Hagiography Society Business Meeting at Kalamazoo

The Hagiography Society invites members and their guests to lunch at the International Congress on Medieval Studies. Our annual business lunch will be held on Friday, May 11 from 11:30-1:30 in Bernhard G10 (in the basement, as last year). This year we will introduce the newly-elected officers to the executive committee and present our new book prize to our first recipient, Jeanne-Nicole Saint Laurent. Of course, we will also create panel plans for Kalamazoo 2019 and the other conferences we visit such as the SCSC, RSA, and AAR.

Please join us, and bring a friend! Lunch is $15.00 for faculty and $10.00 for students and unaffiliated scholars. You can pay at the door. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.

Please RSVP to Sara Ritchey at sritchey@utk.edu, preferably by May 1.

HS New Officers!
We are happy to announce the election results for the Hagiography Society (2018-2021). Please welcome the new board members and a hearty thanks to others who ran for the positions!

Nikolas Hoel as Nominations Chair (incumbent)
Barbara Zimbalist as Programming Chair (taking over for Sara Ritchey)
Lydia Walker as Communications Chair (taking over for Janine Larmon Peterson)

Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo

In addition to our sponsored sessions, Sara Ritchey, who has been program chair for the Hagiography Society for two terms, will be giving the keynote on Friday, May 11 at 8:30 am in the Bernhard East Ballroom on “‘Salvation is Medicine’: The Medieval Production and Gendered Erasures of Therapeutic Knowledge.”
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 select list of the most obviously relevant:

Session 30: Multi-Faceted Margarets: Textual and Visual Hagiographies of St. Margaret of Antioch
Session 73: Ecocritical Responses to Anchoritism
Session 89: Franciscan Women and Visual Imagination
Session 104: Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Saints’ Lives
Session 137: Catherine Mooney’s Clare of Assisi and the Thirteenth-Century Church
Session 163: Medieval Franciscan Preaching on Penance, Conversion, and the Sacramental Life
Session 193: Holy Women Breaking Bonds: Roles, Gender, Authority
Session 200: A Man’s Mary: Male Devotion to the Virgin Mary in the Later Middle Ages
Session 262: Medieval Franciscans and the History of Emotions
Session 303: Sanctity in the Middle Ages
Session 333: A Performance of the York Feast of St. Cecilia
Session 394: Holy Women Making Bonds: Relationships, Networks, Interpretations
Session 451: Catherine of Siena: Responses to André Vauchez Vie et passions

HS New Book Prize

The Hagiography Society is pleased to announce its book prize. This prize is awarded to a scholarly first English-language book written on any disciplinary subject that makes an outstanding contribution to the study and understanding of saints, holy men and women, virtue traditions, and the concept of sanctity in ideational, literary, artistic, and sociohistorical dimensions in the pre-modern period. Books concerning all geographies and religious systems are eligible. The monetary value of the prize is $500. The author of the book presented to the competition must be a member of the Hagiography Society by the time of the book’s submission. Each year, the prize committee will consist of three scholars called upon by the Society to fulfill the task of awarding the prize. The submission deadline for the prize is 30 May 2018, and the recipient of the prize will be announced latest by mid-fall of 2018. All books that have been published between April 2016-May 2017 are eligible for the prize. Please see our website for further submission information (http://www.hagiographysociety.org/?page_id=265).

Calls for Papers

Turku, Finland, 22–23 November 2018. The “Christianity and Politics Conference” will take place at the University of Turku. Christianity and Politics zooms in on Christianity with a critical focus on the examination of the relationship between Christianity and politics in the West. Under scrutiny will be the manifold ways in which Christianity and politics have been and are intertwined and exist in relation to one another, both in the past and in the contemporary world. How are Christianity and politics defined and delineated in relation to one another? How has the demarcation between Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and Protestants affected political culture in different areas over time? What are political Christianity and Christian politics, how are they visible in western societies, and how do they influence them? How was the unity of the political and religious realms manifested in the Middle Ages and what mark has this left on our societies? How and why did the European and American ways of conceiving the relationship between religion and politics become so different? In what kinds of non-institutional and often invisible forms is Christianity present in the field of politics? How is research on these topics itself political and to what extent should it be?

Submission of paper abstracts to open panels should be made through the conference webpage at christianityconf.utt.fi. The deadline for submission of abstracts (max. 200 words) is 30 April.

