

# Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXIV, no. 2, July 2014

## Executive Committee Elections

Elections for three executive committee positions will be held this coming year. We are soliciting nominations for the positions of: **Nominations Chair** (currently filled by Jennifer Brown who is not running for re-election), **Communications Chair** (currently filled by Janine Larmon Peterson, who will run for re-election for one last term), and **Program Chair** (currently filled by Sara Ritchey, who will run for re-election). The terms are three years.

If you are interested in these positions, or wish to nominate someone, please email our current Nominations Chair, Jennifer Brown, at [jbrown1@mmm.edu](mailto:jbrown1@mmm.edu) by **December 1**. Short bios of the nominees will be in the December newsletter and elections will take place in early 2015. For a description of the positions, please see our website: [http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page\\_id=97](http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page_id=97)

## New Hagiography Society Website

It's here! We have a new website (still at the same address: [www.hagiographysociety.org](http://www.hagiographysociety.org)), and we're very grateful to Chris Feldman and KL Hamilton for long hours designing it and making it work. In addition to creating a new look, we have tools to include the (formerly annual) directory and bibliography right in the pages. This makes more current information readily available.

You should recently have received a message from Secretary/Treasurer Amy Ogden inviting you to register for the site so that you have access to the **members-only features**. If you didn't see your email invitation, please check again; let Amy ([avo2n@virginia.edu](mailto:avo2n@virginia.edu)) know if you can't find it.

## New Book Series

Keep an eye on the website! Coming September: an invitation to submit your book manuscript to our own series: *Sanctity in Global Perspective*! A description of the series is available on the website: [http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page\\_id=80](http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page_id=80)

## The Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award

2014 marks the second year of the Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award for Hagiographical Studies. Named in honor of the beloved founder and long-time leader of the Society, the award 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. Students enrolled in a graduate program (anywhere in the world) are eligible to apply if their paper, on a topic involving hagiography, has been accepted for inclusion in the program of the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, at the time of application. Preference may be given to Hagiography Society members.

Please submit the following documents, combined in a single .PDF file, by **November 1** to the secretary/treasurer of the Hagiography Society, Amy Ogden ([avo2n@virginia.edu](mailto:avo2n@virginia.edu)):

- a current curriculum vitae
- the abstract for the accepted paper, identifying the panel on which it will be presented
- a cover letter, addressing the following questions:
  - How does this paper fit into your scholarly trajectory?
  - Have you presented at a scholarly conference before?
  - Have you received other funding for travel (this paper or others)?

Successful applicants will be informed of the results by December 15.

## CFP: The Society at Kalamazoo 2015

The Hagiography Society will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring four sessions at the 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, 14-17 May 2015, at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. The Call for Papers with relevant contact information is as follows:

1) MULTIDISCIPLINARY ST. BRIDGET: IN HONOR OF SYON ABBEY'S 600<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY (co-sponsored with Syon Abbey Society)  
This multidisciplinary panel is devoted to Saint Birgitta of Sweden (c. 1303-1373), or Saint Bridget as she was known

in England. The only British Bridgettine house, Syon Abbey, was founded in 1415 and flourished alongside the growing devotional cult surrounding Bridget and her texts in England. Syon Abbey is now recognized as one of the most vibrant literary and cultural monastic centers of late medieval England, and this panel will be one of several events in the US and UK to mark the sixcentenary of its foundation. We invite abstracts for papers exploring any aspect of Saint Bridget and her cult in England or the Continent. Papers addressing connections to Syon's sisters, brothers, texts, history, or influence are welcome but not required. We hope to form a panel that reflects a variety of disciplinary standpoints: e.g., music, liturgy, art, iconography, architecture, theology, textuality, manuscripts, textual transmission, early print, monasticism, gender issues, socio-political-economic contexts. Please email short abstracts to Laura Saetveit Miles, University of Bergen ([laura.miles@gmail.com](mailto:laura.miles@gmail.com)) by **September 15**.

## 2) GLOBAL SANCTITY: DEMONS AND THE DEMONIC

The category of the demonic inflects virtue in many of the world traditions. We invite papers that explore the demonic from the cosmological to the psychoanalytic, addressing the presence of demons in texts and images, in rural and urban places, in experiences of vision and miracle, in acts of divine madness and carnal folly. By examining the demons lurking in different religious traditions, we hope to grasp the shared work performed by the category of the demonic, and to appreciate distinctions in the construction of this category. Please submit a 300-word abstract to organizer Jenny Cathryn Bledsoe, Emory University ([jenny.cathryn.bledsoe@emory.edu](mailto:jenny.cathryn.bledsoe@emory.edu)) by **September 15**.

