The Centre for Medieval Studies Newsletter
Vol. 6, No. 1 University of Sydney 1 March 2003

1.. Overture

The Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney was founded in 1997 and is now about to enter its seventh year of successful operation. The Newsletter is circulated to all Members, Honorary, Associate, and Student Members of the Centre either electronically or in hard copy, depending upon whether members have given us their e-mail addresses. It appears biannually, in February and July, and includes a programme of events for the coming semester as well as news of Centre activities, research projects and publications of its members, and teaching.

The Editors welcome news items and contributions from members. Please send them, preferably electronically, to the Acting Director: John Pryor. The Newsletter is also available on the Centre's Website:

http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/arts/departs/medieval/

Compiled by the Acting Director,

John Pryor

2.. Election of the Board of the Centre for 2003

At the Annual General Meeting of the Centre on 11 December 2002, a new Board was elected for the Centre. It is comprised of:

Professor Margaret Clunies Ross (Director), Associate Professors John Pryor (Acting Director in the absence of Margaret Clunies Ross for 2003) and Geraldine Barnes (Associate Director), Associate Professor John Clifton- Everest, Dr Carole Cusack, Professor Rifaat Elbied, Dr Andrew Gillett (Macquarie), Dr Antonina Harbus, Dr Jane Hardie, Dr John Ward, Mr Max Walkley, and Mr Peter Hupfauf and Ms Kim Selling (Postgraduate Representatives). One undergraduate Student Representative will be elected at the first lunch-time lecture in 2001.

John Pryor undertook to ask Vanessa Crosby if she would be prepared to continue
as a member of the Board and/or to conduct an election of an Undergraduate Student member when MDST2001 meets next year.

Geraldine Barnes was re-confirmed as Associate Director of the Centre and Carole Cusack agreed to act as an Acting Associate Director for 2003 in the absence of Margaret Clunies Ross.

3: News of Centre Members

Research Profile: Carole Cusack

Carole M. Cusack is a Lecturer in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1985, a Ph.D. in 1995 (published as Conversion Among the Germanic Peoples, Cassell, 1998), and an M.Ed (in educational psychology) in 2000, all at the University of Sydney.

Her principal interest is religion (all of it) but in the interests of having a career and a delineated area of expertise she concentrates on two periods: the early Middle Ages and the contemporary Western world. All of her researches and publications are variations on a single, mighty theme: religious conversion or change and its impact on culture. In her medieval research Carole concentrates on the expansion of Christianity into the polytheistic European pagan world (chiefly the Germanic peoples, and also the Celts and the Slavs). The enormity of the consequences of this change is acknowledged universally, but the means by which it was achieved and the extent to which Christianity was itself changed by the cultures it was absorbing are still sufficiently opaque to require research for the forseeable future.

In her contemporary researches the medieval themes persist, but the process is reversed. Christianity has been retreating in the West for some time (at least since the mid-nineteenth century, but some scholars would argue since the Renaissance and/or the Reformation). What replaces Christianity includes atheism, agnosticism and eastern religions; but, more interestingly, revived forms of that European paganism (eg Asatr and Wicca) which Christianity originally crushed. Carole has become very interested in "medievalism", the study of the applications and roles performed by the 'medieval' in later Western cultures. To this end she most recently published (with Justine Digance) "Glastonbury: A Tourist Town for All Seasons", in Graham Dann, ed., The Tourist as a Metaphor of the Social World, (Wallingford, 2002), pp. 263-280.

Before being appointed to an academic position in 1996 Carole was a "hired gun", chiefly for the University's Centre for Continuing Education, with

Carole is the Honorary President of the Plantagenet Society, regularly makes radio programmes and speaks to print journalists, and would like to think that she is tireless in her enthusiasm for all things medieval (especially religion!)

In the second half of 2003 she will be Visiting Fellow in the Department of Religion at Edinburgh University, where she hopes to finish her book on holy trees in the Middle Ages and get a start on another book about the current popularity of detective fiction featuring medieval settings.

[We also trust that Carole will shortly be promoted to Senior Lecturer, a promotion long overdue. (Ed.)]
which she still enjoys a close relationship. She has given over 500 lectures for them and has great respect for the enthusiasm and experience of adult education students. She has an article in press, "The Virgin Mary at Coogee: A Preliminary Investigation", Australian Religion Studies Review, 16.1 (Autumn 2003), which emerged from discussions with the students of the two classes of the 2003 "Medieval Pilgrimage" course about the resemblances between the recent Coogee phenomenon and medieval popular religion.

