University of Sydney
Centre for Medieval Studies
Annual Report 2004

The Board of the Centre for Medieval Studies is able to report once again on a very busy and successful year in 2004. The Board for 2004 comprises Professor Margaret Clunies Ross (Director), Associate Professors Geraldine Barnes and John Pryor (Associate Directors), Associate Professor John Clifton-Everest, Dr. Carole Cusack, Professor Rif Ebied, Dr. Antonina Harbus, Dr. Jane Hardie, Ms Yvette Paiement (undergraduate student member), Mr. Matthew Sayles (postgraduate student member), Dr. Andrew Gillett (Macquarie University), and Dr. John Ward.

The Board met on Thursday 29 July and Thursday 23 September 2004.

As John Pryor was on Special Studies Leave in Semester 2, Margaret Clunies Ross assumed his responsibilities for the administration of undergraduate and Honours programmes, although MDST 2007 (see below) was co-ordinated by Mr Craig Ronalds.

The Board is deeply indebted to the voluntary administrative services provided by Mrs Gabrielle Singleton, and also to the help of the General Office staff in the John Woolley Building. We would also like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Bonner, who looks after the catering for our monthly lecture series; her help has been very much appreciated.

Highlights of the year 2004

In 2004, the Centre has been active in numerous areas including our undergraduate teaching programmes, our Honours teaching and supervision, and our postgraduate research supervision. As in previous years, the teaching duties in Medieval Studies have been shared among members of staff who are members of the Centre, and the Board wishes to thank them very much for the work they do, in most cases in addition to their departmental teaching loads. We also draw on the expertise of our Honorary Research Associates in the teaching programme, and are much indebted to them for their services. We offered MDST 2001, The Written Record of the Middle Ages, in Semester 1 and MDST 2007, Medieval Literary and Artistic Modes, in Semester 2. There have been four Medieval Studies Honours students in 2004. Two completed this year: one, Vanessa Crosby, completed in mid-year and graduated with First Class Honours in October, while the second, Yvette Paiement, was awarded First Class Honours at yesterday’s Faculty Board. Vanessa Crosby has been awarded the George Vari Prize for the best Medieval Studies IV thesis. Two (or possibly three) other students will complete their Honours degrees in 2005, and it looks as if additional Honours students will enrol in 2005.

There are currently 6 enrolled postgraduates in Medieval Studies, all but one writing Ph.D. theses. Three of them are fairly close to completion. One student, Melanie Heyworth, has spent much of the Northern Hemisphere academic year 2003-4 on
exchange at Royal Holloway College, London University, where she has done very well. However, the highlight of the year in the postgraduate area, and a first for the Centre, has been the successful examination of Peter Hupfauf’s Ph.D. thesis on ‘Signs and Symbols represented in Germanic, particularly Early Scandinavian, Iconography’. He was awarded the degree of Ph.D. on 29 October 2004 - the first Ph.D. in Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney. Congratulations, Peter!

2004 has also been memorable for the fact that the Centre sponsored two very successful symposia, in July and November, and reports on these appear below. The July symposium, on medieval and early modern music from the Iberian Peninsula, was co-ordinated by Honorary Research Associate Jane Hardie, and the November symposium by Juanita Ruys, ARC Postdoctoral Fellow attached to the Centre. Both symposia were extremely well organised, and the Board wishes to thank Jane and Juanita for their excellent work. This year’s lecture series was particularly full, with a large number of visiting speakers from overseas, principally from the UK and USA. Professor Adrian Gully, of the University of Exeter, who began his Leverhulme Fellowship in the Centre in late 2003, remained with us until mid-August 2004. He delivered an excellent lecture to Centre members in late May.

In August 2004, Professor Michael Carter, formerly of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Oslo, took up a position of Honorary Professor at the Centre. He will continue his research on various aspects of medieval Arabic language and literature.

The General Editors of the Centre’s publication series, Making the Middle Ages, are pleased to report the publication of one volume in the series during 2004. Details of this publication appear below. Three further volumes are in the process of preparation for publication.

