The Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Sydney
Newsletter

Newsletter Vol.10
October 2007

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 has now embarked on 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. It includes a programme of events for the coming semester as well as news of Centre activities, members’ research projects and publications, and teaching. We welcome members’ news items and contributions. Please send them to medieval.enquiries@arts.usyd.edu.au or gabrielle.singleton@arts.usyd.edu.au.
Change at the Centre - A Report From John Pryor

Most members will be aware that Margaret Clunies Ross stepped down as Director on 30 June 2007. Geraldine Barnes also decided that the time was right for her to step down as Associate Director. The Centre owes an enormous amount to both Margaret and Geraldine and I shall miss greatly the two people with whom I was associated in its foundation.

I have taken over as Director and an election was conducted among the members of the current Board to elect two new Associate Directors to hold office until the AGM of 2007. I was pleased to be able to announce the election of Juanita Ruys and Andrea Williams as Associate Directors.

However, earlier this year a directive was received from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor that all Centres in the University of Sydney would be disestablished as of 30 September unless (re-)established. I submitted a report on the Centre’s activities over the past 10 years (greatly assisted by a report Margaret Clunies Ross drew up in 2004), together with a proposal to (re-)establish the Centre and other supporting documentation, to the Dean on 17 September. He approved the continuation of the Centre and I delivered the proposal and other papers to the Provost on 20 September.

I subsequently found out that the examination of all such proposals had been given to the Executive Manager, Mr Simon Malcolm, whom I contacted when I had had no response by the week before last. I am pleased to be able to say that everything is OK. Our activities of all kinds are satisfactory and I am confident the Centre will be continued.

There is just one problem. My proposal for an elected Board to run the Centre has been vetoed. The University’s policy on Centres requires them to be administered by an appointed Management Committee. This is not negotiable and it has been made clear to me that the Centre’s continuation depends on its conforming to the policy. I have sent off a second proposal: a Management Committee (to be known as the Board of the Centre) consisting of the Director (myself), the immediate past Director and the two current Associate Directors (who have all agreed to be nominated), the University Officer (the Dean or his nominee, to whom the Director reports), the Head of the School of Letters, Art, and Media. Members of the Management Committee/Board will hold office for three years until 31 December 2010 (unless one resigns, is replaced, etc.) I await confirmation of this new Committee/Board. Meanwhile, it should be understood that the Board elected at the AGM of 2006 is suspended. In fact, all positions, including my own, are effectively suspended and we are operating in a constitutional limbo.

We are, however, allowed to have an Advisory Committee to advise the Management Committee. It should be stressed that University policy is quite clear that an Advisory Committee advises but does not make decisions. These are made by the Management Committee. The policy says that the Advisory Committee is appointed by the Management Committee. However, I have asked that we be allowed to elect our Advisory Committee, of two Members (members of the academic staff, other employees, Honorary Associates, or Research Fellows, of the University of Sydney), one Honorary Member (a member of the academic staff, other employee, Honorary Associate, or Research Fellow, of any other academy or institution of tertiary education), and two Student Members (one Undergraduate and one Postgraduate student of the University of Sydney). If this request is rejected (which it may well be), the Management Committee will have to appoint an Advisory Committee after consultation with members of the Centre. I envisage that process as calling for expressions of interest, then choosing between those who express interest.

Whatever the case, I envisage close co-operation between Management and Advisory Committees. I have asked that the Director and Associate Directors be allowed to attend meetings of the Advisory Committee ex officio to facilitate this.

Personally, and I am sure that most members of the Centre will share this with me, I regret greatly the loss of our traditional democratic form of governance. However, there is no choice and little room for negotiation.

As soon as I have received from the Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor confirmation of the (re-)establishment of the Centre and of its structure of management, I shall let all Centre members know.

In the meantime we shall proceed with our final functions for 2007: Dr Kathryn Rudy’s lecture on Thursday 25 October and our Annual General Meeting and Research Report Day on Wednesday 28 November. I have asked three of our undergraduate students, who, in my opinion, produced original pieces of research for essays, to form a half-hour panel on the day and I also ask our postgraduates to participate. Apart from that, as usual, I invite all members of the Centre to participate. Reports should be short—no more than 15 minutes. If there are more proposals than there are time slots available, priority will be given to those who did not report in 2006 and/or have not otherwise addressed the Centre this year. Proposals should be sent to Gabrielle.

Let us hope that the life of the Centre will be as active in 2008 as it has been in 2007 and that we can get on with what we do best after this (re-)establishment process is over.

John Pryor
Teaching

The Centre offered four courses this year: MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages and MDST2608 The First Crusade (both co-ordinated by John Pryor), MDST2610 Medieval Cosmology (David Juste), and MDST3601 Medieval Latin Literature and Culture (Juanita Ruys). All have been outstandingly successful with highly enthusiastic students and were great fun to be involved in. My thanks go to all other staff and students involved in the teaching of MDST2601. I’ve learned a great deal from them.

MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages began with 21 students of whom 14 completed. High Distinctions 3, Distinctions 4, Credits 5, Passes 2, outstanding results for those who completed.

MDST2608 The First Crusade began with 28 students, of whom 20 completed. High Distinctions 3, Distinctions 3, Credits 9, Passes 4, Fail 1.

MDST2610 Medieval Cosmology began with 26 students of whom 24 are still active at the time of this report.

MDST3601 Medieval Latin Literature and Culture unfortunately had only one formal enrolment. However, this student has learned an enormous amount from the course. It is hoped we can find ways to increase enrolments in the future.

Next year we shall offer four courses:

MDST2601 The Written Record of the Middle Ages (Co-Ordinator John Pryor), Semester 1
MDST2609 Crusade and Jihad (John Pryor), Semester 2
MDST2612 Byzantium between East and West (Vrasidas Karalis), Semester 1
MDST2611 Medieval Heroes and Heroines (Andrea Williams), Semester 2.

Going by this year’s experience all involved should look forward to 2008 with pleasure. It also looks as though we shall have a bumper crop of IV Honours students over the next couple of years.

