

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XX, no. 3, December 2010

Letter from the New President

Welcome to the new incarnation of the Hagiography Society! After 20 years under the capable single-handed leadership of Sherry Reames, the Society now has both a formal constitution and a five-member executive committee to share administrative duties.

Amy Ogden, Secretary-Treasurer, now handles all budget items including dues collection. She also takes the minutes of our meetings.

Janine Peterson, Communications, maintains the member listserv and the Society website, primary sources of hagiography information.

Mary Morse, Programming, organizes Hagiography Society sessions at the Kalamazoo Medieval Congress and other venues.

Jennifer Brown, Nominations, is responsible for finding appropriate scholars to stand for elections and staff ad hoc committees. She has also handled Brepols' recent offer of a publications series for our Society.

Sherry Reames, as Society Historian, will remain our resource about past activities. We owe her an immeasurable debt of gratitude for creating and sustaining the Hagiography Society during the past two decades, 1990-2010. On behalf of all the members past and present – as well as the new Executive Committee whose induction she has graciously supported – I want to express our deep appreciation for Sherry's service to our organization.

Among the new initiatives of the Society will be a revamped website, which is now in progress under the expert guidance of webmaster Chris Feldman and the sponsorship of Society member Alison Frazer at the University of Texas. We are also exploring the feasibility of establishing a hagiography publication series at Brepols. The issue will be fully discussed at the annual business meeting in Kalamazoo in May 2011. We hope to continue expanding our membership outside of North America and will look for opportunities to collaborate with other hagiography organizations. We invite all members to suggest areas that they would like to see the Hagiography Society explore for future activity.

As the semester draws to a close, we wish you happy holidays and look forward to a peaceful and productive new year!

Kathleen Ashley
President

Announcement: Society Dues Update

The recent change in officers has meant that the Hagiography Society has had to change financial institutions, and we are in the process of finalizing the transfer. As soon as everything is settled, you will receive a dues reminder. A few notes in advance:

As a result of the change of banks, we regrettably can no longer accept checks that are not in U.S. dollars. However, we are happy to announce that we have a simpler PayPal option, available for everyone, whether in the U.S. or elsewhere. Please visit the HS website for more information. The increasing shift to electronic communication over the past years has also prompted us to simplify the dues categories. The new rates are as follows:

- * Regular members in North America or overseas with e-mail distribution only: \$15 US for one year, \$40 US for 3 years.
- * Students in North America or overseas with e-mail distribution only: \$7.50 US per year.
- * Regular members in the U.S. or overseas with printed copies of our publications: \$18 US for one year, \$48 US for three years.
- * Students in the U.S. or overseas with printed copies of our publications: \$9 US per year.

The dues form will soon be available on the website.

Announcement: Potential Book Series

The Hagiography Society has been approached by Brepols Publishers to start an occasional series of books with them. This series would be at no cost to the Society as a whole, and indeed, Brepols would give its members discounts on the books. It could include essays that come from conferences we have co-sponsored, critical editions, and monographs by Society members. The editorial board for the series would come from Society membership. We have invited a representative from Brepols to come speak to Society members at this year's business meeting in Kalamazoo about the procedures and possibilities of the series. We hope you come and join the discussion!

Plans for 2011 sessions at Kalamazoo

We had an unprecedented number of submissions for our four approved sessions for Kalamazoo. When we saw a possible grouping on early English saints' cults, we petitioned the Congress for another session. We're delighted to have five sponsored sessions—perhaps a record number. We hope you will plan to attend one or more panels and our annual business meeting to make session plans for 2012 at both Kalamazoo and Leeds. Mary Morse, Hagiography Society program chair, especially wishes to thank her program committee volunteers, Tom Liszka and Kate Greenspan.

