

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXIV, no. 1, March 2014

Executive Committee Elections

Elections will be held for three executive committee positions this coming year. We are soliciting nominations for the positions of: Nominations Chair (currently filled by Jennifer Brown), Communications Chair (currently filled by Janine Larmon Peterson), and Program Chair (currently filled by Sara Ritchey, who stepped in after former chair Alison Frazier assumed the presidency). 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.



Hagiography Society Business Meeting at Kalamazoo

Please join us for The Hagiography Society business meeting and lunch at Kalamazoo on Friday, May 9, from 11:30-1:15 pm in Bernhard 159. The lunch costs \$15.00 for regular members, \$10 for students/independent scholars. Please RSVP to ritchey@louisiana.edu by April 28 (a reminder will also be distributed via the listserv in mid April). Bring your ideas for sessions for Kalamazoo 2015 and for Leeds 2015 (whose theme is "Reform and Renewal"). We will also unveil the new website; announce the recipients of our first travel award; discuss the release of our book series; present our new affiliation with other organizations/conferences; and announce the society's 2015 upcoming elections. Please bring your ideas and friends with an interest in saints!



Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring four sessions this year at the 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI on May 8-11, 2014.

THURSDAY, 10:00 AM (Fetzer 2040)

Session 20: *Saints for All Occasions* - Presider: Mary Morse (Rider University)

"Rewriting the Life of a Saint: The Augustinian Order and the Creation of a New Augustine: Between Texts, Images, and Polemics" - Alessandro Cosma (Univ. degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza")

"The Text in the Saint and the Saint in the Text" - Boncho Dragiyski (Duchesne Univ.)

"John Mirk and Osbern Bokenham's Lives of Mary Magdalene: Context and Authority" - Juliette Vuille (Univ. de Genève)

"The Biochemical 'Lives' of Saint Edmund" - Donna Beth Ellard (Rice Univ.)

FRIDAY, 10:00 AM (Bernhard 208)

Session 213: *The Economics of Sanctity* - Presider: Kathryn Gerry (Univ. of Kansas)

"Wax as Symbol and Currency in Medieval English Saints' Shrines" - Christiania Whitehead (Univ. of Warwick)

"Sacks of Money or a Paycheck? Money and Demonic Temptations in the Visions of Ermine de Reims" - Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski (Univ. of Pittsburgh)

"A Coin in the River: The Economics of Sanctity in the *Life of Melania the Younger*" - Elizabeth Platte (Kalamazoo College)

"Saints, Charters, and the Economics of Sanctity in Tenth-Century England" - Alison Hudson Hardy (Oriental College, Univ. of Oxford)

"Gift Exchange with the Saintly Dead in Medieval Icelandic Miracle Stories" - Davide Zori (Univ. of California-Los Angeles)

FRIDAY, 1:30 PM (Bernhard 208)

Session 267: *Multidisciplinary St. Anne* - Presider: Amy Ogden (Univ. of Virginia)

"Humor and Sobriety in Depicting the Saints: The Case of Joseph and Ann in Late Medieval Germany" - Anne Williams (Univ. of Virginia)

"Demythologizing the Golden Gate Kiss in Two Late Medieval Manuscripts" - Mary Dzon (Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville)

"Beautiful Images of Saint Anne: Pictures, Printing, and Piety in Late Medieval Northern Europe" - Jennifer L. Welsh (College of Charleston)

"The Chartrian Saint Anne and the Absent Female Audience" - Colleen Farrell (Yale Univ.)

FRIDAY, 3:30 PM (Bernhard 208)

Session 321: *Global Sanctity* - Presider: Alison Frazier (Univ. of Texas-Austin)

"Hagiography as Folklore in the New Mexican *Cuentos*" - Mary Morse (Rider Univ.)

"Christian and Buddhist Holy Women in the Seventh through Ninth Century: A Comparative Approach to Global Sanctity" - Nikolas O. Hoel (Northeastern Illinois Univ.)

"God Breaking Into a Sweat: Janabai's Poems of the Mystical Encounter" - Jayita Sinha (Univ. of Texas-Austin)

"Repentant Demons, Contraceptive Cannibals, and Vengeful Crocodiles: Sin and Sanctity in Medieval Arabic Christian Narratives" - Elizabeth L. Anderson (Yale Univ.)