John Pryor

MDST 2610 Medieval Cosmology
Co-Ordinator Dr David Juste

During the second semester, David ran his seminar on ‘Medieval Cosmology’ (MDST2610), which began with 26 students, of whom 24 were still active at the end of semester. The two-hour class typically included an introduction to the topic of the week, discussion based on a set of primary sources, and two or three student presentations. The topics surveyed included: (1) introduction; (2) the antique background 1: Aristotle’s cosmology; (3) the antique background 2: Ptolemy’s astrology; (4) the early Middle Ages 1: Christianity versus Greek learning; (5) the early Middle Ages 2: computus and the microcosm; (6) the rise of universities and the new learning; (7) Aristotelian cosmology and Christian theology; (8) judicial astrology; (9) free discussion; (10) natural philosophy and astrological physics; (11) magic; (12) Medieval world maps; (13) Medieval cosmology, astrology and the scientific revolution. This was a tremendous experience. The students were extremely enthusiastic; actively involved in discussion (which sometimes turned to pitched battles when David thought of calling Security); and, last but not least, brilliant! The first essays (each 2,000 words on a topic of the student’s choice) resulted in 7 high distinctions, 7 distinctions, 8 credits, 1 failed, and 1 not submitted.

MDST 3601 Medieval Latin Literature and Culture
Co-Ordinator Dr Juanita Ruys

In Semester 2 the unit of study MDST 3601 (Medieval Latin Literature and Culture) was run for the first time. The aim was to introduce students to a range of Medieval Latin genres and their intellectual/cultural contexts, to develop a reading knowledge of Medieval Latin texts, and to introduce the study of Medieval Latin paleography, including the system of abbreviations used by medieval scribes. The course was attended by three students (Jenny Green - Medieval Studies III, Penny Nash - History IV, Gabrielle Singleton - the CMS’s very own!) who worked very hard over three hours each week to master a demanding curriculum.

We were delighted to receive guest lectures from Dr David Daintree (Medieval Latin pronunciation/Ecclesiastical Latin), Mr Hilbert Chiu (Heresy/Inquisitorial Latin), Dr Philippa Bright (Preaching Tales/Gesta Romanorum), and Dr John O. Ward (Rhetoric/Twelfth-century commentaries on Cicero). In addition, Mr Neil Boness of the Rare Book Library at Fisher gave us a hands-on introduction to medieval manuscripts and bindings.
Other topics covered included the Latin of the Vulgate, glosses, school-texts, letters, Late Latin poetry, women’s Latin writing, erotic texts, autobiography, and Renaissance Latin. Each week’s session involved the reading of texts in manuscript. Many of these were in twelfth-century bookhands, but we also worked on reading hands from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries. The students looked at the issues involved in the editing of Medieval Latin texts, including questions of stemmata, collation, orthographic choices, and punctuation. In particular, after a number of weeks spent on the transcription and edition of a passage from the two Medieval Latin versions of the *Physiologus* (a bestiary), the students can now consider themselves experts on the question of medieval understandings of elephant sex.

I think I can speak for all the lecturers involved in the course when I say that it was a delight to teach such enthusiastic and involved students, who participated vigorously in every session, brought their own knowledge of and specific interests regarding Medieval Latin texts to the course, and asked many demanding questions!

### Reading Groups

The Old English and the Middle English Reading Groups continue to thrive as does the Medieval Latin Group. The Middle Welsh and Old Irish Reading Groups are in abeyance while Bridgette is digging, archaeologically speaking, that is. 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 Diana.Jefferies@arts.usyd.edu.au, and for Medieval Latin Hilbert Chiu hchi3638@mail.usyd.edu.au; and for future plans for MW/OI contact Bridgette Slavin, bsla7231@mail.usyd.edu.au.

The **Old English Reading Group** has continued this year as a vibrant, collegial, and congenial forum for Anglo-Saxonists of any experience to read Old English and discuss issues relating to the Anglo-Saxon period. In the last semester, our readings have been primarily religious, including Aelfric's adaptation of the Book of Esther, and his *Life of St Cuthbert*, but we have also tackled the romance *Apollonius of Tyre*.

We have been particularly preoccupied with the forthcoming release (Australian release date 29 November) of the newest cinematic adaptation of *Beowulf*, which promises to be an interesting affair. We hope that its mainstream cast - Anthony Hopkins as Hrothgar and Angelina Jolie as Grendel's mother to name a few - and "big-name" writers/directors - Neil Gaiman, Roger Avary, and Robert Zemeckis - will attract a wide audience. Our challenge next year is to utilise the momentum driven by the release of the film to market the study of Old English!

Melanie Heyworth

The **Middle English Reading Group** has continued to meet on a weekly basis throughout 2007 with an enthusiastic membership including retired and current academic staff, post- and undergraduates. We have read a wide range of Middle English literature, including *Piers Plowman* (B-Text), *Troilus and Criseyde* and a variety of shorter pieces. Members will, as they did last year, participate in EMLAC (Early Modern Literature and Culture) day, 19 November, giving a public reading of Chaucer's *Miller's Tale*.

The Group is always looking for new members. Our main aim is to have fun while gaining a greater appreciation of some absolutely wonderful pieces of literature written between the Norman Conquest (1066) and the invention of printing (1475). There is no expectation of preparation nor are members expected to have a perfect Middle English accent! All texts are chosen by consensus and all suggestions for texts are most welcome.

Diana Jefferies

### 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.
The Centre is delighted that Dr Jane Hardie was successful in her application to the Library Expensive Items Allocation. Dr Hardie received $1,300 to purchase on microfilm/CD the Misal de Toledo (Misal Rico de Cisneros) and the Misal de Toledo (Toledo Biblioteca del Cabildo Mss 56-1-56-10), which are of interest and importance to her work on the Spanish liturgical manuscripts held in the Rare Book Library of Fisher Library. These items are currently being purchased by the Library.

The Centre for Medieval Studies received an allocation of $2,938 to spend on library purchases. With this we are purchasing the 23 items listed below. These have now all been ordered by the Library and should become available for loan by early 2008. The selection criteria were: items written by, dedicated to, or featuring contributions by members of the Centre for Medieval Studies; items requested for purchase by members of the CMS; items chosen by myself from publishers’ catalogues as being of potential interest and relevance to members of the CMS.

