

Hagiography Society Newsletter

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Note from the Current President, Alison Frazier

I hand off the presidential baton to Neslihan Şenocak at Kalamazoo 2016. Now, in these waning days of my term, it's a deep pleasure to reflect on the durability and development of the Society, and on the wonderful friends and colleagues who constitute it. I'm grateful above all for the organizational support and creative initiative of the HS board members: Amy Ogden, Janine Peterson, Sara Ritchey, Jennifer Brown, and Nikolas Hoel. Without them, none of our new initiatives would have come to pass or been so successful. Janine and Amy oversaw the complete redesign of our website, including a new format for the bibliography that lies at the heart of our organization, and a website banner that points to our expanding vision; they led the design of a Hagiography Society logo, so that now we have the capacity to produce distinctive stationary and advertising handouts. The Sherry Reames Travel Award was founded with generous gifts from Society members; thanks to Amy's careful minding of our resources, it's now in a third year of supporting graduate student travel to Kalamazoo. We've introduced three new conference affiliations, beyond Kalamazoo, to take advantage of interest in saints-based research beyond the European Middle Ages: the Renaissance Society of America, the Sixteenth Century Society, and just recently, the American Academy of Religion. All this expansiveness has thrived thanks to our program chair, Sara Ritchey, and our communications chair, Janine Peterson. Finally, the Society now has a book series, "Sanctity in Global Perspective," with the potential to greatly expand and diversify our membership. Our board of editors, Renate Blumenthal-Kosinski, Shahzad Bashir, and Jack Hawley, have overseen the issuing of three contracts (several others are in the works), and the Society has given its first publication subvention grant to support images in a book appearing in our series. It's time now for the fund of new ideas and energy that Neslihan Şenocak will bring. Please join me in supporting her, and in thanking our board for so many years of thoughtful and responsible leadership on our behalf.



Note from the Incoming President, Neslihan Şenocak

Let me start by thanking you all very much for voting me as the next president of the Hagiography Society. It is a

great honor to serve the Hagiography Society and the scholarly community at large. I look forward to working with the wonderful colleagues on the board and with you all, the members, without whose support, there would not be a Society.

In the past few years, there have been a series of excellent achievements, as outlined in the letter from the president Alison Frazier. So I take the helm at a high point for the Society, but at a rather low point for humanities studies in general. We have all heard, in some way or other, about the "crisis" in the humanities, which reveals itself in such prominent symptoms as cuts in research funding, an unwelcoming job market for recent PhDs, and the decline in undergraduate enrollments in humanities majors. So far, the two most common reactions to this crisis have been to make humanities more public and visible through all media, and to emphasize the skills acquired through an education in humanities with a view to tap into jobs outside of academia. Many colleges and universities around the country are trying to do their fair share in these efforts, and so are some of the learned societies, scholarly associations, and humanities research centers. This year, while listening to lectures and talks on this crisis in the humanities at the National Humanities Center, I have been grappling with the question of what I, as a scholar, can do. In the coming months, I will need your ideas, energy, and initiatives concerning the question of what we as the Hagiography Society can do to increase public interest in the study of sanctity, its forms and its records, and to argue for its relevance in improving the human condition. Having said that, whatever we may do or not do on this larger problem, it does not cast a shadow on my conviction that the Society's first and foremost mission is to encourage, to support and to publicize cutting-edge, specialized scholarly research, conducted by its members and by the larger scholarly community working on these subjects.

While its origins were exclusively in the textual and visual media revealing forms and experiences of sanctity and saints' lives in the medieval Latin West, lately the Society has expanded its interest base to cover all in all periods and parts of the world. This is a most welcome development, which I personally would like to sustain. In an increasingly global world, the disciplines in the humanities can keep their relevance by embracing and offering a disinterested and unbiased study of all human experience without offering comparative valuations of one culture over another or of one human activity over another. An important part of my vision for the future of the Society is to enlarge the membership to include scholars working on the notions of sanctity and holiness in all parts of the world as well as continuing the efforts to attract and serve the medievalists, which have, to this day, constituted the core of the Society.

