

ACMRS NEWS

APRIL 2012

NEW PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFF TO A GREAT START!

Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Public Programs Series

Fearless Females:
Audacious and Uppity Women of the
Middle Ages and Renaissance

"The Widow, the Prince, and the Book:
How Christine de Pizan Rewrote History"
Mark Cruse, Assoc. Prof. of French
School of International Letters and Cultures, ASU

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 PM
UNIVERSITY CLUB, HERITAGE ROOM
ASU, TEMPE CAMPUS
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Arizona Center for
Medieval and
Renaissance Studies

Women and Gender Studies in the
ASU SCHOOL of SOCIAL
TRANSFORMATION
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to acmrs@acmrs.org

The new ACMRS Public Programs series "Fearless Females: Audacious and Uppity Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance" was a bigger success than even we had planned (additional chairs had to be brought into the room!). ACMRS Director Robert Bjork welcomed almost 70 attendees, who filled the Heritage Room at the University Club to capacity.

The first lecture in the series started with a lively program by respected scholar and ASU School of International Letters and Cultures Associate Professor Mark Cruse on the "woman of the hour," Christine de Pizan. It highlighted her life and illustrated the incontrovertible impact she had on her culture and times, to the delight of the attendees. It also showed how her love of learning echoes throughout the centuries and remains just as relevant today as it was in the 1400s.

Christine de Pizan was not afraid to speak her mind, and in her *City of Ladies*, she exhibits the freedom of thought of a proto-feminist. Her writings, poetry, and illuminated manuscripts were in demand and, thankfully, a significant body of work exists today for us to study. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Cruse welcomed any and all questions from the audience – and they were not bashful. Questions came from all corners of the room, from students as well as general community attendees. Lively discussions between audience members themselves and with Dr. Cruse did not skip a beat as everyone moved from the Heritage Room to the Traditions Room for a dessert reception.

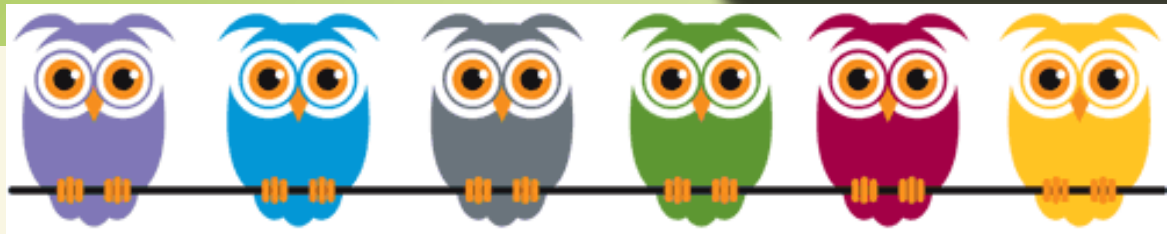
The true barometer of a successful program is . . . does the audience want more? And this audience did. The most asked question was 'when is the next program?' Some attendees did not want to wait until August, but once they learned the next audacious lady to be discussed is Anne Boleyn along with other "Wicked Women of Tudor England" by Dr. Retha Warnicke, the scholar who advised the BBC and Showtime on the series *The Tudors*, everyone wanted to make certain they were included on our email list. For more information about this new ACMRS initiative, please visit: <http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series>

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On Saturday, March 3rd ACMRS was joined by the Society for Creative Anachronism and its ASU chapter, the College of Brymmstone, for a fun-filled open house called the Night of the Open Door! For four hours, ASU opened its

