

# Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XX, no. 2, July 2010

## Election time!

The Society's new constitution has been adopted; in fact, it received unanimous approval from those members who cast ballots this spring. The next step is to elect the four new officers specified in that document. Thanks to everyone who responded to the call for nominations, and thanks above all to the six intrepid souls who have consented to stand for election! Here are their capsule biographies:

**Kathleen Ashley (candidate for President)** is a Professor of English at the University of Southern Maine. She has published numerous articles and several books focused on saints and their cults, including *Interpreting Cultural Symbols: Saint Anne in Late Medieval Society* (co-edited with Pamela Sheingorn, Georgia, 1990), *Writing Faith: Text, Sign and History in the Miracles of Sainte Foy* (co-authored with Pamela Sheingorn, Chicago, 1999), and most recently *Being a Pilgrim: Art and Ritual on the Medieval Routes to Santiago* (photos by M. Deegan Lund Humphries, 2009). She is completing a second book on Foy, entitled *The Cults of Sainte Foy and the Cultural Work of Saints* (forthcoming from Ashgate), that uses her preferred interdisciplinary methodology and cultural theories. She has been a Hagiography Society member since 1992.

**John Howe (candidate for President)**, an ecclesiastical and social historian of the Christian world from the tenth through twelfth centuries, has taught in the History Dept of Texas Tech University since 1981, except for fellowships at the Institute for Advanced Study and at Notre Dame. He was president of the Texas Medieval Association (TEMA) in 2007-2008. His interest in hagiographical studies stems from his dissertation work on "Greek Influence on the Eleventh-Century Western Revival of Hermitism" (UCLA, 1979). His monograph *Church Reform and Social Change in Eleventh-Century Central Italy: Dominic of Sora and His Patrons* (Pennsylvania, 1997) won the 1998 John Gilmary Shea prize from the American Catholic Historical Association. His fourth article in the *Analecta Bollandia* will appear in June 2010, a study asking "Did St. Peter Damian Die in 1073? A New Perspective on His Final Days." He has been a Hagiography Society member since its initial year, 1990.

**Amy V. Ogden (candidate for Secretary/Treasurer)** is an Associate Professor of French at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *Hagiography, Romance and the Vie de sainte Eufrosine* (2003) and the project director of *Lives of the Saints: The Medieval French Hagiography Project* ([www.frenchsaintslives.org](http://www.frenchsaintslives.org)). Her current research includes a collaborative translation of Wace's saints' Lives and a study of the poetic strategies of twelfth- and thirteenth-century Lives in French. 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. She joined the Hagiography Society in 2001.

**Janine Larmon Peterson (candidate for Communications Chair)** received her B.A. and M.A. in Medieval Studies from Fordham University and her Ph.D. in History from Indiana University (Bloomington). She is currently an assistant professor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, following a visiting professorship at Sarah Lawrence. Her research focuses on the intersection between

religion and politics and the thin line between sanctity and heresy in late medieval Italy by examining cases of what she calls "contested sanctity." She has published articles on these topics in *Viator*, *Traditio*, and *Past & Present*, and is revising her dissertation as a book manuscript, "Contested Sanctity and Communal Identity in North-Central Italy, 1250-1400." She joined the Hagiography Society in 2004. Some of her work experience is directly related to the duties of Communications Chair. As Assistant to the Director of the Center for Medieval Studies at Fordham University from 1999-2001 and 2005-2007, her responsibilities included creating and editing the newsletter, mailings and distribution lists, and also updating the Center's website.

**Jennifer N. Brown (candidate for Nominations Chair)** is an Assistant Professor of English at Marymount Manhattan College, where she teaches medieval and early modern literature. Prior to that, she taught medieval literature and culture at the University of Hartford. Her principal research and teaching interest is medieval devotional literature written by and for women. Her book, *Three Women of Liège: A Critical Edition of and Commentary on the Middle English Lives of Elizabeth of Spalbeek, Christina mirabilis, and Marie d'Oignies*, was published in 2008 by Brepols in their series Medieval Women: Texts and Contexts. She also has several articles and book chapters on medieval devotional literature. She is currently co-editing a collection on Barking Abbey and its Texts. She writes the annual *Year's Work in English Studies* chapters on Middle Scots Poetry and Medieval Women's Writing. She joined the Hagiography Society in 2004.

