

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXII, no. 3, December 2012

President's Report: Croatia 2012

In mid-October I attended an excellent conference held in scenic Dubrovnik, Croatia. "Saints' Cults and the Dynamics of Regional Cohesion" was organized collaboratively by the Croatian Hagiography Society HAGIOTHECA, the project CULTSYMBOL based in Scandinavia, and the OTKA Saints Project of Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. Participants included scholars from North America, Western Europe, and the Central European countries.

As someone who concentrates on Western European hagiography, I can testify that I learned an immense amount about saints of other regions and their imbrication in complex local and regional politics. The quality of presentations and discussion (all in English) was uniformly high, and the care that went into making the arrangements resulted in an enjoyably collegial four days.

Hagiography Society Elections

There is one very important position on the executive committee for which we will hold elections in 2012, the position of Society President. Ideally, the President would have served on the board or on one of the sub-committees (i.e. program) in the past. The secretary/treasurer position is also open for re-election, and the incumbent has agreed to stand for re-election. If you are interested in either position or have a nominee to suggest (especially for President), please email Jennifer Brown, Nominations Chair, at jbrown1@mmm.edu. Self-nominations are acceptable. We will have more information about the candidates in the March newsletter with elections to take place before Kalamazoo in May.

Hagiography Society Sessions Kalamazoo, 2013

This year the Hagiography Society is sponsoring a five sessions at Kalamazoo. The topics are below; full session details will appear in the March newsletter.

SESSION 1: "Multidisciplinary Saint Nicholas"

SESSION 2: "Digitizing Saintly Space: Barking Abbey"

SESSION 3: "One Cult, Many Cultures: Comparative Geographies of Devotion"

SESSION 4: "Saints and Sensibility I"

SESSION 5: "Saints and Sensibility II"

New Online Resources

A new **Online Database of Pilgrimage Studies** created at the University of York is designed to bring together information about pilgrimage-related publications, resources and research projects across all periods, cultures and regions. Disciplines represented include Art History, Archaeology, Architecture, History, Geography, Literature, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Tourism and Heritage Studies. The database is intended as a resource for researchers, teachers, students and practitioners.

You will find the database at <http://www.pilgrimagestudies.org.uk/>
If you would like to upload information about your own work, or that of others, or help us to test and improve the database, please email info@pilgrimagestudies.org.uk for a user account.

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.

Calls for Papers – Conferences

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.

We welcome contributions dealing with any aspect of the bishop’s activities and interactions at a local level. Potential topics include representations of power in architecture and literature, episcopal power and local saints’ cults, episcopal jurisdiction, the episcopal household and the relationship between a bishop and his cathedral chapter.

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words for papers, in English, of approximately twenty minutes in length to: Angelo Silvestri (SilvestriAM@cardiff.ac.uk); Melissa Julian-Jones (julianjonesmy@cardiff.ac.uk); Chris Dennis (ckd390@gmail.com); Hannah Buckingham (BuckinghamH@cardiff.ac.uk). The deadline for submissions is **28 February 2013**.

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.

Please send abstracts of 200-300 words to Dr Jane Cartwright, j.cartwright@tsd.ac.uk, School of Welsh and Bilingual Studies, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter SA48 7ED before **15 January 2013**.

8-9 March 2013. “AFTERLIFE,” the Eighteenth Annual Postgraduate Religion and Theology Conference hosted by the University of Bristol, brings together postgraduates and early-career academics working on the study of religions from a variety of perspectives and disciplines, creating a space for them to share their work and to further encourage research and collaboration within the University of Bristol (the host institution), other partner institutions, and among members of other universities within the South West region and beyond, within the United Kingdom and Ireland and abroad.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Ronald Hutton. We encourage applications that directly address the theme of the conference 'Afterlife' in all its interpretations, contributions are also welcome on any scholarly topic, and from all disciplines and areas related to the study of religions: theology, history, anthropology, sociology, archaeology, literature, art, music, etc. Presentations will be grouped in panels, each consisting of three 20-minute papers.

We are also accepting submissions for research posters. Displayed in the conference common room, these will allow further communication of research. A prize will be awarded to the poster voted best by the conference participants. Guidelines for the preparation of posters and a sample poster presentation can be found on the conference's website. Please note that an applicant may submit a poster as well as a paper and that both may be accepted, on the condition that they cover different topics.

