

# Hagiography Society Newsletter

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## Message from the President

The Hagiography Society is launching a fundraising campaign. There are many reasons why supporting HS is a really good idea and a worthy cause, and these might concern directly you and/or your students. Below is the list of the initiatives of Hagiography Society:

- The Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award, which is named in honor of the founder and ex-president of the Society. It provides \$300 to be used toward travel to present at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, held annually at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. The annual deadline to apply is Nov. 30.
- The newly established Hagiography Society Book Prize. This prize will be awarded to a scholarly first book written in the English language on any disciplinary subject that makes an outstanding contribution to the study and understanding of saints, holy men and women, virtue traditions, and the concept of sanctity in ideational, literary, artistic, and/or socio-historical dimensions in the pre-modern period. Books concerning all geographies and religious systems are eligible. The monetary value of the prize is \$500. The author of the book presented to the competition must be a member of the Hagiography Society by the time of the book's submission. Each year, the prize committee will consist of three scholars called upon by the Society to fulfill the task of awarding the prize. The submission deadline for the inaugural prize is 1 May 2017, and the recipient of the prize will be announced at the latest by mid-fall of 2017. All books that have been published between May 2015-May 2016 are eligible for the prize. More information and deadlines will be forthcoming.
- Sponsorship of multiple sessions at various academic conferences such as the International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI); International

Medieval Congress (Leeds), Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, and at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Renaissance Society of America.

- A regular newsletter, a listserv, an online member directory, and a Facebook group, where 400 followers from all over the world post conference, job, and fellowship announcements and can engage in discussion on saint-related topics.
- A book series, "Sanctity in Global Perspective", currently published by Taylor & Francis. If you are writing a monograph that explores the concept of sanctity in ideational, literary, artistic, and/or socio-historical dimensions, please consider submitting it the series editors. For more information see [http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page\\_id=80](http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page_id=80). The series also accepts edited volumes.
- A searchable bibliography consisting of the publications of its past and present members. We are currently exploring options to develop it further so as to make the tool as useful as possible to everyone interested in hagiographical research.

Join us to stay in touch with and promote scholarship on saints and holiness. To donate money towards our prize initiatives, or to update your membership status, please go to <http://www.hagiographysociety.org> and you will see on the lower right the link to donate and become a member.

On behalf of all members of the Society and its executive committee, I'd like to express my gratitude for your support.

With best wishes,

Neslihan Şenocak, President



## **The Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award Recipients for 2016-2017**

Once again, the Hagiography Society executive committee received a number of outstanding applications for the Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Awards: a testimony to the vibrant state of the field and the great promise of the new generation of scholars. We're very happy to announce the award recipients:

John Fry (English, UT-Austin), "Hagiography and Dorigen's Discontent in the 'Franklin's Tale'"

Mary Anne Gonzales (Medieval History, Guelph), "Imitation and Feeling: Sorrow and Compassion in the Stigmata of Elizabeth of Spalbeek"

Christopher Paoella (History, U-Missouri-Columbia), "Servi et Servi Dei: Slaves and Saints in Early-Medieval Hagiography"



## **Thomas Head's Hagiography Essays Now on the HS Website!**

The late Thomas Head's introductory essays and bibliographies on hagiographical topics, which were published on ORB.net, are beloved by many scholars and teachers. With the ORB website now defunct, the Hagiography Society embarked on a process to make these essays once again available to the general public in a manner allowed by the copyright permissions after consulting with the estate of Tom Head and the former host institution of ORB. The essays appear on the "Links" page as PDF files. Please note that highlighted text in the files indicating links will not work, but the essays and bibliographies themselves are otherwise preserved as they had been published.



## **Other Hagiography Society News**

Dues: A hearty thank you to all those who have paid their 2017 dues. To the very many who took the opportunity to contribute to the Reames fund, the book subvention fund or the general fund: your generosity will ensure the HS's ability to continue these important initiatives in support of young scholars and all scholarship on hagiography. Thank you!

Sad News to Report: Member Maureen A. Tilley (Theology, Fordham) passed away April 3, 2016. A lovely tribute can be found at [http://www.fordham.edu/info/23060/faculty/8491/faculty\\_spotlight/4](http://www.fordham.edu/info/23060/faculty/8491/faculty_spotlight/4).

Upcoming AAR session CFP: The Hagiography Society will be announcing a call for papers for the 2017 meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Boston. Our proposed panel is titled, "Reentering Sacred Biography and Cultic Practice." We are interested in reframing categories and genres of veneration from perspectives outside of European Christianity.