## 3) SAINTS, HERETICS, AND CANON LAW: RE-THINKING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FOURTH LATERAN COUNCIL (Co-sponsored with the ICMAC)

The Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 was a definitive moment in the conciliar history of the Western Church, addressing itself to a wide range of ecclesiastical business, setting out explicitly (for the first time) the sacramental requirements for the laity whilst also making normative rulings for the expansion of the Church, the conservation of Church property and rights, as well as its relations with/position on non-Catholics. Some of these rulings reiterated centuries-old provisions whilst others addressed issues that were of the products of relatively recent and more pressing concerns. On the 800th anniversary of Lateran IV, this session invites papers that address in particular the significance of the canons on heresy and saintly relics, their legal context and implications as well as broader reconsiderations of the importance of Lateran IV in the Western legal tradition. This session is co-sponsored by the International Society of Medieval Canon Law/ Iuris Canonici Medii Aevi Consociatio. Please submit a 200-word abstract to organizer Kathleen G. Cushing, Keele University ([k.g.cushing@keele.ac.uk](mailto:k.g.cushing@keele.ac.uk)) by **September 15**.

## 4) ROUNDTABLE: REMEMBERING JACQUES LEGOFF

Our fourth session, organized by Gábor Klaniczay, is full, but we warmly invite you to attend and contribute to the memorial.

The newspaper *Le Monde* declared of Jacques LeGoff, after his death in April, "Avec lui, le Moyen Age n'a plus été le même." Indeed, LeGoff's groundbreaking scholarship presented us with an anthropology of history, medieval mentalities, and a fresh chronology of the Middle Ages. Moderated by LeGoff's friend and student, Gábor Klaniczay, this panel will explore the many ways that the French historian changed the practice of medieval history, bringing together four senior scholars to discuss their encounters with LeGoff and his scholarship. A particular attention will be given to his innovative works in the field of hagiography.



## New Hagiography Society Affiliations and Conference Sessions

The Hagiography Society recently achieved affiliated status with the Sixteenth Century Society and with the Renaissance Society of America and will be sponsoring sessions at their annual conferences for the first time. This year's Sixteenth Century Studies Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA on 16-19 October 2014. The sessions are:

"Vision, Word, Authority: Caterina & Birgitta" with Alison Frazier, Thomas Luongo, and Holly Flora (Chair: Sara Ritchey)

"Re-forming Saints: Textuality and Authority in Sixteenth-Century England" with Clare Costley King'oo, Juliette Vuille, Jenny Bledsoe, and Cynthia Turner-Camp (Chair: Alison Frazier)

In addition, we will be sponsoring five sessions at the Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting, to be held in Berlin, 26-28 March, 2015. Please look forward to the announcement of the sessions in the December newsletter.



## The Society at Leeds 2014

The Hagiography Society sponsored two sessions at Leeds this year. We appreciate the work Helen Birkett, Anne Bailey, and Kathryn Gerry did in organizing the sessions. The session topics were "Local Heroes: New Approaches to the Study of Minor Saints and Their Cults" and "Shifting

Practices, Priorities, and Perceptions: The Changing Nature of Medieval Saints' Cults."

The Society's sponsorship of these sessions not only helps to ensure that the interests of our members are catered to at the IMC, but further establishes the reputation of the society on an international academic stage. We therefore invite you to join us at these sessions and to contribute to discussion afterwards: your support, interest and input are much appreciated. A Call for Papers for Hagiography Society-sponsored sessions at Leeds 2015 will be distributed through our listserv soon. We look forward to seeing you at Leeds!



## Calls for Papers

**Siena, Italy, 17-19 July 2015.** The program committee of a conference titled "The World of St. Francis of Assisi" invites proposals for papers on any number of topics that consider the legacy of Francis and the Franciscans including: the history of the Franciscan order; the meaning and significance of Franciscan art in its medieval, Renaissance, Post-Reformation, and modern contexts; Francis' legacy of interfaith dialogue and peacemaking; female orders of Franciscan nuns, including the Poor Clares and Clarissan Nuns; Francis' economic, social, and environmental views and their legacy; and Franciscan spirituality, poverty, or the teaching of St. Francis to modern audiences.

