The Centre for Medieval Studies
Newsletter
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Centre for Medieval Studies
Newsletter

The Centre's current status within the University of Sydney

As many Members are probably aware, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sydney was reorganised into four Schools in the course of 2000. The Centre for Medieval Studies is now a part of the School of English, Art History, Film and Media Studies, whose current Head is Associate Professor Adrian Mitchell (English). While the Centre retains its position as an interdisciplinary group responsible for the promotion of Medieval Studies within the University and in Australia generally, its day-to-day finances and some aspects of its administration are part of the business of the School, its Head, administration and financial managers.

The general structural arrangements of the new School are working very well and the Centre has appreciated the assistance of the new level of administration. However, the restructure of general staff in the Faculty has meant that the Centre no longer has a share of a dedicated administrative assistant, as it used to have in Simon French, who was notionally one day a week in Medieval Studies and four days a week in English (English Language and Early English Literature). While student administration for Medieval Studies is now dealt with by staff in the General Office on Level 3 in the John Woolley Building, who also look after English students, the research and public outreach side of the Centre’s work has not been accommodated by the new system. That is why, in the first months of 2001, no Newsletters were sent out (though Vol. 4 No. 1
was posted on our web site) and general communication with members has not been properly maintained. We apologise for this deficiency.

Now, however, we are again able to maintain contact with all members, not only those on email, through the good offices of Catherine Cowan, a Centre member who has volunteered to help us and for whose assistance we are very grateful. Catherine has agreed to help us, on an average of one day per week, in our work with members and with the running of our lecture programme and other events. She will not be involved in any aspect of student administration. Catherine may be contacted by email at <catherine.cowan@english.usyd.edu.au>. Phone messages may be left for Catherine with Patricia Ricketts or Gudrun Butcher on (02) 9351 3251 or 9351 2349.

One other aspect of the Centre's status within the University deserves mention here and is discussed in more detail below. In late 2000, the University of Sydney recognised Medieval Studies as one of its 21 identified areas of major research strength. We are very pleased indeed to have this recognition, and hope that all members will be encouraged by it in terms of their research, study or general interest in Medieval Studies. Some practical benefits have already come from our recognition as an area of research strength, and we hope these may continue.

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From the CMS Board

The Centre for Medieval Studies Board was elected at the December 2000 AGM (except for the undergraduate student representative, who was elected in March 2001). Board members for 2001 are: Professor Margaret Clunies Ross (Director), Associate Professors Geraldine Barnes and John Pryor (Associate Directors), Associate Professor John Clifton-Everest, Mr. Leonard Cox (undergraduate student representative), Dr. Carole Cusack, Professor Rif Ebied, Associate Professor Helen Fulton, Dr. Antonina Harbus, Dr. Jane Hardie, Dr. Andrew Gillett and Ms Kim Selling (postgraduate student representative). Ms Elizabeth Connor, Administrative Manager of the School of English, Art History, Film and Media Studies, is an ex officio member of the Board.

The Board met on Thursday 17 May 2001, from 10 am to noon. Members may be interested to read notes of what was discussed at the meeting, some items of which are dealt with more fully elsewhere in this Newsletter.

• The budget for the Centre, prepared by Mr. Jay Chandra, School Finance Manager, was discussed as well as certain changes to the budget required by the recent award to the Centre of $36,000 by Professor David Siddle, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, as funding following the Centre's assessment as an area of research strength within the university (see below, under Research Strengths). $6000 of the money will be allocated to expenses incurred in holding a symposium on medieval and early modern cartography and travel on 22-3 August 2001 (see below, under Forthcoming Events). This will be organised by Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross. The remaining $30,000 will be allocated to support a symposium on the logistics of crusading,
organised by John Pryor and to be held in late September 2002 (see also below, Forthcoming Events).