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I hope to work with the board and with you all in expanding the reach of the Hagiography Society, increasing the variety of its services and tackling the crisis in the humanities as a community. We have a wonderful platform from which to do so. Very regrettably, I will not be able to come to Kalamazoo and meet you there, but please do come to the luncheon on Friday, May 13, to lend your voice to all Society-related matters, and bring ideas for panels in various future conferences. I wish you all a joyful spring season, and look forward to working with you and for you.



New Affiliation with the American Academy of Religion

The Hagiography Society recently secured affiliation with the American Academy of Religion as a Related Scholarly Organization (RSO). Our partnership statement is “The Hagiography Society was founded in North America in 1990 to promote communication among scholars in the world traditions who study the lives of holy figures, the communities dedicated to those figures, and the material and textual evidence of their cults. We are committed to interdisciplinarity, critical scholarship, and a comparative global approach. For more information about our annual meeting and our other affiliations, as well as our book series *Sanctity in Global Perspective*.” This statement can be found on the AAR’s page, <https://www.aarweb.org/about/partnerships#hs>



Hagiography Society Business Meeting at Kalamazoo

Please join us for The Hagiography Society business meeting and lunch at Kalamazoo on Friday, May 13, from 11:30-1:15 pm in Bernhard G10 (NOTE: room change from official program). The lunch costs \$15.00 for regular members, \$10 for students/independent scholars. Please RSVP to ritchev@louisiana.edu by **April 20**. You should have received an email regarding a new process for brainstorming panels for Kalamazoo 2017. In addition to deciding panels, please join us as we discuss programming, changes in executive leadership, our book series, and many other important issues for scholars of hagiography. Bring your friends (non-members are welcome)!



Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring/co-sponsoring four sessions at the 51th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI on May 12-15, 2016.

THURSDAY, 10:00 AM (Bernhard 205)

Session 40: Beyond the Diocese of Orléans: In Memory of Thomas Head (sponsored with the Medieval Club of New York and the Medieval Studies Certificate Program, Graduate Center, CUNY)

Organizer and Presider: Clare Wilson (Graduate Center, CUNY)

“The Hagiography of Saints Brigid and Patrick and Its Effect on the Formation of Episcopal Dioceses in Medieval Ireland” – Diane P. Auslander (Lehman College, CUNY)
“*Jóns saga helga* and North Icelandic Education” – Eduardo Ramos (Pennsylvania State University)
“Byzantine Monasticism in Two Anatolian Provinces, ca. 500-700” – David A. Heayn (Graduate Center, CUNY)

THURSDAY, 1:30 PM (Schneider 1360)

Session 77: Holy Celebrity: Saints and/as Social and Economic Capital

Organizer: Alicia Spencer-Hall (Queen Mary, Univ. of London)

Presider: Jane Gilbert (University College, London)
“Catherine of Siena and Her Critics” – Catherine Mooney (Boston College)
“Myroblytes: The Power and Appeal of Holy Oil” – Sylvia E. Mullins (Georgetown Univ.)
“I’ll Tell You What I Want, What I Really, Really Want: Margery Kempe as the Ultimate Sainly Wannabe” – Alicia Spencer-Hall (Queen Mary, Univ. of London)

THURSDAY, 3:30 PM (Schneider 1355)

Session 130: Holy Landscapes and Sacred Space

Organizer and Presider: Monica Antoinette Ehrlich (Emory and Henry College)

“Environmental History and Hagiography” – Ellen F. Arnold (Ohio Wesleyan Univ.)
“Catherine of Siena’s Holy Landscape as Heterotopia” – Catherine Annette Grisé (McMaster Univ.)
“Women’s Monasteries, Community Identity, and the Creation of Sacred Topographies ca. 500-1050” – Jane Tibbetts Schulenberg (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison)

FRIDAY, 10:00 AM (Valley I Schilling Lounge)

Session 179: In Memory of Thomas Head (A Roundtable) (sponsored with Episcopus and the Medieval Club of New York)

Organizer – John S. Ott (Portland State Univ.)