- Learning and Understanding in the Old Norse World: Essays in Honour of Margaret Clunies Ross, ed. J. Quinn, K. Heslop, T. Wills (Brepols); €80 (= AUD 126)
- The Age of the APOMON: The Byzantine Navy ca 500-1204, John H. Pryor and Elizabeth M. Jeffreys (Brill); €158 / US$213 (=AUD 256)
- Les Alchandreauna primitifs: Étude sur les plus anciens traités astrologiques latins d’origine arabe (Xe siècle), David Juste (Brill, 2007); €149 / US$ 194 (=AUD 241)
- Old Age in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Interdisciplinary Approaches to a Neglected Topic, ed. Albrecht Classen (de Gruyter); €98 (=AUD 157)
- General Issues in the Study of Medieval Logistics: Sources, Problems and Methodologies, ed. John F. Haldon (Brill); €103 / US$139 (=AUD 167)
- Gateway to the Heavenly City: Crusader Jerusalem and the Catholic West (1099-1187), Sylvia Schein (Ashgate); £50 (= AUD 123)
- Heresy and the Persecuting Society in the Middle Ages: Essays on the Work of R.I. Moore, ed. Michael Frassetto (Brill); €99 (= AUD 165)
- Latin Sermon Collections from Later Medieval England: Orthodox Preaching in the Age of Wyclif, Siegfried Wenzel (Cambridge University Press); £95 (= AUD 225)
- Christianity and the Transformation of the Book: Origen, Eusebius, and the Library of Caesarea, Anthony Grafton, Megan Williams (Harvard University Press, 2006); US$30 (= AUD 43)
- Beowulf and Beyond, ed. Hans Bauer, Renate Bauer, (Peter Lang, 2007); €47 (=AUD 75)
- Marie de France and the Poetics of Memory, Logan E. Whalen (Catholic University of America Press, Dec. 2007); US$60 (= AUD 68)
- Form and Content of Instruction in Anglo-Saxon England in the Light of Contemporary Manuscript Evidence, ed. Patrizia Lendinara, Loredana Lazzari, Maria Amalia D’Aronco (Brepols); €59 (= AUD 93)
- Reformations: Three Medieval Authors in Manuscript and Movable Type, R. Schoff Erwin (Brepols); €60 (= AUD 95)
- James VI and I: Ideas, Authority, and Government, ed. Ralph Houlbrooke (Ashgate) £55 (= AUD 130)
- The Silent Masters: Latin Literature and its Censors in the High Middle Ages, Peter Godman (Princeton University Press); US$95 (=AUD 113)
- A Cosmos of Desire: The Medieval Latin Erotic Lyric in English Manuscripts, Thomas C Moser, Jr (Michigan); US$80.00 (=AUD 98)
- Livres et lectures de femmes en Europe entre Moyen Âge et Renaissance, ed. A.-M. Legaré, B. Schnerb (Brepols); €120 (=AUD 195)
- Nota Bene: Reading Classics and Writing Melodies in the Early Middle Ages, J. Ziolkowski (Brepols); €55 (=AUD 87)
- Image and Imagination of the Religious Self in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe, ed. Reindert L. Falkenburg, Walter S. Melion, Todd M. Richardson (Brepols); €90 (= AUD 144)
- Manuscripts and Monastic Culture: Religious Reform and Intellectual Life in Twelfth-Century Germany, ed. A.I. Beach (Brepols); €60 (=AUD 96)
- The Two Lives of Robert of Arbrissel, Founder of Fontevraud: Legends, Writings, and Testimonies, J. Dalarun, G. Giordanengo, A. Le Huërou, J. Longère, D. Poirel, B.L. Venarde (Brepols); €150 (=AUD 236)
- Early Palimpsests, ed. G. Declercq (Brepols); €50 (= AUD 80)
- Jean Gerson and the Last Medieval Reformation, Brian Patrick McGuire (Penn) US$30 (= AUD 35)

The Centre was subsequently able to purchase an additional 14 items, at a total cost of approx. $1,500, through the generosity of surplus library allocation from the Department of English. The Centre thanks Associate-Professor Barry Spurr for the opportunity to access these funds. The items thus ordered are:
• *RB 1980: The Rule of St. Benedict*, ed. Timothy Fry, OSB (Liturgical Press, 1981); AUD $70
• *Anglo-Saxon Prognostics, 900-1100: Study and Texts*, Lázló Sándor Chardonnens (Brill); €99 (≈ AUD 165)
• *Introducing the Lambeth Bible: A Study of Text and Imagery*, D. Shepard (Brepols); €105 (≈ AUD 170)
• *The Vulgar Tongue: Medieval and Postmedieval Vernacularity*, ed. Fiona Somerset and Nicholas Watson (Penn); US$58 (≈ AUD 65)
• *A Repertorium of Middle English Prose Sermons*, ed. V. O’Mara, S. Paul, 4 vols (Brepols); €180 (≈ AUD 292)
• *A Macaronic Sermon Collection from Late Medieval England, Oxford, MS Bodley 649*, P.J. Horner (Brepols); €95 (≈ AUD 150)
• *Scripture and Scholarship in Early Modern England*, ed. Ariel Hessayon and Nicholas Keene (Ashgate); £50 (≈ AUD 114)
• *The Commodification of Textual Engagements in the English Renaissance*, Michael Saenger (Ashgate); £45 (≈ AUD 105)
• *Telling Tales: Sources and Narration in Late Medieval England*, Joel T. Rosenthal (Penn); US$53 (≈ AUD 59)
• *Women and Violence in English Renaissance Literature*, ed. Linda Woodbridge and Sharon Beehler (ACMRS); US$40 (≈ AUD 46)
• *Censorship and Cultural Sensibility: The Regulation of Language in Tudor-Stuart England*, Debora Shuger (Penn); US$48 (≈ AUD 53)
• *Philip Melanchthon and the English Reformation*, John Schofield (Ashgate); £55 (≈ AUD 129)
• *Binding Words: Textual Amulets in the Middle Ages*, Don C. Skemer (Penn); US$25 (≈ AUD 30)
• *Blood, Bodies and Families in Early Modern England*, Patricia Crawford (LongmanPearson, 2004); £25 (≈ AUD 57)

Juanita Ruys
CMS Library Liaison Officer

---

**Research Funding**

Elizabeth Bonner, Columbia University (NY) Institute for Scholars, Reid Hall (Paris), Fellowship for the Northern academic year September 2007 to June 2008, for ‘The Stuarts of Aubigny and their Family Archive’.

Louise D’Arcens, Stephanie Trigg, and Andrew Lynch, ARC Discovery Grant for ‘Medievalism in Australian Cultural memory’.

Nick Eckstein, ARC Discovery Grant for ‘The Anatomy and Physiology of Renaissance Florence: the Dynamics of Social Change in the Fifteenth Century’.