• The Board considered a written request from Dr. Elizabeth Bonner, Honorary Research Associate of the Centre, for financial assistance to support her expenses in attending the Perth meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies in July 2001. The Board agreed that the best way to approach this and other possible requests for funds to support conference travel was a) to make a fixed sum of money available from the CMS budget for such purposes ($2000 per year), b) to determine that the money was to be used to support members of the Centre who are not eligible for university funds for such purposes or who would be unlikely to receive more than a small fraction of their likely expenses and c) to make known to members of the Centre that this money is available. (See below, under Conference Travel Funding)

• The Board agreed to put forward to the Head of School a request for Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG) funding for the following items:

1. Dreamweaver software
2. A replacement laser printer for Woolley N305
3. A portable data projector
4. A sum of money for Research Assistance (requests coordinated by Margaret Clunies Ross)

The RIBG funds have now been announced and we were successful with items 1 and 4 only. Those eligible for sums of research assistance money have now been informed of its availability.

• The question of various and quite recently numerous email inquiries from potential overseas postgraduate students was raised. These have come largely to Margaret Clunies Ross and John Pryor. The main problem is that of funding rather than supervision. It was agreed that a link should be established between the Medieval Studies home page, the Faculty of Arts and the International Office so that prospective students can be easily referred to the university's procedures re enrolment and scholarships.

• A proposal from postgraduate student representative Kim Selling regarding raising the profile of the Centre for Medieval Studies among the student body was discussed in Kim's absence. The Board approved her plan and asked Leonard Cox, the undergraduate representative, to liaise with Kim upon her return to Sydney in mid-June.

• The Board heard a verbal report from Margaret Clunies Ross on behalf of herself and fellow editor Geraldine Barnes on the progress of the Making the Middle Ages series of publications with Brepols in Belgium. Two volumes have been produced to date and the third is now being prepared for publication. Three more volumes of the original series are in the pipeline, with two additional volumes expected. In 2000-1 the editors have rejected three manuscripts and are in the process of considering a new one. The series is progressing well and has attracted a good deal of national and international interest.
Forthcoming Events July-November 2001

CMS Lecture Series Semester 2 2001

The Centre is pleased to announce an exciting, full and varied lecture series for the second half of 2001 and our contributors include both local, national and international speakers. As usual, Centre members are cordially invited to attend the lectures and join the speakers afterwards for dinner, in the case of evening lectures. Please let Catherine Cowan know, by email if possible, if you would like to dine with the speakers.

July

Thursday 26 July, 5.30-7 p.m.: Professor Richard Green, Classical Archaeology, University of Sydney, and other members of the Sydney-Paphos team:

'Recent archaeological excavations from medieval Paphos in Cyprus'.

Illustrated lecture. Sir Hermann Black Room, University of Sydney Club.

August

Tuesday 7 August, 12-1pm: Professor James O'Donnell, Professor of Classics and Vice-Provost for Information Systems and Computing, University of Pennsylvania (currently Visiting Professor of Classics at Yale University):

'Augustine the Caecilianist, or, What Augustine didn't confess'

John Woolley Building A20, Room S325

Thursday 16 August, 5.30-7pm: Professor Jürgen Miethke, History, University of Heidelberg:

'Scholastic political philosophy and practical politics. The effects of medieval political thinking on life'.

Sir Hermann Black Room, University of Sydney Club.

September

Thursday 20 September, 5.30-7pm: Dr. Jenna Mead, School of English and European Languages & Literatures, University of Tasmania and Semester 2 CMS Visiting Scholar:

'Chaucer's Treatise on the Astrolabe: Measuring Orientalism'.

http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/medieval/Newsletter4.2/News...
Sir Hermann Black Room, University of Sydney Club.

Thursday 27 September, 5.30 for 6.00pm - The Centre for Medieval Studies in conjunction with the Department of Italian

**Professor Gene Brucker**, Renaissance Historian, University of California,

'From Birth to Death in Renaissance Florence'

An illustrated lecture on birth, marriage, illness and death based on Castrato records and paintings

Education Lecture Theatre 351, New Education Building

**October**

Thursday 25 October, 5.30-7pm: **Dr. Lawrence Warner**, Executive Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities, Canberra:

'Langland's Becket and the Hopping Bishops'

Sir Hermann Black Room, University of Sydney Club.

