The Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Sydney

Newsletter
&
Annual Report
for 2006

Newsletter Vol. 9 No. 2
November 2006

Edited by
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Website http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/medieval/

The Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Sydney was founded in 1997 and is now in its ninth year of successful operation. The Newsletter is circulated to all Members (Staff, Honorary, Associate, Student) of the Centre, either electronically or in hard copy, depending upon whether members have e-mail addresses. It appears biannually, generally in March and August, and 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, preferably electronically, to medieval.enquiries@arts.usyd.edu.au or directly to gabrielle.singleton@arts.usyd.edu.au, otherwise by fax (02) 9351 2434 or post addressed to the Centre for Medieval Studies, John Woolley Building A20, University of Sydney, NSW 2006.
Welcome

We welcome Dan Anlezark who recently joined the Department of English. His research is in the area of Old and Middle English language and literature and he is particularly interested in the Anglo-Saxons’ literary reception of the Bible and the literature of classical antiquity. His monograph Water and Fire: The Myth of the Flood in Anglo-Saxon England (Manchester University Press 2006) presents the first comprehensive study of the incorporation of the Flood myth into the Anglo-Saxon imagination, examining a range of Anglo-Saxon texts, from Bede's commentaries to the Old English epic poem Beowulf. Focusing on literary representations, it shows how Christian Anglo-Saxons perceived their place in the cosmos as history unfolded between the primeval Deluge and a future – perhaps imminent – flood of fire, which would destroy the world. This study reveals both an imaginative diversity and shared interpretations of the Flood myth and culminates in his definitive reading of Beowulf.

Dan is currently editing a group of highly idiosyncratic Old English dialogues found in MS Corpus Christ College 422, involving King Solomon and the pagan god Saturn. His extensive introduction will discuss the place of the text in the medieval dialogue tradition and its relationships with Anglo-Saxon homilies and other poetry. He also has a research interest in alliterative poetry, particularly that of the Gawain-poet and Piers Plowman, and has taught widely across the literature of the Middle Ages. He is currently developing an ARC Discovery Grant application for a project on Anglo-Saxon schoolbooks, which will study Anglo-Saxon education, with a focus on surviving classroom manuscripts. We wish him every success in this.

Reading Groups

This year the initiative of two Postgraduate Student Members saw the creation of the Old English Reading Group and the Middle English Reading Group, both informal and open to anyone - students and staff alike - interested in these phases of the English language, 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!). OERG is currently reading from A. N. Doane, Genesis A : A New Edition, University of Winsconsin Press, 1978, and MERG has been reading from a variety of shorter texts, including poems, some extracts from the Canterbury Tales, St Erkenwald (a saint's life with a touch of horror!), the York Cycle Joseph and Mary play, and Patience, and has almost finished Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Piers Plowman) next. Both groups meet at noon for an hour in the Courtyard (or Woolley Common Room, A20, if it’s raining), OERG on Mondays and MERG on Wednesdays. For more information contact, for OERG, Melanie.Heyworth@arts.usyd.edu.au and, for MERG, Diana.Jefferies@arts.usyd.edu.au.

Research Funding

In a season when these are thin on the ground, Margaret Clunies Ross has been awarded a Discovery grant for 2007-2009 for her project ‘The Language of Old Norse Poetry, an important intellectual achievement of the Western Middle Ages’ and Juanita Ruys has been awarded a five-year Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship to work on ‘Learning from Life : The Creation of Experiential and Life-Long Learning in Europe in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods’. University of Sydney R&D grants have gone to Louise Marshall for ‘The Imagery and Cult of St Roch as Plague Saint in Renaissance Italy’, $15,000, and Dan Anlezark for ‘Anglo-Saxon Schoolbooks : British Library MS Harley 3271 and related Manuscripts’, $17,000.
The Centre continues to present 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, lectures are on a Thursday (generally the third or fourth of the month) in the Common Room (N480), John Woolley Building, A20, Science Road, at 5 for 5.30 p.m. with drinks beforehand. Afterwards we take the speaker to dinner at a restaurant in Glebe and members are warmly invited to come along (approximately $35 a head). Please let us know by 12.00 noon latest the day before if you want to join us.

**Lectures Semester 2**

3 August  
Professor Nerida Newbigin, Department of Italian Studies, University of Sydney  
*Pitfalls of Pleasure : Concupiscencia oculorum and Spectacle in Fifteenth-Century Florence*’

24 August  
Professor Helen Fulton, Department of English, University of Wales Swansea  
*Language on the Borders : Contacts between Welsh & English in the Marches of Wales after 1066*

21 September  
Associate Professor Tom Burton, Department of English, Adelaide  
*The dialect poems of William Barnes (1801-1886) : a pronunciation guide for his “Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect”*

26 October  
Professor Rifaat Ebied, Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney  
*Muslim-Christian Polemic during the Crusades : A Muslim Theologian’s Response to Christianity*

**Papers Semester 2**

1 August  
Professor Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York  
*Literature that Counts? Post-Lateran vernacular reading in England*

5 October  
Professor James Grier, University of Western Ontario  
*Hoax, History, and Hagiography in Adémar de Chabannes’ Texts for the Divine Office*

31 October  
Emily Lethbridge, Postgraduate Student, Emmanuel College, Cambridge  
*Medieval Textuality and the Case of Gisla saga Súrssonar*

**Lectures & Papers 2007**

You are invited to ‘offer your services’ – please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to give an evening lecture or lunchtime paper next year, so we can arrange the schedule in good time.
Conference here last July . . .

