

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXVI, no. 2, July 2016

New Hagiography Society Book Prize

The Hagiography Society is pleased to announce a new book prize. This prize will be awarded to a scholarly first book written 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 sociohistorical 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 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.



Changes within the Hagiography Society

The executive committee of the Hagiography Society would like to propose a few minor amendments to our constitution. In accordance with the Society's constitution, we will be sending full information and asking for feedback about the changes via the listserv in September. At least one month before the online vote (open to members in good standing), we will circulate the final proposals. The proposed changes will clarify the terms of officers and officially establish a program committee to aid the Program Chair (a step which has become necessary due to our growing institutional affiliations and consequent presence at conferences).

We seek people who would like to participate in this committee and be the main point-person (working with the executive committee program chair) for Society sessions at one of each of these

conferences/annual meetings: ICMS at Kalamazoo; IMC at Leeds; Renaissance Society of America (RSA) annual meeting; Sixteenth-Century Studies conference (SCSC); and the American Academy of Religion annual meeting (AAR). If you are interested, please contact Sara Ritchev (ritchev@louisiana.edu).



CFP: Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo 2017

The Context of the Codex

Organizer: Sara Ritchev

When contemporary scholars encounter the *Lives* of saints and other hagiographic material, it is most often in the form of a bound and printed modern critical edition. To create these editions, scholars have scrutinized several manuscript copies of a *Life*, removing texts from their manuscript context, assessing and "correcting" their collective aberrations, variations, errors, and fragments, and thereby producing an imagined coherent original that best replicates authorial intention, a pure text. But critical concepts such as *mouvance* and *variance* remind us that no such pure text ever really existed to medieval readers. This panel asks scholars to consider hagiographic material

from the vantage of manuscript, as opposed to print, culture. How did the other texts with which a *Life* was bound mediate its meaning? What can successive bindings tell us about the changing reception of hagiographic materials?

Please submit 300-word abstracts and Participant Information Forms to Sara Ritchev (ritchev@louisiana.edu) by **15 September**.

Saints and Slavery

Organizer: Lois Huneycutt

Slavery appears in medieval hagiographical texts both as a metaphor --- after all, every Christian is a "slave to Christ," --- and as the lived experience of many. In some instances, hagiographical texts normalize the institution, which in others they question or subvert it, as when slaves convert their masters, confound the powerful, or perform miraculous healings or weather magic. In some cases virtuous saints are freed; in others, they are martyred. Saints' lives also can provide evidence concerning the slave trade, conditions and prevalence of slavery, and social/cultural attitudes toward the institution itself. This session will allow participants to approach the relationship of slavery and sanctity in the Middle Ages from any perspective, including, but not limited to, legal texts, gendered/racial/ethnic discussions, analysis of literary tropes, the economies of slavery, theological discussion of the enslaved condition, agency of slaves and slave owners, or the experience of capture and/or manumission.

Please send a 300-word abstract and Personal Information Form direct to Lois Huneycutt (HuneycuttL@missouri.edu) by **15 September**.

Thirty Years of Feasting and Fasting: A Roundtable on Caroline Bynum's *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*, 1987–2017.

Organizer: Sara Ritchey

2017 marks the thirty-year anniversary of Caroline Walker Bynum's pivotal *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*, which powerfully transformed the study of medieval Christianity by calling attention to underlying patterns that explain some of the unique characteristics associated with female devotion (eucharistic ecstasy, fasting, somatic piety). *Holy Feast and Holy Fast* continues to generate novel arguments and insights, to inspire new students and studies, as scholars of late medieval hagiography can scarcely develop research without first accounting for and positioning their arguments within Bynum's assessment of the role of body in Christian devotion. We invite scholars to discuss the continued generative potential of *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*, to reflect on the significance of this study for future research and pedagogy, and to revisit Bynum's observations from the vantage of subsequent theoretical perspectives, critical insights, or empirical evidence. Please contact Sara Ritchey (ritchey@louisiana.edu) for more information.



CFP: Sponsored Session at Leeds 2017

Hagiography Beyond Gender Essentialism: Trans and Genderqueer Sanctity

Organizer: Alicia Spencer-Hall

Far too often, modern cultural commentators – and unabashed misogynists – refer to the medieval era as a nostalgic time of ossified gender roles. That was when “men were men, women were women, and everyone knew their place”, after all. Medievalists have long fought back against this cliché, including undertaking important work in contextualising pre-modern hagiography in terms of gender and sexuality. This panel seeks to develop the important work of these scholarly forebears, directly responding to the vital discussion of “Otherness” which is the special topic strand of the International Medieval Congress 2017.