**November**

Thursday 29 November, 5.30-7pm: **Associate Professor Geraldine Barnes**, Department of English, University of Sydney and Associate Director, Centre for Medieval Studies:

'William Dampier and the Painted Prince'

Sir Hermann Black Room, University of Sydney Club.

Centre for Medieval Studies

Workshop, 22-23 August 2001

TRAVEL AND CARTOGRAPHY FROM BEDE TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Centre is pleased to announce that it has been granted funds by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor David Siddle, which enable it to hold a 2-day Workshop on Travel and Cartography from Bede to the Enlightenment on 22-3 August 2001. It will take place in the Woolley Common Room, John Woolley Building (A20), Science Road, University of Sydney, between the hours of 9.30 am and 5 p.m. on both days.

All are welcome. Cost will be $5 per day (morning and afternoon tea included).

Featured speakers at this 2-day Workshop are:

Professor Mary Campbell (Brandeis University), author of The Witness and the Other World: Exotic European Travel Writing 400-1600 (1988) and Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern Europe (1999).

Professor Valerie Flint (Universities of Princeton and Hull), author of The Imaginative Landscape of Christopher Columbus (1992) and The Rise of Magic in Early Modern Europe (1991).

The programme will include presentations by Stephen McKenzie on antiquarian geography in the sixteenth century; Margaret Clunies Ross on frequent flyers in Old Norse mythology; Deirdre Coleman on discourses of complexion in the eighteenth century; Kate Lilley on Cavendish Incognita; Anna McHugh on mental travellers; John Pryor on the Marco Polo debate; Liam Semmler on mapping the grotesque; Diane Speed on Bede's mapping of England; Geraldine Barnes and Adrian Mitchell on William Dampier and pre-modern cosmography.

Centre for Medieval Studies Workshop,
30 September to 4 October 2002
THE LOGISTICS OF CRUSADING

The Centre is pleased to announce that it has been granted funds by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor David Siddle to enable it to hold a 5-day Workshop on The Logistics of Crusading and other related military activities from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October 2002.
The Workshop, publication of whose proceedings under the auspices of the Centre has already been arranged, will take place between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. each day (with a possible evening public lecture). At this stage the venue is not known.

At this stage it is not possible to announce who all the invited participants will be; however, it is anticipated that there will be presentations on: The roads and road systems of Asia Minor, The march of the First Crusaders through Asia Minor, The Crusades of Peter I of Cyprus, The siege of Acre (1188-91), The sailing of the Northern Crusaders to the Holy Land, The Venetians' provisioning of the Fourth Crusade; The march of the Franks from Saffuriyah to the Horns of Hattin (1187), and Coins and Coinages carried by Crusaders.

John Pryor will deliver a general address to the Workshop on the general theme of the Workshop. Ahmad Shboul will also participate with a much needed address to the logistical difficulties faced by the Muslims in attacking the Crusader States - Zangi, Nur-ad-Din, & Salah-ad-Din. It is hoped that other Australian participants may attend, including research students. Both Honours-IV and Postgraduate students may find such a "brain-storming" Workshop illuminating, whether or not the topic is in their particular fields of interest. Those interested should consult John Pryor at <<John.Pryor@History.usyd.edu.au>>.

It is anticipated that John Pryor's general address will delivered as a public lecture. In addition, it is anticipated that most, if not all, sessions of the workshop will be open to attendance by anyone interested. The idea at the moment is to have the Workshop participants around a central table, with others sitting in around that. At the end of each presentation, there would be a first session of discussion by the participants, after which discussion would be thrown open to all attending. Participant's papers will be posted and circulated on a Workshop Web-Site for mutual discussion over the next 15 months.

Attendance at the Workshop over the five days will be open to Members of the Centre and the public on a cost-recovery basis; namely lunches, morning and afternoon teas, and room hire, to be worked out. For students wishing to participate in such a "brain-storming" experience a minimal participation cost will be arranged.

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CMS Visiting Scholar Dr. Jenna Mead, University of Tasmania

Dr. Jenna Mead, of the School of English and European Languages and Literatures, University of Tasmania, will be the Centre for Medieval Studies Visitor during the month of September 2001 and, during that time, will be an Honorary Research Associate of the Centre. The study project she has proposed to work on while she is in Sydney is on Geoffrey Chaucer's Treatise on the Astrolabe.