Jane Morlet Hardie, 2007-2009 ARC Network for Early European Research (NEER) funding for the Research Cluster “Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister: Western Music and its Sources 1100-1750.”

Frances Muecke, University of Sydney 2007 R&D Grant for ‘Flavio Biondo, *Roma Triumphans : the invention of Rome*’, and a grant from the Loeb Classical Library Foundation to visit the Houghton Rare Book Library, Harvard University, in 2007-8.

---

**Travel Funding**

Louise Marshall, University of Sydney School of Language, Art, and Media grant to attend the 32nd Congress of the International Committee of the History of Art, ‘Crossing Cultures: Conflict, Migration, Convergence’ and present the paper ‘Shaping the Sacred in Cycles of St Roch: A New Plague Saint for Renaissance Italy’.

Lawrence Warner, University of Sydney School of Language, Art, and Media grant to attend, in November 2007 at the University of Tasmania, both the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand’s ‘Spaces of Print: Exploring the History of Books’ conference, presenting the paper ‘A Fourteenth-Century Legal Manuscript in Sydney, and its Relationship to Edward III, Piers Plowman, Henry VIII, (and others)’, and the ARC NEER Knowledge Networks and Reading Communities Cluster’s ‘Useful Knowledges and Vernacularity: Manuscripts, Readers, and Information in Late Medieval England’ conference, presenting the paper ‘Unnoticed Fragments of Gower and John of Bridlington and Why They Haven’t Been Noticed’. In December he will return to Hobart to present a paper as response to Professor Carolyn Dinshaw’s ‘Queer History/Temporalitie’ project at the ARC NEER Knowledge Networks and Reading Communities Cluster’s ‘Time and Temporalities’ conference.
Two Successful International Conferences on Hebrew and Mandaean Studies

The Department of Hebrew, Biblical, and Jewish Studies hosted two prestigious International Conferences on Hebrew and Mandaean Studies respectively in early July, both chaired by Professor Rifaat Ebied.

The first, the 25th International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture, was held at the Sydney University Village. It was a meeting of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew [NAPH], a US-based international forum for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, research, and information related to the study and teaching of Hebrew language, literature, and culture and attracted a large number of leading scholars in the field of Hebrew Studies, mainly from the USA, Europe, and Israel. Over sixty papers of a high level of academic content, including some seven presentations by staff members and post-graduate students from SLC, were presented.

The second, the ARAM (an Oxford-based Academic Organization) International Conference on Mandaean Studies, was held at Sancta Sophia College and brought together a large number of scholars, Ph.D. candidates, and members of the Mandaean community in Sydney and Melbourne. The theme was the Mandaean Language (a dialect of Aramaic), Literature, and Culture and the conference opened with a Mandaean baptismal ceremony in the Nepean River, Penrith, which was attended by the conference delegates, some local dignitaries, and members of the Mandaean clergy and community.

Both Conferences were highly successful: letters have been received from the NAPH Executive Vice President and other delegates, expressing their appreciation of the high quality of the papers presented as well as of the excellent way the conferences were organized.

The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium

The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium took place between the 10th and 14th of July. Convened by Dr Andrea Williams from the Department of French Studies and funded by SLC, the Faculty of Arts, and the Centre for Medieval Studies, the conference brought together many of the leading international scholars in the area of Arthurian Studies.

Most Arthurian research still falls within the fields of medieval literature, art, codicology, and historiography, although these days modern art forms, in particular literature and film, continue to focus on the tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and the Quest for the Holy Grail. The enduring appeal and significance of the Arthurian legend is a testament to its importance within the cultural context of Western Europe (and even beyond).

The Colloquium got off to a very convivial start with an evening reception hosted by the Centre for Medieval Studies in the atmospheric surroundings of the Nicholson Museum. Both the Dean and the Head of School welcomed delegates on behalf of the University. There followed three full days of papers, some 20 in all, covering a wide range of perspectives on Arthurian material: English, French, German, Dutch, Welsh, and Yiddish literature; British history; and art (illuminated manuscripts and heraldic tapestries). The general theme of the conference was “New Approaches to Old Problems”, with plenary lectures given by Emeritus Professor Peter Field of the University of Wales, Bangor, Professor Keith Busby of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Professor Norris Lacy of Pennsylvania State University. Other delegates came from institutions as diverse as the universities of Bristol, Oxford, Frankfurt, Utrecht, and Berkeley, as well as (closer to home) Canterbury, UWA, and ANU. Several Sydney students (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) attended and even themselves presented papers.

During the conference, colleagues from Worldwide Universities Network affiliated institutions met to discuss possibilities for future collaborative research, teaching, and exchanges. One outcome was the decision to create a new undergraduate Unit of Study (for 2009) on Arthurian Literature, which will be team-taught (via videolink and on-line discussions) by colleagues in the UK, the US, and the Netherlands, as well as here in Sydney. The conference proceedings are to be published as a volume of essays.

The social aspects (always an important part of any conference, to allow further discussion of research and “networking”) were not neglected: on the Friday evening our Conference Dinner took the form of a harbour cruise, and on the Saturday we went on a day excursion to the Blue Mountains, during which delegates were able to make close acquaintance with some of our native fauna.

All in all, a highly satisfying week, both intellectually and socially.

Rifaat Ebied

Andrea Williams
Conference here in 2008

Symposium on Spanish Manuscripts

In July 2008 Jane Hardie will be organising and convening a three-day International, Interdisciplinary Symposium “Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister : Spanish Liturgical Music Manuscripts at the University of Sydney and Their International Contexts.” This Symposium, hosted by Fisher Library and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney, will bring together musicologists, art historians, liturgiologists, and literary scholars from Australia, the USA, Spain, and Hong Kong. The papers from this Symposium will be developed into a monograph. “Watch this space” for details about the programme and registration.

The ongoing activities of the Research Cluster that Dr Hardie convenes (“Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister : Western Music and its Sources 1000-1750”) include a programme of publication and conferences. This Cluster is located at the Centre for Medieval Studies and consists of scholars from across Australia, the US, and Spain.

Attached is the flier with registration form for this.

Conferences elsewhere in 2008

University of Melbourne
32nd International Congress of the History of Art
Convener Professor Jaynie Anderson
13-18 January 2008
‘ Crossing Cultures : Conflict, Migration, Convergence’

Avignon, France
International Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East
28 August – 1 September 2008
(No specific theme; for information contact John Pryor)

Lectures & Papers here

For 2008 the Centre invites you to ‘offer your services’ – please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to give a lunchtime paper or evening lecture next year, so we can arrange the schedule in good time.