**Kate Gerry (candidate for Nominations Chair)** is currently an Andrew Mellon Fellow in the Dept of Medieval Art, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. She joined the Hagiography Society in 2003, when her doctoral research in art history took a clear hagiographical turn. Her PhD dissertation examined an illustrated hagiographical booklet that was later adapted to be part of a larger psalter; she has published an article related to this research and has another in press. Recently she has been involved in the development of a major exhibition of reliquaries that will open in Cleveland this fall and then travel to Baltimore and London. While collaborating on research projects and exhibitions, organizing symposia and conference sessions, and facilitating outside research at the Walters, she has worked with medievalists in a number of disciplines in the US, UK and Europe. As Nominations Chair she would be glad to have the opportunity to get to know more of her colleagues, and to contribute to the growth and productivity of the Hagiography Society.

## Voter eligibility and ballots

As specified in the new constitution, all individual members of the Society may vote if they are in good standing— that is, if their dues are up to date. Since the deadline for 2010 dues has been set as Sept. 30, members who have paid through 2009 or later are all eligible to vote this time. If you are in that category, please watch for your ballot form and return it as soon as possible. (If you receive a dues reminder instead, sending in your payment promptly will get you a ballot.) **To be counted, all votes must be received by Sept. 1.**

## 2009 directory and bibliography still available

If you forgot to pay last year but would still like to receive the 2009 editions, it's not too late; just indicate your wishes on the 2010 dues form and add the appropriate amount to your payment.

## Plans for 2011 sessions at Kalamazoo

Those attending our business meeting at Kalamazoo chose the following four topics for our paper sessions next year: **(I) The Rise and/or Fall of Saints' Cults**—examining how the cults of particular saints have responded (or failed to respond) to the cultural needs of particular times and places; **(II) Continuity and Change in Reports of Miraculous Healing**—a session that might explore either the content of miracle stories (kinds of disease and disability that are emphasized, kinds of sufferers, etc.) or the ways in which the stories tend to be told; **(III) Translations of Relics (and Cults)**—a topic intended to encompass both *translatio* texts and the ways in which translated saints are naturalized and adopted into a new culture; **(IV) Professional Hagiographers: Writers and Assemblers**—a session on writers who actually composed a number of hagiographical texts and compilers who collected such texts for inclusion in legends and other devotional books.

Although the official Call for Papers has not yet appeared and the deadline for abstracts is some way off (15 Sept., as usual), Mary Morse will be grateful to receive expressions of interest from potential speakers as early as possible. Her email address is [mmorse@rider.edu](mailto:mmorse@rider.edu), and her fax number is 609-896-5212.

## Report from Poreč

The symposium "Saintly bishops and bishops's saints," co-sponsored by Hagiotheca and the Hagiography Society, took place as scheduled on 27-30 May in the historic bishop's palace in Poreč, Croatia. Although several of the anticipated speakers were unable to attend, the intellectual content of the symposium was first-rate nonetheless, with consistently excellent papers and lively discussions. And the local arrangements could not have been better. The weather was idyllic, the Euphrasian basilica proved to be even more breath-taking than it looks in photographs, and our young Croatian colleagues entertained us royally (or should that be episcopally?) throughout the weekend. Many thanks to Trpimir, Ana, and their team. And a heads-up to those who didn't make it this year: the next Hagiotheca symposium is planned for 2012, perhaps in Zadar. Make your travel plans accordingly!

## Update on "Hagiography and Popular Cultures"

Final program planning is well underway for "Hagiography and Popular Cultures," the conference being organized by Pierre Boglioni (Montréal) and Paolo Golinelli (Verona), with the co-sponsorship of AISSCA and the Hagiography Society, that will take place in Verona on 28-30 October. Although it is now too late to submit a paper proposal, those who can manage a trip to Verona in October may well want to attend just as audience members. The program promises to be uncommonly full, varied, and interesting. For further information, contact [paolo.golinelli@univr.it](mailto:paolo.golinelli@univr.it) or [pietro.boglioni@umontreal.ca](mailto:pietro.boglioni@umontreal.ca).

## Calls for papers

**Ascona, Switzerland, 17–22 Oct. 2010.** "St. Thomas Becket and Vernacular Medieval Literature," an international medieval conference to be held at Centro Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità,

Ascona, Ticino. The conference will be divided into two sections: A) 1155–1170: "Warriors of God and Culture. Thomas Becket and his eruditi"; B) After 1170: "Perpetuating Myth". Send abstracts (due **by 15 Aug. 2010**) to [congress@becketproject.ch](mailto:congress@becketproject.ch); <http://www.becketproject.ch>.