Dr. Mead holds a PhD in medieval English literature from the University of Melbourne. She has wide-ranging research interests, both in Medieval Studies and in other fields, such as Feminist Studies and modern Australian writing. The Centre is very interested in her proposed research project, which fits well with our focus on intercultural
relations, and she has agreed to deliver our September lecture on Chaucer's Astrolabe.

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**News and Notes**

• **Literary Lunches**

The Centre held two literary lunches in Semester 1, 2001. The first, on Tuesday 3 April, was to launch Margaret Clunies Ross's edited book 'Old Icelandic Literature and Society' (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and the second, on Tuesday 12 June, was to launch Geraldine Barnes' new monograph 'Viking America. The First Millennium' (D. S. Brewer, 2001).

There will be a literary lunch to launch 'Origins and Revivals: Proceedings of the First Australian Conference of Celtic Studies', edited by Geraint Evans, Bernard Martin and Jonathan Wooding, in Semester 2, at a time to be arranged.

There will also be a literary lunch for Conal Condren (postponed from Semester 1) on Tuesday September 4, at a time yet to be arranged.

• **Peter Hupfauf and Treahna Hamm**

**Art Exhibition in Sydney & Frankfurt**
Peter Hupfauf - Odin, Vi, Ve

An exhibition of the art work of Aboriginal artist Treahna Hamm and Centre for Medieval Studies member Peter Hupfauf, which was previously shown, as part of the 11th. International Saga Conference in Sydney in July 2000, was opened on the 16th of May, at the Museum für Weltkulturen, in Frankfurt am Main. Peter uses various medieval Nordic motifs, in combination with Aboriginal ones, in his art work.

Opening speeches were given by Dr. Anette Rein, the director of the museum, Dr. Eva Raabe, the curator of the exhibition, Ms. Donna Carter, the Australian Consul in Frankfurt, Dr. Hans-Bernhard Nordhoff, 'Dezernent' for culture and leisure time, followed by a few words by the two artists. A good crowd turned up for the opening but heavy rain probably put some people off attend the opening. However, the room was full and the atmosphere was great.

The press reacted positively. All major newspapers, radio and television reported the show. Headings were: "Travelers between two worlds." (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) "Inner Landscapes." (Frankfurter Rundschau) "Ghosts and visions from ink-blue to white". (Frankfurter Neue Presse) "When Nordic gods meet Aboriginals" (Offenbach Post).

Posters promoting the exhibition were pasted on advertising boards everywhere in Frankfurt and the exhibition catalogue is very pleasing.

An attempt to engage the Australian art council, to show the exhibition in Berlin (there is an Australia-Centre in Potsdam, near Berlin), was not fruitful; however, Margaret Hamilton, the Australian in charge of cultural affairs in Germany, supported the show by informing the Museum für Völkerkunde in Berlin.

• Academy membership

Margaret Clunies Ross was elected a foreign working member ('utländska arbetanda ledamot') of the Royal Gustav Adolfs Academy for folk literature in Uppsala, Sweden on 18 April 2001. This academy is dedicated to the promotion of research into Sweden's (and Scandinavia's) 'folklig kultur', which includes folklore and Old Norse mythology.

Conference Travel Funding

As mentioned above, under From the CMS Board, the Board has decided to set aside a
sum of $2000 per year for the purpose of supporting conference travel by Centre for Medieval Studies members. Those members of staff of the University of Sydney and other universities who are eligible to apply to their institution for conference travel support are not eligible to apply to this CMS fund. It is intended to support CMS members who would not normally be eligible for institutional support to travel to conferences and for postgraduate students who are eligible for institutional funds but are able to show that the funds awarded or likely to be awarded will be much less than what will be required to cover conference expenses. Applications will not be considered unless the applicant has had a paper accepted for presentation at the intended conference. There is no application form. Members wishing to apply for funds should submit an application, which includes a cv, list of publications, details of the conference to be attended and conference paper to be given as well as an estimate of actual costs. to the Director, CMS, John Woolley Building, A20, University of Sydney, by 30 April or 30 November each year. Postgraduate student applicants should include a letter of recommendation from their supervisor indicating why it is important for them to attend the conference.