In addition to individual papers, the program committee will also entertain proposals for special sessions (3 papers) and panel discussions on a particular topic. We welcome 250-word abstracts of papers (20 minutes), with an additional short CV. All proposals will be reviewed by the conference committee. Proposals (in a PDF file, or in Word) should be sent as an email attachment to [francisconference2015@gmail.com](mailto:francisconference2015@gmail.com) by **October 15, 2014**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by November 15, 2014. The website for information is <http://www.geneseo.edu/history/world-st-francis-assisi>

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**Tampere, Finland, 6-8 August 2015.** The Sixth International Passages from Antiquity to the Middle Ages conference will focus on social approaches to traveling, mobility, pilgrimages, and cultural exchange in a conference whose theme is "On the Road: Travels, Pilgrimages, and Social Interaction," to be held at the University of Tampere. The conference aims at concentrating on social and cultural interaction before, during and after traveling. We welcome papers that have a sensitive approach to social differences: gender, age,

health, and status. We encourage proposals that integrate the theme of traveling into wider larger social and cultural contexts. We aim at a broad coverage not only chronologically but also geographically and disciplinarily (all branches of Classical, Byzantine and Medieval Studies). Most preferable are contributions that have themselves a comparative and/or interdisciplinary viewpoint or focus on a longue durée perspective. Please submit an abstract of 300 words for a twenty-minute paper together with your contact details (with academic affiliation, address and e-mail) by e-mail attachment to the conference secretary, [passages@uta.fi](mailto:passages@uta.fi). The deadline for abstracts is **15 September 2014**, and the notification of acceptance will be made in November 2014. Conference papers may also be presented in French, German or Italian. For further information, please visit <http://www.uta.fi/trivium/passages/>



## Other Upcoming Conferences

**Sheffield, UK, 22-24 July 2014.** The Ecclesiastical History Society will hold a conference on "The Church and Doubt" at the University of Sheffield. Doubt seems an obvious subject for investigation by historians of the Church. Men and women have always expressed doubts about ideas, individual doctrines, and the humans who purvey them, if not faith itself, but the means and the implications of doing so depend on historical circumstance. This conference will take a broad view on what constitutes doubt.

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**Carmarthen, Wales, 16-18 September 2014.** The conference "The Cult of Saints in Wales: Sources and Contexts" is held as part of the AHRC-funded "The cult of saints in Wales: medieval Welsh-language sources and their transmission." At the conference these texts will be examined and discussed; the aim is also to locate them in a wide range of contexts. At its broadest, the theme encompasses the range of local responses to hagiography across Celtic-speaking countries, Britain and Europe. Information about the conference is available at [www.seintiaucymru.ac.uk](http://www.seintiaucymru.ac.uk). Registration is now open. You can register on line here: <https://shop.wales.ac.uk/p-907-conference.aspx>

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**Zadar, Croatia, 17-21 September 2014.** The 5th Hagiotheca conference is entitled "Church Reforms and the Cult of Saints." The conference is co-organised by the Croatian Hagiography Society, Hagiotheca; University of Turku - Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; University of Tampere - Hagiotheca Septentrionalia; and University of Zadar. Publication of the proceedings in the series Bibliotheca Hagiotheca – Colloquia is planned for 2016.

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**Cardiff, Wales, 19 September 2014.** “‘Profitable and Spedful to Use’: Medieval and Early Modern Prayer,” is an interdisciplinary conference sponsored by Cardiff University Graduate College. The keynote lecture is by Dr Alastair Bennet (Royal Holloway University, London). Information about the conference is available at <http://prayerconference.wordpress.com/> and on Twitter: Profitable&Spedful @prayer\_conf

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**Nicosia, Cyprus, 16-18 October 2014.** “Miracles and Wonders in Antiquity and Byzantium,” held at the University of Cyprus, aims to bring to light miracle and wonder literature and to open up new avenues of approach. There is no registration fee for participation or attendance. For information please see <http://www2.ucy.ac.cy/~miracles/>

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**Boulder, CO, 23-25 October, 2014.** The University of Colorado Boulder, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies is sponsoring a conference on “Medieval Materiality: A Conference on the Life and Afterlife of Things.” Please see [http://events.colorado.edu/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=22839&information\\_id=115939&type=&syndicate=syndicate](http://events.colorado.edu/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=22839&information_id=115939&type=&syndicate=syndicate)

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**Villanova, PA, 24-26 October 2014.** Villanova University invites you to participate in its 39<sup>th</sup> International Patristics, Medieval and Renaissance (PMR) Conference during October 24-26, 2014. The theme of the Conference is “Visible Communion: Unity, Sanctity, Sociality.” Featured speakers will be John Cavadini of Notre Dame and Martha G. Newman of U of Texas at Austin. For further details about the conference and theme, see <http://www.augustinianinstitute.villanova.edu>

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Oxford, UK, 21-22 March 2015. “North of England Saints 600-1500,” to take place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, is an interdisciplinary conference exploring North of England saints and shrines in their cultural, social and economic, regional contexts. The keynote speaker is Professor David Rollason, Durham University. Please email [northernsaints@history.ox.ac.uk](mailto:northernsaints@history.ox.ac.uk) for information.



