ACMRS NEWS
December 2012

BAGWYN BOOKS NEW RELEASE:
DEATH BEFORE COMPLINE
BY SHARAN NEWMAN

ACMRS is extremely proud to announce the launch of its new imprint for medieval and Renaissance historical fiction - BAGWYN BOOKS. For decades ACMRS has been known world-wide for publishing scholarly research for the academic community. Taking advantage of our immediate access to world-acclaimed scholars, scholars across all disciplines and our experience as an established publisher, Bagwyn Books was founded in 2011 and is solely dedicated to publishing well-researched, historically accurate fiction. Bagwyn’s first publication (now available) is from celebrated historical-mystery writer, Sharan Newman. Death Before Compline, a collection of short stories that take us into the day to day reality of medieval religious and family life, as it is lived by a variety of people: from nuns, noble people, scholars, courtiers, merchants, hermetic spinsters and children. Newman will also be featured at our Fearless Females program regarding women of the Crusades on January 9th.

Bagwyn Books was created for avid readers and history aficionados as well as writers. Bagwyn Books allows lovers of the medieval and Renaissance eras an opportunity to express their creativity in fiction – a history-lover’s dream! We invite the submission of proposals for book-length fiction manuscripts from new, emerging, and established authors. Priority will be given to works centering on or connected to the medieval and Renaissance periods (400 C.E. to 1700 C.E.) but novels from all eras are welcome. Authors interested in submitting a manuscript for review, please see our submission guidelines for more information. http://acmrs.org/publications/bagwyn

Book signing and Fearless Females presentation!
Wednesday, January 9 at 6:30pm

Death Before Compline
Short Stories
by Sharan Newman
ACMRS invites session and paper proposals for its annual interdisciplinary conference to be held 14–16 February, 2013 at the Renaissance Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona. We welcome papers that explore any topic related to the study and teaching of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and especially those that focus on this year’s theme of beasts, humans, and transhumans, both in literal and metaphorical manifestations. Note: Transhumans are those liminal beings between beast and human such as Grendel in Beowulf. Iago in Othello could be considered such as well as could MacBeth. We will be accepting submissions until December 28, 2012. Please visit our website for more information on how to submit: http://acmrs.org/conferences/annual-acmrs-conference

Before the conference, ACMRS will host a workshop on manuscript studies to be led by Timothy Graham, Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico. This event takes participants through each step of the process of creating a medieval manuscript. The workshop will be Thursday afternoon, February 14, and participation will be limited to 25 participants, who will be determined by the order in which registrations are received. The cost of the workshop is $30 and is in addition to the regular conference registration fee. Please email acmrs@acmrs.org with any questions.
Selected papers related to the conference theme will be considered for publication in the conference volume of the Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance series, published by Brepols Publishers (Belgium).

**Deadlines:** The deadline for proposals is 9:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time on 28 December 2012. Proposals must include audio/visual requirements and any other special requests. Subsequent a/v requests may not be honored without additional charge.

**Keynote Speaker**

This year’s keynote speaker will be Professor Juliana Schiesari, Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, Professor of French/Italian and Comparative Literature, University of California, Davis. Professor Schiesari’s areas of research include: feminist theory, psychoanalysis, Renaissance and early modern literature, women’s literature and cultural studies. She is currently writing a book on the politics of domestication of women and animals. For more information about Prof. Schiesari, please visit the UC Davis website: [http://frenchanditalian.ucdavis.edu/people/profile/219?destination=people/profile/219](http://frenchanditalian.ucdavis.edu/people/profile/219?destination=people/profile/219)

**LES ENFANS SANS ABRI**

Making you laugh in the most unexpected places! Since 1989, the ad hoc medieval / Renaissance troupe Les enfants sans abri (LESA) has been performing comedies all over southern California, in Arizona and New York, even in Europe. They have performed many times at the ACMRS annual conference and we look forward to seeing them again in February 2013! For more information about Les enfants sans abri, please visit their website at: [http://www.lesenfanssansabri.com](http://www.lesenfanssansabri.com)
World-renowned Yale professor, Dr. Jaime Lara, accepts a joint appointment with ACMRS and the Hispanic Research Center. Dr. Lara will assume full-time research professorship beginning August 2013. Together with ASU and other colleagues throughout the world, Professor Lara is developing an ambitious and distinctive research, publication, sponsored project, and multimedia outreach agenda at ASU.

