Hagiography Society Newsletter

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Executive Committee Elections

Elections will be held for two executive committee positions this spring. Presented below are the biographies of the candidates running to fill the two open positions of President and Secretary. Alison Frazier, current program chair, will be running for the President position to replace Kathy Ashley. Amy Ogden, the current secretary-treasurer, has graciously agreed to run for a second term. A link will be sent to you via the listserve through which you may vote. Voting will open on April 15 and close on April 30. The results will be announced on the listserve as well as at the business meeting at Kalamazoo.

PRESIDENT:
Alison Frazier is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin (http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/history/faculty/akf7035), where she holds courtesy appointments in Religious Studies and Comparative Literature. She served as advocate for UT Austin’s Medieval Studies program (http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/medievalstudies/) when it was cut, assisting its reformulation as an interest group; she designed its new governance document (2010), and then joined its first Advisory Committee (2011). She also serves on the Council of the Society of Fellows-American Academy in Rome, and is concluding an interim appointment as Constitution Chair for the Renaissance Society of America, during which term the RSA adopted a new constitution (2012). A member of the Hagiography Society since 2001. She is the author of "Lives of the Saints: The Medieval French Hagiography of Eufrosine" (University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming). She is also the project director of "Lives of the Saints: The Medieval French Hagiography Project" (www.frenchsaintslives.org). Amy has served as Director of Graduate Studies and a member of the Arts and Science Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum at UVA, and as Executive Director of the Canadian Studies Program at Princeton University.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:
Amy V. Ogden is Associate Professor of French at the University of Virginia, and as Executive Director of the Canadian Studies Project "Lives of the Saints: The Medieval French Hagiography Works" (forthcoming). She is also the project director of "Lives of the Saints: The Medieval French Hagiography Project" (www.frenchsaintslives.org). Amy has served as Director of Graduate Studies and a member of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum at UVA, and as Executive Director of the Canadian Studies Program at Princeton University.

Hagiography Society Business

Meeting at Kalamazoo

Please join us for The Hagiography Society business meeting and lunch at Kalamazoo on Friday, May 10, at 11:30-1 pm in Bernhard 107. The lunch will cost $15.00 for regular members, $10 for students/independent scholars. Please RSVP to akfrazier@austin.utexas.edu by April 30 (a reminder will also be distributed via the listserve in mid April). Bring your ideas for sessions for Kalamazoo 2014 and for Leeds 2014 (whose theme is “Empire”). We will also have an update on the proposed book series and the new website and introduce new executive committee board members. Finally, we would like to engage in a discussion about the future of the Society and new venues for expanding our reach. Please bring your ideas and friends with an interest in saints!

Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo

The Hagiography Society is sponsoring five sessions this year at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI on May 9-12, 2013.

THURSDAY, 10:00 AM (Valley II, LeFevre Lounge)
Session 9: Saints and Sensibility I - Presider: Sara Ritchey (University of Louisiana)
“And wepid ful mony: Communal Memory, Communal Affect, and Rewriting History in St. Erkenwald” – Katherine Leveling Wait (UC Davis)
“Visionary Writers and Beloveds of Christ: John the Evangelist and Gertrude of Helfta” - Anna Harrison (Loyola Marymount University)
“Feeling (No) Fear: Sexual Violence and Sanctity in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries” - Suzanne Edwards (Lehigh University)

THURSDAY, 1:30 PM (Schneider 1235)
Session 75: Saints and Sensibility II - Presider: Sherry Reames (University of Wisconsin)
“Despise, Despair, and Desire: Literary Devices in the Golden Legend and Popular Old French and Occitan Literature” - Lisa Shugert Bevevino (University of MN Morris)
“St Samthann’s Righteous Wrath: Don’t Mess with this Abbess” - Maeve Callan (Simpson College)
The Society at Leeds 2013

We are very pleased to announce that the Hagiography Society is sponsoring five sessions at Leeds this year. The sessions involve a mixture of eminent and emerging scholars, and testify to the continuing vitality of hagiography as a major subfield of medieval studies. This year’s speakers will cover a diverse range of material from a variety of disciplinary perspectives: history, literature, art history, and musicology – so there should be something for everyone!

Here is an overview of sessions and speakers:

**Monday 1 July, 16.50-18.00, Session 305: Co-Operation or Competition?: Interactions and Interrelationships among the Cults of High-Status Saints**
- Papers by Yossi Maurey, Samantha Kahn Herrick and Paul Hayward

**Tuesday 2 July, 11.15-12.45, Session 622: Pleasures and Pains of Family Life in Late Medieval Hagiography**
- Papers by Jenni Kuuliala, Wendy Matlock and Marita von Weissenberg

- Papers by Anders Fröjmark, Laura Ackerman Smoller and Christian Krötzl

**Tuesday 2 July, 16.30-18.00, Session 804: Between Entertainment and Persuasion: On Structures and Functions of Miracle Accounts and Collections, II**
- Papers by Ildikó Csepregi, Sari Katajala-Peltomaa and Jonas Van Mulder

**Thursday 4 July, 09.00-10.30, Session 1514: Enjoying the Rewards of a Saintly Life: Visualising Sanctity in Late Medieval Art**
- Papers by Brigit Ferguson, Ellie Pridgeon and Joni Henry

The Society’s sponsorship of these sessions not only helps to ensure that the interests of our members are catered for 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**

Leuven, 5-6 December 2013. LECTIO, Leuven Centre for the Study of the Transmission of Texts and Ideas in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance is organizing a two-day conference entitled “Shaping Authority. How did a person become an authority in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance?:” to be hosted at Leuven University, on 5-6 December 2013. The
cultural and religious history from Antiquity through the Renaissance may be read through the lens of the rise and demise of authorities. Throughout this long period of about two millennia, many historical persons have been considered as exceptionally authoritative. Obviously, this authority derived from their personal achievements. But one does not become an authority on one’s own. In many cases, the way an authority’s achievements were received and disseminated by their contemporaries and later generations was the determining factor in the construction of their authority. We will focus on the latter aspect: what are the mechanisms and strategies by which participants in intellectual life at large have shaped the authority of historical persons? On what basis, why and how were some persons singled out above their peers as exceptional auctoritates and by which processes did this continue (or discontinue) over time? What imposed geographical or other limits on the development and expansion of a person’s auctoritas? Which circumstances led to the disintegration of the authority of persons previously considered to be authoritative?