Please submit abstracts for papers and/or posters through the University's 'Stop Shop' page at: <http://shop.bris.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?catid=521&modid=1&compid=1>. The deadline for submitting proposals will be 12:00 noon (Bristol time) on **15 January 2013**.

Kindly note that the organisers are not in a position to assist anyone with visas, and will not consider or accept abstracts from those who require assistance with visas. For more information and registration, please visit: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/gradschool/conferences/thrs/>. And join us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pgRTconference>. and on Twitter at: [@pgRTconference](https://twitter.com/pgRTconference)

Other Upcoming Conferences

7-9 February 2013. "Secularization, Mysticism and Religious Hybridities in the Mediterranean" will take place at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus. The aim of this international conference, sponsored by the Mediterranean Institutes of the University of Malta and Busan University, is to bring leading international experts from diverse humanistic and social sciences to discuss both the historical and the contemporary aspects of religion in the Mediterranean. The theme of Secularization,

Mysticism and Hybridities will be explored through the continuous interplay and/or influence that exists between religion and society in Mediterranean cultures.

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.

7-10 March 2013. "Pagans and Christians in the Late Roman Empire: New Evidence, New Approaches (4th-6th centuries)," will take place at the Central European University, Budapest, Hungary (www.ceu.hu).

This international conference is organized by the Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest, in cooperation with the University of Pécs and the Hungarian Patristic Society. The conference seeks to consider new evidence and new approaches to the material and textual remains that bear on the value of these categories in the Roman Empire between the fourth and the sixth centuries. Did these labels – pagans and Christians – matter in the daily lives of late Romans? Or are they only relevant in moments of conflict or for historians? To what degree does geography make a difference in assessing the nature of pagan-Christian relations? And, how does the presence of other religious groups – Jews and heretics, Manichees and schismatics – affect our understanding of pagan-Christian interactions in different times and places across the empire?

14-15 March 2013. "Preparing for Death in Medieval and Early Medieval Europe" will take place at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. The conference will investigate and explore the various ways and strategies medieval and early modern people used in attempting to prepare themselves and others – body, soul, property and memory – for the inevitable and omnipresent death. Although the timeframe is historical in order to achieve certain consistency, the conference aims at interdisciplinarity. Keynote speakers include a plenary lecture by Professor Richard H. Helmholz (Chicago Law School) and Docent Otfried Czaika (Kungliga Biblioteket, Stockholm).

Recent Book Publications

The two last proceedings of conferences organized by Croatian Hagiography Society (and one co-sponsored with The Hagiography Society) are now available, distributed by Leykam International an Austrian-Croatian publisher in Zagreb, Croatia (www.leykam-international.hr):

John S. Ott and Trpimir Vedriš, eds., *Saintly Bishops and Bishops Saints*, Bibliotheca Hagiographica - Series Colloquia II (Zagreb: Hagiographica-Humaniora, 2012).
Format: 15.5 x 23.5; Pages: 282; Binding: paperback ISBN: 978-953-56205-1-8
Price: 25.00 Euro: <http://www.leykam-international.hr/publikacija.php?id=112>

Ana Marinković and Trpimir Vedriš eds., *Identity and Alterity in Hagiography and the Cult of Saints*, Bibliotheca Hagiographica - Series Colloquia I (Zagreb: Hagiographica, 2010).
Format: 15.5 x 23.5; Pages: 290; Binding: paperback ISBN: 978-953-56205-0-1
Price: 25.00 Euro: <http://www.leykam-international.hr/publikacija.php?id=111>

You can contact Trpimir Vedriš at tvedris@ffzg.hr for more information about ordering and pricing.