THE CLASSICS IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE
Manuscript, Incunable, Cinquecentine Relicts and Pedagogical Practice
in the European Classroom (1000 – 1600)
Thursday July 27—Saturday July 29, 2006

Report by John O. Ward for the conveners
Juanita Ruys and John Ward

To the much advertised International Conference ‘The Classics In The Classroom’ came twenty-six speakers from the USA and UK, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Denmark, Holland, and China (Hong Kong), joining nine locals (and John Pryor whose introduction to Thursday’s ‘after dinner’ speaker - John Ward - was itself a speech) and three interstate visitors (among them Constant Mews who chaired sessions but did not deliver a paper). Overseas speakers very eminent in their fields were : Martin Camargo, Professor and Head of the Department of English, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; Robert Black, Professor of Renaissance History, University of Leeds; Steven Milner, new Professor of Italian and Head of Department at Manchester; Professors Lucia Calboli Montefusco and Gualtiero Calboli, Department of Classical and Medieval Philology, University of Bologna; Judith Rice Henderson and Marjorie Curry Woods, English Professors at, respectively, the University of Saskatchewan and Texas at Austin; Virginia Brown, Editor in Chief of the Union Académique Internationale series Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum Medii Aevi and Professor at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto; Craig Kallendorf and Jan Swearingen, Professors in the English Department, and Cary Nederman, Professor of Politics, all three at Texas A and M University; Frank Coulson, Professor in the Department of Greek and Latin, Ohio State University; Douglas Kelly, Professor Emeritus, Department of French and Italian, University of Wisconsin-Madison. All mixed in well with the locals and contributed to spirited discussion after most papers and during breaks.

The conference’s aim was to examine classroom texts and practice in Graeco-Roman, medieval, and Renaissance times, focussing on the relationship between extant manuscripts, incunables, and cinquecentine of works written then and used in classrooms; on commentaries and notes upon them; and on the actual procedure, format, and content of the classrooms that used and produced them; with a concentration on the trivium (grammar, rhetoric, and dialectic) and on the place of Graeco-Roman works relevant to these. Scholars were invited also to contribute on other, related, topics.

We do not currently know precisely what transpired in the medieval classroom; how the contents of surviving manuscripts, incunables, and cinquecentine came to be written; how this information was used or for what audiences and learning environments; nor even how this knowledge was envisaged to be applied in the world outside. These aspects of manuscript, incunable, and cinquecentine, studies now receive increasing scholarly attention and, as the modern humanities classroom is so universally under threat, it seemed appropriate now to assess the problems and possible solutions. We hoped that much light would be thrown upon why contemporary students were prepared to study intensively texts that were, by this time, between 1,000 and 1,500 years, or more, old. The contrast with our own practices today is marked and hung over our heads as we bored into the subject on so many fronts.