We invite interdisciplinary and innovative scholarly case studies that document these processes. They may focus on one (group of) source(s) to analyze its contribution to shaping the authority of a historical person or they may take a longue durée perspective on the rise (and demise) of a person’s authority. Thematic clusters one can think of may include: (1) Biography, historiography and hagiography as grounds for authority; (2) The role played by manuscript transmission and production; (3) The contribution of non-textual sources; (4) Biblical characters as authorities. Papers are invited from fields as diverse as philosophy, classical studies, Oriental and Byzantine studies, history, theology and religion, art history, manuscript studies and hagiography.

The papers selected for presentation at the conference will preferably be case studies which contain the following elements in some combination: (1) Presentation and analysis of the sources and their context; (2) Analysis of the strategies for the “making of authority”; (3) Description of the long term success (or failure) of these enterprises.

Papers may be given in English, French of German and should be twenty minutes long. To submit a proposal, please send an abstract of your paper and a brief curriculum vitae (max one pg. each) by e-mail to marleen.reynders@ghum.kuleuven.be before 20 April 2013.

The publication of selected papers is planned in a volume to be included in the peer-reviewed LECTIO Series (Brepols Publishers).

Detailed information about the conference on http://ghum.kuleuven.be/lectio

23-24 May 2013. “In the Hands of God’s Servants: The Power of the Bishop in Western Europe, 1000-1300.” This conference, to be held at Cardiff University, Wales, will examine the power of the bishop in Western Europe during the High Middle Ages. Although the careers of the most famous of their number have attracted much interest in modern historiography, the nature, extent and significance of episcopal power at a local level, which formed the basis for the bishop’s pre-eminence in medieval society, has not been fully considered. The aim of this conference is to gain a clearer understanding of the construction, enhancement and expression of episcopal power at a local level in Western Europe. Since a bishop’s local power was intimately connected to the episcopal office and the duties it entailed, the conference will be focused in particular on these activities, such as a bishop’s pastoral responsibilities and his role in the liturgy, and their role in the formation and development of episcopal power. However, the effect on episcopal power of other aspects of a bishop’s role in local society will also be considered, such as his relationship with aristocratic families.

13-14 July 2013. “St Ursula and the 11,000 Virgins” will take place at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Carmarthen campus. Proposals for papers are invited on the different Latin and vernacular versions of the Life of St Ursula and the 11,000 Virgins of Cologne, as well as all aspects of their medieval cult including: the cult of relics; reliquaries and reliquary busts; visual representations; comparative studies of the different Lives; detailed analysis of their popularity in particular regions and countries; the early development of the cult and its transmission; Elizabeth of Schönau; Hermann Joseph; revelations, calendars, hymns, traditions associated with the other virgins and male companions; Ursula’s association with the military orders; guilds and students; church dedications; the political, social and economic implications of the cult; and the founding of the Ursuline Order.

Recent Book Announcements


Norwich. See http://www.umilta.net/CBVIJulian.html for registration and http://www.umilta.net/CBVIPapers.html
Other New Books We Are Reading

Thanks to Alison Frazier for compiling this list! Feel free to forward announcements for a monthly distribution on the listserv.


Online Resources

Maney Publishing is pleased to announce the publication of the latest issue of Medieval Sermon Studies, which is now available to view online at: www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/mss/56

Medieval Sermon Studies (MSS) is published annually under the auspices of the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society. This refereed journal features insightful articles on sermon studies and related areas; reviews; sermon transcriptions; and information about work in progress are also included. MSS is an essential resource not only for sermon specialists but also for researchers working in the field of religious culture, history, and literature.

Selected Saint’s Feast Days

April is a month of birth and renewal. It was often considered the first full month of the year in the Middle Ages, when many places considered March 25 the beginning of the calendar year, coinciding with the Incarnation of Jesus and the spring planting schedule. Here are the brief bios of two lesser-known saints whose stories encapsulate that spirit of new beginnings.

St. Casilda (d. 11th c.) was the daughter of a Muslim leader who, though raised a Muslim herself, used to secretly deliver bread to Christian prisoners. One day a soldier asked her to display what she was hiding in the folds of her skirt, and the bread miraculously turned into roses. Casilda became ill and, doubting the efficacy of physicians, traveled to the shrine of San Vicenzo and was healed by its miraculous waters. She converted to Christianity and lived in solitude not far from the spring for the rest of her days, which would have been many as she was thought to live to 100 years old.

Luchesio of Poggibonsi (d. 1260) and his wife Buonadonna are honored as possibly the first Franciscan tertiaries. Luchesio was a rich and greedy merchant when he has a conversion experience. He subsequently began to perform charitable acts and he and his wife sold the business, distributed the proceeds to the poor, and entered a spiritual marriage. Upon meeting St. Francis of Assisi they heard of his plans for an order for laypeople and immediately asked to be part of it. He and his wife died close together in 1260.