Sponsored Session at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference

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

Material Devotion, Material Decay: Hagiographic Ephemera in the Long Sixteenth Century (session 117)

Organizer: Sara M. Ritchey

Chair: Suzan Folkerts

“Towering Piety: Sacrament Houses in the Low Countries and an Early Counter-Reformation from Below, c. 1520–1566” - Ruben Suykerbuyk, Ghent University

“Missing Pieces in the Hagiography of St. Vincent Ferrer” - Laura Smoller, University of Rochester

“Material Embodiment in the Cult of St. Edmund of East Anglia” - Rebecca Pinner, University of East Anglia

Hope to see you there!



The Society at the American Academy of Religion Meeting

Building on our new institutional affiliation with the American Academy of Religion, The Hagiography Society will be present at its annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, 19-22 November 2016. We will host a one-hour informal gathering at the meeting to welcome all who study virtue traditions embodied in the texts, shrines, pilgrimages, and cults focused on historical individuals acknowledged to be saints by their communities to discuss a variety of ongoing projects and to set up panel topics for the 2017 AAR & SBL annual meetings. Look for a forthcoming time and date!



Calls for Papers: Conferences

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 invites papers from all disciplines and all medieval eras on any topic, but preferences those that address topics of ritual, performance, or sensual experience. Such topics may include but are not limited to:

- The interconnected use of the senses
- Ritual history
- The notion of Medieval Performance Art
- Lay ritual/noble ritual
- Manuscript as a performance
- Sensual props, cues, and rubrications
- Societal divisions created by rituals
- Architecture as stage and backdrop
- Processional routes/pilgrimages
- Music and sensual stimulation
- The archaeology of the senses
- Landscape and topography of performance
- The language of the senses
- Sensual cosmology

Please send papers to Dr. Mickey Abel (mickey.abel@unt.edu) by **1 February 2017**.

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. After Chichele adopts a similar investigative and interdisciplinary approach. What are the chief currents driving the intellectual and cultural life of the church in England during this period? What happened to intellectual questioning during the period, and where did the Church’s cultural life express itself most vividly? What significant parochial, regional, national and international influences were brought to bear on English literate practices? In order to address these questions, the conference will adopt an interdisciplinary focus, inviting contributions from historians, literary scholars, and scholars working on the theology, ecclesiastical history, music and art of the period.

Please send 500 word abstracts (for proposed 20-minute papers) to Vincent Gillespie, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 6QA (vincent.gillespie@ell.ox.ac.uk) by **12 August 2016**.



Other Upcoming Conferences

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.

Leipzig, 9-11 September 2016. A conference on “Mauerfälle mysticism. Searching for clues to Mechthild (Magdeburg) and the *Flowing Light of the Godhead* in religious networks, religious landscapes and literary discourses in central Germany of the 13th century,” is based on handwritten finds of recent years. The spectacular discovery of a fragment of the *Flowing Light of the Godhead* in Moscow (2008), require a fundamental reassessment of tradition and reception of the work Mechthild (of Magdeburg?) in central Germany: supposed certainties and cherished habits to a central work of spiritual literature of the middle ages are to reconsider. The interdisciplinary workshop highlights the regional and historical contexts of the text.

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. Please visit crrs.ca/globalreformations

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.

Nijmegen, 26-27 October 2016. “Devotio Individualization of religious practices in Western European Christianity (c. 1350 – c. 1550)” will take place at Radboud University. Religiosity was ubiquitous during the later Middle Ages. Divine services influenced both the public domain and the course of each individual’s life, and thus established a widely experienced communality. Individual believers, however, had ample opportunities to develop a highly personalized devotion, side by side with, and sometimes even slightly detached from official doctrine. Their creativity and the diversity of their inner beliefs are the main focus of this conference.

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

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).

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.



Book (and Other) Announcements

Recent Books:

Conti, Fabrizio. *Witchcraft, Superstition, and Observant Franciscan Preachers: Pastoral Approach and Intellectual Debate in Renaissance Milan*. Europa Sacra 18. Turnhout: Brepols, 2015.

Dumas, Geneviève. *Santé et société à Montpellier à la fin du Moyen Âge*. The Medieval Mediterranean: Peoples, Economies and Cultures 400-1500. Boston: Brill, 2015.

Erdélyi, Gabriella. *A Cloister on Trial: Religious Culture and Everyday Life in Late Medieval Hungary*. Catholic Christendom, 1300–1700. Dorchester: Ashgate, 2015.