Rises and/or Falls of Saints' Cults - Presider: Kay Slocum (Capitol University)

Papers: "Perceptions of the Fenland Desert in the Hagiography of St. Guthlac and Their Bearing on Crowland's Distinctive Development," Meredith A. Bacola (Durham University); "The Cadaver Synod and the Unmaking of Saints," William S. Monroe (Brown University); "Locating the Sanctity of Louis of Anjou: The Development of the Cult of a 14th-Century Franciscan Saint," Holly J. Grieco (Siena College)

Continuity and Change in Reports of Miraculous Healing - Presider: Kate Greenspan (Skidmore College)

Papers: "The Cults of Catalunya: Saints for Specific Problems or Specific Problems for Certain Saints?" Michelle Garceau (College of Charleston); "Seeing Your Body, Changing My Mind: Narrative Healing in Later Medieval Female Saints' Lives," Sara Ritchey (University of Louisiana); "Novelty and Continuity in the Language of Miraculous Healing of the French Disease at Bavarian Pilgrimage Shrines," Steven D. Sargent (Union College)

Translations of Relics and Cults - Presider: Thomas R. Liszka (Pennsylvania State University-Altoona)

Papers: "Integrating a Translated Saint: The Case of St. Maurus of Glanfeuil at Fossés Abbey," John Wickstrom (Kalamazoo College); "How to Translate St. Nicholas' Tooth (and Life)," Amy V. Ogden (University of Virginia); "From Apprentice Leatherworker to Sainly Wonderworker: The Cult and Hagiography of William of Norwich," Anne E. Bailey (University of Oxford)

Professional Hagiographers: Writers and Assemblers -

Presider: Amy V. Ogden (University of Virginia)
Papers: "There Are Different Ways to Go Wrong: Editorial Mistakes in the Original Text of *The Golden Legend*," Giovanni Paolo Maggioni (Università degli Studi del Molise); "Goscelin of Canterbury: Hagiographer and Historian," Kay Slocum (Capital University); "Medieval Education and Standards of Evidence: Three 13th-Century Hagiographers More Closely Considered," Jeroen Laemers (University of Iowa); Respondent: John Howe (Texas Tech University)

Miracles and Politics in the Development of Early English Saints' Cults - Presider: Mary Morse

Papers: "Divide and Conquer: West Saxon Relics in the Reign of Cnut," Nicole Marafioti (Trinity University); "Measuring Time and Topography in the Cult of St. Cuthbert at Durham," Dominic Marnier (University of Guelph, Ontario); "A Repeated Healing: St. Petroc and the Submissive Dragon," Jacob Ruyeff (University of Notre Dame)

The Society at Leeds 2011

We thank Kate Greenspan for organizing a Hagiography Society-sponsored panel that has been accepted for Leeds 2011, "Saints that Heal and Harm," an exploration of the capacity of saints to protect and to wreak vengeance. Kate Greenspan, Amy Ogden, and Mary Morse will present in the session. We hope to expand the Society's presence at Leeds in 2012.

Report from Verona

"Hagiography and Popular Cultures," the conference organized by Pierre Boglioni (Montréal) and Paolo Golinelli (Verona), with the co-sponsorship of AISSCA and the Hagiography Society, took place in Verona on 28-30 October. Five Hagiography Society members contributed to its varied and interesting program.

Research Project Position of Interest

The Department of History of Ghent University is seeking to fill the position of full-time collaborator for the FWO-research project 'Monastic leadership in the post-charismatic age: constructing a new paradigm for the study of reforms before the emergence of the Great Orders (Western Europe, tenth-early twelfth centuries).' Applicants should have a master's degree in history or an equivalent degree/diploma; be motivated to start a career in research; capable of reading Latin sources; capable of reading publications in English, German, and French; be interested in interdisciplinary approaches; and have at least some knowledge of the religious and general history of the Central Middle Ages. Responsibilities will be to prepare, and finish, within the four-year time limit (2011-2015), a doctoral dissertation relating to the theme of the project; to publish at least two articles in international scientific journals; to present papers at international conferences and workshops; and to provide limited assistance (max. 1 day per week) to the promoter of the project. The position is full-time for four years, beginning at the earliest 1 February 2011. Please apply by e-mail before **1 January 2011**, with a CV and an accompanying letter as attachments (<http://www.monastic-communication.ugent.be>). For more information contact Prof. dr. Steven Vanderputten, Department of History, Ghent University (Steven.Vanderputten@ugent.be)

