the conference to establish personal links with colleagues from other WUN-affiliated universities and outstanding Centres for Medieval and Renaissance Studies around the world.

We applied for $30,000 from the International Office and from the Arts Faculty and were to match that with $5,000 of own money and $5,000 from the School of Letters, Art, and Media. Unfortunately the application was not successful; no reason was given. Whether we should attempt such an application again is debatable.

2010

I will be away on Special Duties Overseas from 13 February until 6 April and again from mid June until Semester II. At present I have had no proposals for visitors to the Centre nor offers to give lectures in 2010. All offers would be welcome.

2011 and beyond

My term as Director of the Centre will end on 31 December 2010. I have already initiated proceedings to have a successor appointed and the powers that be have one person in particular in mind.

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 Renaissance Latin Reading Group meets Monday afternoons and all but beginners (our apologies) are welcome. For more information please contact Frances.Muecke@usyd.edu.au.

As noted in our last newsletter, 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.

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. An OERG resurrection is being organised, to meet on Monday evenings.

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-Garnsey, for Old Norse, Hannah Burrows, for OERG, Helen Appleton, and, for future plans for FROG, OIRG, MWRG, Gabrielle Singleton.
Calendar

Second Semester Special Lecture

Wednesday 26 August, 12.30-2.00 p.m.
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.
Dr Louise Marshall, Senior Lecturer, Art History and Film Studies, University of Sydney
‘Bodies and buboes: the cult of St Roch in Renaissance Italy’

Wednesday 16 September, 5.00 for 5.30
Dr Karen Pratt, Senior Lecturer, French Department, King’s College, London
‘Voice, gender, and authority in late medieval French literature’

Thursday 29 October, 5.00 for 5.30
Dr Maurizio Campanelli, Ricercatore, Department of Greek and Latin Philology, Sapienza University of Rome
‘Describing Rome in the Middle Ages’

Annual Brief Research Reports
& Annual General Meeting Day
incorporating a lecture by
Professor Jacques Dalarun, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris
on
‘Robert of Arbrissel and the foundation of Fontevrault’

followed by Christmas Lunch
Members’ Activities

Congratulations are due to Dan Anlezark and Lawrence Warner, each promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer from January 2010. “It was a pleasure for the HOS to write his report for each of them, as each case was clear-cut.”

Emily Baynham presented the paper ‘The manuscript contexts of Anglo-Saxon charms’ to the October meeting of the Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group.

John Beston has revised his article on Renart's Lai de l'Ombre, translated all the Old French quotations, and sent it to Romantic Review. His next project, already started, is to translate a group of 10 Old French ‘Breton lais’, those that aren't narrative and don't really have Breton material (like l'Ombre, le Conseil, l'Amours, Aristote, l'Espervier, and so on). These are late in the genre, near its end. John has already translated le Conseil and l'Amours, which hadn't previously been rendered into English.

Hannah Burrows has been busily writing away. Her recent publications include


At the EMLAC research cluster, University of Sydney, on 6 November, she gave her research group paper ‘Not Waving But Drowning : Heiðreks saga's wave-riddles and Old Norse poetic language for the sea’; and she has had accepted an abstract from her paper ‘From Darkness Comes Light : Reading Medieval Scandinavia from the perspective of riddles’ to be given at the 30th Annual Conference of the Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, New York, March 27-28, 2010. The conference theme is ‘New Directions in Medieval Scandinavian Studies’. Hannah’s particularly excited about this last one!

Mike Carter, in January attended a conference in Bonn organised in honour of himself and a German colleague; it was extremely flattering to be included in the same event, as his German colleague is without doubt the world's leading scholar in Mike’s field. In July, as President of the Oriental Society of Australia since 2007, Mike gave the opening address at an international conference on numismatics, organised by a member of, and sponsored by, the OSA.

Mike has had several articles and book reviews published, and has also reviewed quite a number of promotion applications, book proposals, and articles submitted to journals. Among work in preparation is an invited article on Muslim education for Diogenes, the journal of UNESCO, to be read widely, one assumes.

He has been asked to be the official supervisor of a doctoral student in Oslo and has agreed to do so.

Mike is currently preparing the Newsletter of the Union of European Arabicists and Islamicists, which he issues every other year; and will be attending the Union’s next conference, in Naples in September 2010, though probably not rustling up a paper in time. He is, however, preparing a paper for a conference in St Louis next March which will be a dry run for a conference in Cambridge late in 2010.
Margaret Clunies Ross, most importantly, has a second grandchild. This notice appeared in the newsletter of the School of Letters, Arts, and Media (to which our Centre belongs):

MERGER PROVIDES HEIR TO PROFESSORIAL DYNASTY

PENNY GAY AND MARGARET CLUNIES ROSS are thrilled to announce the birth of their grandchild.