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. Here is a selection of the most relevant and full sessions on these topics.

Session 56: Mary: A Woman for Medieval Times

Session 63: Crossing Boundaries/Breaking Rules I: Hagiographies

Session 122: Saint Paul: Reception, Representation, and Influence in the Middle Ages

Session 128: Where Sacred Meets Secular in Hagiography

Session 160: Universal Saints Located in Anglo-Saxon England

Session 225: Romancing the Genres II: Romancing Sanctity

Session 308: Mester de Clerecía: Miracles, Hagiography, and Secular Discourse

Session 359: Saints in Thirteenth-Century France

Session 413: In Memory of Giuliana Cavallini: Saint Catherine of Siena

Session 457: Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints' Lives

Session 532: Hagiography and Historians



The Society at Leeds 2014

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring two sessions at Leeds this year. We appreciate the work Helen Birkett, Anne Bailey, and Kathryn Gerry did in organizing the sessions. Here is an overview of the session topics and speakers:

Wednesday, 9 July, 11.15-12.45, Session 1135: *Local Heroes: New Approaches to the Study of Minor Saints and Their Cults*

This session provides an arena for scholars currently working on lesser-known saints and cults for which only fleeting textual, visual, and material evidence remains. The first paper pieces together the disparate evidence for the cult of the 6th-century martyr Cassiodorus, the second charts the promotion of the Carolingian saint, Folcuin of Thérouann, at the abbey of Saint-Bertin in the 10th and 11th centuries, and the third paper focuses on the revival of the cult of the holy woman, Villana delle Botti, in 15th-century Florence.

- Papers by Luciana Cuppo, David Defries, and Julia Miglets; session chaired by Rodney M. Thomson and organized by Anne E. Bailey

Thursday, 10 July, 11.15-12.45, Session 1635: *Shifting Practices, Priorities, and Perceptions: The Changing Nature of Medieval Saints' Cults*

Whether considered from the standpoint of a single cult centre, or a saint with a following spread over a wide geographic area, the practices, motivations, and audiences of saints' cults often changed over time. Papers in this panel discuss this change through the lens of vernacularising the *Stella Maris* in early medieval England; a thirteenth-century variation of the Martyrium of Modestos of Jerusalem; and depictions of medieval winged healers on the colonial Andes.

- Papers by Carla Thomas, Beatrice Daskas, and Sara Gonzalez; session chaired and organized by Kathryn Gerry

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. We look forward to seeing you at Leeds!



Calls for Papers

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. The final deadline for submissions is **15 April 2014**. To obtain the form that must be returned as a file attachment with the submission, please contact the Assistant Editor, Dr Tim Grass, at tgrass.work@gmail.com.

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 - Hagiographica Septentrionalia; and University of Zadar. We invite papers discussing the role of the saints' cults in major church reforms, as well as their minor reflections, including, but not limited to:

- * Reforms and reform-like phenomena in Late Antiquity
- * Monastic reforms in the early Middle Ages (8th - 11th c.)
- * Gregorian and post-Gregorian reform of clerical life
- * Observant reforms - Mendicant orders, Benedictine Observance (Congregation of St Justine)
- * Reformation (including all the related late medieval movements)
- * Counter-Reformation (notably the Tridentine Council)

We welcome 300-word abstracts of papers (20 minutes) and poster presentations (display requirements will be given later), with an additional short CV. The working language of the conference is English. Proposals should be sent by e-mail to reformsaints@gmail.com before **15 April 2014**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 25 April 2014. Publication of the proceedings in the series *Bibliotheca Hagiographica – Colloquia* is planned for 2016 (for the previous proceedings, see <http://www.leykaminternational.hr>).