In late November 2003, Associate Professor Geraldine Barnes was elected to the Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, bringing the number of Fellows of the Academy who are also Members of the Centre at the University of Sydney to five (Barnes, Clunies Ross, Ebied, Newbigin, Ward).

Ten staff members of the University of Sydney, seven of whom are members of the Centre (Barnes, Clunies Ross, Eckstein, Fulton, Newbigin, Ruys, and Ward), were among 50 Network Participants who lent their names and research track records to an application lodged by a group of European medievalists and early modernists at the University of Western Australia for an award under the ARC’s new Research Networks funding scheme. The project, ARC Research Network for Early European Research (NEER), was successful, and in late August was awarded $1,600,000 over the 5 years 2004-9.

NEER’s main objectives are to link researchers in the field of medieval and early modern European studies in Australia (and to some extent, New Zealand), whether staff or postgraduates, to sponsor conferences and symposia, to hold advanced training seminars for postgraduates (the first of which will take place this December and be led by Helen Fulton of the English Department), and to establish various electronic networks to link researchers and assist postgraduates. There is also a plan to buy access to expensive electronic resources not available currently to many
Australian scholars. NEER has identified 4 themes, each with a theme (=team) leader: Cultural Memory (Stephanie Trigg, University of Melbourne); Social Fabric (Nick Eckstein, University of Sydney); Science, Medicine, and the Environment (Michael Bennett, University of Tasmania); Early European-Australasian Connections (Peter Holbrook, vice Lloyd Davis, University of Queensland). It should be noted that the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney has recently promised $10,000 to NEER, provided the University contributes a matching amount. This has implications for the possible privileges accorded to University of Sydney members of NEER. Both Nick Eckstein and Margaret Clunies Ross attended a planning meeting of NEER on 12 November, the latter at the request of the CMS Board.

The following Centre members are to be congratulated on being awarded ARC Discovery grants in the 2005 round, announced on 17 November 2004:

Nick Eckstein (History) $100,000 over 2 years. Project: ‘Beyond the Neighbourhood: The Urban Histories of Sociability and Community in Renaissance Florence, 1400-1500’.

Nerida Newbiggin (Italian Studies) $70,000 over 3 years. Project: ‘Festival, Spectacle and Plays in Renaissance Florence’.

Report on undergraduate teaching for 2004

MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages Semester 1

As usual, John Pryor convened this core unit of study, which is compulsory for any undergraduate student taking a Medieval Studies major. 24 students completed the unit, which is a number about the average for enrolments over recent years, but they are reported to have been an exceptionally good group.

MDST 2007 Medieval Literary and Artistic Modes Semester 2

In 2004, this unit was convened by Craig Ronalds, of the English Department, and the Centre is very grateful to him for his work, as it is to all of the lecturers who participated: Geraldine Barnes, John Clifton-Everest, Carole Cusack, Antonina Harbus, Jane Hardie, Vrasidas Karalis, Louise Marshall, Craig Ronalds, and Diane Speed. 17 students completed the unit and are reported to have been very diligent and enthusiastic. The unit was last offered in 2002.

Centre for Medieval Studies Lecture Series 2004

As in previous years, the Centre has sponsored a lively and varied series of lectures by local and visiting scholars during both Semesters of 2004. Several of these lectures were held jointly with the English Department’s Tuesday lunchtime research seminar series, and this arrangement worked very well. We thank the English co-ordinators, Luke Ferreter and Neil Levy, for their co-operation in this matter. We also held one
seminar jointly with Studies in Religion and Celtic Studies. The lecturers for 2004 and their topics are listed below.

**Semester 1**

Thursday 25 March, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Dr. Juanita Ruys, ARC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney:
‘Abelard’s poem of advice for his son Astralabe, known as the *Carmen ad Astralabium*’

Tuesday 30 March, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Dr. Alfred Hiatt, School of English, University of Leeds:
‘Literary Approaches to Medieval Maps’

Tuesday 6 April, 1.00 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Professor Art Groos, Professor of German and Music, Cornell University:
‘The problem of orientalism in Wolfram von Eschenbach’s *Parzival*’

Thursday 20 May, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Professor Adrian Gully, Professor of Arabic Studies, University of Exeter, Leverhulme Visiting Fellow, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Sydney:
‘On interpreting his own position: the Secretary in Islamic society, 11th - 15th centuries AD’.