## **The Hagiography Society at the RSA**

We will be sponsoring four sessions at the Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting in to be held in Chicago, 30 March-1 April 2017.

### **Panel 1: Virginit in Song: Digital Tools for the Liturgy**

Organizer: Debra Lacoste, CANTUS database  
Chair: Anne E. MacNeil, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Cantus and Cantus Firmi: Solving Puzzles in Three 15th-Century Masses for the Annunciation" - Mary Jennifer Bloxam, Williams College

"Women Singing about Women: Using the Cantus Database to Research Chant in Renaissance Convents" - Barbara Swanson, York University

"A New Office for the Translation of St. Catherine of Alexandria" - Sarah Long, Michigan State University

"Contexts for Pastoral Care: Magdalene Liturgies and the Cantus Database" - Donna Alfano Bussell, University of Illinois at Springfield

**Panel 2: Religious Connectivity in Urban Communities (1400-1600)**

Organizer: Sara Ritchey, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Chair: Lezlie Knox, Marquette University

“Connecting through the Passion: The Biblical Passion Story between Sacred and Secular” - Suzan Folkerts, University of Groningen

“Valuing the Sacred: St. Ursula’s Relics and Luxury Textiles in the Low Countries ca. 1500” - Andrew Sears, University of California, Berkeley

“Devotional Communities and Textual Connections in the Low Countries: The Case of Lutgard of Aywieres” - Barbara Zimbalist, University of Texas at El Paso

Respondent: Christina Normore, Northwestern University

**Panel 3: Global Sanctity**

Organizer and Chair: Alison Knowles Frazier, University of Texas at Austin

“Accommodating Muslims in Sacred Space: Pictures of German Holy Land Pilgrimage ca. 1500” - Elizabeth Ross, University of Florida

“Multinational Corporation: Mary Ward’s Final Attempts to Save Her ‘Jesuitesses’” - Laura Feitzinger Brown, Converse College

“Ignatius of Loyola and the Global Performance of Sanctity” - Sarah Beckjord, Boston College

Respondent: J. Michelle Molina, Northwestern University

**Panel 4: Teaching Early Modern Religion with “The Other Voices”**

Organizer: Alison Knowles Frazier, University of Texas at Austin

Chair: Jane C. Tylus, New York University

Discussants: Anna Wainwright, New York University; Shannon McHugh, New York University;

Jennifer Haraguchi, Brigham Young University;

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, University of Pittsburgh; Marjorie Elizabeth Plummer, Western Kentucky University; Donna Alfano

Bussell, University of Illinois at Springfield



**Calls for Papers**

**Durham, NC, 24-25 February 2017.** The Department of Religious Studies at Duke invites Masters students from all institutions to submit

papers to its second annual MA Conference. Applicants are invited to consider how religion manifests within and from the margins in multiple contexts: embodied, geographical, philosophical, sociological, and psychological. Potential topics include:

- How the religious majority constructs, and is constructed by, its formulation of the “other”
- Minority communities’ use of the language or culture of the majority to gain recognition from the mainstream
- Religion as experienced in the margins by minority communities
- How religious communities self-marginalize in an attempt to reinforce their difference from the majority
- The marginalization of individuals’ negotiations of multiple religious identities and influences

Duke will cover the cost for flights of accepted speakers (US domestic flights only), as well as three nights’ accommodations at a local hotel. Please send abstracts no longer than 300 words, a list of key terms, and a one-page CV to

[hwansoo.kim@duke.edu](mailto:hwansoo.kim@duke.edu) on or before **20 December**. Final papers must be submitted by 10 February 2017.

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**Boulder CO, 21–22 April 2017.** Paper proposals and round-table participants are being sought for the Mediterranean Seminar’s Spring 2017 Workshop, sponsored by the CU Mediterranean Studies Group and the Program for Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, on the subject “Mysticism and Devotion in the Multi-Religious Pre-Modern Mediterranean.”

For the workshop (to be held on Friday, 21 April), we invite abstracts of in-progress drafts of articles or book/dissertation chapters on any aspect of mysticism, devotion, theology, worship, or religiosity in the pre-Modern Mediterranean, broadly construed, but particularly papers relating to the multi-religious environment of the region, including cross-confessional influence, relations, syncretism, or papers that address the *longue durée*, methodology, or that are comparative in approach. The workshop will also feature a presentation by our featured scholar, Prof. Amy Remensnyder (History: Brown University)

The second day, Saturday, 22 April February, will feature a set of round-table conversations, focusing

on questions such as:

1. Mysticism and Doctrine - are they compatible or do they conflict?
2. Do mystical traditions have a politics?
3. "Mediterranean Religion": does it function as a category?