John Ward at the end of the conference concluded that, as a result of everyone’s paper and discussion,
we had learned much more about what went on in the medieval and early modern classroom and how our manuscripts and early printed books related to that experience. In the future we could arrive at a more balanced assessment of the ‘pragmatic and utilitarian’ versus the ‘ornamental and antiquarian’ elements in medieval and early modern humanistic education. The ‘utilitarian’ implied not only studies relating to business and intellectual, secretarial, diplomatic, life, but also the notion that one should ‘learn lessons’ from humanistic studies. The medieval ‘utilitarian’ paradigm stressed long exposure to a foreign language and difficult texts in that language (e.g. Peter Riga’s Aurora, on which we heard an excellent paper) and required an acquired skill in oral Latin. The Renaissance paradigm continued these utilitarian tendencies, but added a greater measure of pure philological expertise, acquired in courts and in the somewhat more spacious university and studia curricula in secularised classical studies. Many of the medieval commentaries on classical works are notoriously deficient in a philological sense. This philological emphasis, today triumphant in death, worked against the utilitarian and set the past up as an object of study, not an experience from which to draw lessons. What lessons for life do students today learn in their classical studies? Would they now devote as much attention to classical proverbs, and the moral imperatives behind them, as did Erasmus? Would they learn as much about the crises of life from the experience of the Trojan War and related Greek legends as the audiences of Euripides would have been intended to? When we consider what paradigm to stress and to go back to in our own studies, we must remind ourselves there are lessons to be drawn from the classics: they cannot be taught merely as platforms for ‘new knowledge’. To promote a useful idea, previous generations were prepared to go wrong on the facts (e.g. Ptolemy of Lucca’s view of the Roman Republic, on which we heard an interesting joint paper). We, because of our own philological inheritance, must be more scrupulous and perceptive (in contrast to modern ‘sensationalists’ whose ‘insights’ regarding the Templars, the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper, the Turin Shroud, etc. etc. are as wilfully ignorant of the best modern scholarship as they are wide of the truthful mark); but we should still try to draw lessons for the present. Even so, we can ignore some of the appalling ‘realities’ (e.g. those of late Roman republican life) in order to stress some of the ideals then current (from Cicero, Vergil, and others). Today, by abandoning a curriculum of selected compulsory classics, we abandon the chance to assess, arrest, and change, social directions. As Raffaello Morghen stresses, philology should be the ‘handmaid’ in the house, not the mistress. Our task today is to dethrone the mistress philology, with its concomitant emphasis upon grant-worthy ‘new factual knowledge’, and restore to our classrooms a compulsory selection of key classics and relate them to life as we live it and must in the future live it. One scholar present, to show what could be learned from the papers, selected the fact that the contributions by Martin Camargo and Ursula Potter (among others delivered) reinforced the conclusion that the plays of the tenth-century female writer and intellectual Hrotsvit of Gandersheim were quite likely teaching devices, like a colloquy, only better. On this and many other fronts, Ward concluded, the conference provided much food for thought about the rôles the classics played in the medieval and early modern classrooms, vis-à-vis that they play (or do not!) today.

All papers bar one had a European context. There were two on law and theology, two on the quadrivium, one on political theory, four on all the Arts, five on the trivium, five on grammar, eight on rhetoric, one on grammar and rhetoric, and eight on poetry. The Thursday night ‘after-dinner’ talk dealt generally with the problems of studying the classics and the humanities today (hard copies available from john.ward@arts.usyd.edu.au). Chronologically, three papers dealt with the period before 1100 AD, sixteen with the medieval period after 1100 AD, two with the middle ages in general, and eleven with the Renaissance period. There were no drop-outs or changes to the beautiful programme prepared by Juanita Ruys and this must rank as something of a record among conferences. The rather elaborate proceedings went without a hitch due to Juanita’s careful planning and weeks of
hard labour: thirty-seven talks in all were delivered over three days; lunches and tea breaks were excellently catered for, as was a reception in the Nicholson Museum on the Thursday night when a talk (copies available) was given by John Ward and Neil Boness on a selection of manuscripts and cinquecentine which for the occasion Neil very kindly brought from the University of Sydney Rare Books Room; an elaborate conference dinner was held afloat on Sydney Harbour during Saturday night. John Ward chaired most conference sessions (with aplomb, though his time-keeping for the Friday came under severe criticism from Juanita Ruys!). Constant Mews chaired two sessions amply and excellently towards the end of the Thursday meeting, and Juanita Ruys herself chaired the last three sessions on Saturday with much elegance and exact time-keeping.

Funds for the conference came to about $75,000: about $15,000 from the Faculty of Arts, CHASS, and the Centre for Medieval Studies and the balance from an anonymous private donor, whose interest and enthusiasm for the project we very gratefully acknowledge. The sponsorship of the Centre is also gratefully acknowledged here and without the help of Centre personnel - Gabrielle Singleton, the Centre’s voluntary Administrative Assistant, and Melanie Heyworth and Yvette Debergue, doctoral and post-doctoral students at the Centre - the Conference would indeed have fallen on hard times. The Director, Margaret Clunies Ross, was at all times a tremendous help and John Pryor, Associate Director, admirably put his shoulder to the wheel on Margaret’s departure overseas. Without the help and leadership of these two eminent scholars the Conference could not have been brought off. As a result of the efforts of all these people, and most especially of the mountainous and careful hard work of Juanita Ruys, over two years, the conference achieved all it set out to and actually made a substantial profit (over $10,400).

Stephen Garton, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, opened the conference amply and eloquently and his assistance in securing funding from the Faculty is warmly acknowledged. The support staff of the Woolley Building and the School of English, Art History, Film, and Media (now School of Letters, Art, and Media) played an essential rôle with the result that the Woolley Common Room emerged as a fine and most suitable venue for the conference activities. James Douglas, a Fine Arts Specialist from the Sydney College of Fine Arts, mounted a challenging and opulent display of ‘created books’ (hand-made, but not what you would expect) based on his Master of Fine Arts project for the University of NSW College of Fine Arts (2005) and prepared a powerful guide for those interested (copies available). The Saturday proceedings were brought to a most appreciated conclusion by a spontaneous and unexpected presentation to the two convenors by Greti Dinkova-Brun and Willemien Otten, on behalf of all the participants.