Professor Lara taught at Yale University from 1995 to 2009, when he retired as Chair, Program in Religion and the Arts, Yale University Divinity School & Institute of Sacred Music. From 2010 to 2012 he was a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame, and he successfully received and completed a John Simon Memorial Foundation Senior Fellowship and a Senior Fellowship at The Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. We are very excited to welcome him into our medieval and Renaissance scholarly community here at ACMRS!

What happens when you combine dedicated scholars from across the globe, across several disciplines, ten years of painstaking research and today’s technology? A miracle that allows one to literally dive head first into the humor, politics, music and lives of people in the Middle Ages and see striking color illuminations and illustrations as a bonus. On November 27th the opening of “The Geese Book” also opened a new era combining the latest technology and shared research that is now open and available to scholars, students, history buffs and the community – anywhere in the world. The history of this remarkable lavish and whimsically illuminated, two-volume liturgical book starts in Germany where it was produced between 1503 – 1510 and gives the complete liturgy compiled for the parish of St. Lorenz, which was used until the Reformation was introduced in the city in 1525. It was hidden during both world wars and has survived in extraordinary condition – the illuminations are still brilliant with the original binding. The project consists of several components and products. The centerpiece is a website that contains a digital facsimile allowing, for the first time, unrestricted access to its 1120 pages. Users can listen to chants characteristic of the liturgy of the early 16th century, performed by the renowned Schola Hungarica of Budapest. ACMRS affiliated professors Dr. Corine Schleif and Dr. Volker Schier managed this project from the beginning to the present. To experience the magic of this manuscript, please visit the website: http://geesebook.asu.edu/
Albrecht Classen to be honored as Arizona Professor of the Year

By BRITTNY MEJIA Published November 14, 2012

Albrecht Classen almost cried when he learned he won the 2012 Professor of the Year award for the state of Arizona, but the German-born German Studies professor is no stranger to recognition for his work.

Awards line the walls of Classen’s office and help serve as a testament to the appreciation for his work and teaching ability. This week, Classen will receive three additional honors to add to the wall. On Wednesday, Classen will be inducted as honorary member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Later this week, he’ll also receive an award known as “Friend of German” from the American Association of Teachers of German. The Friend of German award “recognizes outstanding support for and promotion of German and the study of German at the local, regional, or national level,” according to the association’s website.

Probably most significant is the fact that this week Classen will receive an award for U.S. Professor of the Year for 2012 in Arizona from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. When he found out he won, he said he felt moved. The U.S. Professor of the Year award is for “the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country,” according to the main website.

To view the full article and view the interview with Professor Classen, please visit the UA website: http://www.wildcat.arizona.edu/article/2012/11/classen-awards-teacher-arizona-111412

Robert Bjork Speaks on Beowulf to the English Speaking Union Phoenix Chapter

As part of the ACMRS Public Programs, Director, Professor Robert Bjork was invited to speak to the prestigious English Speaking Union – Phoenix Chapter. The presentation consisted of a new look at the epic poem Beowulf. Members of the association were captivated by the presentation that included references to today’s world and how the poem still lives on today and is still discussed and researched – centuries later. Professor Bjork read excerpts from the poem in Old English to give the audience an idea of what the poem actually sounded like when read in the original language. After the presentation a lively Q&A followed with several members asking questions that ranged from the meaning of the poem, what the author wanted to convey to how it has transcended the centuries and is claimed by different countries as the country of origin. The guests were able to view several medieval artifacts including swords, helmets, a morningstar and chain mail from the ACMRS collection at the end of the presentation. Our thanks to all members of this wonderful group.

The English Speaking Union is an international non-profit organization established by Royal Charter with Her Majesty The Queen as patron and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as President. The ESU is a registered charity in the UK with a US office headquarters in New York.
Saturday, December 15, 2012

**A Celtic Christmas - Solis Camerata**, the Phoenix Irish Cultural Center’s Celtica! and popular Irish band Kilted Spirit perform Christmas melodies and carols derived from Celtic culture.

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.
**Location:** Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
100 W. Roosevelt, Phoenix, AZ
Admission at the door only: $8 for general admission, $5 for students with valid ID

**Solis Camerata:** *Choir of the Sun* A company of singers, instrumentalists, scholars, dancers, thespians and historians dedicated to the study and performance of ancient music. This ensemble explores many facets of music composed over the last 1000 years such as ritualistic chant, ethereal folk melodies, pagan incantations, angelic church motets and renaissance courtly dance music. In performance, the music is shared in visual and aural realms, to evoke a timeless experience.