Please submit an abstract (250-500 words) and two-page CV to [mailbox@mediterraneanseminar.org](mailto:mailbox@mediterraneanseminar.org) (subject line: Spring 2017 Proposal) by 15 January 2017. If you are applying to present at the **workshop**, please indicate this clearly, state the title of your paper and its nature (e.g. article, book chapter, dissertation chapter). Successful applicants are expected to submit a 35-page (maximum) double-spaced paper-in-progress for pre-circulation in March.

If you are applying to participate in a **round-table**, please indicate which round table(s) you are applying for. Round table participants will be required to submit a 3-5 page "position paper" in April. You may apply for both a workshop presentation and round-table discussion. For further information, please consult [www.mediterraneanseminar.org](http://www.mediterraneanseminar.org).

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**Keene, NH, 21-22 April 2017.** The 38<sup>th</sup> Medieval and Renaissance Forum will take place at Keene State College on the topic of "Culture and Violence." This year's keynote speaker is Richard W. Kaeuper, Professor of History at the University of Rochester. We welcome abstracts (one page or less) or panel proposals that discuss the nature and cultural and religious context of violence in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. Papers, however, need not be confined to this theme but may cover other aspects of medieval and Renaissance life, literature, languages, art, philosophy, theology, history, and music.

Students, faculty, and independent scholars are welcome. Please indicate your status (undergraduate, graduate, or faculty), affiliation (if relevant), and full contact information on your proposal. Please submit abstracts, audio/visual needs, and full contact information to Dr. Robert G. Sullivan, Assistant Forum Director at [sullivan@german.umass.edu](mailto:sullivan@german.umass.edu). Abstract deadline is **15 January 2017**.

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**Barcelona, 17-19 May 2017.** The conference "Living on the Edge: Transgression, Exclusion, and Persecution in the Middle Ages" aims to address the widespread medieval phenomenon of transgression as both a result of and the cause for the exclusion and persecution of those who were considered different. We invite papers from postgraduate and early career scholars that explore social, gender, sexual, religious, political, intellectual, and artistic transgression, as well as those that analyse the different instances of exclusion and persecution of individuals and communities in the medieval period. We welcome scholars from a range of disciplines, including history, philology, art history, philosophy, and archaeology to submit proposals for 20 minute papers.

Please email an abstract of no more than 300 words to [congress.ardit@ub.edu](mailto:congress.ardit@ub.edu) by **31 January 2017** including your personal details (name, affiliation, and contact address). The main language of the conference will be English but papers in Catalan, Spanish, Galician, French, Italian, and Portuguese are also welcome.

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**Grand Junction, CO, 22-24 June 2017.** The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites paper and panel proposals for its 2017 conference, to take place on the campus of Colorado Mesa University. The conference theme is "Reformations during the Middle Ages and Renaissance," in honor of the 500th anniversary of the publication of Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses*. The program organizers invite proposals that consider the idea of reform, broadly conceived, during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Proposals may consider religious reform during the medieval and Renaissance periods but may also investigate continuity and change with regard to various aspects of the history and historiography of the periods as well as changes in literary culture, style, patronage, criticism, and subjects. Graduate student presenters are eligible to compete for the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Travel Award to help defray expenses associated with travel to and presentation at the annual conference. The RMMRA also awards two annual paper prizes: the Allen DuPont Breck Award for the best paper at the conference presented by a junior scholar, and the Delno C. West Award for the best paper at the conference presented by a senior scholar (at the rank of Associate Professor or higher). For additional information on the RMMRA, please visit <http://www.rmmra.org/>

Paper and panel proposals should be directed to the RMMRA Program Committee via email to RMMRA President- Elect Ginger Smoak ([ginger.smoak@utah.edu](mailto:ginger.smoak@utah.edu)). Proposals are due **15 March 2017**. Please note that all presenters at the conference must be active members of RMMRA who have paid their annual dues of \$25 by the time of the conference.



### Other Upcoming Conferences

**Nicosia, Cyprus, 13-14 January 2017.** The Byzantinist Society of Cyprus is presenting the First Conference of Byzantine and Medieval Studies, on aspects of the history, archaeology, art, architecture, literature, philosophy and religion of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean during the Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman periods. The languages of the conference will be Greek, English, French and German. The conference is organized in conjunction with the annual meeting of the members of the Byzantinist Society of Cyprus. For membership information please visit the society's website: <http://www.byzantinistsociety.org.cy>

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**Denton, TX, 23-24 March 2017.** The AVISTA Medieval Graduate Student Symposium on Ritual, Performance, and the Senses" will be held at the University of North Texas. The 2017 AVISTA medieval Graduate Student Symposium at the University of North Texas will have papers from all disciplines and all medieval eras on any topic addressing topics of ritual, performance, or sensual experience.

