

Hagiography Society Newsletter

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Executive Committee Elections

All Hagiography Society members should have received notification and a link to vote in elections. The deadline is April 3. If you did not receive the notification there might be an error in your contact information or you might be behind in membership dues. Please contact the secretary-treasurer, Amy Ogden (avo2n@virginia.edu), if this is the case – and please vote!



Hagiography Society Business Meeting at Kalamazoo

Please join us for The Hagiography Society business meeting and lunch at Kalamazoo on Friday, May 15, from 11:30-1:15 pm in Bernhard 107. The lunch costs \$15.00 for regular members, \$10 for students/independent scholars. Please RSVP to ritchev@louisiana.edu by April 27 (a reminder will also be distributed via the listserv in mid April). We are working on a more streamlined way to brainstorm for sessions for Kalamazoo 2016 and for Leeds 2016; it will likely involve a new discussion feature in the members-only portion of the website. Stay tuned! We will also announce the executive committee election results; and update you about our new book series. Please bring your friends (non-members are welcome) with an interest in saints to come join us in celebrating 25 years of the Hagiography Society!



Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring three sessions this year at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI on May 14-17, 2015.

FRIDAY, 1:30 PM (Bernhard 209)

Session 275: *Multidisciplinary St. Bridget: In Honor of Syon Abbey's Six-Hundredth Anniversary* (co-sponsored with the Syon Abbey Society) - Presider: Catherine Annette Grisé (McMaster University)

“A Siennese in Syon: Reading Catherine of Siena with Saint Bridget” – Jennifer N. Brown (Marymount Manhattan College)

“Between Women: Uneasy Alliances at Syon Abbey” – Alexandra Verini (Univ. of California-Los Angeles)

“In the Herb Gardens of Oure Ladye: The Great Responsaries of Matins in Bridgettine Sisters’ Liturgy of Hours” – Hikka-Liisa Vuori (Sibelius Academy)
“Saint Bridget’s Way: Pilgrimage, Revelations, and the Madonna in Medieval Scandinavia” – Alexandra Fried (Göteborgs Univ.)

SATURDAY, 1:30 PM (Valley II Garneau Lounge)

Session 400: *Global Sanctity: Demons and the Demonic* - Presider: Jenny C. Bledsoe (Emory Univ.)

“Biographical Episodes from the Life of Iblīs, the Islamic Satan, as Narrated in Islamic Historical, Exegetical, and Other Literary Sources” – Aram Shahin (James Madison Univ.)

“Relics Possessed by Demons: Inter-confessional Conflict in Medieval Syriac Hagiography” – Liza Anderson (Yale Univ.)

“The Devil Made Me Do It: Hrosvit’s Theophilus and Basilius” – Sarah Bogue (Emory University)

SATURDAY, 3:30 PM (Valley II Eicher 202)

Session 455: *Remembering Jacques LeGoff (A Roundtable)* - Presider: Gábor Klaniczay (Central European Univ.)

A roundtable discussion with Miri Rubin (Queen Mary, Univ. of London); Sylvain Piron (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris); and Lester K. Little (Smith 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 18: Disability in Medieval Saints’ Lives

Session 19: Martyrdom, Aberrance, and the Very Special Dead in Lydgate’s *Lives of Saints Edmund and Fremund*

Session 21: Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints’ Lives

Session 56: Building Hagiographies I: Sainly Imagery in Episcopal Monumental Contexts

Session 57: Religious Life in High Medieval Liège

Session 106: Building Hagiographies II: Sainly Imagery in Non-Episcopal Monumental Contexts

Session 108: Theologians and Hagiographers

Session 322: Mighty Protectors for the Merchant Class: Saints as Intercessors between the Wealthy and Divine

Session 450: Beyond Francis and Dominic: Saints and the New Religious Orders in Late Medieval Italian Art

Session 535: Locating the Early Irish Monks and Saints



The Society at the Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies 2015

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring one session at the Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies at St. Louis University. We appreciate the efforts of Lisa-Marie Duffield, who organized the session.