**Semester 2**

Tuesday 27 July, 1-2.00 p.m. (jointly with English Department Research Seminar), Rogers Room, John Woolley Building:
Dr. Corinne Saunders, Department of English, University of Durham:
‘Magic, Science and Romance: Chaucer and the Supernatural’

Thursday 29 July, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Professor Stephanie Hollis, Director, University of Auckland Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies:
‘Women’s Literacy and Manuscript Ownership in England, c.900-1200’

Wednesday 11 August, 5.00 p.m. (jointly with Studies in Religion and Celtic Studies) Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Dr. Jonathan Wooding, University of Wales, Lampeter:
‘The Location of the Promised Land in Medieval Irish Literature’

Thursday 26 August, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level 4, John Woolley Building:
Mr. François Soyer, King’s College Cambridge:
‘The end of religious tolerance in Portugal and the expulsion of the Jewish and Muslim minorities in 1496-7’

Monday 13 September, 1-2.00 p.m. (jointly with English Department Research Seminar), Rogers Room, John Woolley Building:
Professor John Ganim, Department of English, University of California, Riverside:
‘The Occult History of Britain’

Thursday 14 October, 5.30 p.m. Woolley Common Room Level, 4 John Woolley Building:
Associate Professor Chris Wortham, Department of English, Communication and Cultural Studies, University of Western Australia:
‘Shakespeare’s recourse to medieval maps in Richard II and Othello’

Friday 3 December, 1-2.00 p.m. Centre for Medieval Studies Room N306, John Woolley Building:
Dr. Árni Björnsson, former Head of the Folklore Department, National Museum of Iceland:
‘Wagner and the Volsungs: Icelandic sources of Der Ring des Nibelungen’

Centre for Medieval Studies Conferences 2004

Commemoration, Ritual, and Performance: A Symposium on Medieval and Early Modern Music
Wednesday July 21 2004

– Jane Morlet Hardie

The Centre for Medieval Studies presented “Commemoration, Ritual and Performance: A Symposium on Medieval and Early Modern Music” in the Woolley Common Room. The event, opened by Professor Margaret Clunies Ross, Director of the Centre, included papers by seven prominent musicologists from Spain, Portugal, the USA, Switzerland and Australia on a range of topics all related to the central themes of the day. A highlight of the day was the opportunity provided by Neil Boness (Rare Books Librarian) for the participants and attendees to see and touch two sixteenth-century manuscripts of Spanish provenance recently acquired by Fisher library. Following the seven papers, Neil McEwan and the St Laurence Chamber Choir gave a magical concert consisting of music, performed for the first time from the research of each of the scholars. Such an integration of musicological research and performance of the results of such research is rare, and really brought the music to life. In addition to students and staff from the University of Sydney, Australian Catholic University, and the Catholic Institute of Sydney, people attending this conference came from Canada, the USA, and Queensland. Two students from St Andrews Cathedral School attended as part of their “transition to University” programme.

Jane Hardie, who convened this Symposium, expects that expanded versions of some of the papers presented will be jointly published by the Institute of Mediaeval Music in Ottawa and the Centre for Medieval Studies. The Centre for Medieval Studies is also planning to issue a CD of the concert, and is very pleased to acknowledge here its gratitude to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the College of
Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor June Sinclair, for her award of $5000 to the Centre for the purpose of making a professional-quality recording of the concert for the CD.

The papers given were as follows:
- Thomas Connolly (University of Pennsylvania). The Road to Compostela: In Search of the Art of Theory.
- Manuel Pedro Ferreira (Universidad de Lisboa). Commemoration and Ritual: St Gerald of Braga.
- Dorothea Baumann (University of Zurich). Performing practice of Trecento music.
- Jane Morlet Hardie (University of Sydney). Salamanca to Sydney: A Newly Discovered Manuscript of the Lamentations of Jeremiah.