Kelly, Stephen, and Ryan Perry, eds. *Devotional Culture in Late Medieval England and Europe: Diverse Imaginations of Christ's Life*. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2014.

Rollo-Koster, Joëlle. *Avignon and Its Papacy, 1309-1417: Popes, Institutions, and Society*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Vanderputten, Steven. *Imagining Religious Leadership in the Middle Ages: Richard of Saint-Vanne and the Politics of Reform*. Ithaca, NY and London: Cornell University Press, 2015.

CFP: Edited Collection:

Religious Connectivity in Urban Communities Reading, Worshipping, and Connecting in the Continuum of Sacred and Secular, 1400-1600
Ed. by Suzan Folkerts (University of Groningen)

This proposed collection on *religious connectivity* will explore a new approach of religious culture in the late Middle Ages. Connectivity is understood here as a methodological tool to analyze and describe dynamic human relations and human communication, transgressing the boundaries between political, economic, social, cultural, and religious domains or areas. The term originated as a description of technical connections between machines in networks, and analogous to this, religious connectivity can serve as a *description of religious connections between people in networks*, which may consist of concrete communities or communities of interpretation. As community building is one of the basic features of medieval society and cities, connectivity is a term that could apply to every aspect of medieval society, but here the focus is on religious culture in late medieval urban communities.

Articles should be between 10.000-11.000 words *including* footnotes, and be prepared according to the stylesheet of Brepols. The deadline for contributions to this collection is **1 December 2016**. Please contact Suzan Folkerts: S.A.Folkerts@rug.nl

CFP: Edited Collection:

The second volume '*In the Hands of God's Servants: The Power of the Bishop and the Problem of Personality*' is being prepared, based on the conference "Episcopal Personalities" held at Cardiff University, 2015. We would like to invite submissions for this volume on the subject of personality and its impact in the formation, enhancement and undermining of the episcopal office across Britain, Europe and Asia Minor during the High Middle Ages. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary applications, and are interpreting the geographical range quite widely.

Submit essays of no more than 7500 words in length including footnotes and bibliography with a 15-30 word author bio including affiliation to powerofthebishop@gmail.com by **1 October 2016**. Submissions should be in English.

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Problems with/Possibilities for interpreting a bishop's personality from source material, with close readings of manuscripts or other sources (not limited to textual)
- How episcopal personalities were projected/constructed, through art, liturgical music, architecture, material and visual culture
- Discussions of personality traits as tropes – negative and positive/sinful and saintly – in literature, hagiography, chronicles and other source material
- Discussions of visual representations of personality traits in stained glass and other artistic representations of medieval bishops in any visual media
- Case-studies and comparisons of individual bishops, and the impact of their personality upon the formation, projection, enhancement or undermining of their position
- The consequences of contrasting episcopal personalities in the development of monasticism or upon communities of secular canons
- The impact of contrasting episcopal personalities in dealings with secular lords, kinship networks, friendship networks, etc.

CFP: Journal:

Ecumenica: a Journal of Theatre and Performance invites the submission of scholarship on theatre, performance, religious practice, and spirituality. *Ecumenica* seeks innovative scholarship. The journal holds terms such as *theatre*, *performance*, and *religion* to be broad, inclusive categories, and welcomes work that deals with dramatic literature, dance, film, performance art, ritual, pilgrimage, meditation, theology, and other topics that reimagine what *religion* and *performance* might be. The journal does not limit its interests to any particular religious, cultural, or historical tradition, but seeks contributions that reveal performance and religion as phenomena that occur in a great variety of forms.

Ecumenica not only publishes scholarly essays, but also publishes reviews of productions and performances, book reviews, reports on field work, comparative analyses, editorial essays and commentaries, and similar scholarly endeavors. The

journal welcomes submissions from established and emerging scholars, and from artists.

Ecumenica is a peer-reviewed, print journal, published twice annually. It is indexed by EBSCO, MLA, ATLA, and ProQuest.

Please visit the journal's web site at

ecumenicajournal.org for more information and for submission guidelines. Submissions and inquiries can be sent to: David Mason, editor@ecumenicajournal.org



Selected Saint's Feast Days



August 4th:

St. Lua

St. Lua or Molua (d. c. 609), hailing from Limerick, Ireland, was a priest and abbot. He was trained at Bangor. Although not a lot is known about him he spent some time as a hermit and reputedly founded 120 monasteries. He also founded Killaloe and had an oratory on an island near there (Friar's Island). The original church that stood there was transferred and rebuilt in Killaloe when the government intentionally flooded the island in 1929 and can be visited today.