Session M37 (Monday, 15 June, 4:30-6:00 pm)

Exemplar Saints: Textual Presentation of Holiness

Organizer: Lisa-Marie Duffield, Saint Louis University

Chair: Tomás O'Sullivan, Saint Louis University

“*Miserere mei, Deus*”: The Iconography of Job on the Dung Heap in Books of Hours” - Joni Hand, Southeast Missouri State University

“Gender and Power in the Life of St. Nino” - Lois L. Huneycutt, University of Missouri, Columbia

“Alcuin’s *Vita Vedasti*: A New Call to Conversion” - Lisa-Marie Duffield, Independent Scholar, Saint Louis University

“The Bride and the Priest: Pastoral Care in the Cistercian and Cluniac Feasts of Mary Magdalene in Medieval England” - Donna Alfano Bussell, University of Illinois at Springfield



The Society at Leeds 2015

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring two sessions at Leeds this year. We appreciate the work Anne Bailey, Helen Birkett, and Kate Gerry did in organizing the sessions.

Wednesday, 8 July, 14.15-15.45, Session 1236:

Approaches to Miracle Narratives I: Miracles and Pilgrims

This session explores hagiographical depictions of pilgrims travelling to saints’ shrines in twelfth-century Europe. The first paper discusses the evidence for pilgrims’ journeys found in English miracle collections, and the second looks at Norman-Italian sources to compare pilgrim activities at monastic and civil shrines in Apulia. The third paper focuses on the *Passio et miracula beati olavi*, examining the relationship between healing and pilgrimage at the shrine of Norway’s patron saint.

- Papers by Ruth Salter, Amy Devenney, and Margareth Buer Søiland; organizer Anne Bailey; moderator Simon Yarrow

Wednesday, 8 July, 16.30-18.00, Session 1336:

Approaches to Miracle Narratives II: Miracles and Medicine

This session investigates three different manifestations of sickness and disability reported at saints’ shrines in

medieval Europe. Focusing on lameness, toothache and neurocognitive impairment respectively, the papers discuss how the religious discourse of sickness and cure acquired specific social, devotional and medical significance in miracle stories produced in the medieval West.

- Papers by Elizabeth A. Wiedenheft, John Beal, and Leigh Anne Craig; organizer Anne Bailey; moderator Sari Katajala-Peltomaa

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.



CFP: Hagiography Society Sessions at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring two sessions at the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, to be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, October 22-25, 2015. Please send abstracts for the sessions below to Sara Ritchey (smr0144@louisiana.edu) by April 12.

Media, Methods, and Mission: Images in Global Evangelization

The Hagiography Society invites abstracts for a session of three to four papers that will explore the movement of missionary images across continents in the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries. We encourage the study of a variety of media—engravings, paintings, statues, ambulatory frescoes—that expressed the global designs of Christianity. Papers might examine the role of iconography in global evangelization, its most (or least) celebrated figures, and modes of reproduction. What role did such images play in global mission? What were their effects on the dispersal of cults? What rhetorical strategies accompanied their introduction? We welcome papers exploring missionary images from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Indigenous Cults in European Catholicism

The Hagiography Society invites abstracts for a session of three to four papers that will explore the “reverse circulation” of sacred objects and cults. While a number of important studies have examined the introduction of European cults into the indigenous religions of the Americas, and the resulting religious change, we wish to explore how local cults and practices of the Americas influenced European devotion. Scholars working on such figures as Rose of Lima, Peter Claver, and Martin de Porres are encouraged to discuss the effects of sacred circulation on European Catholic religious life in order to consider questions of global sanctity; that is, how was European Catholicism transformed by its own globalizing mission?



CFP: Book Series “Sanctity in Global Perspective”

Series Editors: Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, University of Pittsburgh, USA; Shahzad Bashir, Stanford University, USA; and John Stratton Hawley, Barnard College, USA

Published under the aegis of The Hagiography Society, this series is dedicated to exploring the concept of sanctity in ideational, literary, artistic, and sociohistorical dimensions. “Sanctity in Global Perspective” publishes monographs and edited volumes that illuminate the lives of saintly figures, the communities dedicated to those figures, and the material evidence of their cults. Our aim is to foster critical scholarship that offers novel conceptualizations and the possibility of crosspollination of ideas across traditions, geographical regions, and academic disciplines. The series is open to all areas of scholarship, without restriction as to religious traditions or time periods.

Proposals should take the form of either

- 1) a preliminary letter of inquiry, briefly describing the project; or
- 2) a formal prospectus including: abstract; brief statement of critical methodology, table of contents; sample chapter; estimate of length; estimate of the number and type of illustrations to be included; a c.v.