As you know, occasional papers on a range of topics are read from time to time, usually between 1 and 2 p.m. in the Rogers Room, A20, Science Road. This year we had three, early in Semester 1.

The Centre continues to present evening lectures by local medievalists and visiting scholars on a variety of Medieval Studies 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, with refreshments beforehand from 5 p.m. Afterwards we take the speaker to dinner at a restaurant in Glebe and members are warmly invited to come along (approximately $40 a head). Please let us know by noon latest the day before if you want to join us.
New Lecture Series

On Wednesday 17 October John Pryor gave the first of what the Centre hopes will become an occasional, complementary, series in addition to our usual Thursday night fare. It is intended that the series will be at lunch time on Wednesdays followed by late lunch with the presenter at a local hostelry. There will be no more than one a semester.

Lectures in the series will aim to be a bit different from the norm. They may adopt a different format (as the one on 17 October did), or they may be synthetic (i.e. broad ranging and expansive, not necessarily based on primary research), or they may differ in some other way, perhaps by discussing a major theme or event in medieval history and culture. They should also be designed to appeal to students.

Welcome

to Lawrence Warner who has left Adelaide to join the English Department here at Sydney. He is a specialist in Middle English literature, especially *Piers Plowman*, and has published articles on topics ranging from Dante's "erotics of crusading" to Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th-century Latin history of King Arthur. His essay "Adventurous Custance : St. Thomas of Acre and Chaucer's *Man of Law's Tale*” has recently been published in *Place, Space, and Landscape in Medieval Narrative*, Tennessee Studies in Literature vol. 43, ed. Laura L. Howes (Knoxville : University of Tennesse Press, 2007), 43-59.

Lawrence is co-editor of *The Yearbook of Langland Studies* (the only journal devoted exclusively to Middle English that does not have "Chaucer" in its title) and Vice-President of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand. Before coming to Sydney, besides lecturing in the English Department at the University of Adelaide, he was Executive Director of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

and Welcome also

to Hannah Burrows who replaces Tarrin Wills as Research Associate with Margaret Clunies Ross on the Skaldic Editing Project. Hannah comes to us from the University of York, UK, where she has just submitted her Ph.D. on literary-legal relations in medieval Iceland. Sharing an office with her is Anna Hansen, Research Associate on the ‘Writing from the edge of the world : medieval Icelandic literature and the quest for social identity’ project, for which Geraldine Barnes and Margaret were awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for 2006-08.

Other Members’ Activities

Four postgraduate members of the University of Sydney gave conference papers this year. They are :

**Emily Baynham** (English) who spoke at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, 9 July, on 'Reading Anglo-Saxon Charms in their Manuscript Context' and at the Fourth Annual Conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association, University of Sydney, 28 September, on ‘The Place of Charms in Late Anglo-Saxon England’;

**Yvette Debergue** (Medieval Studies) who spoke at the 11th Annual Religion, Literature, and the Arts conference, University of Sydney, September, on ‘On being nostalgic for some burning at the stake’;

**Diana Jefferies** (English) who spoke at the AULLA conference, UNSW, February, on ‘The Spiritual Collision between the Old and the New in Malory's Sangreal’ (to be published in the proceedings) and at Leeds in July on, similarly, ‘The Spiritual Collision between Camelot and Sarras in Malory's Sangreal’;

and

**Bridgette Slavin** (Celtic Studies) who spoke at the ANZAMEMS conference, Adelaide, February, on ‘Magic versus Miracle in Early Irish Hagiography’ and at the International Celtic Conference in Bonn, July, on ‘The Magical Magus : The Role of the Druid in Early Irish Saints’ Lives’. 
Dan Anlezark has been awarded Best Book Prize for his recent work *Water and Fire: the Myth of the Flood in Anglo-Saxon England* (Manchester UP, 2006). The prize was awarded in July by the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists at their conference at Senate House, University of London. Besides glory, Daniel came away with ‘a little certificate, a crystal paperweight, and £150’. He also gave a paper at the conference, ‘Learning about Jews in BL MS Harley 3271’.

John Beston has had two articles accepted by *Neophilologus*, with proofs corrected, to appear soon. The first is ‘Une bele conjointure : The Structure of Galeran de Bretagne, the second ‘Galeran de Bretagne : Between Romance and Realism’. He has a translation of Galeran de Bretagne into modern English, to be published next year by Edwin Mellen Press in the UK and is currently schizochronically writing several articles on Patrick White to give coherence to a collection of his published essays on him. John says “Up here in idyllic Coff’s Harbour I don't get down to Sydney very often, so miss a lot of what's going on there. The price paid for Paradise.”.

Elizabeth Bonner (see Research Funding above) has sent us a long e-mail about her arrival in Paris to take up her fellowship. This is from from her recent e-mail: “Paris continues to be the wonderful city I fell in love with 25 years ago when I first commenced my research. The autumn has been glorious, cold crisp days with lots of sunshine and not much rain; that usually comes with fogs in November. Meantime, the leaves of the giant old tree outside my office window are gradually turning yellow and dropping to the courtyard below.

“... the Maison Suger ... is very comfortable. I'm situated in the attic of the old part (now renovated), originally 14th or 15th century I'd say, and I have my own bathroom, kitchenette with crockery and utensils supplied, a very comfortable double bed, large desk and proper chair, two bookcases and internet connection, TV, telephone (+33 1 44 41 32 41) evenings; and there are all sorts of facilities in the basement, and a terrace garden on the roof. I could not wish for more other than a less expensive tariff.

“Columbia University (NY) Institute for Scholars, Reid Hall (Paris) is equally accommodating and all my equipment arrived safely ... After Jérôme, the computer whizz technician here, set up my computer etc. with great ease, adjusting everything and connecting it direct to the Institut's broadband, I function from Paris as I would in Sydney. I'm not sure I'll be able to go back to the old system chez moi; I'm listening to BBC's Radio 3 as I type. In my bureau/office, which is on the first floor overlooking a garden, I have a large desk and occasional table each with an Art Deco lamp, two large bookcases, several chairs and telephone (+33 1 56 80 15 02) day. Again I could not ask for more.