Edward Max Hiatt was born last Saturday 12th October at 2.10 pm at the Barkantine Birth Centre, London, to Penny's daughter Meg Gay (Honours 1 Medieval Studies 1994) and Margaret’s son Alfred Hiatt (Honours 1 English 1994). He weighed in at 9 pounds and 15 ounces (4.47kg). All are doing well.
Beside this, Margaret participated in three conferences in 2009: April, UCLA ‘Writing down the Myths’ (invited paper on Snorri Sturluson’s Edda); July, University of Uppsala, 14th International Saga Conference (‘Poets and Ethnicity’); and October, University of Aberdeen, Conference title ‘Myth and Theory’, her paper ‘Myth and Cognition’.

Margaret’s recent publications include


Also, Margaret edited Poetry on Christian Subjects. Part I: The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries. Part II: The Fourteenth Century, Skaldic Poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages, Vol. 7, Turnhout:
Brepols, 2007, which was reviewed [ecstatically - Ed.] by Roberta Frank of Yale University. Some quotations:

“This first volume ... is informative, beautifully produced, and a glorious achievement in every way. It is also, for those in the field, a dream come true.”

“It is impossible in a short review to do justice to the learning and interpretive range of the separate editors.”

“I searched for errors and typographical mistakes and came up empty-handed.”

“This is a landmark publication, renewing one's faith in the possibilities of scholarship. The editors' methodological rigor, profound learning, and solidly grounded conclusions have placed the study of skaldic verse on a new footing. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those involved in bringing this series into being, not least its five General Editors, among whom the editor of this volume has pride of place.”

[I plan eventually to link the CMS website Books Edited page entry to the full review. Ed.]

As if this were not enough, Margaret has received an ARC Discovery grant of $357,000 over three years for her project ‘Pre-Christian Religions of the North : A History of Research and Reception’.

**Robert Curry**, as a musicologist, has been authorised by the University of New England to work on material left by the distinguished Australian medievalist-musicologist, Gordon Athol Anderson. Anderson spent the last decade of his life cataloguing, translating and transcribing the entire corpus of Notre-Dame and related conductus. At the time of his death in 1981, the catalogue raisonné and two of the projected eleven volumes of transcriptions had appeared, and work was well advanced on the remaining volumes; seven of them were published posthumously. It had always been Anderson's intention to reissue his catalogue in a revised and updated version that incorporated the wealth of insights he gained from his research transcribing and translating this extensive corpus of Latin song. To that end, he kept a working copy of the catalogue which he annotated copiously in three different colours. Anderson's working copy lay unnoticed for over two decades until brought to light by Robert who will be working with Fisher Library's eScholarship to produce an electronically searchable, revised and updated, version of Anderson's conductus catalogue. It is envisaged that this project will underpin a much larger research project to be headed by Professor Mark Everist, University of Southampton, which entails producing commercially available CDs of the repertoire together with a monograph-length study of the poetic and musical style of this major genre of medieval music.

**Carole Cusack** has been appointed to the Board of the International Society for the Study of New Religion (ISSNR), a new scholarly body incorporated in Sweden. ISSNR has launched the International Journal for the Study of New Religions (IJSNR), published by Equinox, UK. The editors are Carole M. Cusack (University of Sydney) and Liselotte Frisk (Dalarna University). The first issue will appear in May 2010. Carole gave the paper “Alternative Spiritualities in Australia” at the Alternative Spiritualities Conference, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, October 30-31. Her chapter ‘Alternative Spiritualities in Australia’ appears in *Alternative spiritualities, the New Age and new religious movements in Ireland*, Laurence Cox ed., Irish Research Network on Alternative Religions and Spiritualities, Limerick, 2009, ISBN 13 978-0-9563267-0-6. Carole has been awarded $7,395 by the Faculty of Arts Research Support Scheme (FARSS) for her new book *Invented religions : imagination, fiction, and faith*, which investigates five contemporary Western religions founded since the late 1950s.

**Lola Sharon Davidson** gave the paper 'Na Prous : the female heretic as dissenting moral subject’ at the Hobart ANZAMEMS conference last November. This July she presented a paper at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds on ‘Arnalda de la Motta : The Ministry of a Female Perfect’. Her article ‘Montaillou : Cosmology and Social Structure’ is due to appear in a special issue of *Heresis*
edited by John O. Ward. Moving away from heresy and back towards dreams, ‘Dreaming in class: Aristotle’s De somnpo in the schools’ is appearing in the volume edited by Juanita Ruys and John Ward issuing from the Classics in the Classroom conference. Her entry on ‘Russell Prowse, Banker’, a side-effect of her history of Westpac, appeared in the *Australian Dictionary of National Biography* this year as did reviews on medieval books in *Parergon*. She continues work on the Indian Ocean textile trade and her endless project on women and heresy with John Ward.

**Rifaat Ebied** has been appointed Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University for another three years. In 2009 he attended 7th Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu January 2009. In 2008 he published *An Anthology of Arab Wit and Wisdom* (Piscataway, Gorgias Press) and (with Lionel Wickham) ‘The Syriac Liturgy of Peter of Callinicus’, in *The Harp: A Review of Syriac and Oriental Ecumenical Studies*, 23 (2008), 309-343.