Presider: Alison Frazier (Univ. of Texas-Austin)
A roundtable discussion with Jeffrey A. Bowman (Kenyon College); Anna Trumbore Jones (Lake Forest College); Thomas F. X. Noble (Univ. of Notre Dame); and Frederick S. Paxton (Connecticut College)



Other Sessions on Saints at Kalamazoo

There are a number of panels on saints and hagiography besides those sponsored by our society at Kalamazoo this year.

Session 131: Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Saints' Days

Session 168: Comparative Perspectives in Hagiology

Session 173: A Rediscovered Life: Thomas of Celano's *The Life of Our Blessed Father Francis*

Session 196: Local Sanctity in the Global Middle Ages: The Material Promotion of New Saints I

Session 211: Women Healing Body and Soul

Session 280: Hagiography in Anglo-Saxon England

Session 350: Local Sanctity in the Global Middle Ages: The Material Promotion of New Saints II

Session 368: Hagiography I: Europe

Session 413: The Early Irish Saints, Their Lives, and Their Monasteries

Session 433: Hagiography II: Asia

Session 455: New Perspectives on Catherine of Siena and Her Female Contemporaries

Session 483: Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints' Lives

Session 492: Universal Saints Located in Anglo-Saxon England

Session 520: Saints and Their Makers: (re)Writing Hagiography in the Long Twelfth Century I:

(re)Negotiating the Past in Twelfth-Century Saints' Lives

Session 549: Faith and Cults: Between Promotion, Proselytism, and Conflicts

Session 550: Saints and Their Makers: (re)Writing Hagiography in the Long Twelfth Century II: (re)Building the Future in Cult and Court



Hagiography Society Session at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring one session at the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, to be held in Bruges, Belgium, August 18-20, 2016.

Material Devotion, Material Decay: Hagiographic Ephemera in the Long Sixteenth Century

This panel examines how material objects construct devotional experience, focusing on the ephemeral quality of all materiality, how those objects do eventually decay, requiring attention, renewal, refurbishment, or preservation. How does the periodic need for renewal, or the imagined future decay of ecclesiastic trappings and space, shape devotional experience in the long sixteenth century? Each panelist here takes a different approach to material ephemera. Ruben Suykerbuyk opens the panel by investigating a case of preservation—how the objects and décor of St. Leonard's church in Zoutleeuw escaped iconoclastic and revolutionary losses to exert a continued influence on Brabantine devotion. Laura Smoller then questions what has been termed the "dark matter" of hagiographic records, examining what is lost, left out, or

disappeared from the dossier of St. Vincent Ferrer. Finally, Dagmar Germonprez investigates Habsburg archducal donation, focusing on the reparation of monumental ecclesiastic infrastructure as a reflection of their interests. Suzan Folkerts will chair the session.



Calls for Papers

Tours, 12-14 October 2016. "Saint Martin, expansion and revivals in his popularity from the origins to the present day" is a conference celebrating the 1700 anniversary of his birth. The international symposium organized in Tours in 2016 aims to address the "Martinian Figure" in all its breadth and all its influence. Several scientific fields, History, Archeology, Art History, Literary Studies, Ethnology and Anthropology, Theology, Economics, are called to focus on some fundamental issues that may arise in the following way: How to locate the cult of St. Martin in this perspective in Italy, in the British Isles, Spain, in the Germanic area, in the Scandinavian area, in the Slavic area, in Hungary; In a broad periodization: Origins, Carolingian, Central Middle Ages, late Middle Ages, modern era, the nineteenth century, the twentieth century; Finally, the historiographical question, especially in the nineteenth century, should not be forgotten. Proposals should be formulated in one page and may be submitted in English, French, German or Italian. The deadline for submitting proposals is **30 April 2016**.