“I have now met my colleagues at the Institute for Scholars and we are required to give a brief account of our research (15 minutes each) on the next two Wednesday evenings to the MA candidates studying at the Institute. All the others are American, all teach at American Universities or Liberal Arts Colleges, and all are working on 18th-, 19th-, or mainly 20th-century research projects. We meet weekly with the Director (Thursdays) for tea and you can imagine at first how out of place I felt. It seemed they all had cross references to at least one or another one's research. Nevertheless, like most Americans, they are very pleasant and two, who are staying at the Maison Suger, have been especially kind.

“I am starting to sort out my research priorities and have been checking a long transcription of a difficult notarial draft (with much crossing out) of ‘Lettres de Rémission’ at the Bibliothèque Nationale, and investigating what was written about it in the past . . . . I am also very slowly transcribing a long very difficult 15th-century charter (1437). My main problem is with the terminology and 15th-century spelling as this is the first ecclesiastical document I have fully transcribed; the hand is OK but there are a number of stains on the document obliterating the writing. The problem is that I have moved back a century in my fundamental research into the Stuarts of Aubigny and their family archive, which is almost like starting a Ph.D. again."

Tom Burton (on SSP in the UK) has been appointed to a Visiting Fellowship at the University of Southampton from June to December. In April he gave talks on William Barnes’s dialect poems at the Universities of Glasgow, Manchester, and Leeds, and in May at Nottingham Trent, Leicester, and Oxford. In May also he spoke to the Sturminster Newton Arts Appreciation Society and the William Barnes Society. His article ‘What William Barnes Done : Dilution of the Dialect in Later Versions of the Poems of Rural Life’ appeared in the *Review of English Studies* 58 (2007): 338–63.

Mike Carter’s list of publications and writings has proved a challenge to the editor’s computer’s font capabilities, so we acknowledge defeat and apologise for the appearance of what follows.

Mike has contributed
Chapter 8, ‘Foreign Vocabulary’, to *The Blackwell Companion to the Qur’ān*, Andrew Rippin ed.;

In the last few months Mike has completed and submitted articles ‘Māḏī and muḏār’ and ‘Parts of Speech’ for the Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics (corrected proofs returned); ‘More infinity, more lies : history, truth and change in medieval Islam’ for the Festschrift for Urbain Vermeulen; ‘The Kitāb of Sibawayhi’ for The Oxford Companion to the Book; and ‘Abd al-Qādir b. ‘Umar al-Ḡāḍāt’, originally for the Dictionary of Literary Biography (Lowry and Stewart eds), now to be published by Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden. He has just written and sent off the biennial Newsletter of the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists.

Mike is now on the editorial panel of the on-line Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies for which he has reviewed some four or five articles submitted for publication. Besides this, he has three books he is supposed to be reviewing.

Mike’s book on Sibawayhi is to be translated into Persian; unfortunately the Sibawiki project is “dead in the water in Sydney” but is being continued with Norwegian funding, enabling a Russian colleague to be paid to add more chapters to the website.

The graduate student Mike has been supervising gratis for some years is graduating in Ghent in November and he will attend the defence as one of her examiners. During the year he has been advising an Oslo University colleague on Arabic manuscripts from Timbuktu and now is correcting the English of a translation of Brunnow/Fischer’s Arabische Chrestomathie to be reissued by Oslo University.

This year he lectured to the Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney, on ‘Problems in writing the history of Arabic’ and to the Art Gallery of NSW, in association with the exhibition of Islamic Art, on ‘Language traditions and the culture of the book in Islam’; and is now preparing a keynote paper, provisional title ‘Islamwiki. Is such a thing possible?’ for 19th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Society of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Stellenbosch next September.

Mike’s cataloguing of Arabic grammatical manuscripts for the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, is currently dormant; and his History of Arabic, Mike says, “is going extremely badly, not helped by the fact that Fisher has been throwing away books it has been unable to catalogue for the last forty years. This is a crime which I wish I had time to investigate. There is no chance of the book being finished this year, though the publishers have informed me that it must be.”.

On a more cheerful note, Mike has been elected President of the Oriental Society of Australia and, perhaps icing on his cake, Grammar as a Window onto Arabic Humanism: a Collection of Articles in Honour of Michael G. Carter, L. Edzard and J. Watson eds, Wiesbaden (2006) has been brought out.

We congratulate Jose Manuel Cerda, an erstwhile Student Member, who writes that UNSW has approved – with laudatory comments from all three external examiners – ‘The councils of Henry II in England’, his Ph.D. thesis, the first on medieval history submitted to UNSW. Jose Manuel is now a lecturer in Medieval History at the Catholic University of Chile and has a happy memory of his links to the CMS at Sydney. He hopes to come back to Australia for a semester as a visiting lecturer.

Margaret Clunies Ross spent the months of May, June, and July on Special Duties Overseas. In May she was a Visiting Professor at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, where she gave an intensive seminar on Critical Approaches to Old Norse Myth to a group of Masters students in Old Icelandic language, literature, and culture. She also gave a public lecture on ‘Christian Skaldic Poetry’ at the University of Iceland on 22 May. Margaret spent most of June in London, conducting research in the British Library, the Society of Antiquaries Library, and University College Library. She gave a paper to the Icelandic seminar at University College London on 7 June on the subject of ‘The stylistic resources of Christian skaldic poetry’. In July she moved to Trinity College Cambridge and worked in the University Library. On 18-19 July she chaired the annual meeting of the Skaldic Editing project in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse. and Celtic Studies.

On 20-21 July Margaret was the guest of honour at a symposium in her honour at Newnham College Cambridge, beautifully organised by Judy Quinn, formerly of the English Department of the University of Sydney and now a Fellow of
Newnham and Head of the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic Studies. This event took the form of a two-day symposium presented by a number of scholars who had contributed to a festschrift for Margaret, entitled Learning and Understanding in the Old Norse World. Essays in Honour of Margaret Clunies Ross. The festschrift was edited by three of Margaret’s former postgraduate students, Judy Quinn, Kate Heslop, and Tarrin Wills, and was published by Brepols. As well as the symposium, there was a reception at Newnham on the evening of 20 July, at which the festschrift was presented and launched by Professor Judith Jesch of the University of Nottingham. After the launch, there was a splendid dinner at Newnham, attended by about 50 people, including colleagues from all over the world, friends, and family members. From Sydney, Geraldine Barnes as well as three former colleagues, Helen Fulton, Geraint Evans, and Deirdre Coleman, were present at all or parts of the celebrations. We congratulate Margaret on this demonstration of the regard in which she is held around the world.

