

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXII, no. 2, July 2012

President's Report: Kalamazoo 2012

Kalamazoo 2012 saw a record-setting six sessions sponsored by the Hagiography Society, four of them honoring the scholarly career of Sherry Reames, founder and first president of the society. Two of the sessions acknowledged Sherry's important work on the *Legenda Aurea*: one focused on saints as academics, and the most personal was a roundtable with testimonials of those who had been influenced by Sherry either as students, co-organizers of conferences, or scholars. Happily, Sherry was able to attend all the sessions in person. The other two sessions addressed saints in art and the female context of relics. Presenters were excellent across the board, and the recognition of a colleague's work on behalf of our discipline reminds us how significant one person's initiative and dedication can be.

The business lunch, in addition to its celebratory aspects, saw a lively debate over and close vote for Kalamazoo 2013 session topics -- which are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Thanks to all who offered stimulating ideas for sessions. There were also brief reports on changes-in-progress to the society website as well as creation of an editorial board for the proposed book series. Fuller reports will appear in the fall newsletter when (we hope) the development process in each case will be farther along.

Hagiography Society Upcoming Elections

Elections will be held for two executive committee positions next year: President and Secretary-Treasurer. We will be soliciting nominations for these positions through the listserve in the fall. For more information, or to nominate yourself or another for a position, please contact the Nominations Chair, Jennifer N. Brown (jennifernbrown@earthlink.net).

The Society at Leeds 2012

The Society will be sponsoring two sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds this year:

Monday, 9 July at 11:15 am (session 114): "Rule-Breaking Saints, Cults and Hagiography"

Organizer: Anne Bailey (Harris Manchester College, Univ. of Oxford)

Moderator: Helen Birkett (Univ. of Exeter)

"Rule-Breaking in Literary Portrayals of Death in Anglo-Saxon Hagiography," Jennifer Key (Univ. of St Andrews)

"St Symeon Metaphrastes: A Scholar Invades Sainthood," Elizabeth A Fisher (George Washington Univ.)

"An Upholder of Ancient Liberties Against a New-Fangled Tyranny: The Cult of 'St' Thomas of Lancaster," Martin Locker (University College London)

Monday, 9 July at 2:15 pm (session 225):

"Hagiography without Borders"

Organizer: Helen Birkett (Univ. of Exeter)

Moderator: Cordelia Warr (Univ. of Manchester)

"How to Preach the *Golden Legend*: The Legends of the Cross and of St George in the *De sanctis* Sermons of James of Voragine," Giovanni Paolo Maggioni (Univ. degli Studi del Molise)

"The Idea of the Vernacular in the *Scottish Legendary*," Eva von Contzen (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

"Manuscript to Marble: The *Vitae* of St Ursus in Medieval Aosta," Cheryl L. Kaufman (Ind. Scholar, Austin)

The Hagiography Society's Leeds program committee consists of Anne Bailey, Helen Birkett, and Kate Gerry. They will be meeting at the conference to discuss programming for next year, 2013. If you have ideas for panels you would like to see at Leeds 2013, please contact one or all of the those people. E-mail addresses are:

Anne: anne.bailey@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Helen: hmbirkett@gmail.com

Kate: kberry@googlemail.com

Subscription to the Listserve

Members can subscribe or unsubscribe to the Hagiography Society email listserve by sending either the message "SUBSCRIBE HAGIOGRAPHYSOCIETY" or "SIGNOFF HAGIOGRAPHYSOCIETY" (note no space between the name!) in the body and subject line to LISTSERVE@VM.MARIST.EDU

The Hagiography Society is on Facebook

The Hagiography Society now has a Facebook presence! Many thanks to our member Lisa Cipolla Duffield, whose idea it was and who is acting administrator of the page. The Facebook page can be accessed at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102633289878011/>

It is a more casual forum than our listserv, where our members and interested individuals can post announcements, articles or items of interest, and questions for feedback from other members. To join, just go to the page and request to be added via the link.

Kalamazoo Sessions CFP

The Hagiography Society has received approval for five sessions for the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo (9-12 May 2013). The sessions are:

PANEL 1. "Multidisciplinary Saint Nicholas": Four speakers approach the cult of Nicholas from four disciplinary standpoints with the aim of creating a deep reading. Standpoints might include: music; art/architecture; performance studies; textuality/manuscripts/early print; socio-politico-economic contexts; relics and reliquaries; genres and languages; cultural poetics. (The Society intends to feature a saint in this multidisciplinary way at future Kzoo meetings.)