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.” We invite abstracts for papers 20 minutes in length. Some potential and welcome avenues of inquiry would be the relationship between objects and their social environments, between objects and their spiritual power, between the literal and the spiritual in biblical exegesis, between descriptions (especially in inventories) of objects, theories of ekphrasis, and the literal presence of things, and between medieval and post-modern approaches to things. At the same time, we welcome papers that investigate the ethical and political consequences of such a focus on materiality – both for medieval thinkers and for ourselves. The submission deadline for abstracts is **1 May 2014**. Please contact Anne Lester, Department of History, anne.lester@colorado.edu, or Katie Little, Department of English, Katherine.C.Little@colorado.edu

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. 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

Sewanee, TN, 4-5 April 2014. The Fortieth Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium is on “Medieval Emotions.” This conference will explore the place of emotions in medieval culture, history, literature, philosophy, theology, and the arts. Possible topics include but are not limited to the relationships of gender and feeling, the uses of emotions in political communities, affective rhetoric in music, art, and literature, medieval psychology, emotion and the memory arts, affective theology, medieval notions of the erotic, and emotions in material culture. Keynote speakers are Dr. William M. Reddy (Duke University) and Dr. Miri Rubin (Queen Mary, University of London) with a roundtable discussion to be led by Dr. Mark Jordan (Washington University).

Manchester, New Hampshire, 10 April 2014. The Fifth Saint Anselm Conference, “Church, State, and the Life of Faith,” will take place at St. Anselm College. The relationship between the Church and the political order has been of perennial interest to Catholic thinkers. The conference looks to explore the issue both historically and systematically. Thus, we present papers on Saint Anselm, his sources and intellectual descendants, but also on the fundamental questions of how Church and state, religion and culture, and most broadly faith. Keynote address is by Prof. Robert George (Princeton University).

London, UK, 10-11 April 2014. The Institute of English Studies and Institute of Historical Research of the University of London have great pleasure in inviting you to attend an International Conference “Guthlac of Crowland: celebrating 1300 years.” The Conference will take place in the Senate House of the University of London. Papers dealing with the saint’s life and cult will address a range of topics, for example the legend, Guthlac and Crowland, the Exeter Book poems, offices and music, aspects of the Guthlac Roll, Guthlac and Benedictinism. Among those who have already agreed to take part in the conference are Robert Bjork (Arizona State University), Catherine Clarke (University of Southampton), Elizabeth Danbury (Institute of English Studies), Tom Licence (University of East Anglia), Andy Orchard (University of Oxford), Jo Story (University of Leicester).

Powys, Wales, 22-24 April 2014. The 5th International Anchoritic Society conference, in association with the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Research (MEMO), Swansea University, presents a conference on “Anchorites in Their Communities” at Greygnog Hall, Newtown, Powys, Wales. In its focus on anchorites within their

multifarious communities, this conference seeks to unpick the paradox of the 'communal anchorite' and the central role often played by her/him within local and (inter)national political contexts, and within the arenas of church ideology, critique and reform. Keynote speakers will be Diane Watt (Surrey), Tom Licence (UEA), and Eddie Jones (Exeter) and a manuscript workshop will be led by Eddie Jones (Exeter) and Bella Millett (Southampton).

Denver, Colorado, 12-14 June 2014. The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association will hold a conference on "Peregrinatio pro amore Dei: Aspects of Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages and Renaissance."

Pilgrimage to Christian holy sites and shrines was a mainstay of western European life throughout the medieval and Renaissance periods, and the journeys to places such as Canterbury, Santiago de Compostela, Assisi, Rome, and Jerusalem informed a devotional tradition that encouraged participation from all social classes, evoked commentary by chroniclers, playwrights, and poets, and inspired artistic, iconographic, and literary expressions. Even when the faith-based culture of the Middle Ages began to transform into the more empirical (and experiential) centuries of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformations, pilgrimages were still very much on the minds of writers and geographers as a source of both inspiration and criticism (Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Bunyan, Hakluyt, and Raleigh). The venue is SpringHill Suites Marriott in downtown Denver, CO, adjacent to the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

St. Louis, Missouri, 16-18 June 2014. The Second Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies will take place at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. This year's plenary speakers are John W. Baldwin (Johns Hopkins University) and Robert Hillenbrand (University of Edinburgh). Participants are free to use SLU's Pius XII Memorial Library, which includes not only the Rare Book and Manuscripts Collection, but also the Vatican Film Archive http://libraries.slu.edu/special_collections/vfl

Lincoln, UK, 3-5 July 2014. "Religious Men in the Middle Ages: Networks and Communities" will be held at the University of Lincoln, UK. This conference seeks to explore and re-evaluate the forms and functions of networks and communities for men in the Middle Ages. Scholars are increasingly engaging with what religion, belief and devotion meant to men as men. Networks and communities both shape and express individual, relational, and collective identities, and therefore shed useful light on the experiences, perceptions or depiction of medieval men. This is the second conference under the auspices of The Bishop's Eye Network – a research network between the Universities of Huddersfield and Lincoln. The first, "Religious Men in the Middle Ages," was held at

Huddersfield in 2012. The conference will be held at the Brayford Campus, which is a few minutes' walk from the train station, and within easy reach of the cathedral and castle. The conference organisers are Dr Philippa Hoskin and Dr Joanna Huntington. For further information on Lincoln visit <http://www.visitlincoln.com/>. We hope to publish a volume of essays based on a selection of the papers delivered at the conference.