Toronto, Canada, 27-30 September 2017. Victoria College - University of Toronto will hold a conference on "Global Reformations: Transforming Early Modern Religions, Societies, & Cultures." The conference will explore: What is Reformation, and where? Who does it impact, and how? This conference invites a sustained, comparative, and interdisciplinary exploration of religious transformations in the early modern world. Scholars who once confidently framed the Reformation as a sixteenth-century European Protestant phenomenon now look expansively across different confessions, faiths, time periods, and geographical areas. We are particularly interested in exploring global developments and tracking the many ways in which Reformation movements, broadly conceived, shaped relations of Christians with other Christians, and also with Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, aboriginal groups, and animistic religions. How did interfaith and cross-confessional encounters shift under the impact of the religio-political changes that swept rapidly across Europe and beyond from the fifteenth into the eighteenth centuries? In particular, how did these dynamics redraw borders and overturn long-established institutions? How did they interrogate and overturn traditional definitions of centres and peripheries? For further information and to submit a proposal (150 word abstract and one-page CV), please visit

crs.ca/globalreformatioins. **Deadline for Proposals: 31 May 2016.**



Upcoming Conferences

Basel, Switzerland, 20-21 May 2016. "The Making of a Female Memory - Texts, Rituals" will discuss a variety of ways in which medieval and early modern nuns created, constructed and, at times, even fabricated memory.

Chester, UK, 24 June 2016. "Pilgrimage, Shrines and Healing in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe" is a one-day colloquium at the University of Chester, hosted in collaboration with Plymouth University. The aim is to explore continuity and change in material and spiritual pilgrimage across the late medieval and early modern period. We are seeking contributions from scholars whose research speaks to these themes in the pre- and post-Reformation eras.

St. Bonaventure, NY, 12-15 July 2016. "Franciscan Women: Medieval & Beyond," will be hosted by the Franciscan Institute at Saint Bonaventure University. The conference dedicated to women and the Franciscan Tradition, ranging from the Middle Ages to the contemporary world. The organizers seek to bring together women and men who are living the Franciscan tradition in various ways -- as members or associates of the three Franciscan orders, coworkers in Franciscan institutions, etc. -- with academic scholars who want to bring their research into a mutually enriching conversation with a broader audience.

Toronto, ON, 21-22 October 2016. Victoria College in the University of Toronto will be holding a conference on "On the Eve of the Reformation: The View from Then and Now?": This interdisciplinary conference seeks to take the pulse of European history and culture in two different ways: from our perspective as early twenty-first-century scholars and from the perspective of late-sixteenth/early-seventeenth-century writers and artists. In so doing, the conferences seeks to cast its eyes on both the Old World and the New, Europe as well as in its African and Asian extensions, history as well as the arts, society as well as events.

Ghent and Bruges, 24-25 November 2016. "Bishops in the 'Century of Iron': Episcopal Authorities in France and in Lotharingia, 900-1050" is a joint organization of Steven Vanderputten (Ghent University) and Brigitte Meijns (Catholic University of Leuven), with support from the Research-Foundation Flanders (FWO) and in association

with Episcopos (www.episcopos.org). Keynote lectures will be delivered by John Ott (Portland University), Charles West (University of Sheffield), and Julia Barrow (University of Leeds).



Book (and Other) Announcements

The prestigious academic journal of medieval Italian religious history, *Rivista di Storia della Chiesa in Italia*, is seeking to publish more English-language articles. Members who are working on any aspect of religious history of medieval Italy are encouraged to submit articles. All submissions are subject to blind peer review.

The Saint Between Manuscript and Print: Italy 1400-1600, edited by Alison Frazier and published by CRRS, is now available for order.

Relics, Identity, and Memory in Medieval Europe, eds. M. Räsänen, G. Hartmann, and E. J. Richards is available on the Brepols website.

Logeion (<http://logeion.uchicago.edu>), which gives online access to Lewis & Short, DuCange, and various other Latin dictionaries, also includes the recently-completed *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* (DMLBS). Access is free.

The Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) Visiting Research Fellowship program seeks applications for the 2016-2017 academic year. Applicants can apply to spend 1, 2, or 3 months at SIMS. Project proposals should demonstrate that the Libraries' pre-modern manuscript resources are integral to proposed research topics. Recipients will be expected to work on-site at Penn Libraries for the duration of their fellowship, excluding possible short research trips in support of the proposed project to nearby institutions. Proposals with a digital component are encouraged though not required. A total of \$15,000 per year will be divided among up to 3 fellows in increments of \$5,000 per month. Awards must be used between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017.

Applications are due May 15, 2016. For more information on eligibility and the application process, go to: <http://schoenberginstitute.org/visiting-research-fellowships>