PANEL 2. "Digitizing Saintly Space: Barking Abbey": Three speakers explain and use a new GPS/GoogleEarth-based, annotated re-creation of Barking Abbey to illuminate the lived experience of a holy place.

PANEL 3. "One Cult, Many Cultures: Comparative Geographies of Devotion": Up to six speakers, arranged in three pairs, each pair addressing a different saint, to compare and contrast regional articulations of saints' cults. Attention to cultic activity in Europe, Afro-Eurasia, and the New World is encouraged. Single speakers are welcome, but the presenter-pair concept aims to forward collaboration. These pairs do not simply present reports on their localities, but rather the results of joint reflection on contrasting local situations.

PANEL 4. "Naked Saints": Three speakers examine the representation of saintly bodies unclothed. Topics

might include tropes of disrobing (e.g., Francis), female nudity (e.g., the Magdalene at Vezeley), public extremity (e.g., the stylites), and skin as clothing (e.g. flayed saints, "putting on the new man").

PANEL 5. "Saints and Sensibility": Three speakers address emotions and affectivity in the cult of the saints. Topics might include the humors, affective meditation; shrines as sites for the performance of affect; liturgical rituals and festivals as education in affect; emotion in the range of hagiographic genres and allied genres. Pity, anger, fear, awe, hatred, mercy, disdain, love etc. all welcome, but also the intentional deformation or absence of affect.

Last year, we received an unprecedented number of proposals in response to our call for papers. We expect an even higher response this year. We ask Hagiography Society members to submit paper proposals by **1 September 2012**. Please send only full abstracts and the PIF form (available as a download from the Medieval Congress website). We will be unable to give answers regarding acceptance of individual papers until after 15 September. Papers submitted after 1 September may not get full consideration. E-mail proposals are preferred. Please submit proposals and PIF forms to Alison Frazier, Hagiography Society Program Chair, at akfrazier@austin.utexas.edu.

Calls for Papers

12-16 February 2013. "Cultures in Translation." Ninth Biennial International Conference, Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Melbourne, Australia. The conference seeks to explore the many varieties of translation at work in medieval and early modern studies. We invite papers which deal with diversity and change in areas such as language, culture, religion, space. We are interested in exploring both how medieval and early modern cultures understood translation, and how modern scholars make disciplinary, linguistic and social translations in their work. We encourage papers on these themes (and others pertaining to medieval and early modern studies), and papers from postgraduate students and early career researchers are especially welcome. Keynote speakers are Chris Baswell, Columbia University; Anne Dunlop, Tulane University; John Najemy, Cornell University; and Charles Zika, University of Melbourne.

We welcome proposals for standard paper presentations (typically 20 minutes) and for thematic panels comprising several presenters. Proposals should be no more than 200 words and must include your full name, contact details, Institutional affiliation & email address. Proposals should be uploaded at <http://bit.ly/uwsbuq>. To use this online system you will need to create an author account (a simple process) and then submit your proposal either by using copy/paste function or attaching it (with full details as listed above) as a PDF. Contact clare.monagle@monash.edu if you would like to discuss the format or focus of your presentation before you submit it, or if you are having trouble or questions regarding uploading your papers. The deadline is **1 September 2012**. There are some travel grants available for graduate students whose papers will focus on issues in the History of Emotions. These grants have been made available by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. If you would like to apply for a travel grant, please notify the organisers at the same time that the abstract is submitted by noting in the abstract or as an attachment.

9-12 May 2013. Call for Papers for the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, Session Sponsored by the Anglo-Saxon Hagiography Society (ASHS): "Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints' Lives."

We invite paper abstracts for a session dedicated to anonymous Anglo-Saxon hagiographical prose in either Old English or Anglo-Latin. There is a long tradition of studying vernacular saints' lives in Anglo-Saxon Studies, but a disproportionate amount of scholarly attention has been given to verse hagiographies and to those by Ælfric of Eynsham, the most famous named author of Old English prose saints' lives. Even though 40% of the extant prose corpus is non-Ælfrician, there remains a considerable gap in scholarship when it comes to anonymous Old English prose; similarly, Anglo-Latin saints' lives have received little attention. These texts warrant close study, not only because they remain understudied, but also because they can provide valuable insight into Anglo-Saxon religious culture and its concerns when approached as independent literary products in their own right.