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



Book (and Other) Announcements

Currently work is being done on a new *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. For information, please see:

<http://www.degruyter.com/view/db/eb7>

The editors are open to receiving inquiries about contributions. The project is up to letters H, I, J. If you are interested to see if articles are available on your specialty you may contact Carolyn Muessig (Prof of Medieval Religion, University of Bristol) directly at c.a.muessig@bristol.ac.uk

The Vatican Library began a project to digitize thousands of historical manuscripts, dating from the origins of the Church to the twentieth century, and make them available online. Working with the Japanese technology group NTT Data, the library intends to scan and digitally archive about 1.5 million pages from the library's collection of manuscripts, which comprises some 82,000 items. The initial project will take four years and may be extended.

The tab for digitized collections is:

<http://www.vatlib.it/home.php?ling=eng>

(Thanks to Tom Izbicki for the link).

The text files of the *Acta Sanctorum* are now online:

<http://87.106.137.194/ActaSanctorum/>

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>



Books We Are Re-Reading

Since I (Janine Peterson) have been on sabbatical this semester and ostensibly have had time to read, it seems logical that I contribute to the “New Books We Are Reading” section of the newsletter. I have been finishing a book manuscript that has been a very long time in the making on contested sanctity in late medieval Italy. I have kept apprised of the literature over the years as I wrote new chapters, so this spring I have found myself going back to older studies as I revise and vet footnotes. This process led me to reflect on the books that I love and I would like to re-read cover to cover, just for pleasure. Below is a short selection in no particular order.

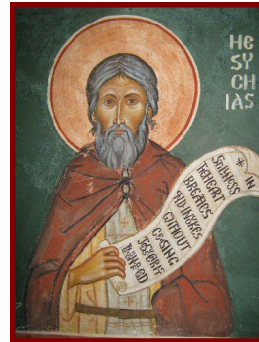
- Peter Brown, *The Cult of the Saints* (1981): What to say? It is full of treasured ideas and graceful prose.
- John H. Arnold, *Belief and Unbelief in Medieval Europe* (2005): While not a dissertation, this is the book that should have been my dissertation, if I had been able then to discuss difficult concepts as clearly and as well as John Arnold
- Herbert Grundmann, *Religious Movements in the Middle Ages* (1995 rev.): Such a timeless classic, and such a fluid read, I just could not leave it out.

We would like to hear what new books you are reading, old books you are re-reading, or books that have influenced or inspired your current projects! Please email the communications chair, Janine Peterson (Janine.Peterson@marist.edu) if you would like to contribute to this section in a future newsletter (published in March, July, and November).



Selected Saint's Feast Days

For this Easter season, here are two saints that in very different ways (and times and places) fought to uphold the ideals of Christianity in general and embody the importance of the crucifixion for the Christian faith in particular.



March 28th:

St. Hesychius of
Jerusalem

St. Hesychius (d. circa 450) is better known in the Russian Orthodox faith than the Roman. He was a monk and a priest who wrote widely, including a now-lost history of the Church. In particular, he refuted the beliefs of the Nestorians and Arians of his day, as well as commentaries and homilies on the prophets and the Virgin Mary. He supposedly delivered Easter homilies in the basilica of Jerusalem (believed to be the site of the crucifixion).



April 6th:

St. Crescentia
Hoess

St. Crescentia Hoess (d. 1744) was born near Augsburg. She was denied entrance into the local Franciscan tertiary community for not bringing a dowry with her. The local Protestant minister, seeing her desire and spiritual mettle, intervened on her behalf and she became an important figure in the convent and in the larger scene, being consulted by political leaders. She suffered many bodily afflictions, including the inability to walk, and welcomed the penitential suffering. She died on Easter Sunday and was canonized in 2001.