Please email your letter or proposal to the Ashgate contact for this book series: Erika Gaffney, Publishing Manager, egaffney@ashgate.com



Other Calls for Papers

York, UK, 28-30 July 2015. The Ecclesiastical History Society is seeking proposals for its conference, “Translating Christianity. Word, Image, Sound & Object in the Circulation of the Sacred from the Birth of Christ until the present day,” to be held at the Humanities Research Centre, University of York. This theme was chosen with the intention that it might encourage papers which address the issues of the challenge of translating or editing scripture, catechisms and related literature (to be sung and spoken as well as read); the quest for linguistic common ground; relics; the translation of the Christian message as shaped and impacted by various media; missionary narratives; the challenges of attempting religious dialogue and mediation; the construction (and deconstruction) of textual canons; and the emergence and practice of vernacular worship. Proposals of c. 200 words are to be

sent to Dr Tim Grass by **15 April 2015**:
tgrass.work@gmail.com. For the full Call for Papers see
www.history.ac.uk/ehsoc/conferences

Cedar City, Utah, 3-5 August 2015. The 2015 annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association will be held in conjunction with the Wooden O Symposium at Southern Utah University. The RMMRA invites all approaches to the Middle Ages and Renaissance, welcoming scholars in a broad range of disciplines including history, literature, art history, music, and gender studies, with special consideration given to paper and panel proposals that investigate this year’s theme, “The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family.” Participants in RMMRA sessions must be members of the association; RMMRA graduate students and junior scholars are encouraged to apply for the \$250 Walton Travel Grants; see details at <http://rowdy.msudenver.edu/~tayljeff/RMMRA/Index.html>

250-word abstracts or session proposals (including individual abstracts) should include the name of presenter(s); participant category (faculty, graduate student, undergraduate, or independent scholar); college/university affiliation; mailing address; email address; audio/visual requirements and any other special requests. Abstracts for consideration for the RMMRA sessions should be sent to Program Chair Jen McNabb at JL-McNabb@wiu.edu. The deadline for proposals is **1 May 2015**



Upcoming Conferences

Montréal, Canada, 1-2 May 2015. The Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR) at McGill University is sponsoring a panel on “Nicholas of Cusa and Early Modern Religion” to be hosted at the annual Eastern International Meeting of the American Academy of Religion at McGill University. Acceptable topics for this panel may include (but are not limited to) the following in relation to the impact of Nicholas of Cusa’s thought in the early modern period (16th - 17th centuries): the interplay between the sacred and the secular; the spiritual senses; the hermeneutics of religion; philosophical implications of religion; devotional texts, songs, images, practices; cultural repertoires of devotion and desire; languages of mystical experience; and the psychology of desire and devotion.

Leeds, UK, 8-9 May 2015. The Leeds Monasticism Conference will be held this year at the University of Leeds, West Yorkshire. The title for the event is “Monastic Sciences: *Medicina, Mechanica, Philosophia*.” Each year this conference concentrates on a different aspect of the

religious enterprise, inviting fresh perspectives on how those in consecrated life conducted their professed mission(s). The focus for the upcoming event is the way that religious life, particularly monasticism, accommodated what in the modern world is termed 'science'. For more information on specific topics/questions we covered by the conference please

visit: <http://leedsmonasticismconference.wordpress.com>

Paris, France, 25 -27 June 2015. The International Medieval Society, Paris (IMS-Paris) invites abstracts and session proposals for a 2015 symposium on the theme of cities in Medieval France. After the decline of late-antique cities in the course of the fifth and sixth centuries, a revival of cities began in the course of the eleventh century. This phenomenon, which profoundly transformed the dynamics of the West to our day, is a field of research that has been enriched in pace with archeological discoveries and by new technologies that offer original perspectives and approaches. This symposium will approach new lines of investigation that will deepen our knowledge of medieval cities (11th – 15th centuries) not only in their cartographic and monumental dimensions, but also political and cultural ones.

Oxford, UK, 3-5 July 2015. "The Sacred Journeys: Pilgrimage and Beyond Project, Second Global Meeting" will take place at Mansfield College in Oxford. The conference is part of the *Persons* series of ongoing research and publications projects conferences, run within the *Probing the Boundaries* domain which aims to bring together people from different areas and interests to share ideas and explore innovative and challenging routes of intellectual and academic exploration. More information can be found at <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/persons/sacred-journeys/call-for-presentations/>