## Book (and Other) Announcements

Relevant new book titles, including some from Hagiography Society members, include:

Michael Alan Anderson, *St. Anne in Renaissance Music: Devotion and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) <http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/music/medieval-and-renaissance-music/st-anne-renaissance-music-devotion-and-politics>

Jacqueline Borsje, Ann Dooley, Séamus Mac Mathúna, and Gregory Toner, eds., *Celtic Cosmology: Perspectives from Ireland and Scotland* (PIMS, 2014) <http://www.pims.ca/publications/books/pms26.html>

Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby, *The Cult of St. Clare of Assisi in Early Modern Italy* (Ashgate, 2014) <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472420572>

Stephanos Efthymiadis, ed., *The Ashgate Research Companion to Byzantine Hagiography, Volume II: Genres and Contexts* (Ashgate, 2014) <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409409519>

Tamar Herzig, *Christ Transformed into a Virgin Woman: Lucia Brocadelli, Heinrich Institoris, and the Defense of the Faith* (Rome, 2013)

Catherine Saucier, *A Paradise of Priests: Singing the Civic and Episcopal Hagiography of Medieval Liège* (University of Rochester Press, 2014) <http://www.urpress.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=14414>

Laura Smoller, *The Saint and the Chopped-Up Baby: The Cult of Vincent Ferrer in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Cornell University Press, 2014) <http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100650520>

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*Florilegium*, the journal of the Canadian Society of Medievalists/Société canadienne des médiévistes, is now available online. The entire run of *Florilegium's* back issues from vol 1 (1979) onwards has been digitized, and full-text PDFs of more than 350 articles can now be downloaded from our Open Access website at <http://journals.hil.unb.ca/index.php/flor>

*Florilegium* invites submissions (written in English or French) on any topic pertaining to Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Additional submissions for the **upcoming special issue on Medieval Translation: Theory and Practice** are especially welcome and will be considered until the volume is complete. Submissions are refereed in a double-blind review process by international specialists and



must therefore not contain any self-references or other details identifying the author. Papers must not be published or submitted elsewhere.

Manuscripts should normally not exceed 8,000-8,500 words (including footnotes and final bibliography) and should be formatted according to Chicago style. Footnotes should be kept as spare as possible. All submissions are acknowledged. Please include both email and postal addresses. Submissions should be emailed to *Florilegium* at [Florilegium@unb.ca](mailto:Florilegium@unb.ca). Enquiries may also be addressed to the Editor at [Florilegium@unb.ca](mailto:Florilegium@unb.ca)

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*The Medieval Globe* is a new peer-reviewed journal that explores the modes of communication, materials of exchange, and myriad interconnections among regions, communities, and individuals in an era central to human history. It promotes scholarship in three related areas of study:

- 1. the direct and indirect means by which peoples, goods, and ideas came into contact
- 2. the deep roots of allegedly modern global developments
- 3. the ways in which perceptions of “the medieval” have been (and are) constructed and deployed around the world.

*The Medieval Globe* will be launched in 2014-15 with a special issue on the Black Death as a global pandemic, edited by Monica Green (Arizona State University). It will be published in both print and digital formats. Themed issues will alternate with issues composed of articles submitted for consideration on a rolling basis. Please see <http://www.arc-humanities.org/the-medieval-globe.html>



### Subscription to the Listserve

Members can subscribe or unsubscribe to the Hagiography Society email listserve by sending either the message “SUBSCRIBE HAGIOGRAPHY SOCIETY” or “SIGNOFF HAGIOGRAPHY SOCIETY” in the body and subject line to [LISTSERVE@VM.MARIST.EDU](mailto:LISTSERVE@VM.MARIST.EDU)

Please also visit and join our Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102633289878011/>



### Selected Saints' Feast Days



August 17th:  
St. Clare of  
Montefalco

**St. Clare of Montefalco** (d. 1308) is one of the most well-known medieval Italian female saints, due to her community's dissection of her body after her death, which revealed symbols of the instruments of the Passion in her heart. Clare began her religious life as a Franciscan tertiary and ended it as an Augustinian nun. She was a mystic and an abbess and established a church that not only served the nuns but the community of Montefalco. She was canonized in 1881.



August 23rd:  
St. Rose of  
Lima

**St. Rose of Lima** (d. 1617) was the first person born in the “New World” to be canonized. She was a Dominican tertiary and, after many struggles, her family allowed her a room in their house for her prayer (as a type of anchorage arrangement). She was extremely ascetic and lived her last years wearing a silver crown with spikes on the inside in empathy with the sufferings of Jesus. She was canonized in 1671.