

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 listserv through which you may vote. **Voting will open on April 15 and close on April 30.** The results will be announced on the listserv 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 graduate school, she served on the Planning Committee for the Society's first governance transition (2009-10), and has been the Society's Program Chair since 2012. Alison is the author of *Possible Lives: Authors and Saints in Renaissance Italy* (2005). She has held fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, Harvard University's Villa I Tatti, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Institute for Historical Studies at UT Austin.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Amy V. Ogden is Associate Professor of French at the University of Virginia, has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Hagiography Society since 2010 and has been a member of the Society since 2001. She is the author of *Hagiography, Romance and the Vie de sainte Eufrosine* and *Wace: The Hagiographical 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 listserv 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)

SATURDAY, 1:30 PM (Schneider 1130)

Session 433: *Multidisciplinary St. Nicholas* - Presider: Alison Frazier (University of Texas, Austin)

“Epic Nicholas: How Verse Illuminates Cult” – Anna Taylor (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

“St Nicholas in Times of Grief” - Amy V. Ogden (University of Virginia)

“Devil in the Details: St. Nicholas and the Virgin” - Dolly Weber (UI Chicago)

SATURDAY, 3:30 PM (Schneider 1130)

Session 489: *One Cult, Many Cultures* - Presider:

Kathleen Ashley (University of Southern Maine)

“The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: The Digby *Mary Magdalene* and the Spectacle of Extravagance” - Anne Llewellyn (University of Virginia)

“Margaret and Marina of Antioch” - Wendy R. Larson (Roanoke College)

“An Itinerary of Saints: Mapping Holiness in Mandeville’s *Travels*” - Beth Sutherland (University of Virginia)

SUNDAY, 8:30 AM (Bernhard 204)

Session 547: *Digitizing Sainly Space: Barking Abbey* -

Presider: Jennifer n. Brown (Marymount Manhattan College)

“Barking Abbey: A GIS Map of a Medieval Nunnery” – Donna Alfano Bussell (University of Illinois, Springfield)

“Tracing Sacred Pathways: Processions at Barking Abbey” - Kay Slocum (Capital University)

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 94: Hildegard von Bingen: Bridges to Infinity

Session 102: In Memory of Paul Lachance, OFM, II: Mystics and Mysticism

Session 118: Saints and Their *Lives*

Session 140: Guthlac

Session 206: Saints, Relics, and Books on the Move in the Early Medieval World

Session 357: Asia Minor and South Eastern Europe: Spirituality and Identity: In Honor of George Alexe

Session 403: Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints’ Lives

Session 405: Contemplative and Active Franciscan Women

Session 506: Mystical Gets Physical: The Bodily Element in Female Spirituality

Session 537: Saints, Region, and Community

Session 575: Socializing with Saints: Popular Reception and Experience of Saints’ Cults in Medieval England

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

TUESDAY 2 July, 14.15-15.45, Session 704: *Between Entertainment and Persuasion: On Structures and Functions of Miracle Accounts and Collections, I*
- Papers by Anders Frøjmark, Laura Ackerman Smoller and Christian Krötzel

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 Sainly 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 or 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>

Other Upcoming Conferences

11 May 2013. International Symposium on "Julian of Norwich: Contexts and Continuities" at Carrow Abbey,

Norwich. See <http://www.umilta.net/CBVIJulian.html> for registration and <http://www.umilta.net/CBVIPapers.html>

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

Maurice Carbonnell, *Saint Maudez - Saint Mandé : Un maître du monachisme breton (Ve-VIe s.)* (St. Denis: Jean-Luc Deuffic, 2009). Reviewed by A. Y. Bourges: [http://www.academia.edu/1433096/M. Carbonnell_Saint_Maudez_saint_Mandé_-_Un_maitre_du_monachisme_breton_Ve-VIe_s.](http://www.academia.edu/1433096/M._Carbonnell_Saint_Maudez_saint_Mandé_-_Un_maitre_du_monachisme_breton_Ve-VIe_s.)

Paolo Golinelli, ed., *Agiografia e culture popolari. Hagiography and popular cultures* (Bologna: CLUEB, 2012). The book contains the Acts of the Verona International Hagiography Congress 2010, organized in collaboration with the Hagiography Society.

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.

Dionigi Albera and Maria Couroucli, eds., *Sharing Sacred Spaces in the Mediterranean: Christians, Muslims, and Jews at Shrines and Sanctuaries*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012.

Jan Bremmer and Marco Formisano, eds., *Perpetua's Passions: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the "Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis."* NY: Oxford, 2012.

Peter Brown, *Through the Eye of a Needle: Wealth, the Fall of Rome, and the Making of Christianity in the West, 350-550*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2012.

Anthony M. Cummings, *The Lion's Ear: Pope Leo X, the Renaissance Papacy, and Music*. Ann Arbor: UMI Press, 2012.

Dyan Elliott, *The Bride of Christ Goes to Hell: Metaphor and Embodiment in the Lives of Pious Women, 200-1500*. Philadelphia: University of PA, 2012.

Cynthia Hahn, *Strange Beauty. Issues in the Making and Meaning of Reliquaries, 400 - c. 1204*. University Park: Penn State, 2012.

Kim Haines-Eitzen, *The Gendered Palimpsest: Women, Writing and Representation in Early Christianity*. NY: Oxford, 2012.

Carolyn Muessig, George Ferzoco, and Beverley Mayne Kienzle, eds., *A Companion to Catherine of Siena*. Eds. NY: Brill, 2011.

Michael Plekon, *Saints as They Really Are: Voices of Holiness in Our Time*. Notre Dame 2012.

Augustine Thompson, *Francis of Assisi: A New Biography*. Ithaca: Cornell, 2012.

André Vauchez, *Francis of Assisi: The Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint*. Tr. Michael Cusato. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

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.



April 9th:

St. Casilda of Toledo

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 Vincenzo 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.



April 28th:

Blessed Luchiesio (and Buonadonna)

Luchiesio of Poggibonsi (d. 1260) and his wife **Buonadonna** are honored as possibly the first Franciscan tertiaries. Luchiesio 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.