In August Margaret heard that she had been appointed an honorary member of ISAS (the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists), another cause for congratulation.

From 6-9 September Margaret was an invited speaker at a symposium on ‘Nordic Civilisation in the medieval world’ at Skálholt, Southern Iceland (the old southern bishopric in the Middle Ages and early modern period).

In August Helen Fulton visited us informally, much to our delight.

Jane Morlet Hardie’s chapter ‘Salamanca to Sydney : A Newly-Discovered Manuscript of the Lamentations of Jeremiah’ has appeared in Music in Medieval Europe. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007. 11-22. Jane herself has been busy on the conference circuit, giving the paper ‘Spanish Liturgical Music manuscripts at the University of Sydney : A Preliminary Report’ to the International Association of Music Libraries, Sydney, Australia, in July. She organised and convened in Zurich, also in July, ‘Ser o no Ser : Life and Death in Iberian Musical Culture’, a one-day Symposium for the Congress of the International Musicological Society involving eight scholars from Australia, the USA, Spain, and Hong Kong, and at the International Musicological Society Congress, also in Zurich in July, she gave the paper ‘Lamentations of Jeremiah in Portugal : Three Sixteenth-Century Printed Sources of Liturgical Chant’. Again in Zurich in July Jane gave the paper ‘Spanish Liturgical Manuscripts at the University of Sydney’ to the Cantus Planus. In Brisbane in November she will be responsible for the ‘Cathedral, Court, City, and Cloister’ Session at the Musicological Society of Australia National Conference.

Melanie Heyworth spent five weeks in the United Kingdom over our winter break, attending conferences and consulting manuscripts. She gave a paper on marriage in the Old English Apollonius of Tyre at a session sponsored by the London Medieval Society entitled ‘The State of Marriage in Medieval Literature’, at the International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds; and attended the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists’ Conference in London. In Cambridge, Oxford, and London, she finished the research necessary to complete the concluding three chapters of her monograph Forsaking Sex : Aelfric’s Discourse of Marriage (working title) and found enough of interest to prompt her to contemplate an edition of four of Aelfric’s homiletic pieces concerning sexuality.


David Juste’s main achievement since our last newsletter has been the publication of his book Les Alchandreana primitifs. Etude sur les plus anciens traités astrologiques latins d’origine arabe (Xe siècle), Leiden-Boston, Brill (Brill’s Studies in Intellectual History, 152), 2007, xvi+727 pp. (see http://www.brill.nl/product_id28371.htm). The back cover reads:

It is well known that medieval Europe owes most of its scientific learning to the translations of Arabic treatises made in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The earliest Arabic infiltrations in Latin science are however much older. They can be traced back to the tenth century and to the making, in Catalonia, of a large corpus of astrological treatises : the Alchandreana. Based mainly on Arabic, but also on Hebrew and Latin, sources, the Alchandreana constitute an exceptional testimony of cross-cultural exchanges between Christian, Arabic, and Jewish scholars before the turn of the first millennium. This book offers a historical study, a technical analysis and a critical edition of the whole corpus.

In early June, David was invited to present his book in Professor Danielle Jacquet’s Seminar of Medieval Science at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. This was during a six-week research trip in Europe, where David finished collecting the material for the first two volumes of his Catalogus Codicorum Astrologorum Latinorum (catalogue of the Latin astrological manuscripts) which, respectively, will be devoted to the manuscripts of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in
Munich and in the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris. The history and scope of this catalogue were highlighted in an article on David - ‘Heaven Sent, Hell Bent’ - by Geordie Williamson in the Sydney Alumni Magazine, Winter 2007.

In addition to the presentation on his book in Paris, David delivered the following talks:

- A reply to Derek Parker’s public lecture on The Moon is Stained with Blood, The Nicholson Museum, 4 September 2007
- ‘The Relevance of Astrology in the History of Science before Newton’, Research Seminar of the Unit for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney, 22 October 2007.

In September, David was interviewed on ‘The astrolabe in Medieval Islam’, by Rachael Kohn for the ABC Radio National programme ‘The Ark’ (broadcast Sunday 16 September 2007 at and Wednesday 19 September).

In second semester, David has been running the seminar on ‘Medieval Cosmology’ (MDST2610) (see Teaching above).

Jethro Lyne, a Ph.D. Candidate in the University of Sydney’s Department of Art History and a Lecturer in the Department of Art History at the National Art School in Sydney, gave the first version of his paper “The Significance Of Figurative Archivols in the Analysis of Early Gothic Portals” at ANZAMEMS in Adelaide and the second version at the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in May.

Louise Marshall travelled to Italy on a University R & D grant, researching early renaissance fresco cycles of the life of St. Roch (appealed to for protection against bubonic plague). She met officials and members of the Italian Association of St. Roch and the Director of the Associated International Scholarly Committee for Studies on Saint Roch (Comitato Internazionale Storico-Scientifico per gli Studi su San Rocco e la Storia Medievale), Paolo Ascagni. The Association has recently launched a very impressive website, currently in Italian and French only but with plans for an English version well under way: http://www.sanroccodimontpellier.it/italiano/index.htm. Louise is publishing an article on images of St. Roch in the next issue of their scholarly journal Vita Sancti Rochi and believes this will also be posted on the web.

A series of interviews and press conferences was held in conjunction with Louise’s visit, where she reported on her research project and made appropriate noises about the felicity of Australian-Italian scholarly collaboration etc. The result is a series of clippings from a variety of national, regional, and local newspapers. She was accompanied by a postgraduate student from her department, Kate Fletcher, and their visit was variously reported as “a delegation of Australian scholars” and a visit of “Australian faithful”!

Kate and Louise, of course, visited the church in Voghera where it is believed Roch’s body was originally held before being sold to the Venetians in the 15th century, and were photographed in front of an arm relic of the saint!


Lynette Olson has had published by Palgrave Macmillan her book The Early Middle Ages : The Birth of Europe.