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**Medieval Studies as One of the University of Sydney's 21 Areas of Research Strengths**

**What it means**

The Centre submitted a dossier to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research in late 2000 setting out the grounds upon which Medieval Studies should be considered a major research strength of the University of Sydney. Aside from the large number of staff and postgraduates from many departments specialising in this area, their research output and ability to win outside research funding (principally in the form of postgraduate awards, Australian Research Council grants and fellowships) marks the group out as research-active and prominent both nationally and internationally.

The Centre is very pleased to have had its research recognised in this way, and looks forward to greater recognition from the University and the community as a place where ground-breaking work in Medieval Studies is being carried out. In terms of Australia's cultural heritage, the Centre is able to contribute a great deal both to the history of Western cultural institutions and to those from other parts of the world (for example, the Arab world) in the Middle Ages.

**What may eventuate**

We are very happy to report that some additional funding ($36,000) from the University has already eventuated from our recognition as a centre of major research strength. As explained elsewhere, this money will be used to fund two CMS Workshops, one in August 2001 and the other in September 2002. Details of these events are given in this Newsletter.

The Publications Office of the University is in the process of putting together a
publication to give an overview of the 21 identified areas of major research strength, and this will include information on a selection of current research projects undertaken by CMS members. Such publicity will make our work better known in other universities and in the community and will be very much welcomed.

Postgraduate student EFTSU

Among the most important members of the Centre, in terms of the life and continued health of Medieval Studies, are our postgraduate students. It is good to know that, on a recent estimate, there were 46 EFTSU (effective full-time student units) undertaking research postgraduate degrees in Medieval Studies areas associated with the Centre in 2000, including 9 who began their studies in 2000. We have not yet surveyed those who began in 2001.

News of Centre Members

Research Profile - Mark Pegg

Mark Gregory Pegg graduated with Honours in History from the University of Sydney in 1986. The following year he presented a paper derived from his thesis, "King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem: The Leper King" at the Third International Conference of The Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East in Jerusalem. After traveling around Europe Mark commenced postgraduate studies at Sydney University and then moved to the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton, where he was awarded a MA in 1993. Between 1994 and 1996 he was awarded a Graduate Alumni Research Travel Grant and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship. In 1997 he obtained his Ph.D from Princeton and his dissertation later became the basis for his book, The Corruption of Angels: The Great Inquisition of 1245-6, which was published this year.

In 1998 Mark was appointed as Visiting Assistant Professor at Washington University, St Louis and the following year Assistant Professor - Medieval Europe in Washington University's Department of History.
Mark has a number of articles in the pipeline: 'The Albigensian Crusade' in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Iberia*, and 'Archbishops, Hailstorms and Magic in the Early Middle Ages'. He is currently negotiating with publishers in Britain and the United States for a further three books, *A History of Holiness*, *A History of Heresy* and another on the subject of Inquisition, yet to be titled.

His recently released book, *The Corruption of Angels: The Great Inquisition of 1245-6*, examines Manuscript 609 of the Bibliotheque municipale of Toulouse, which details the interrogation of the inhabitants of the Lauragais region of south-western France. "This inquisition into heretical depravity in the Lauragais was" as Mark notes, "without a doubt, the single largest investigation, in the shortest possible time, in the entire European Middle Ages". Between May 1245 and July 1246 the Dominican Inquisitors Bernart de Caux and Jean de Sainte-Pierre questioned five thousand four hundred and seventy-one men and women about the heresies of the 'good men' and 'good women' and the puritan sect the Waldensians, which had been founded in 1170 by Peter Waldo.

This book is not a listing of questions and answers. Mark draws on selected interrogations and using other material sets each one in a historical framework. It becomes clear that the people being questioned knew how to choose their words well and their answers are considered and articulate. The book is extensively footnoted and contains a large and informative bibliography, which is of interest both for the student of the Inquisition and the general interest reader.