4.. News of the Centre's Honorary Associates

The Centre currently has two Honorary Associates, Dr Elizabeth Bonner and Dr Jane Hardie, and actively encourages others to consider applying to become Honorary Associates. The qualifications for becoming one are that one must have a proven research record including a higher degree, be actively engaged in research currently, and be a member of the Centre. Honorary Associates are expected to publish under the Centre's byline. Anyone interested should approach the Acting Director.

At present the School of English, etc., under whose auspices the Centre falls, is unable to provide any facilities for our Honorary Associates. We can, however, arrange for them to have free access to Fisher Library. It is possible, although by no means guaranteeable, that if we had 4-5 Associates, we might be able to extract a "broom-closet" and a computer for their shared use, or hopefully something even a little better.

Dr Elizabeth Bonner

Her most recent project (for which she is currently making an application for an ARC Fellowship for 2004) aims to research and write a history, within the context of the Franco-Scottish 'Auld Alliance', of the Lennox-Stuarts (a branch of the Scottish Royal House), Seigneurs of Aubigny, from the original donation of the Seigneurie in 1423 to John Stuart, Lord Darnley, by the French king Charles VII in gratitude for Scottish assistance against the English during the 100 Years War, until the death of Esmé Stuart, 6th seigneur d'Aubigny and 1st duke of Lennox.

Her second project is an edition of 111 mostly unknown and unpublished original French documents, culled mainly from the archives and libraries in France but also some from London, Edinburgh and even one from Fisher Library, under the title of The Scots and the French Army, 1547-1559: French Military and Financial Documents Concerning Scotland during the Reign of Henri II.

Dr Jane Hardie

In addition to a busy programme of research and publication, in 2002 Jane Hardie was involved in the International Musicological Society Congress in Leuven, where she presented a paper, organised and ran a session, and participated in the deliberations of the RILM Commission Mixte of which she is an elected member. Following the conference she went to Barcelona as a member of a Ph.D. "tribunal" at the Università Autonomà de Barcelona.

Plans for 2003 are at least as busy. She is currently in the penultimate stages of preparation of her book on the Lamentations of Jeremiah in early printed Iberian sources. Hopefully, with this behind her, she will spend the North American Fall Term as a Visiting Scholar in the Music Department at Harvard University. During this time she will be working on a project on a rare Spanish Print of Holy Week material that she found in the Houghton Library when she was at Harvard as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in 2000. Following the period at Harvard Jane plans a brief research trip to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and a return to Barcelona where she has been invited to
examine another Ph.D. and present a Research Seminar in Musicology.

5. Centre for Medieval Studies Visitors, 2003

VIII. Programmes and activities planned for 2003

In 2003, Margaret Clunies Ross, Director of the Centre, will be absent on a combination of Special Studies Leave and Special Duties Overseas. From 5 December 2002 to 9 February 2003 she will be on SDO in Berlin, and from 10 February 2003 to 10 February 2004 she will be on study leave. Part of that time will be spent as a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College Oxford, part at various conferences and meetings in Europe, and part back in Sydney. During her absence, John Pryor will be Acting Director.

(a) Visit of Patrick Geary

As an indirect benefit to the Centre from the ANZAMEMS 2003 conference on Memory and Commemoration, held at the University of Melbourne from 5-8 February, Patrick Geary, one of the conference's plenary speakers, visited and presented a lunch-hour seminar at the University of Sydney in February.

Patrick, who is a Professor of History at the University of California Los Angeles, visited Sydney from 12-14 February 2003. He is the author of a number of influential books in Medieval Studies, including *The Myth of Nations: the Medieval Origins of Europe* (2002), *Phantoms of Remembrance: Memory and Oblivion at the end of the first Millennium* (1994), *Living with the Dead in the Middle Ages* (1994) and *Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages* (1978). He gave a seminar on Thursday 13 February 2003 at 1.00 p.m. in the Rogers Room (John Woolley Building Room N397) on 'Women in medieval origin myths'. It was particularly addressed to the issue of Amazons in two medieval origin myths.