The two books that John Pryor published in 2006, The age of the dromon : the Byzantine navy ca 500-1204 (Leiden, Brill, 2006) and Logistics of warfare in the age of the Crusades (Aldershot, Ashgate, 2006), have received highly complimentary
Early this year John completed a long article entitled ‘A view from a masthead: the First Crusade from the sea’ and this has been accepted for publication next year in the journal Crusades. It is the first ever comprehensive and systematic study of all of the maritime aspects of the First Crusade. It will eventually also be incorporated into his next book, Crusading by sea, on which he is currently working. This too will be the first ever comprehensive analysis of the maritime aspects of the Crusades, ca 1095-1291.

For this book he is currently working on the chapter on the Third Crusade and the siege of Acre and on 17 October gave the Centre a lecture based on his research and entitled ‘A medieval siege of Troy: the Third Crusade and the fight to the death at Acre, 1189-1191’.

John 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 with 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 into 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.

John has also accepted an invitation to write a chapter provisionally entitled ‘Maritime technologies’ for The Cambridge History of War. Volume Two: War and the medieval world.

His paper ‘Soldiers of fortune in the fleets of Charles I of Anjou, King of Sicily, ca 1265-85’, is about to be published in Mercenaries and Paid Men: the mercenary identity in the Middle Ages, John France ed. (Leiden, Brill, 2008). Also in press is his paper ‘The Chain of the Golden Horn, 5-7 July 1203’, in In laudem Hierosolymitani, a Festschrift for Benjamin Kedar, R. Ellenblum & I. Shagrir eds.

In July John attended the International Medieval Congress at Leeds and gave a paper on ‘The logistics of the Third Crusade and the siege of Acre’. He is about to go to 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, where he will give the paper ‘A medieval Mediterranean maritime revolution: Crusading by sea ca 1096-1204’. Then, in April next year, at the Department of History, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, he will give a plenary public lecture entitled ‘A view from a masthead: the First Crusade viewed from the sea’ at a Workshop in honour of Professor Richard W. Unger on the occasion of his retirement. This is, of course, a lecture based on the article to appear in Crusades later in 2008. In late August 2008 he will give a paper at the International Conference of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East in Avignon, again on the topic of the monumental nature of the struggle at Acre, 1189-91.


For Juanita Ruys the year began with the presentation of a series of Special Interest lectures on Medieval Women’s Latin Writing at the Sydney Latin Summer School in January. In February she gave a talk at ANZAMEMS (University of Adelaide) on the question of sexual temptation in Heloise’s Ep. IV, in which she argued that Heloise authorised her sexual reminiscences of Abelard through the ethics of memoria. She subsequently gave a more detailed version of this paper at the conference on Medieval and Early Modern Sexuality convened by Professor Albrecht Classen at the University of Tucson, Arizona, in May. This paper has now been invited for publication in the volume Prof. Classen is preparing on the topic of Old Age has now appeared. It it Juanita has a chapter on Medieval Latin autobiographical representations of old age. Professor Classen also accepted her proposal for a book covering her years of research on medieval parent-child didactic literature and this will be published by de Gruyter in the series Fundamentals of Medieval Culture.

In May Juanita also travelled to Europe to finalise her research on Abelard’s Carmen ad Astralabium, viewing manuscripts in Paris, Basel, Vienna, and Melk. The aim was to examine those manuscripts in which only extracts of the Carmen had been transmitted, to identify the medieval reception of the poem as a didactic text.

In July she spoke at the NEER conference in Perth (University of Western Australia) on the topic of parent-child didactic literature, in which she began a consideration of a Middle Scots text by Sir David Lindsay, Ane Dialog betuix Experience and one Courteour. She has subsequently developed her research on this text and has had an abstract on it accepted by the
organisers of the Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Language and Literature Conference to be held in Edinburgh in July 2008.

In August Juanita submitted to *New Medieval Literatures* a paper on the early modern and modern reception of Dhuoda’s *Liber manualis*, in which she argued that Dhuoda’s maternity that imbued her text was read as a guarantor of its authenticity as a female-authored medieval Latin text, whereas the authenticity of Latin texts of other medieval women writers (Hrotsvit, Heloise, Hildegard, Herrad) has at times come under question.

The proposal by Juanita, John O. Ward, and Melanie Heyworth, for an edited volume of essays based on last year’s successful Classics in the Classroom conference has been accepted and contracted by Brepols in their series Disputatio. This text is due to be delivered to Brepols by late 2008.

In Semester 2 Juanita co-ordinated the new unit of study MDST 3601 and concurrently undertook a number of teacher training courses offered by the University through the Institute of Teaching and Learning, including the Tutor Development Program and the advanced module, Peer Observation of Teaching. This proved a most fascinating process, one she would strongly recommend to every teacher at the commencement of their tutoring/lecturing career.

**Diane Speed** gave the paper ‘*Translatio imperii* and Gower's *Confessio Amantis*’, at The Cardiff Conference on the Theory and Practice of Translation in the Middle Ages, University of Lausanne, 17–22 July 2007.

**Leon Wild**, a Ph.D. student in the University of Sydney’s Religious Studies Department, gave to the Australian Early Medieval Association conference, 26-28 September, the paper ‘Óláfr’s Raven Coin : Old Norse Myth in Circulation?’ in which he spoke on the early medieval coinage of York under the rulership of the Scandinavians which presents a variety of symbols of their presence, which may have some associations with Old Norse myth and religion. A striking example is from the mint of Óláfr Gothfrithsson. Óláfr was the king of Dublin from 934-41 and additionally King of York from 939-41. His pennies minted in York bore a vivid figure of a raven. This bird of battle is an aggressive symbol of Óláfr's reign and has resonance with the ideas of an Old Norse ‘raven banner’.

**Tarrin Wills**, erstwhile Research Associate working with Margaret Clunies Ross on the Skaldic Editing project, has departed for Aberdeen to take up a lectureship in the English Department, though for want of space he is ‘housed’ in the History Department of the School of Divinity, History, and Philosophy. *En route* he spent time in Denmark, Iceland, and England. Lucky with some sunny days, his initial impressions of Aberdeen were good as it can be quite pretty, though the grey granite of most of the public buildings is a bit oppressive when the sun’s in. Around the university, Old Aberdeen, he’s found attractive, with a few old winding streets and lots of little old houses. Tarrin says the beach is actually quite impressive : very long and covered in light reddish sand, rather like some far-northern Sydney beaches; and it’s only about 15 minutes away. Apparently the Head of the School of Divinity, History, and Philosophy left it up to Tarrin to decide whether he should transfer to the School of Language and Literature. Doubtless by now this decision has been made!