**Report on Didactic Literature Symposium**
Thursday November 4 2004
– Juanita Feros Ruys

Didactic literature on all themes and across the ages was the focus of this one-day symposium which was designed both to explore the range and tradition of didactic literature, and to introduce to each other scholars in Australia working in this field, in order to create a sense of community amongst ourselves. An interested and engaged audience prepared to offer comments and explore issues further with questions made for an invigorating day.

The day began with a look at an astronomical fragment from Ancient Rome, which Emma Gee, of the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney, argued appeared rather to be the work of Marcus Tullius Cicero than his brother Quintus, to whom most manuscripts attributed it. Anne M. Scott, of the University of Western Australia, provided a study of the long Middle English poem *Handlyng Synne*, showing how it functioned simultaneously both to teach moral precepts and to teach the English vernacular, and discussing its likely audience. John Scott, who is involved with the Macquarie University project to edit and translate William of Ockham’s *Dialogus*, discussed this didactic text which, presented as a dialogue between master and student, was intended to prove that Pope John XXII was a heretic. This raised the interesting question of how one attempts to persuade those who are inherently inimical to one’s position, and he showed that, judging by the numbers of manuscripts now extant, William was in this respect more successful amongst subsequent generations of readers than amongst his contemporaries.

The next session focused on didactic texts dealing with or directed to children. Anna Hansen, who is currently completing a PhD in the Department of English at the University of Sydney, outlined the obligations towards family, and particularly children, contained in the Icelandic Law Code and considered how these were
revealed as operating in two Icelandic sagas. Her paper offered a view of didacticism as a force for social good, designed to safeguard the welfare and inheritance of orphaned children. Ursula Potter, who holds a PhD from the Department of English at the University of Sydney, discussed Juan Luis Vives’ *Education of a Christian Woman* which was written for Princess Mary, the daughter of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon, in 1529, considering the paradox that although it was the most popular conduct book for women in Tudor England, it was also seen as repressive and divisive in English families. Children in Renaissance Florence were the subject of Catherine England’s paper as this PhD student in the Department of History at the University of Sydney sought to balance the trend towards discovering a culture of childhood in the early modern period, by arguing that early modern Florentines held not sentimental but functional views of children as future adults of the state.

After lunch the keynote lecture was presented by Yasmin Haskell, Associate Professor of Latin Humanism at the University of Western Australia and a specialist in Jesuit Latin didactic literature. Her entertaining revelation of brand-new research undertaken in the Neapolitan archives into an apparent epidemic of ‘hypochondria’ in early modern Naples, which seemed largely to afflict learned Jesuits, involved consideration of early modern medical literature, and aroused much audience discussion of exactly what this strange malady might have been.

The next session was designed to study the latent didactic aspects of texts that did not immediately appear to have a didactic function. Kathleen Olive, a PhD student in the Department of Italian at the University of Sydney, presented her study on the Codex Rustici, which was purportedly a pilgrimage travelogue written by a sixteenth-century Florentine gold merchant, but which she believes in fact fulfilled the more parochial didactic function of trumpeting the prestige of the city of Florence. Frances Muecke, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney, considered the clear Latin didactic elements of a sixteenth-century poem on music, exploring the balance and indeed tension between description and instruction in this poem of Latin hexameters.

The day concluded with a session that gathered together the threads of earlier sessions by exploring the afterlife of ancient, medieval, and early modern didacticism in later texts. Anthony Miller, the Chair of the Department of English at the University of Sydney, presented a paper which revealed how mining and metallurgy manuals of the early modern period drew on the literary structure of Classical epics and explicitly employed the language of the Golden Age drawn from the texts of Ancient Rome to further their argument that Nature’s supply of raw materials provided humans with a social obligation to mine the same, and that this exploitation involved the virtú of physical courage and mental prudence. Louise D’Arcens, a Lecturer in the English Studies Program at the University of Wollongong, then brought us to Colonial Australia with her study of the medievalist impulses and traces discernible in Rolf Boldrewood’s novel *A Sydney-Side Saxon*. She explored how Boldrewood drew on and adapted for a colonial milieu the racial distinctions between Saxon and Norman evident in Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*, detailing how Boldrewood’s project of reconciling Saxon and Norman in the New World was, unacknowledged by him, predicated upon the new racial subjection of Aborigines. Both these papers therefore raised disturbing questions about how the social acceptability inhering in earlier forms of didacticism could be both used and abused in pursuit of essentially conservative and exploitative projects and thus provided a thought-provoking counterpoint to other representations during the day of didacticism as either a relatively benign means of persuasion, or even a force for social good.
**Making the Middle Ages**