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**Münster, 31 March-2 April 2017.** "Ritual and Historiography in the Middle Ages," with keynote speakers Rosamond McKitterick (University of Cambridge) and Eric Palazzo (Université Poitiers), will look at the significant rise in scholarship on medieval Christian liturgy. This conference aims to contribute to the growing discourse by bringing together an international group of scholars to discuss the connection between religious rituals and the writing of history in medieval Europe, Byzantium, the Near East and beyond. Historiography in the Middle Ages was normally a clerical practice. The

question the conference will explore is how these services and sacred myths influenced the construction of history in Christian centers throughout Europe and the Mediterranean world. The working language of the conference will be English.

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**Huddersfield, 11-12 April 2017.** A conference on "The Material Culture of Religious Change and Continuity, 1400-1600" will take place at the University of Huddersfield. 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses on the Wittenberg Church. From that date, religion in Europe experienced profound changes. One such change was how people viewed, interacted and created visual and material objects related to religious devotion. This conference aims to bring together medievalists and early modernists approaching religion on either side of the Reformation through a visual and/or material examination. . Keynote speakers include Dr Nicolas Bell (Trinity College Cambridge, Library); Dr Glyn Davies (Victoria and Albert Museum, London); Professor Merry Wiesner-Hanks (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee).

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**Oxford, 28-30 June 2017.** An international conference organised by the Faculty of English, University of Oxford, on "After Chichele: Intellectual and Cultural Dynamics of the English Church, 1443 to 1517," will take place at St. Anne's College. This event builds on the success of the 2009 Oxford conference, "After Arundel: Religious Writing in Fifteenth-Century England," which resulted in a book of essays (ed. by Vincent Gillespie and Kantik Ghosh) that vigorously interrogated the nature of religious and intellectual culture in England in the long fifteenth century.



### Book and Other Announcements

#### Research Grant:

Each year, the Friends of the Princeton University Library offer short-term Library Research Grants to promote scholarly use of the Library's special

collections. The award is \$1,000 per week (up to four weeks) plus transportation costs.

Applications will be considered for scholarly use of archives, manuscripts, rare books, and other rare and unique holdings of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, including the Seeley G. Mudd Library; as well as rare books in Marquand Library of Art and Archaeology, and in the East Asian Library (Gest Collection). Special grants are awarded in several areas: the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies supports a limited number of library fellowships in Hellenic Studies, and the Cotsen Children's Library supports research in its collection on aspects of children's literature. The Maxwell Fund supports research on materials dealing with Portuguese-speaking cultures. The Sid Lapidus '59 Research Fund for Studies of the Age of Revolution and the Enlightenment in the Atlantic World supports relevant special collections research.

For more information, or to apply, please go to <http://rbsc.princeton.edu/friends-princeton-university-library-research-grants>

The deadline to apply is January 31, 2017.  
Grants are tenable from May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018.

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#### New Books:

Juliana Dresvina, *A Maid with a Dragon: The Cult of St Margaret of Antioch in Medieval England* (Oxford: OUP, 2016).  
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/a-maid-with-a-dragon-9780197265963?cc=us&lang=en&>

Sue E. Houchins, Baltasar Fra-Molinero, eds. *Black Bride of Christ: Chicaba, an African Nun in Eighteenth-Century Spain* (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2016).  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/university-press/book/9780826521033>)

Catherine M. Mooney, *Clare of Assisi and the Thirteenth-Century Church: Religious Women, Rules, and Resistance* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016)  
<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15584.html>

Eva von Contzen, *The Scottish Legendary. Towards a Poetics of Hagiographic Narration* (Manchester:

Manchester University Press, 2016).  
<http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9780719095962/>

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#### Journal:

The *Hungarian Historical Review's* issue 5 (2016) is focused on "Saints Abroad" and includes essays by some of our members.



### **Selected Saints' Feast Days**



December 28th:

The Holy Innocents

In the general Roman Calendar, and in calendars of other churches influenced by it, 28 December is the feast of the Holy Innocents. The death of these sacrificial victims for Christ is related at Matthew 2: 16-18. Their feast in Rome seems to be no older than the later fourth century. Its stational church is San Paolo fuori le Mura, which latter is said to hold relics of them. Byzantine-Rite churches celebrate this feast on 29 December.

(Text and image link courtesy of John Dillon via the Medieval-Religion listserv).