(b) Visiting Scholars 2003

1 January &endash; 30 June 2003: **Professor Michael Carter**, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Oslo

Mike Carter, who will be on study leave in the first half of 2003, will be finishing a book entitled *A History of the Arabic Language*.

Michael Carter is returning to Sydney for his second Visiting Research Fellowship, after enjoying a very productive stay three years ago. The results of that first visit will appear this year, a Reference Grammar of Modern Written Arabic (in collaboration with Adrian Gully and Elsaid Badawi) and a book about the first Arab grammarian, Sibawayhi (d. ca 795 C.E.). This time the hope is to complete a History of Arabic for the Cambridge University Press.

He will also be giving a seminar paper for the Medieval Studies Centre in March and a paper at the American Oriental Society Conference in Nashville in April, and he has the honour of presenting the A. R. Davis Lecture for the Australian Oriental Society in July.

The news arrived in early February that he has been awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy honoris causa by the University of Lund, which will mean a trip to Sweden in May to attend the award ceremony. These are always magnificent occasions, and the fact that the distinction is being bestowed by an institution which is closely connected with the activities of the Medieval Studies Centre adds an extra dimension.

If there is any time left, there are other jobs on the go, book reviews, a contribution to a festschrift among them, but principally he hopes to enjoy this visit as much as the previous one on the personal level. As a former
member of the Faculty of Arts many years ago it is always a pleasure to be back on this campus among old friends and colleagues.

Semester 2 2003: Dr. Louise D'Arcens, Department of English, University of Wollongong.

Details yet to be arranged.

**6. Events - Semester One, 2003**

**The Centre for Medieval Studies Lecture Series**

The Centre aims to present monthly lectures by local medievalists and visiting scholars on a variety of topics in Medieval Studies. All members and their guests are welcome at these lectures, which are free and delivered by experts in a manner accessible to those without specialist knowledge of their topics.

*These lectures are normally held on the last Thursday of each month. But note the exception for John Ward because the last Thursday of April falls during the University's Easter Break.*

**Thursday 27 March @ 5.30 in the Staff Common Room, Woolley Building.**

**Professor Michael Carter:** "Adam and the birth of language in the Christian and Muslim traditions"

Mike Carter is, of course, ex of the Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney. He is currently at the University of Oslo. Mike is a world-renowned scholar of the Arabic language.

**Thursday 17 April @ 5.30 in the Staff Common Room, Woolley Building.**

**Dr John Ward:** A repentant Abelard? The *Planctus* and the Carmen to his son Astrolabe revisited"

John Ward should need no introduction to anyone who has had anything to do with Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney. He is world-renowned in the history of rhetoric and has been a leading light in Sydney for over thirty years. It is fitting that, in this his final year of teaching, he should give one of the Centre's monthly lectures.

**Thursday 29 May @ 5.30 in the Staff Common Room, Woolley Building.**

**Dr Elizabeth Bonner:** "The discovery of some previously unknown Scottish seals in French archives: the dowry document of Marie de Gueldres, 1450."

Elizabeth Bonner is also well known
She completed her Ph.D. at Sydney in the History Department and has since developed a wide reputation as a scholar of the "Aulde Alliance" between Scotland and France.

The Lectures for Semester One are listed opposite. There may also be a further lecture at a lunch time in May to be given by Professor ??? Sullivan of the University of ???.

7.. Other Events - Semester One, 2003

Medieval Studies Literary L(a)unches

Periodically the Centre holds Literary l(a)unches to celebrate the publication of books by its members. At these l(a)unches the authors are honoured but "sing for their supper" by talking to us about how and why they came to write their books. These are informal occasions. They are not designed to sell books and in the past they have been thoroughly enjoyable occasions.

The l(a)unches used to be held in the Alexander Room of the University of Sydney Club. However that no longer exists and a new venue is being searched for. Wherever it is, we will endeavour to bring the l(a)unches in at no more than $25.00 per person.

This coming semester we will have at least one such l(a)unch to celebrate books published in 2002:

Dr Antonina Harbus  
(Department of English)

*Helena of Britain in medieval legend* (Cambridge) and  
*The life of the mind in Old English poetry* (Amsterdam and New York).