Some 65 people enjoyed the Saturday night Harbour Cruise Conference Dinner. Leading highlights were the stars above (of much interest to visitors from the northern hemisphere), the quite unexpected appearance of Pope Innocent III, the youngest and most dynamic of medieval popes, who addressed the conference in simple Latin (copies available), and the even more unexpected appearance (for all except Martin Camargo – see below) of a leading thirteenth-century teacher of dictamen, Pons of Provence, who adapted a reportatio of an opening address he had apparently once delivered at the School of Orléans, turning it into a long speech of praise and thanks (copies available) addressed to Juanita Ruys, sitting with her family in one corner, together with a presentation. Pons claimed he had over the centuries completely forgotten all he used to teach at Orléans, but had luckily obtained a copy of a reportatio of one of his introductory lectures, from Martin Camargo who happened to have a copy in his pocket, carefully transcribed from a manuscript in the Bibliothèque Nationale, and slipped it to him before the dinner began. It was lucky that these figures from the past appeared as they did, because John Ward, chairing the proceedings at this point, underwent a diabetic low and was rendered
entirely speechless (a rare moment, much appreciated by all). Pons also made a presentation to Yvette Debergue, who was fortunately present.

At the conclusion of Pons’s speech and presentation, Professor Gualtiero Calboli, renowned for impromptu Latin panegyrics at Conference dinners, leapt to his feet, turned his jacket coat inside out, and delivered an extraordinarily learned mock polemic directed at the presumption of the conveners whom he charged with staging southern hemisphere appearances of persons much more appropriate to the northern hemisphere (Pons and Innocent III, that is) – though, as Innocent III explained, he only agreed to come and bring Pons from the several bowges of Inferno because word had reached him of the fine lectures delivered by John Ward over the years to eager students, concerning papal affairs and his own [Innocent’s? Pons’s? Ward’s? Ed.] particular achievements in the past. Professor Calboli’s polemic was of extreme subtlety and was, alas, lost on much of the audience, so far has proper knowledge decayed in these parts. It took as its learned point of departure the ceremony whereby a Roman eques might change his status (temporarily), in times of sorrow or crisis, by doffing his ‘tunica angusticlavia’ (narrow-striped tunic) and donning a plain tunic. We provide here the text of Professor Calboli’s impromptu polemic:


[A translation would have been appreciated for Centre Members with decayed knowledge. Ed.]

As you may see from this admittedly on-the-spot attempt at a transcription, the gist is that, if we are to present popes and other figures from Europe in our antipodes, thus overthrowing the proper order of things, then our University motto should be changed to confirm better to the natural order of things (the mind intervenes and corrects things badly composed and out of order).

For many, the conference’s highlight was the Sunday afternoon four-hour cruise around Sydney Harbour aboard the 1902 steam-powered Lady Hopetoun, originally the NSW Governor’s ‘launch’, superbly maintained and staffed by the Sydney Heritage Fleet. After an early afternoon spent around the main harbour, east of the bridge, and later along the Parramatta river and its estuaries, west of the bridge, few of the 28 aboard (the maximum allowed) would forget the final stages, silently approaching the bridge with the sun setting over the city with its lights slowly coming on. The foreigners on board (most of the passengers) had their breath taken away, averred they had never seen such a sight, and Rita Copeland (from New York!) was heard to exclaim ‘I want to live here!!!’.

After the cruise Rita and Steve Milner, with John and Gail Ward, went to the Dendy in Newtown and saw Ten Canoes, a suitable introduction to Australia’s distant dream-time past. There were two evenings at John’s and Gail’s Summer Hill castle, for those who could be rounded up at short notice, and many of the overseas visitors subsequently went on to Constant Mews’s follow-up conference in Melbourne (interestingly different from the Sydney experience – here we had too many, mainly short, papers in too little time whereas Melbourne had many longer papers and spaced them out, with time set aside for discussion) and an adventurous few struck out further to remote parts – some rode the
Ghan, others went as far north as Cape Tribulation, Cairns, Cobbold Gorge, and the Undara lava tubes.

The interest displayed by (non-speaking) locals in the conference was fitful (perhaps the fees charged were considered high?). A few welcome faces and some keen students were noted but, as often happens when the mountains come to Mahomet at big universities, relevant scholars were too busy on vital tasks such as writing School newsletters, teaching, applying for grants, making sure their research output was prolific and in properly measurable places and forms, preparing for and administering quality and performance control mechanisms, attending overseas conferences, and undertaking a myriad minor tasks, to have time to attend a conference such as ours. Small universities and centres are different – one scholar’s interests are everyone’s - but at large universities, it is every individual for him(or her)self.

However, John Ward found the conference all he’d ever dreamed of and Juanita Ruys survived it and him well. Her vast across-the-board competence, her eternal enthusiasm, and endless resourcefulness went far beyond the call of any duty or reward and her ability to make conference and speakers sing so harmoniously is here profoundly acknowledged.