Cambridge, UK, 9-11 July 2015. The ERC-funded research project "Domestic Devotions: The Place of Piety in the Italian Renaissance Home" will be hosting a three-day international interdisciplinary conference on "Domestic Devotions in the Early Modern World, 1400-1800" in July 2015. The project team invites proposals for 20-minute papers that explore domestic devotions in the early modern world. Papers may consider this theme from a variety of perspectives, including material culture studies, art and architectural history, gender studies, theology, religious studies, economic and social history, literary studies, musicology, archaeology and anthropology. For further information on Domestic Devotions see our website <http://domesticdevotions.lib.cam.ac.uk/>

Siena, Italy, 17-19 July 2015. "The World of St. Francis of Assisi" will 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. The website for information is <http://www.geneseo.edu/history/world-st-francis-assisi>

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). For further information, please visit <http://www.uta.fi/trivium/passages/>

Oxford, UK, 10-12 September 2015. "The Influences of the Dominican Order in the Middle Ages" will take place at Lincoln College and Blackfriars in Oxford. From the modest group of St Dominic and his sixteen followers, the Dominican Order grew rapidly in the first century of its existence, establishing itself across Europe as a learned Order of Preachers. This interdisciplinary conference will seek to explore the influences of the Dominican Order on all aspects of medieval life. The conference theme of 'influence' can be interpreted in its broadest sense, encompassing the large-scale influences of the Order and the legacy of its prominent figures, or can be examined on the personal level, such as the impact that the Order had on those that came into contact with it, both within and outside the Order. All enquiries should be sent to Eleanor Giraud: eleanor.giraud@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

Rome, 25-29 November 2015. The conference "Concilium Lateranense IV. Commemorating the Octocentenary of the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215" explores how Lateran IV still stands as the high-water mark of the medieval papacy, as deemed the most significant papal assembly of the later Middle Ages. The conference will move to different locations on different days, in part as a tribute to the movement of clerics around Rome as part of

the many events surrounding the council. Please direct any questions to fourthlateranat800@gmail.com



Book (and Other) Announcements

We are pleased to announce the publication of three websites on Hispanic Hagiography in the Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes:

Hagiografía catalana:

http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/portales/hagiografia_catalana_cat/

which together with other on Hagiografía castellana:

http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/portales/hagiografia_castellana/

makes Hagiografía Hispánica:

http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/portales/hagiografia_hispanica/

The publication of this new resource on Hagiografía castellana substitutes the CEHC website, which will be cancelled soon

(<http://www.unioviado.es/CEHC/index.htm>).

Contextualizing Miracles in the Christian West, 1100-1500: New Historical Approaches, edited by Matthew M. Mesley and Louise E. Wilson

This volume brings together innovative research on miracles in the Christian West 1100-1500, and includes chapters on Anglo-Norman saints' cults, late medieval Portugal and the legacy of medieval hagiography in the immediate Post-Reformation period. Contributors investigate miracle narratives in conjunction with broader socio-cultural ideals, practices and developments in medieval society. They also reassess the legacy of Peter Brown, challenge established dichotomies such as 'medicine and religion', and examine relics, lay beliefs and the liturgical evidence of a saint's cult, moving beyond the traditional focus on canonization. Medical history features prominently alongside other approaches; these clarify the contexts of our sources, and demonstrate the methodological vibrancy in this field.

See

<http://mediumaevum.modhist.ox.ac.uk/monographs.shtml>



Selected Saint's Feast Days

Here are two early medieval saints who, in their own ways, epitomized the changing nature of Christianity in this period.



MARCH 13TH:

ST. LEANDER OF SEVILLE

St. Leander of Seville (d. circa 600) was bishop of Seville and brother of Isidore of Seville. He entered a monastery for several years before being appointed bishop. He was exiled to Byzantium during the reign of Liuvigild but returned upon his death. At that point he supposedly influenced the conversion of the new king Reccared, from Arianism to orthodoxy and worked closely with him to persuade Arian bishops to commit to also convert. He is noted for introducing the Nicene Creed as part of regular religious practice in his city.



MARCH 31ST:

ST. STEPHEN OF MAR SABA

St. Stephen of Mar Saba's (d. 794) biography may be best enjoyed quoted in the colloquial language of AmericanCatholic.org: "Stephen of Mar Saba was the nephew of St. John Damascene, who introduced the young boy to monastic life beginning at age 10. When he reached 24, Stephen served the community in a variety of ways, including guest master. After some time he asked permission to live a hermit's life. The answer from the abbot was yes and no: Stephen could follow his preferred lifestyle during the week, but on weekends he was to offer his skills as a counselor. Stephen placed a note on the door of his cell: 'Forgive me, Fathers, in the name of the Lord, but please do not disturb me except on Saturdays and Sundays'."