Please let John Pryor know if you are interested in attending. It will probably need to be held on a Wednesday lunchtime between 12.00 and 2.00. **At present I have Wednesday 7 May in mind (John Pryor)**

If any other Member of the Centre published a book in late 2002 or has one coming out early in 2003, please let John Pryor know. It would be great to be able to have more Medieval Literary L(a)unches in Semester Two.

8.. Undergraduate Teaching Programme, 2003

**Semester I:**  
**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 I 2003, coordinated by John Pryor.  

Pre-enrolments as of 11/02/03: 21

**Semester II:**  
**MSDT 2008 The First Crusade**  
John Pryor will offer this unit of study (8 credit points) for the first time within Medieval Studies in Semester II 2003.

Pre-enrolments as of 11/02/03: 21
Medieval Studies IV Honours

We will have three new IV-Honours students next year: Vanessa Crosby, Sarah Mathieson, and Yvette Paiement. In addition Hana Lewis will be completing the part-time candidature she began in 2002.

In addition, I am pleased to report that a number of students from Medieval History 1022 in 2002 have approached me about progressing through to Medieval Studies IV Honours. We also continue to attract enquiries from students from other universities interested in doing so. (John Pryor)

9.. Medieval Studies research postgraduates

The number of postgraduate research students enrolled in Medieval Studies has grown slowly since our inception in 1997 and currently there are seven, six of whom are undertaking Ph.D.s. Deslee Campbell, David Duchesne, and Kim Selling are all in their 3rd-4th years of candidature. Matthew Sayles and Melanie Heyworth are now in their second. Peter Hupfauf will complete his Ph.D. this year. Tricia Hutton is enrolled for an M.Phil. All but two of our postgraduates hold research scholarships, either Australian Postgraduate Awards or University of Sydney Postgraduate Awards.

10.. Meeting of Honours and Postgraduate Students

For some time the Board of the Centre has thought that it ought to encourage our Honours and Postgraduate students to meet together and perhaps to establish an occasional Seminar series at which they might report to each other and to members of staff on their research for their degrees. It has also been suggested that some IV-Honours and postgraduate students undertaking research in the Middle Ages in other departments (who may feel isolated in their departments, where things medieval are very much in the minority) may also be interested and might be approached. It is about time that we acted on this and to that end John Pryor will host a social meeting for them to meet each other and to consider whether they would like to go down this path on Wednesday 26 March @ 12.30 in his room (Woolley N306). Any members of the Academic staff who would like to attend would be welcome. Please let John know. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

11.. Events - Semester Two, 2003

Lecture Series

At present there are no lectures tied up for Semester Two although it is expected that Dr. Louise D’Arcens of the Department of English, University of Wollongong, will give a lecture to the Centre if she is a visiting scholar in Semester Two.

The Board has a number of names in mind but if any Member of the Centre would like to propose someone, please let John Pryor know.

The Board of the Centre considered a number of proposals at its meeting on 16 January 2003, of which the following might be considered by members.

Other events

A one-day symposium. Perhaps four papers by members of the Centre on a theme (or even not on a theme). Or perhaps an emulation of the History Department’s end-of-year Research activities seminar in which people speak for just 10-15 minutes about what they are currently engaged upon and think is important in their research.

Our own Symposium on Medieval Studies. This would not be in opposition to ANZAMEMS but rather complementary to it. As we understand it, the next conference of ANZAMEMS will be in Auckland in late summer 2005. It is suggested that we perhaps stage our own Symposium on Medieval Studies at the Centre, early in 2004 or even perhaps in the Easter Break in 2004.

Members of the Centre who have any thoughts about these two proposals should contact John Pryor.
12.. The Centre's Publishing Programme

I.. Making the Middle Ages

Two volumes of the Centre's series *Making the Middle Ages* (General Editors Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross) have been published in 2002. Volume 4 in the series, Margaret Clunies Ross's *The Old Norse Poetic Translations of Thomas Percy* appeared in March 2002, though with a 2001 publication date, and Volume 3, Richard Utz's *Chaucer and the Discourse of German Philology: A history of Critical Reception and an Annotated Bibliography of Studies 1792-1948*, was published in October 2002.

To date, four volumes have been published in the series. A further four volumes have been accepted and are in varying stages of preparation. The General Editors are pleased with the progress and appearance of the series so far, and are especially indebted to Simon French (layout and copy editing) and Peter Hupfauf (artwork and cover design), as well as to Brepols for the financial support which makes possible the editorial work undertaken in Sydney.