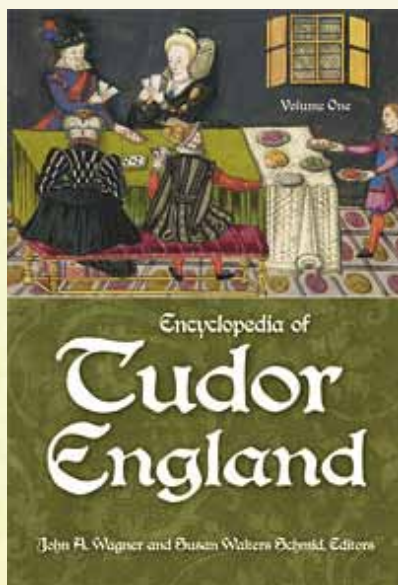
doors to the public to show off the amazing things going on here at the university. Each department created its own unique activities and projects for allages, and had a great time doing it. ACMRS hosted "Medieval Days and Knights," an interactive medieval environment complete with calligraphy, rope-making, armor displays, weaving, embroidery, Renaissance dance lessons, and arbalest sharp-shooting! We brought out our facsimile display of the St. John's Bible too! Hundreds of families from the community were in attendance: so many that ASU decided to make this an annual event! Everyone had a great time and learned all about the Middle Ages and Renaissance. For more information about the Night of the Open Door event at ASU, visit: <http://opendoor.asu.edu/>.



A New Resource for History Lovers!

The Encyclopedia of Tudor England

By John A. Wagner and Susan Walters Schmid, Editors



Authority and accessibility combine to bring the history and the drama of Tudor England to life. Almost 900 engaging entries cover the life and times of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, Elizabeth I, William Shakespeare, and much, much more. A fascinating period of great change and larger-than-life men and women, the Tudor years are filled with intriguing stories. In 1535, for instance, a member of Parliament accused Henry VIII of having sexual relationships with both Anne Boleyn's sister and her mother. Startled, the king muttered "never with the mother," thereby inadvertently confirming a relationship with Anne's sister, Mary. Written for high school students, college undergraduates, and public library patrons—indeed, for anyone interested in this important and colorful period—the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Tudor England* illuminates the era's most important people, events, ideas, movements, institutions, and publications. Concise, yet in-depth entries offer comprehensive coverage and an engaging mix of accessibility and authority. Chronologically, the encyclopedia

spans the period from the accession of Henry VII in 1485 to the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. It also examines pre-Tudor people and topics that shaped the Tudor period, as well as individuals and events whose influence extended into the Jacobean period after 1603. Geographically, the encyclopedia covers England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and also Russia, Asia, America, and important states in continental Europe. Topics include the English Reformation, the development of Parliament, the expansion of foreign trade, the beginnings of American exploration, the evolution of the nuclear family, and the flowering of English theater and poetry, culminating in the works of William Shakespeare. Susan Walters Schmid is an independent scholar and a long-time Friend of ACMRS.

Source: ABC-CLIO at <http://www.abc-clio.com>

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD PRESENTATION: ALAYA SWANN, ASU DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



ACMRS is pleased to announce Alaya Swann as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper "Navigating that Narrow Space: Mystical Midwifery and Birgitta of Sweden." Alaya is a Ph.D. student in medieval English literature at ASU. On March 14th she gave a remarkable preview of her research before an audience of her peers, sparking much interest and a lively discussion. Alaya will present her winning paper at the annual medieval conference held at Western Michigan University in May 2012. This award provides an all-expenses-paid trip to the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, one of the biggest conferences in medieval studies in the world. We are currently accepting submissions for the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2012.

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ACMRS Television Debut



What do the Da Vinci Code mystery, television and a mysterious letter have in common? ACMRS! Walt Knox, owner of the Knox Gallery brought a letter he had purchased into ACMRS for translation. The letter was written in Latin in October 1427 on vellum, but it was written in a clerical shorthand that is fairly indecipherable.

As part of the ACMRS overall drive to interest the public in things medieval and Renaissance, Channel 12 was contacted about the letter to determine a level of interest. The excitement about the letter from the news station was off the charts! In fact, we were asked not to contact any other station or reporter about this letter – they wanted the exclusive. Anchor Scott Light with cameraman Thomat spent two hours (normally an interview is shot in 15 minutes), and the interview turned into a featured story.

The interview went extremely well with ACMRS Director Robert Bjork and Latin scholar Dr. Mira Poudrier answering a myriad of insightful questions from Light and included several camera shots of the letter. After donning the white gloves, Dr. Poudrier carefully unfolded the letter with its original red wax seal and began to translate

the first few sentences. We know that the letter was from King Ladislaus of Naples about financial arrangements, quite possibly taxation of some sort. The rest remains a mystery.