The Centre, in collaboration with Brepols Publishers (Turnhout, Belgium), sponsors the monograph series *Making the Middle Ages* on post-medieval constructions of the Middle Ages. Full details and information about earlier publications in the series, now numbering 5 volumes, are available on the Centre’s web site. The General Editors are Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross.

In 2004 one volume in the series has been published:
Copy editing and layout was by Simon French and cover design by Peter Hupfauf, both of whom the General Editors wish to thank for their services.

We anticipate the publication of two volumes in 2005, Judith Johnston’s *George Eliot and the Discourses of Medievalism* (MMA 6) and Stephanie Trigg’s edited volume *Medievalism and the Gothic in Australian Culture* (MMA 8).

**The CMS Web Site**

During 2004, largely due to the hard work and determination of Gabrielle Singleton, the Centre’s website has been transformed. It is now up-to-date (as far as a website can be) and follows an approved Faculty and University template. All members are encouraged to use the site, where there are many details of Centre staff and contacts, teaching programmes and units of study, lectures, symposia, publications, reports, and links to other ongoing projects. The Centre is also grateful to School Webmaster Mark Johnston for assisting Gabrielle in bringing the web to its present state of, if not perfection then potential, perfection.

**Statement of Accounts for 2004**

This will be presented as a separate document and available at the Annual General Meeting.

**Centre programmes and activities planned for 2005-6**

The lecture programme for 2005 is in a state of active preparation. Anyone who would like to present a paper next year should contact Margaret Clunies Ross as soon as possible, with an indication of preferred month and topic.

In 2005, one CMS symposium is planned. This will be a one-day symposium on 1 July 2005 on the subject, ‘In and around the Latin East: Peoples of the Levant in the Age of the Crusades’, organised by John Pryor. The symposium immediately precedes the meeting of the International Congress of Historical Sciences in Sydney, 3-5 July 2005. Anyone interested in the symposium should contact John Pryor.
The Centre gratefully acknowledges a financial contribution from the School of English, Art History, Film and Media Studies towards this symposium.

Plans have begun for a CMS conference on ‘The Classics in the Classroom’ in the Medieval and Early Modern periods for July-August 2006. This conference was the brain child of John Ward, but has since been linked with a proposal by Constant Mews of Monash University for a related conference, entitled ‘From Classroom to Manuscript : Communities of Learning and the Written Record 1100-1450’. Further details of the interrelationship between these two proposals have yet to be finalised, but will be made known as soon as possible.

Other important conferences, not sponsored by the CMS, but of special relevance to our field during 2005-6 are:
- The Eighth World Shakespeare Congress 16-21 July 2006, University of Queensland. Organiser Lloyd Davis.

Centre for Medieval Studies Visiting Scholars 2005

So far, no visitors have been arranged for 2005.

Undergraduate units in Medieval Studies 2005

MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages
This core unit of study in Medieval Studies (8 credit points, essential for a major in Medieval Studies) will be available again in Semester 1 2005, co-ordinated by John Pryor.

MSDT 2009 The First Crusade
John Pryor will offer this unit of study (8 credit points) in second semester 2005.

From 2006, the Faculty of Arts will be moving to a system of 6 credit point units for all Senior units of study. This will require the Board to rethink our current arrangements, whereby we offer two 8 credit point units per year. It is also likely to affect the current requirements for a Major in Medieval Studies. The Board will have to present its revised units of study to the Faculty by the end of February 2005.

M. Clunies Ross,
Director,
25-11-04.