Publications in the series may be ordered direct from the publishers, Brepols Publishers, Steenweg op Tielen 68, B-2300 Turnhout, Belgium. Fax: +32-14-428919.

II.. Travel and Cartography in the Middle Ages

Selected papers from the 2001 Conference on *Travel and Cartography in the Middle Ages* have now been sent to an overseas reader. In-house publication of these papers is in train for what will be the Centre's first publication of its own.

13.. Publications and Papers of some members in 2002 (as conveyed to John Pryor by 11/12/2002)

Books

Antonina Harbus, *Helena of Britain in medieval legend* (Cambridge) and *The life of the mind in Old English poetry* (Amsterdam and New York).

Editions

Margaret Clunies Ross, *Skaldic poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages: Editors' manual*, 2nd. rev. ed., Diana Whaley, Margaret Clunies Ross, Kari Gade, Edith Marold, Guðrún Nordal and Tarrin Wills (Sydney) and *Old Norse myths, literature and society*, ed. Margaret Clunies Ross (The Viking Collection, 14) (Odense); forthcoming December 2002.

Andrew Gillett, *On barbarian identity: Critical approaches to ethnicity in the Early Middle Ages* (Studies in the Early Middle Ages, 4), (York/Turnhout); esp. Andrew's own two chapters: "Introduction: ethnicity, history, and methodology" (1-18) and "Was ethnicity politicized in the earliest medieval kingdoms?" (85-121).

Chapters in Books


Louise Marshall, "Reading the body of a plague saint: Narrative altarpieces and devotional images of St. Sebastian in Renaissance art", in Reading texts and images: Essays on medieval and Renaissance art and patronage, ed. B. Muir, (Exeter); 237-60.


Journal Articles


Margaret Clunies Ross, 'Realism and the fantastic in the Old Icelandic sagas', Scandinavian Studies, December 2002, 1-12.


Jane Hardie, "The past in the present: some liturgico-musical relationships between Toledo, Rome and Andalucia", Studia musicologica Academiae scientiarum Hungaricae
(forthcoming 2002).


Margaret Rogerson, "Rediscovering Richard Eurich's 'York Festival triptych' ", Medieval English theatre, 23 (2002), 3-16.


John O. Ward, "'Decline' and 'new management' in medieval historiography during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (and beyond)", Parergon, n.s., 19 (2002), 19-75.

14. The Centre's I-Book and Scanner

The Centre has a scanner and an IBook (lap-top Mac) which is available on loan to members for short-term visits (up to 5-6 weeks) off-campus for research or writing purposes. Various fonts have been added to the IBook: Greek, Old English, and Pryorfont (which will do Old Norse, Arabic diacritics, Serbo-Croat, Tibetan, etc. - courtesy of Alex Jones who created it).

A booking form for the IBook has been posted on the Centre's Home Page. If you want to borrow it, consult the booking form and if it's free for the period you want, Email the Acting Director and it will be reserved for you.

15. Research Subsidies

At a meeting of the Board of the Centre held on 16 January, 2003, the Board authorized the expenditure of up to $2,500 to subsidise the attendance of Members of the Centre at conferences or for other research activities. Allocation of subsidies will be made by a Sub-Committee of the Board to consist of the Acting Director (John Pryor), the Associate Director (Geraldine Barnes), the Acting Associate Director (Carole Cusack), and one other elected Member of the Board (Mr Max Walkley). Members of the Centre requesting such subsidies should be associated with the University in some way (such as postgraduate students, Honorary Associates of the Centre, ARC Fellows of the Centre, etc.) and should have no other access to funding for such purposes.

This was advertised to all members of the Centre whose e-mail addresses were available and some funds have been committed. However, there are still some uncommitted and any member of the Centre eligible is invited to apply to the Acting Director (John Pryor).

16. Contacting the Centre for Medieval Studies
Interested academics, students, and members of the public are invited to contact the Centre for Medieval Studies.

**Director:** Professor Margaret Clunies Ross
Associate Professor John Pryor

**Acting Director:**

Phone: 9351-2840
FAX: 9351-2434
Email: John.Pryor@medieval.usyd.edu.au

The Centre for Medieval Studies,
John Woolley Building, A20,
University of Sydney,
NSW, 2006, Australia

1st March, 2003