Lausanne, Switzerland, 28–30 March 2019. “Northern Lights: Late Medieval Devotion to Saints from the North of England.” will take place at the University of Lausanne. Plenary speakers are Julian Luxford (University of St Andrews), Catherine Sanok (University of Michigan), and Jocelyn Wogan-Browne (Fordham University). The conference will examine the ways in which Bede’s lauded northern saints (Cuthbert, Hilda, Aebbe, Ninian, Aidan, Oswald, John of Beverley, and others), and early post-conquest saints in the same northern tradition (Godric of Finchale, Robert of Knaresborough, Aelred of Rievaulx, William of York, etc.), were remembered and venerated between 1300 and 1500. Pursuing an interdisciplinary approach, it will take account of new textual, architectural, artistic and liturgical productions, pilgrimage cultures and shrine economies, the relations of these saints to their monastic custodians and local communities, and their utilisation to serve regional and national agendas. For further info., please see the conference webpage: http://wp.unil.ch/regionandnation/northernlights2019/. For the Call for Papers, please see http://wp.unil.ch/regionandnation/call-for-papers/. The deadline is 15 September.
Upcoming Conferences

Ronse, Belgium, 24-26 May 2018. The conference "Walking with saints: protection, devotion and civic identity," focuses on the origin and evolution of procession rites with a strong link with the landscape. This conference, therefore, aims at studying the religious landscape, be it a specific spot or a larger territory, not as the mere spatial background for spiritual activities, but as an active agent in the shaping, transmission and transformation of the spiritual activity of human beings throughout time. Hence, we invite also reflections on developments in the 19th and 20th centuries when a rediscovering of the past, both within and outside the Christian churches, was en vogue and when new ways of looking at the natural landscape were moulded in the aftermath of the industrialisation of the economy.

Saint Louis, Missouri, 18-20 June 2018. The Sixth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies will take place at St. Louis University. The goal of the Symposium is to promote serious scholarly investigation into all topics and in all disciplines of medieval and early modern studies. The plenary speakers for this year will be Geoffrey Parker of The Ohio State University, and Carole Hillenbrand of the University of St Andrews. While attending the Symposium, speakers are free to use the Vatican Film Library, the Rare Book and Manuscripts Collection, and the general collection at Saint Louis University's Pius XII Memorial Library. For more information online go to: http://smrs.slu.edu

Paris, France, 28-30 June 2018. This year’s IMS-Paris Symposium will be on “Truth and Fiction.” The keynote speakers are Patrick Boucheron, professor at the Collège de France and Maureen Boulton, professor emerita at Notre Dame. The IMS conference seeks to take a new look at the notion of Truth, its articulations, and its relationship with Fiction in the medieval world. The IMS-Paris is an interdisciplinary, bilingual (French/English) organization that fosters exchanges between French and foreign scholars. For more than a decade, the IMS has served as a center for medievalists who travel to France to conduct research, work or study. For more information about the IMS-Paris please visit www.ims-paris.org

Bristol, UK, 15-20 July 2018. The 21st Biennial Symposium of the International Sermon Studies Society will be held at the University of Bristol, organized by Carolyn Muesseg. The theme is “Medieval Monks, Nuns, and Monastic Life.” Information can be found at https://imsss.net/symposium-2018

Tampere, Finland, 23-25 August 2018. The University of Tampere will host "Neighbours or Strangers? Conflict, Negotiation, and Collaboration in Multicultural Communities.” The conference, part of “Passages from Antiquity to the Middle Ages VII,” aims at concentrating on social and cultural interaction within and between multi-ethnic and multilingual communities, groups and individuals, minority (minorities) and majority. Cooperation, toleration, and coexistence was an everyday necessity in Ancient and medieval societies. On occasion, however, these would turn into the opposite: suspicion, conflict, and violence, enhanced by power struggles and prejudices. All these had a central influence on social dynamics, negotiations of collective or individual identity, definitions of ethnicity, and shaping of legal rules. For further information, please visit http://www.uta.fi/trivium/passages/ or contact the organizers by sending an e-mail to passages@uta.fi. The registration opens in March 2018.

Book (and Other) Announcements


Fiona J. Griffiths, Nuns’ Priests’ Tales: Men and Salvation in Medieval Women’s Monastic Life http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15763.html

Katherine Jansen, Peace and Penance in Late Medieval Italy https://press.princeton.edu/titles/11185.html