Publishing Opportunities

The *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* (formerly *Mystics Quarterly*) invites submissions of articles on any aspect of religious traditions in medieval Europe, broadly conceived, as well as their relations to cultures outside Europe. *JMRC* is a double-blind, peer-reviewed journal published twice a year by Penn State Press. Submissions can be uploaded to www.editorialmanager.com/jmrc. All submissions must conform to Chicago style; double-space endnotes (please, no footnotes). Because reviewers will receive PDFs of the files, do not include your name in the file name. Questions? Please contact co-editors Christine Cooper-Rompato (christine.rompato@usu.edu) and Bob Hasenfratz (robert.hasenfratz@uconn.edu)

A conference proceedings is being planned for the conference co-sponsored by the Hagiography Society and Hagiotheca, "Saintly Bishops and Bishop's Saints" in Poreč, Croatia in May 2010. Those who presented at the conference, as well as successful applicants who were not able to travel to the conference to present their paper, are encouraged to submit their work for the proceedings by **31 January 2011**. For more information and style guidelines, please contact the editorial team at hagiotheca@yahoo.com.

Calls for Papers

London, 7-8 October, 2011. Papers are invited for "Matter of Faith," a conference that will expand the themes addressed in the exhibition "Treasures of Heaven: saints, relics and devotion in medieval Europe" (http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/future_exhibitions/treasures_of_heaven.aspx) which runs from 23 June to 9 October 2011. The conference seeks to take an interdisciplinary approach inviting contributors from many different fields, including conservation and science, to stimulate new connections and prompt further research. It is anticipated that the papers will be published in 2012.

Suggested general topics are: manifestations of the medieval cult of relics and the cult of saints; pilgrimage, real and virtual; reliquaries and shrines, their construction, use and re-use; patronage and relic collecting. Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be submitted by **28 January 2011** to Anna Harnden, Prehistory and Europe, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG (aharnden@britishmuseum.org)

16-18 September, 2011. The next International Anchoritic Society Conference -- and the first biannual conference to be held in the United States -- will be held at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The conference theme is liminality and the wilderness, with the keynote speaker Michael G. Sargent, Queens College/CUNY. Please send 500-750 word abstracts to IAS.UND.2010@gmail.com by **June 15, 2011**. Please also include a cover sheet with your name, affiliation, and contact information. While the conference theme is

liminality and the wilderness, abstracts will be accepted on any aspect of the anchoritic vocation, as well as on enclosure, monasticism, and related topics, and especially explorations of little-known texts. For questions please contact Michelle M. Sauer, IAS Vice President & Conference Host, Department of English; Stop 7209, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202, (701) 777-2783 (michelle.m.sauer@und.edu)

Other Upcoming Conferences

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.

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. <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/complitstudents/complitconference/>

Hull, England, 20-23 June 2011. "Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe." This conference is designed to bring together specialists working on diverse geographical areas to create a dialogue about the Latin and vernacular texts nuns read, wrote, and exchanged, primarily from the late eighth to the mid-sixteenth centuries. To date, there has been significant research in this field but little in the way of cross-cultural study. For this reason twenty-five international experts (from Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, the United States, and Wales) will address these issues in Hull. The resulting papers from this conference will form the chapters of a published volume. For further details, please contact the organisers: Dr Veronica O'Mara, University of Hull (V.M.OMara@hull.ac.uk), Dr Virginia Blanton, University of Missouri-Kansas City (blantonv@umkc.edu), and Dr Patricia Stoop, University of Antwerp (patricia.stoop@ua.ac.be). A conference website on 'Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe' will be available early in the New Year.

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.

Leeds, 11-14 July 2011. International Medieval Congress, with the special thematic focus "Poor . . . Rich." Details at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/jmc>