Available upon request:
Cover, advertisement, and programme; Notes distributed to conferees on arrival; JOW introductory welcome remarks; text of JOW ‘After-dinner’ talk, Thursday, with hand-out; remarks and speeches at conference dinner delivered by Innocent III, Pons of Provence, and JOW.
Conferences here next year . . .

University of Sydney
The Sydney Arthurian Colloquium
Convener Andrea M. L. Williams  andrea.williams@arts.usyd.edu.au
10-15 July 2007
‘New Approaches to Old Problems’
Plenary speakers include Emeritus Professor P. J. C. Field (University of Wales Bangor, President of the International Arthurian Society), Professor Keith Busby (University of Madison Wisconsin), Professor Norris J. Lacy (Pennsylvania State University).

University of Sydney
Sixth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies
Convener Sybil Jack sybiljack@hotmail.com
18-21 July 2007
‘The Celts in Legend and Reality, Ancient and Modern’

University of Sydney
Australian Early Medieval Association Fourth Annual Conference
Convener Dr Carole Cusack ccusack@mail.usyd.edu.au
26-28 September 2007
‘Conversion and Cultural Transformation’
Plenary speakers: Dr Andrew Gillett and Dr Antonia Harbus, Macquarie University, Dr James Palmer, University of Nottingham.

Conferences elsewhere . . .

University of Adelaide
Australia and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies(ANZAMEMS) Biennial International Conference
Conveners Heather Kerr and Lawrence Warner  lawrence.warner@adelaide.edu.au
7-10 February 2007
http://www.anzamems.arts.uwa.edu.au/
‘Aspects of Medieval or Early Modern Culture’ (open topic)

University of New South Wales
Conference of the Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association (AULLA)
http://aulla.english.arts.unsw.edu.au/
5-9 February 2007
‘Cultural Interactions in the New and Old Worlds’
The two early modern plenary speakers, Professor Jean Howard and Professor Jonathan Gil Harris, will also be moderating two sessions each in their areas of research interest: ‘Staging Social Struggle’, and ‘Staging Diseases and Foreign Bodies’. There will also be two plenaries outside the early modern field, Professor Bob Hodge and Professor Deirdre Coleman, who are moderating sessions in their research areas.

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

Making the Middle Ages

Volume 6 in this series, Judith Johnston’s *George Eliot and the discourses of Medievalism*, has now appeared and volume 5, John Kennedy’s *Translating the saga : Two hundred years of challenge and response* is due out shortly. The General Editors of this series are continuing to consider manuscripts for *Making the Middle Ages*, if their subject matter is appropriate.

Medieval Voyaging – the new Brepols series

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, the new Brepols series, *Medieval Voyaging*, will gradually replace *Making the Middle Ages*. Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross are General Editors of *Medieval Voyaging* also, with an enlarged Editorial Board whose members have wide-ranging research interests covering the new series’ field. New members of the Editorial Board are:

- Professor Suzanne Conklin Akbari, Department of English and Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, s.akbari@utoronto.ca
- Dr Alfred Hiatt, Department of English, University of Leeds, A.Hiatt@leeds.ac.uk
- Professor John Tolan, Professeur d'Histoire Médiévale, Université de Nantes, john.tolan.2@numericable.fr.

*Medieval Voyaging* will present innovative research on voyages of body and mind from the early Middle Ages to 1500: physical and metaphorical travel in literary, historical, and geographical, texts and images intellectual mappings and encounters; actual and imagined voyages of discovery, settlement, pilgrimage; engagement with the Other; all constructing medieval cosmography’s earthly and spiritual landscape.

Expressions of interest in publishing in the series are welcome and may be addressed to any member of the Editorial Board.

The series was launched at the 2006 Leeds International Medieval Congress, 10-13 July 2006, with a Round Table Discussion (at which Professor Margaret Clunies Ross, University of Sydney, and Dr Simon Forde, Brepols, were present) and two sessions, one organised by Alfred Hiatt, the other by Suzanne Akbari and John Tolan.

Commemoration and Ritual : the Iberian Connection

This CD continues to sell well, indeed the Centre’s stock is dwindling fast! The University of Sydney’s ‘corporate’ copies also are available to University staff for use as gifts to friends and hosts in other institutions. Multiple copies may be purchased by faculties and departments from the Centre at a very competitive price. The CD, with its original cover, may be bought directly from the Centre and from some leading retailers. It makes a great gift! On our webpage are an order form, a review, and a link to Fisher Library’s webpage on the music, complete with sound sample (http://www.library.usyd.edu.au/libraries/rare/7_1ms335.html).
Members’ Activities

Three postgraduate members from the University of Sydney gave papers at this year’s Leeds International Medieval Congress, 'Emotion and Gesture’, 10-13 July : Emily Baynham (English) 'Desire and Power in Old English Metrical Charms', Yvette Debergue (Medieval Studies) 'Love, Hatred and Revenge among Heretics', and Bridgette Slavin (Celtic Studies) 'Madness, Morality and Prophecy in the Celtic Wildman Tradition'.

