

Hagiography Society Newsletter

Volume XXVII, no. 2, August 2017

Executive Committee Elections

Elections for three executive committee positions will be held this coming year. We are soliciting nominations for the positions of: **Programming Chair**, **Communications Chair**, and **Nominations Chair**. The terms are three years.

If you are interested in these positions, or wish to nominate someone, please email our current Nominations Chair, Nikolas Hoel, at n-hoel@neiu.edu by **December 1**. Short bios of those interested will appear in the December/January edition of the newsletter. Elections will take place this spring before the Society's Business Meeting at Kalamazoo 2018.

The Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award

The Hagiography Society is pleased to announce the Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award for Hagiographical Studies. Now in its fifth year, the award is named in honor of the beloved founder and long-time leader of the Society. The award provides \$300 to be used toward travel to present at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, held annually at the University of Western Michigan in Kalamazoo, MI.

Eligibility: Students enrolled in a graduate program (anywhere in the world) whose paper, on a topic involving hagiography, has been accepted for inclusion in the program of the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, are eligible to apply.

Application: Please submit the following documents, combined in a single PDF file, by **November 1** to the Secretary / Treasurer of the Hagiography Society (Amy Ogden, avo2n@virginia.edu):

- a current curriculum vita
- the abstract for the accepted paper, identifying the panel on which it will be presented
- a cover letter, addressing the following questions:
 - How does this paper fit into your scholarly trajectory?
 - Have you presented at a scholarly conference before?
 - Have you received other funding for travel (this paper or others)?

Successful applicants will be informed of the results by December 15.

Hagiography at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference

Hope to see you at this session in Milwaukee, WI on 26-29 October 2017.

Sacred Biography Across the Continents: On the Limits of Hagiography as a Category of Analysis

Chair: Lezlie Knox, Marquette University

"Listen to the Dead: Saint Lawrence of Rome and the Politics of Christian Suffering" - Erik Alder, Truman State University

"The 'Saintly' Abbess: The Leben and Nachleben of Caritas Pirckheimer (1467-1532)" - Katya Mouris, Catholic University of America

"Mother Juana de la Cruz and Gendered Hagiographical Expectations" - Kevin Elphick, Independent Scholar

"Trading Saints in the Luso-Hispanic World and the Case of Santa Rosa de Rima" - Stephen Hart, University College London

HS at the American Academy of Religion Meeting

The Hagiography Society will hold a business meeting as an affiliate organization at the AAR meeting, which takes place in Boston, MA from 18-21 November 2017. It will be on Saturday from 1:00-2:00 pm at the Westin Copley Place-St. George A-B (Third Level). Please attend and bring a friend!

In addition, the day before the AAR, on November 17, there is a pre-conference day-long event that will engage participants in a critical discussion of the comparative cross-cultural study of religious life writings on "**Comparative Hagiology: Cross-cultural Approaches to Religious Life Writings.**" Individuals wishing to participate must register via the AAR Conference registration portal: <https://www.aarweb.org/annual-meeting/registration-housing>

In the registration form, choose the "Comparative Hagiology" workshop Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, registration fee \$25.00 - this will include morning and afternoon snacks and drinks, though not lunch. Please note that the workshop is capped at 30 participants! For any questions, please contact Massimo Rondolino at mrondoli@carrollu.edu



Hagiography Society Sessions at Kalamazoo: CFPs

Holy Marketing

Medieval tombs, shrines, and sacred spaces were often crafted through the collaborative efforts of a network of agents. In competitive religious environments, ecclesiastical and secular figures who managed such holy sites drew profit from the contributions of pilgrims, and often found themselves in competition for the same "business" of attracting these visitors. They worked to imbue a site with the holy attributes of a particular saint, transforming it into an important nucleus of social and economic activity. In this way, these sites and objects became "material hagiographies" that attracted pilgrims and devotees in similar and dissimilar manner to textual hagiographies. The papers in this session will examine this material "genre" of hagiography and its socioeconomic influence.

Contact: Felege-Salam Yirga and Taiko Haessler;
yirga.5@buckeyemail.osu.edu or
Taiko.Haessler@colorado.edu

The Golden Legend and the Standardization of Sanctity

On the occasion of the 720th obit anniversary of Jacobus de Varagine (d. 1298), this panel will engage multiple threads of inquiry surrounding his production of *The Golden Legend*. In particular, we wish to examine how the compilation affected hagiographic practice and saintly representation. For an interdisciplinary panel that will involve discussion of manuscripts, texts, liturgy, and artistic programs, we ask: how did *The Golden Legend* shape models of individual saints and of late medieval sanctity more generally? Can we detect moments of resistance to hagiographic standardization? How does the political, religious, and cultural context of Jacobus's world in thirteenth-century Liguria shape our understanding of his compilational logic?

Contact: Courtney Rydel, cerydel@gmail.com)

Beyond Delooz: Sanctity Individual and Corporate

Sanctity, as Pierre Delooz argued long ago, is a collaborative construct. Yet just as all saints are constructed by a community, to use his classic formulation, they also function as individual exemplars of a sanctity uniquely situated within a nexus of localized, gendered, and politicized concerns. This panel seeks new work on the intersectional nature of sanctity—specifically, on the relationship between individual and corporate sanctity. It invites papers to reconsider Delooz' influential formulation of constructed sanctity by interrogating the very nature of that construction in different contexts of sanctity and cultures of holiness. It asks: who or what constructs a saint, and how does that construction balance and encompass both individual and corporate concerns? How does individual subjectivity—of the saint and/or the community member—intersect with its collaborative construction?