This open-topic session welcomes papers on any aspect related to anonymous Anglo-Saxon prose saints' lives. It is sponsored by the recently founded Anglo-Saxon Hagiography Society (ASHS) to initiate what we hope will become an ongoing conversation

about and sustained exploration of the vernacular and Latin anonymous hagiography of Anglo-Saxon England.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words and the Participant Information Form (available at <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/submissions/index.html>) by **15 September 2012** to the session organizers: Robin Norris (robin_norris@carleton.ca) and Johanna Kramer (kramerji@missouri.edu). If preferred, hard copies may be sent to Johanna Kramer, Dept. of English, 114 Tate Hall, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

Other Upcoming Conferences

6-8 July 2012. "Religious Men in the Middle Ages." This conference, to be held at the University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, UK, seeks to explore and re-evaluate medieval men's relationship with religion, both professed religious men and laymen of any faith. Despite their centrality to 'traditional' histories of the Middle Ages, many aspects of the lives and representation of medieval men remain relatively unexplored. Only recently have scholars begun to consider what religion, belief and devotion meant to men as men and how these informed and intersected with other aspects of their identity (social status, gender, occupation, ethnicity, age, location, etc). The conference website is <http://www2.hud.ac.uk/mhm/history/research/conferences/religiousmen.php>.

9-11 July 2012. The 5th Biennial conference of the Society for Renaissance Studies will be held at the University of Manchester. The plenary speakers include Roger Chartier (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris/ Collège de France/ University of Pennsylvania); Alan Stewart (Columbia University); and Bette Talvacchia (Connecticut University). The 'Renaissance' will be broadly defined from the mid-1300s to the early 1700s (and globally understood), but papers that engage with questions of periodisation, disciplinarity and the later representation of this period are also welcomed. Please note that the SRS has agreed with the Renaissance Society of America: RSA members will not have to join the SRS to participate in this conference.

5-11 August 2012. The Fourteenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law will be held at Saint Michael's College in the University of Toronto, Canada.

23-26 August 2012. “Infirmity: Social and Cultural Approaches to Cure, Caring and Health.” The fifth international conference on Passages from Antiquity to the Middle Ages, to be held at the University of Tampere, Finland, will focus on social and cultural approaches to health and illness, cure and caring, and notions of ability and disability. The conference aims at broad coverage not only chronologically but also geographically and disciplinary (all branches of Classical and Medieval Studies). The speakers of the conference will include Nancy Caciola (University of San Diego), Véronique Dasen (University of Fribourg), William V. Harris (Columbia University), and Christian Krötzel (University of Tampere). For further information, please visit <http://www.uta.fi/trivium/passages/>

30 Aug-2 Sept. 2012. The theme of the SASMARS 2012 conference is “Mortality and Imagination: The Life of the Dead in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.” The conference will take place at Mont Fleur, Stellenbosch, South Africa. For more information please visit: <http://sasmars2012.blogspot.com/> .

Dubrovnik, 18-20 October 2012. The topic proposed as the focus of the fourth Hagiotheca conference, in collaboration with CULTSYMBOLS Project of the ESF (www.cultsymbols.net), is the way in which the cults of saints contributed to the creation of spatially delimited (regional) collective identities in the Middle Ages. The notion of *regio* can be understood broadly, as a flexible category which covers spatial entities of various sizes and kinds. The conference shall investigate how cults contributed to the changing internal divisions, the fluctuating evolution or resurgence of local, territorial and national (regional and transregional) identities. We invite papers discussing the following questions with respect to the medieval period (or rather from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period) addressing various regions of Europe. For information, send inquiries to cuius.patrocinio@gmail.com.

Selected Saint’s Feast Days

In celebration of Independence Day (U.S.) and forthcoming Bastille Day (France), here are a couple of medieval/early modern saints known for their political activities (every revolution needs to have a few peacemakers or penitent ex-soldiers!).



July 4th:

St.
Elizabeth
of
Portugal

St. Elizabeth of Portugal/of Aragon (d. 1336) was Queen of Portugal and a Franciscan tertiary. Elizabeth took an active part as a negotiator and peacemaker in treaties between Portugal and Castile and during the Portuguese Civil War of 1322-24.

(Image:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Isabel_Dinis_de_Portugal.jpg)



July 14th:

St.
Camillus
of Lellis

St. Camillus of Lellis (d. 1614) was a soldier who fought for the Venetians against the Ottoman Turks and spent most of his time out of battle fighting and gambling away his family’s money. Nagged by an old battle wound, he became a laborer at a Capuchin friary, had a conversion experience, and ultimately founded a hospital for the poor.

(Image: <http://salesianity.blogspot.com/2008/07/st-camillus-de-lellis-saint-for-sinners.html>)