Tom Burton gave the paper ‘Dialectology and the need for performance : the case of William Barnes’ at the ‘Sound Effects : The Oral/Aural Dimensions of Literatures in English’ conference at St Andrews University, 5-8 July, and on 21 September gave us at the Centre a thoroughly enjoyable lecture on 'The dialect poems of William Barnes (1801-1886) : a pronunciation guide for his “Poems of Rural Life in the Dorset Dialect”’ (which last he rendered rouslyingly to our great entertainment).

Peripatetic Mike Carter attended a conference on the Ten Commandments and their Appropriations in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, in Madison, Wisconsin, 6-9 April (paper entitled ‘The Commands of God in the Qur’an as a Problem of Pragmatic Linguistics’, final version sent for inclusion in the Proceedings) and the Union of European Arabists and Islamicists ‘Centre and Periphery within the Borders of Islam’ conference, in Sardinia, 28 September - 1 October (paper entitled ‘Sentence types in grammar, law and philosophy’). On 28 October he will give a lecture on medieval Arab Medicine at the Centre for Continuing Education and he has been invited to give a paper (‘The double helix, language and theology in medieval Islam’) at a conference in Cambridge, 11-12 November, on Thoughts, words and things : exploring the links in the Christian and Islamic traditions, described as, amongst other things, centering ‘on the origin of language; the rôle of intention in linguistic knowledge and communication; and the relation between language and thought’.

After this conference, on 16 November, he will conduct a workshop on Sibawayhi for students and staff of the University of Ghent and while there will provide supervision for a doctoral student he has been looking after by e-mail for the last three years. Back here in December (3-7), he will co-ordinate the programme for the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Oriental Society of Australia at Women's College (some 115 papers spread over 29 panels). Despite all this, he will also apply himself soon to revising the catalogue of the Arabic grammatical manuscripts in the Chester Beatty Collection, Dublin (see last Newsletter).

Mike’s own ‘manuscripts’ have resulted in publication of his chapter ‘Foreign Vocabulary’ in the Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an, Oxford 2006 (pp. 120-129) and imminent publication of three articles for the Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics, Leiden 2006; an English translation of his 1972 article ‘Les origines de la grammaire arabe’ in a collection of seminal articles in The Early Islamic Grammatical Tradition, R. Baalbaki (ed.), Ashgate, 2006; the paper ‘The Qur'an and the authority of Arab-Islamic linguistics’ given at the Symposium of Oslo and Gothenburg Universities at the Swedish Institute, Istanbul, 3-6 November 2005, in Current Issues in the Analysis of Semitic Grammar and Lexicon II, L. Edzard and J. Retso (eds), Wiesbaden : Harrassowitz (pp.11-23); and the paper ‘Approaches to the technical terms of Arabic grammar’, Union of European Arabists and Islamicists conference, Krakow 2004, in Proceedings, Leuven 2006. The proofs of his article ‘The indeterminacy of the Qur'an’ have been corrected and sent in to the Krakow journal Folia Orientalia.

Mike has made a submission to the Norwegian Research Council for a grant to to fund reactivation of the Sibawayhi Project, with himself as co-director.

Finally, in spite of all these interruptions, Mike continues to work on The History of Arabic, to be published by Cambridge University Press.
Margaret Clunies Ross too attended the Leeds International Medieval Congress Congress, to launch the new Brepols series 'Medieval Voyaging' with two paper sessions and a round table discussion. She also attended the 13th International Saga Conference at Durham and York, UK, 6-12 August, where she gave a paper and participated in a round table discussion.


Margaret Clunies Ross, Tarrin Wills, and Emily Baynham attended the annual meeting of the editors of the Skaldic Editing Project in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4-6 August.

On 29 March at St George Hospital, Louise d’Arcens had a baby daughter, Mimi (full name Miriam Elena Sinnerbrink, but known to all as Mimi), a sister for Eva. Thanks to Robert’s parental leave, Louise is at least managing to answer e-mails, but we imagine she’s really looking forward to the summer break!

Rifaat Ebied attended, presented papers at, and chaired sessions of, the Fourth Hawaii International ‘Arts and Humanities’ conference, Honolulu, 11-14 January, the School of Oriental and African Studies ‘Christianity in Iraq III’ conference, University of London, 6 May, the National Association of Professors of Hebrew ‘Hebrew Language and Literature’ conference, University of Minnesota, 11-13 June, the ‘Christen und Muslime im Dialog’ conference, Georg August Universität, Göttingen, 21-23 June, the Sixth World Syriac conference, St Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute, Keral,a 8-16 September, the Western Pacific Rim Patristics Society Third Annual conference, Nanzan University, Nagoya, 28 September-2 October.