**Tempe, 10–12 Feb. 2011.** "Performance and Theatricality in the Middle Ages and Renaissance," 17th Annual ACMRS Conference, at Arizona State University. The keynote speaker will be Pamela Sheingorn. Submit proposals on-line, no later than **17 Oct. 2010**, to <http://link.library.utoronto.ca/acmrs/conference>. Questions? 480-965-9323; [acmrs@asu.edu](mailto:acmrs@asu.edu).

**Toronto, 17–19 March 2011.** "Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images," organized by the Centre for Comparative Literature. The goal is to examine a wide range of iconoclastic moments in order to understand the political, ethical, and aesthetic stakes involved in challenging the signifying power of the iconic image. Is there a tradition of iconoclasm, or is the modern icon and thus modern iconoclasm something new? Is iconoclasm even possible, or does it always participate in the forces of iconicity? Send 250-word abstracts to [iconoclasm.2011@gmail.com](mailto:iconoclasm.2011@gmail.com) by **10 Sept. 2010**, along with full name, e-mail, affiliation, status, a 50-word bio, and A-V requirements. For updates, see <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/complitstudents/complitconference/>

**Southampton, England, 4-6 July 2011.** "Cultures, Communities and Conflicts in the Medieval Mediterranean." The aim of the conference is to highlight the extent to which the medieval Mediterranean was not just an area of conflict but also a highly permeable frontier across which people, goods and ideas crossed and influenced neighbouring cultures and societies. We invite proposals for 20-minute papers from archaeology, art and architecture, ethnography, history, languages, literature, music, philosophy and religion. Please send 300-word abstracts along with a brief CV to Dr Francois Soyer, [f.j.soyer@soton.ac.uk](mailto:f.j.soyer@soton.ac.uk), and Rebecca Bridgman, [rmb77@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rmb77@cam.ac.uk), by **1 Oct. 2010**.

**Leeds, 11-14 July 2011.** International Medieval Congress, with the special thematic focus "Poor . . . Rich" (issues of wealth and poverty in the Middle Ages). Proposals should be completed online. The deadline for paper proposals is **31 Aug. 2010**; for session proposals, **30 Sept. 2010**. Details at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc>.

## Other upcoming conferences

**Antwerp, 21–24 August 2010.** "Music for the Office and Its Sources in the Low Countries (1050–1550)." Contact: [pieter.mannaerts@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:pieter.mannaerts@arts.kuleuven.be); or see the Alamire website: <http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/alamire>.

**Brno, 10 Sept. 2010.** "Pontes ad Fontes: Sacred History in the light of Auxiliary Historical Sciences," an international students' scientific conference organized by the Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archive Studies of the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University. For further information: [PontesAdFontes@gmail.com](mailto:PontesAdFontes@gmail.com); <http://www.phil.muni.cz/wpvh>.

**Vancouver, 14–16 Oct. 2010.** "Quest and Conquest: Spiritual Symbols and Myths in the Indo-Mediterranean and European Worlds," the University of British Columbia's 39th Medieval Workshop. For details see <http://ubc2010medieval.blogspot.com/>

**Waltham, MA, 18–19 Oct. 2010.** "Patronage and the Sacred Book in the Medieval Mediterranean." Contact: Jonathan Decter, [decter@brandeis.edu](mailto:decter@brandeis.edu) or [esperanza.alfonso@cchs.csic.es](mailto:esperanza.alfonso@cchs.csic.es) .

**Bochum, 12-13 November 2010.** "Sanctity and Literature," a symposium at the Ruhr-University Bochum. Contact: Eva von Contzen, Department of English, Universitätsstraße 150, 44780 Bochum, Germany, [Eva.Contzen@rub.de](mailto:Eva.Contzen@rub.de) .

**Maynooth, 15–17 Nov. 2010.** "Richard FitzRalph: His Life, Times and Thought," a conference to commemorate the 650th anniversary of his death (November 16th, 1360), to be held at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. For further information contact Michael Dunne, [Michael.W.Dunne@nuim.ie](mailto:Michael.W.Dunne@nuim.ie) .

**Roanoke, 18–20 Nov. 2010.** "Natural, Unnatural, & Supernatural," 36th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA). For further information see the conference website, <http://www.rc.vt.edu/medieval/sema2010> , or the new SEMA website: <http://sema.eserver.org> .

**Columbus, Ohio, 28–30 Oct. 2011.** "Music in the Carolingian World: Witnesses to a Metadiscipline, a Conference in Honor of Charles M. Atkinson," a conference to be held at Thompson Library, Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Graeme M. Boone, Dept. of Music, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.