Four Courts Press is delighted to announce the publication of *Legends of Scottish Saints: Readings, hymns and prayers for the commemorations of Scottish saints in the*

Aberdeen Breviary, ed. Alan Macquarrie
Hardback. 520pp. ISBN: 978-1-84682-332-9.
Retail Price: GB£50.00
<http://www.fourcourtspress.ie/product.php?intProductID=1061>

There is a new addition to the Central European Medieval Texts Series, a bilingual edition of medieval Central European legends edited by Gabor Klaniczay, titled *Saints of the Christianization Age of Central Europe, 10th-11th centuries*, see:
<http://www.ceupress.com/books/html/SaintsOfTheChristianizationAgehtm.htm>

Another book of interest is a study of sermons on Saint Elizabeth of Hungary by Ottó Gečser, *The Feast and the Pulpit. Preachers, Sermons and the Cult of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 1235-ca. 1500*:
http://www.cisam.org/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=806&osCsid=2a88d1e605ad908450da25bc1363ae01

This summer saw the publication of Jacqueline Borsje's book on *The Celtic Evil Eye and Related Mythological Motifs in Medieval Ireland*. Among other things, it deals with saints fighting people who cast the evil eye and with the evil eye motif in Saints' Lives. Please see: <http://www.peeters-leuven.be/boekoverz.asp?nr=9114>

Sheila Delany published *Anti-Saints: The New Golden Legend of Sylvain Maréchal* (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2011).

An invaluable *Companion to Catherine of Siena*, edited by Carolyn Muessig, George Ferzoco, and Beverly Mayne Kienzle, has appeared; see: <http://www.brill.com/companion-catherine-siena>

We welcome the reissue -- in paperback! -- of Virginia Nixon's book, *Mary's Mother: Saint Anne in Late Medieval Europe* (Penn State Press, 2004). See the description to the hardcover edition: <http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/0-271-02466-6.html>

A thorough study of *The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity* by Thomas Heffernan is out from OUP: <http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/ReligionTheology/HistoryofChristianity/EarlyChurch/?view=usa&ci=9780199777570>

Thomas Renna, translated and provided an introduction to *The Life and Miracles of St Margaret of Cortona (1247-97)*, by Fr Giunta Bevegnati (Franciscan Institute Publications 2012). ISBN 13 978-1576593011.

M. Cecilia Gaposchkin published *Blessed Louis: the Most Glorious of Kings* (University of Notre Dame Press). The book consists of the Latin and English of a number of (previously unedited) texts that the author came across in working on the cult and memorialization of Louis IX of France. These include two para-liturgical *vitae* (unknown) and two early sermons on Louis. The collection also includes translations of the most popular liturgies for Saint Louis' feast day. For more, see: <http://undpress.nd.edu/book/P01566>

Barking Abbey and Medieval Literary Culture: Authorship and Authority in a Female Community, edited by Jennifer N. Brown and Donna Alfano Bussell, is now out. Boydell and Brewer is offering a discount, for those who are interested: Available at 25% discount from the publisher. Just follow the link to the book's page on Boydell & Brewer's website (<http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=14070>), place in the basket and enter offer code BARK12 when you check out. The offer is valid until 31 January 2013.

Anne Simon's *The Cult of Saint Katherine of Alexandria in Late-Medieval Nuremberg: Saint and the City*, is now available from Ashgate (2012).

Brian O. Murdoch's *Gregorius: An Incestuous Saint in Medieval Europe and Beyond*, is available from Oxford University Press (2012).

Selected Saint's Feast Days

The month of December has no dearth of holy days in the Catholic calendar. Here is a small selection of perhaps less publicized medieval saint's days, focusing on those who, in various ways, lived within the apostolic tradition.



December 5th:
St. Sabas

St. Sabas (d. 532) fled an abusive home, landing in Jerusalem with the desire to live a monastic life. During his long career he was continually drawn to an eremitical existence, frequently withdrawing to a cave in the desert and, as a result, unwantingly gaining a large following. Nonetheless Sabas served the monastic community that developed and traveled in Palestine preaching the faith, dying on his return trip from Constantinople after helping to quell the Samaritan revolt. (<http://laboringintheLord.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/St.-Sabas.png>)



December 22nd:
Blessed Jacapone
da Todi

Jacopone da Todi (d. 1306) was of a noble family who underwent a conversion experience after his wife was killed. Jacopone became a *converso* and a member of the Third Order of St. Francis. In the "holy fool" tradition he was known for wandering in penitential rags and breaking into song. Eventually entering the Order of Friars Minor in 1278, Jacopone became embroiled in the *usus pauper* controversy and was excommunicated and imprisoned. Accepting it as penance, upon his release he wrote one of the most famous Latin hymns, the *Stabat Mater*. (<http://www.athenamillennium.it/dtb-immagini/archivio/high/20070320095503.jpg>)