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Join us for our next program in the popular, “Fearless Females: Audacious and Feisty Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance” to hear Professor Ian Moulton of the School of International Letters & Cultures at ASU speak on the “Princesses, Courtesans, and Warrior Women.”

Renowned Renaissance scholar, Professor Moulton, explores the remarkable women of the Borgia and Medici families in Renaissance Italy in both fantasy and reality - this is a program you won’t want to miss!

Professor Moulton is the author of Before Pornography: Erotic Writing in Early Modern England (Studies in the History of Sexuality) 2005. This program is free and open to the public. To learn more about this new public programs initiative, please visit our website at:

http://acmrs.org/public-programs/public-lecture-series

Seating is limited. Please RSVP at http://italianwomen.eventbrite.com/

This program is generously co-sponsored by:
- Project Humanities and
- Women & Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation at ASU.

This program will be held at Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe, Arizona.
With the holidays quickly approaching, everyone at ACMRS would like to be the first to wish our readers and supporters a most happy, healthy and joyous holiday season. This has been a year of exciting changes and firsts for ACMRS and we are looking forward to next year with even more exciting news to share with all of you. Because of the continued support from our donors, we have made a positive impact on students, on scholars and our community. A few highlights we would like to share are:

- Retired Yale University professor and renowned scholar, Dr. Jaime Lara, has accepted a multi-year joint appointment with ACMRS and the Hispanic Research Center to begin in August 2013.
- A significant increase of students in our Study Abroad program – we had a record 48 applicants filling the program to our allotted capacity accepting 29 students for the three-week abroad program. For 2013, the program will move to Oxford University and we are again expecting tremendous interest.
- The expansion of our study abroad program to include study in Prato, Italy.
- The increased number of scholar/academic research texts published with continued recognition worldwide.
- The successful Public Programs initiative:
- Fearless Females: Audacious and Feisty Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Programs feature bold, feisty women from around the world – France, England, Latin America and China; including Christine de Pizan and Anne Boleyn. December’s featured women are the Medicis and Borgias – women of Italy. Please see http://italianwomen.eventbrite.com/ to reserve a seat for December 5th.
- Speaking to community groups and book clubs both at ASU and around Phoenix.
- Special ad hoc lectures – upcoming in 2013 is Catherine The Great
- The launch of our own imprint for historical fiction – Bagwyn Books (see article for more information) with the publication of our first book from acclaimed author Sharan Newman.

However, none of the above - research, programs and student support would be possible without the generosity of our donors. To learn more about ACMRS, our programs and how to support the many facets and components of ACMRS, please click here https://secure.asufoundation.org/giving/online-gift.asp?fid=501. All donations – whatever the amount - are extremely important and much appreciated. Your interest in the middle Ages and Renaissance will allow us to continue critical research, impact the lives of students, educate tomorrow’s scholars and educate our community. Your gift does so much and reaches so many. Thank you! For more information, visit http://acmrs.org/friends
UPCOMING ACMRS EVENTS

DECEMBER

“Princesses, Courtesans, and Warrior Women: Italian Renaissance Women in Fantasy and Reality”
December 5, 2012 at 7:00PM
Ian Moulton, Professor of English, School of Letters & Sciences at ASU
Changing Hands Bookstore
6428 South McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283
RSVP to http://italianwomen.eventbrite.com/

“Scourge of the Earth: The Past, Present and Future of the Black Death”
December 3, 5:30-7:00PM
George Bateman Physical Sciences Center Room 151
ASU Tempe Campus
Free and Open to the Public
Questions?
Contact Monica.Green@asu.edu

JANUARY

Catherine the Great
January 15, 2013 at 7:00PM (tentative)
Hilde Hoogenboom, Asst. Prof. of Russian
and Mark Cruse, Assoc. Prof. of French
School of International Letters & Cultures
Changing Hands Bookstore
6428 South McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283
For more info: ACMRS Events Calendar
http://acmrs.org/news/events

“The Lady as Lord in the Crusader States”
Fearless Females Presentation and Book Signing of her new historical mystery
Death Before Compline
January 9, 2013 at 6:30PM
Sharan Newman, PhD
Acclaimed Author and Scholar
Changing Hands Bookstore
6428 South McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85283
http://womenofthecrusades.eventbrite.com/

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.

Questions? Please feel free to contact ACMRS with any questions or suggestions you might have. Send all correspondence by email to acmrs@acmrs.org or by mail to the address indicated. We’d love to hear from you!