Helen Fulton, now Professor in the English Department of the University of Wales Swansea, visited us in August, giving that month’s lecture, ‘Language on the Borders: Contacts between Welsh & English in the Marches of Wales after 106’, and catching up with friends and colleagues over dinner afterwards. Helen will be convening The XVI International Congress of the New Chaucer Society to be held in July 2008 at Swansea University. The congress will feature a number of themed sessions, postgraduate workshops, and outings to various sites of medieval interest, including a visit to the Hengwrt Manuscript at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. Members intending to respond to the call for papers (which has not yet gone out) should join the New Chaucer Society via its website http://artsci.wustl.edu/~chaucer/.
David Juste, welcomed in our last Newsletter as a University of Sydney Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre, continues his investigation into the uses of astrology in the various sectors of medieval and early modern society and culture (ca 1200-1700 A.D.), in particular literature, art, politics, medicine, science, philosophy, and theology. Most of his first three months here were spent preparing the camera-ready copy for his book *Les Alchandreana primitifs : Etude sur les plus anciens traités astrologiques latins d'origine arabe (Xe siècle)*, now in press. On 23 May he gave a talk on Astrology in Medieval and Renaissance Art at the English Department Research Seminar and on 11 and 14 June was interviewed on this topic by Rachael Kohn for the ABC’s 2RN programme *The Ark* ([http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ark/stories/2006/1656366.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ark/stories/2006/1656366.htm)). From July to September he went on a research trip to Europe, mainly to Paris to work on a catalogue of the Latin astrological manuscripts preserved at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. He was also invited as a respondent at the ‘Astrology and the Body 1100-1800’ conference, Cambridge, 8-9 September.

As mentioned above, Louise Marshall has won a grant for her project ‘The Imagery and Cult of St Roch as a Plague Saint in Renaissance Italy’. This project investigates the origins, diffusion, and widespread appeal of the cult of St Roch as a protector against bubonic plague. Analysis of images celebrating Roch as a plague saint, including a group of largely unpublished early cycles of his life, elucidates contemporary understandings of the rôle of the saints in this crisis and helps answer the question of why Renaissance worshippers felt the need for a second specialist plague saint after St Sebastian. The project sheds light on Renaissance responses to the disease and the ways in which new cults were mobilised to provide additional sources of celestial protection.

Ursula Potter is one of 10 members of a NEER-funded research cluster on ‘Children in Europe and the Australian colonies c.1300-1850’. She gave the paper ‘Greensickness, Physicians, and Chastity in Early Modern Drama’ at the Humanism and Medicine in the Early Modern Era symposium, 20-22 September 2006, at the University of Western Australia. The chapter she contributed to *Tudor Drama Before Shakespeare, 1485-1590: new Directions for Research, Criticism and Pedagogy*, Lloyd Kermode et al. eds, Palgrave 2004, has now been favourably reviewed in *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol 59: 2.

Harry Peters gave the paper ‘Jupiter and Saturn: Medieval Ideals of Elde’ after Juanita Ruys’s paper at the ‘Old Age and Aging in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period’ conference at the University of Arizona, Tuscon, 27-29 April.

John Pryor has had a year in which over two decades’ research has come to fruition. Miraculously, by post and by courier on Tuesday morning 20 June, publisher’s copies of two completely different works arrived at the Centre.

*The age of the Dromon: the Byzantine navy ca 500-1204* (Leiden : Brill 2006), with Elizabeth M. Jeffreys, was begun in 1998 as an attempt to recover construction details of the Byzantine warship known as the dromon. The first draft ran to ~12,000 words. In the mid 1990s Elizabeth Jeffreys (Sydney, then Oxford), for many years voluntary adviser on the Greek, was added as co-author; and Ahmad Shboul came in to translate the Arabic translations of Leo VI’s *Naumachika* by Muhammad ibn Mankali. John’s thanks are due to both and to others who helped and commented on the text. In the end, the book ran to 830 pages. The camera-ready copy was produced between February and May 2006. Private correspondence from around the world suggests the book will be well received.

In 2000, with a grant from the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, John hosted under the Centre’s auspices a Workshop on the Logistics of Warfare in the age of the Crusades. Scholars from around the world met here from 30 September to 4 October 2002 (see Newsletter No. 5:2 July 2002 on our website). John edited the papers from April 2003 to July 2004 when the camera-ready copy was sent to the publishers. *Logistics of warfare in the age of the Crusades: proceedings of a Workshop held at*
Also just published has been the ABC Clio *Encyclopedia of the Crusades*, Alan Murray ed., in which John has three research articles, ‘Ships’, ‘Naval History : The First Crusade (1096-1099)’, and ‘Naval History, 1100-1249’.