What is the relationship between collective memory and individual subjectivity? How do the texts and literature that codify sanctity reflect, generate, and even instantiate both the collaborative construction of the saint as well as an individual saint—and to what ends and/or purpose? And finally, how does the materiality and textuality of sanctity seek to construct individual holiness through corporate literacy?

Contact: Barbara Zimbalist, bezimbalist@utep.edu



Other Calls for Papers

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 Muessig. The theme is "Medieval Monks, Nuns, and Monastic Life."

Topics for posters and papers may include:

- the form or content that could distinguish a monastic sermon from others
- monks, nuns, and monasticism in Byzantine or other forms of medieval Eastern and African Christianity
- the Rule of Benedict and preaching
- preaching in monastic churches and chapter houses
- monastic figures preaching in public forums (churches, crusades)
- monastic preaching in or regarding schools and universities
- preaching by and about nuns
- de sanctis sermons on holy monks and nuns
- monasticism as treated in sermons
- sermons and the reformed monastic life
- preaching by and about hermits
- monastic rules in and about preaching
- monastic communities in conflict or in harmony
- monastic rejection/appropriation of mendicant sermons/preaching/identity
- monks as characters in sermons, exempla and religious literature
- gender in monastic preaching
- monks/nuns in ad status sermon literature
- monastic preaching in art
- monks, nuns, and monasticism in pre-modern sermons of religious traditions other than Christianity (e.g. , Islam, Buddhism, Taoism)
- the influence of Christian monks, nuns, & monastic sermons on preaching in other religions

Please send your 150-word abstracts to: imsss-2018@bristol.ac.uk by **30 September**. Information can be found at <https://imsss.net/symposium-2018>



Other Upcoming Conferences

Rome, Italy, 4-6 October 2017. The 6th Hagiotheca conference “The Saints of Rome: Diffusion and Reception from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period,” co-organized by the newly-founded Hungarian Hagiography Society and the Croatian Hagiography Society, will take place in the Hungarian Academy in Rome, 4-6 October 2017. The proceedings will be published in the *Hagiotheca Series Colloquia* by the Croatian Hagiography Society. For information, please contact sanctiromae@gmail.com

Kaunas, Lithuania, October 5-6, 2017. “Religion(s) and Power(s)” is the topic of the upcoming international conference of the Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions, in cooperation with the Latvian Society for the Study of Religions and Estonian Society for the Study of Religions. It will be held at Vytautas Magnus University. For information, please contact religiousstudieslt@gmail.com

Minneapolis, MN, 5-8 October 2017. The 43rd Annual Byzantine Studies Conference to be held at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, We invite session proposals on any topic relevant to Byzantine studies. Please contact Brandie Ratliff (mjcbac@hchc.edu), Director, Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture with any questions.

Nicosia, Cyprus, 12-14 January 2018. The **Byzantinist Society of Cyprus (BEK)** announces the Second Conference of Byzantine and Medieval Studies. The languages of the conference will be Greek, English, French and German. The Scientific and Organizing Committee is Nikolas Bakirtzis (Chair), Andreas Foulis, Maria Parani, Stavros Georgiou, Ourania Perdiki, Doria Nicolaou, Christina Kakkoura, Andriani Georgiou, Efthymia Priki, Rania Michail, Thomas Costi, Despina Papacharalampous, Maria Skordi. The conference website is <http://byzantinistsociety.org.cy/cbms2018/>



Book (and Other) Announcements

Epstein, Steven A. *The Talents of Jacopo da Varagine: A Genoese Mind in Medieval Europe*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2016. Pp. xii, 300. \$59.95. ISBN: 978-1-5017-0050-7.

Laugerud, Henning, Salvador Ryan, and Laura Katrine Skinnebach, eds. *The Materiality of Devotion in Late Medieval Northern Europe: Images, Objects, Practices*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2016. Pp. ix, 191. €29.95. ISBN: 978-1-84682-503-3.

Prudlo, Donald S. *Certain Sainthood: Canonization and the Origins of Papal Infallibility in the Medieval Church*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2015. Pp. 232. \$49.05. ISBN: 978-0-8014-5403-5.

Forthcoming in October 2017 from the University of Notre Dame Press: Larry F. Field, trans., *Visions of Sainthood in Medieval Rome: The Lives of Margherita Colonna by Giovanni Colonna and Stefania*. Edited by Lezlie S. Knox and Sean L. Field. Available in paperback (\$29), e-book, and hardcover. <http://undpress.nd.edu/books/P03346>

The Institute of History, University of Warsaw, is seeking to recruit a post-doctoral researcher for a position in the project The Cult of Saints: a Christendom-wide study of its origins, spread and development. The Project is supported by an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council under Grant Agreement Number 340540 and is based at the University of Oxford with a partnership at the University of Warsaw. The successful candidate will work as part of a team of seven post-doctoral researchers reporting to the Principal Investigator, Prof. Bryan Ward-Perkins (University of Oxford), but under direct supervision of Dr. hab. Robert Wiśniewski (University of Warsaw). The postholder will have responsibility for collecting Latin evidence consisting mostly of literary texts, within an electronic searchable database. The postholder is also expected to produce sole-authored articles on aspects of the cult of saints in the West. This is a full-time time position for 12 months, starting on 1 November 2017 or soon thereafter. The postholder will be offered the salary of about 2 700 Euros per month.

For more information about the project see:

<http://cultofsaints.history.ox.ac.uk>.

If you have any questions about the project or the recruitment procedure, please address them to Robert Wiśniewski (r.wisniewski@uw.edu.pl)