After studying the language in the letter, Light asked Professor Bjork, a world-renowned scholar of *Beowulf*, about “Old English,” so Bjork read a few lines of *Beowulf* to give viewers of the show an idea of how different our English is to the original spoken English.

Once all serious matters were handled, it was time for fun. A conference room was set up with items ACMRS uses for the Traveling Classroom program and that was when everyone joined in the fun. Light along with Thomat tried on the helmets, the chain mail, had a go at the swords, and tried his hand at actual quill pens. The highlight was Light using the trebuchet, a type of catapult. He was surprisingly good, knocking down the majority of “targets” – stacked cups. While much of the two hours remains in the “can” at the station for possible future use because of time constraints, the following link provides some of the interview. <http://www.azcentral.com/video/1533202409001>



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ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES CONNELL

Charles Connell is Professor and Chair of History at Northern Arizona University. He has as a member of the teaching faculty at ACMRS Summer Cambridge in 2005 and 2011 where he taught courses on nineteenth-century English Medievalism and the Tudor reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. He has presented the results of his ongoing research on public opinion in the Middle Ages in a symposium sponsored by ACMRS at ASU in Tempe, and has just joined the Advisory Board for ACMRS in Winter 2012.

Professor Connell focuses his research interests in several directions centering on the High Middle Ages--- including the Crusades, public opinion, popular culture, and communication media; Medievalism in nineteenth-century Britain and America and the Medievalism of C.S. Lewis; East-West interactions (e.g., Mongols, Saracens and their images in the West and vice-versa); and , the role of fear in medieval cultural interactions. His most recent and forthcoming publications include articles on "Origins of Medieval Public Opinion in the Peace of God Movement," in *War and Peace*, ed. Classen and Margolis (2011); "From Spiritual Necessity to Instruments of Torture: Water in the Middle Ages," in *The Nature and Function of Water*, ed. Kosso and Scott (2009); and, "The Voice of the Poor and the Tin Ear of Nineteenth-Century Medievalism," in *Poverty and Prosperity*, ed. Kosso and Scott (2012).

Forthcoming articles include "Issues of Humanity in the Rhetoric of Crusade Preaching," in *Humanity and the Natural World*, ed. Newhauser and Hawkes (forthcoming 2013); and articles on "Foreigners and Fear," "Public Opinion and Public Culture," and "Sermons" for *Medieval Culture: A Compendium of Critical Topics*, ed. Classen (forthcoming, 2013). In addition Professor Connell has published two edited volumes on *The Roles of Medieval Women*, and *Literary and Historical Perspectives of the Middle Ages*, plus a number of other articles and book reviews over the several decades of his academic career.

In addition to teaching and research, Professor Connell has more than twenty years of administrative experience on several university campuses, having served as chief academic officer and/or provost at Northern Arizona University, the University of South Alabama, and ASU West prior to returning to full-time teaching and research in 2000. To learn more about Professor Connell's current research and course offerings, visit his webpage at: <http://nau.edu/CAL/History/Faculty-Staff/Connell/>



UPCOMING ACMRS EVENTS

APRIL



ASU Semester Ends
April 24th

*Membra Disjecta & the
Fragmentary Nature of
Museum Collections:
The Cloisters as a Case Study*

Nancy Wu
Education Director for the
Cloisters at the Metropolitan
Museum of Art

April 10th at 9:00 AM
ART Bldg. Room 246
Open to the public

**Teaching Medieval Art
in the Age of Multiculturalism**

Nancy Wu
Education Director for the Cloisters
at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

April 11th at 6:00 PM
SHESC 340

Open to the public
Reception to follow
Sponsored by ACMRS

Solis Camerata Concert
*Vespers of 1610,
Claudio Monteverdi*
April 22nd at 3:00 PM

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church
25150 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale
Contact Kira Rugen at
kiradawn@asu.edu
for more information

MAY

ASU Convocation
May 3rd



For more information about ACMRS news and events, visit our website at
<http://acmrs.org/news/events> or send an email to acmrs@acmrs.org.

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