In the meantime he has finished writing up a paper delivered at a conference on Soldiers of Fortune in the Fleets of Charles I of Anjou, King of Sicily, *ca* 1265-85, Swansea, July 2005. The paper considers the careers of ‘mercenary’ soldiers-of-fortune who followed Count Charles of Anjou to the Kingdom of Sicily and made careers in his navies. It is based on data recovered from the Registers of the Angevin chancery, *I registri della cancelleria angioina*, Riccardo Filangieri *et al*. eds (1952 -), and will be published in the conference *Proceedings*.

Currently John is engaged on a new article for the journal *Crusades*, ‘A view from a masthead : the First Crusade from the sea’. This will be the first comprehensive and systematic study of all the maritime aspects of the First Crusade and will eventually become the first chapter of a new maritime history of the Crusades, projected for completion within two to three years. Brill has accepted the book.


*Juanita Ruys* in April was invited to give a guest lecture at Columbia University, New York, as part of the 2006 Spring Program in Renaissance Studies. She spoke on the topic ‘From Virile Eloquence to Hysteria : Reading the Latinity of the Medieval Woman Writer Heloise in the Early Modern Period' and was honoured to have renowned feminist medievalist Joan M. Ferrante in the audience. She later presented a paper, ‘Medieval Latin Meditations on Old Age’, at the ‘Old Age and Aging in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period’ conference organised by Professor Albrecht Classen at the University of Arizona, Tucson, 27-29 April. She is currently preparing the revised version of this paper for publication in the volume of essays from the conference to be published by Walter de Gruyter (Berlin).

Juanita’s article 'Ut sexu sic animo : The Resolution of Sex and Gender in the Planctus of Abelard' appeared in the journal *Medium Ævum*, 75 (2006), 1-23. She has delivered two edited volumes of essays to publishers this year and awaits readers' reports on these. *What Nature Does Not Teach : Didactic Literature in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods*, 20 chapters, has been submitted to Brepols, for their Disputatio series, and *Latinity and Alterity in the Early Modern Period*, co-edited with Yasmin Haskell, 12 chapters, has been submitted to Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies.

She was heavily involved in organising the Classics in the Classroom conference held in the Centre for Medieval Studies in July, presenting the paper ‘Using Abelard as a School Text : The Glosses on MS P of the *Carmen ad Astralabium*’.
David Scott-Macnab, visiting from the University of Johannesburg, spoke to the Centre in April on ‘Jerome’s daemonio meridiano and the Figure of the Satanic Hunter in Medieval Literature’ and, back home, on ‘Emancipation through Education: A Self-Education Manual for Aspiring Gentlemen of the Fifteenth Century’ at the Southern African Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies conference, 6–9 September. He has had published two articles: ‘Polysemy in Middle English embosen and the hart of The Book of the Duchess’ in Leeds Studies in English, n.s. 36 (2005), 175–94, and ‘Caxton’s printings of The horse, the sheep and the goose: Some observations regarding textual relationships’, Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society, 13 (2004), 1–13. — and has reviewed Robbin S. Oggins, The Kings and their Hawks (Yale Univ. Press, 2004); in Medium Ævum 75 (2006), 138–39.

Betsy Taylor, with Margaret Rogerson, has had published this year, as noted above, ‘Teaching without Texts: Early English Drama for Performance Studies Students’ in Elza C. Tiner, ed., Teaching with the Records of Early English Drama (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006), pp. 48-69.

Lawrence Warner has forthcoming ‘Langland and the Problem of William of Palerne’ in Viator 37 and ‘Obadiah the Proselyte and the Judaizing Crusade’ in New Medieval Literatures 8.

Tarrin Wills has continued as a Research Associate on the Skaldic project, which aims to publish its first volume early next year. His work this year included a one-week field trip to Sweden to photograph digitally poetic runic inscriptions from east-central Sweden. He has also taken GPS readings of the stones, so that future runologists can minimise contact with nettles, insects, and other annoyances. Tarrin also presented a paper at the 13th International Saga Conference at Durham and York, UK, 6-12 August. He conducted research at Bryggens Museet, Bergen; Runearkivet, Oslo; Den Arnamagnæanske Samling, Copenhagen; and Deutsches Seminar, Universität Zürich over the course of the Northern summer. 2007 sees his promotion to Level B as part of the new ARC-funded grant for the Skaldic project.

New Courses

In 2007 there will be two new Medieval Studies Units of Study:

MDST 2610 Medieval Cosmology
Co-Ordinator David Juste (david.juste@arts.usyd.edu.au) and

MDST 3601 Medieval Latin Literature and Culture
Co-Ordinator Juanita Ruys (juanita.ruys@arts.usyd.edu)

and in 2008:

MDST 2611 Medieval Heroes and Heroines
Co-Ordinator Andrea Williams (andrea.williams@arts.usyd.edu.au) and

MDST 2612 Byzantium Between East and West
Co-Ordinator Vrasidas Karalis (vrasidas.karalis@arts.usyd.edu.au)

We are grateful to David, Juanita, Andrea, and Vras for developing these.