**Matthew Glozier** has two ongoing projects

(i) researching and writing a book on Classical Fencing, a central traditional Western martial art. The focus is on the ‘academic’ treatment of European swordplay in teaching and practice as it developed to the mid-twentieth century (before its degeneration into a mere sport)

(ii) researching and writing a book *The Great Siege of Candia (1645–1669) : Venice, France, and the Knights of St John against the Turks in the long war on Crete*. The war for Candia lasted 24 years, from 1645 to 1669, was located in the Mediterranean, although continental powers’ interests had moved towards the Atlantic and Northern Europe and the naval power of the Venetians and Spaniards was dramatically diminished by piracy. It was the key conflict between Europe and the Ottomans between Lepanto (1574) and the Great Siege of Vienna (1683). In the final phase of the war (spring 1667) there began a siege lasting 28 months which cost the lives of 108,000 Turks and 29,088 Christians — casualties included 280 Venetian noblemen, a figure equivalent to about a quarter of the Grand Council.

**Anna Hansen**’s article ‘Crossing the Borders of Fantastic Space : The Relationship Between the Fantastic and the Non-Fantastic in Valdimars Saga’ has appeared in *Parergon*, Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Vol. 26, No. 1.


**David Juste** was invited to Munich as a 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.

**James Kane** and **Jennifer Green** were jointly awarded the George Vari Prize in Medieval Studies (2008).

**Frances Muecke** from October to the end of December is host to Dr Maurizio Campanelli, from Università di Roma, La Sapienza, Visiting International Fellow. His project is ‘Describing Rome: the idea of the city in early modern Europe’ on which he lectured the Centre on 29 October.

**Penny Nash** has been awarded the Ernest Bramsted Prize (shared) for Modern or Medieval European History (2008), awarded annually to a student in History IV for outstanding work in the field
of modern or medieval European history. Penny visited Europe on a ‘Tour of the Cathedrals of Southern France Seeking the Origins of Chartres’ which she describes as a wonderful event which garnered people from England, Canada, USA, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia. All, except Penny, her husband. and another Australian couple, were experts in the field with knowledge in a combination of Medieval Art, Architecture, Art, and Architectural journalism. They visited Chartres cathedral, Moissac, Benoît-sur-Loire and many others, with expert commentary on capitals, architecture, choir stalls, etc. They climbed the normally closed tower of Chartres and saw pieces of the original choir stalls which have been replaced by much later choir stalls in the body of the church.

Websites with some astounding photos
http://chrishenige.zenfolio.com/f573639611
http://chrishenige.zenfolio.com/p879612258/h5d9b0c0#h5d9b0c0

Penny also gave a paper at AEMA in Melbourne, September/October, ‘The Shifting Terrain – Italy and Germany Dancing in their own Tapestry’, which explored Adelheid, Empress of Germany, and her influence on the rulership through her land ownership.

Russell Poole is to be congratulated on this year being elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada.


John Pryor has been engaged all year on two projects with his students:
(a) An edition and translation of the Libellus de expugnatione Terrae Sanctae per Saladinum
(b) An edition and translation of associated excitatoria for the Third Crusade : the so-called ‘Letters from the East’.

He has also completed and returned the proofs of ‘A medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution : Crusading by Sea ca 1096-1204’ which will appear in Tradition and Transition, proceedings of a Symposium held at College Station, to be published by Texas A & M Press, November 2007.

Margaret Rogerson is warmly congratulated on her promotion to Associate Professor whereby the University of Sydney has recognised her contribution in research, teaching, and service.

Zita Rohr, an independent writer and post-doctoral researcher, has completed her Ph.D. and is at the moment revising her thesis for publication and doing the round of international symposia and conferences. Since September she has been organising a session proposal for IMS Leeds 2010 with a group of north-American scholars. Zita attended the Irish Conference of Historians in June (Limerick, University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, and the Irish Academy) and delivered the paper ‘The Reverse of the Tapestry : A Snapshot of the Life and times of Yolande of Aragon (1381-1442) : Limits and Possibilities of Authority and Power in the Late Middle Ages’. She says it was a great experience for an ECR such as herself.

Brian Taylor writes that Professor Horst Brunner, who till his recent retirement held the chair of Medieval German Literature and Music (Deutsche Philologie) at the University of Würzburg, Germany, visited the Department of Germanic Studies here at the University on 3 November and met with Brian and the Head of Department, Dr Andrea Bandhauer. Professor Brunner is a much-
published expert on medieval German music and the leading authority on the German mastersingers. Brian had discussions with him on his own ongoing project on the poetics of the mastersingers.

**Lawrence Warner**’s book manuscript, *The Lost History of “Piers Plowman”*, is about to enter production with the University of Pennsylvania Press, and his two essays on the reception history of that poem recently appeared in the *Journal of the Early Book Society* and *The La Trobe Journal* (the latter focusing upon a sixteenth-century copy of the poem held at the State Library of Victoria and once owned by a prominent nineteenth-century man of letters). As noted above, next January he becomes a Senior Lecturer of English.