

ACMRS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

ACMRS AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

ACMRS is fast establishing itself as a major player in the field of women's studies in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Since the 1990s, it has published dozens of books in the field, chiefly in its "Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies" series; it owns the award-winning journal *Early Modern Women*, founded in 2005; it sponsors the very popular series of public lectures entitled "Fearless Females: Audacious and Feisty Women of the Middle Ages and Renaissance" that was started in 2012; and in January, 2015, it became the co-publisher with Iter Publications of one of the most prestigious book series in the world in the study of Early Modern Women: "The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe." In early modern Europe (about 1400 to about 1700), women began to write and sometimes publish in their native languages, and their writing established the presence of female voices for the first time in world history. They wrote in many genres (dialogues, essays, letters, plays, poems, treatises) and in their native languages—Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Ukrainian. At the same time, they pressed for a wider recognition of women's intellectual and moral capacities, a campaign in which they were joined by a few male advocates and defenders. "The Other Voice" celebrates those achievements and aspirations. There are currently 184 titles in the series, and Iter and ACMRS will publish a projected 90 additional titles over the next several years.

NEW ACMRS SHAKESPEARE READING GROUP

Beginning on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Coor Hall, Room 4403, this reading group meets twice monthly and welcomes anyone who wants to get acquainted with Shakespeare's plays through some of his memorable female characters. There are no prerequisites or minimum requirements for membership in the group other than a willingness to read and engage in discussion.

Please RSVP: <https://shakespearereadinggroup.eventbrite.com>



WWW.ACMRS.ORG

ACMRS WELCOMES JÜRGEN BACH!

Jürgen Bach is the new Business Operations Specialist for the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. His undergraduate studies were in an extended German program focusing on second language acquisition. There he met his wife, Mindy. Before going on to his graduate studies, he entered the military and was an Army infantry soldier. After the Army, he worked for Wells Fargo Bank and continued his education, receiving an MBA from City University, which earned him a position as an Operations Manager. Finally, in 2010, he moved his wife and 3 children from Montana to come to work for ASU. He completed a master's degree in Accounting and was promoted to a Financial Analyst position. Currently, he resides in Gilbert, Arizona and enjoys family Jeep adventures, fitness, learning medieval and renaissance history, and providing support for the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

ALL NIGHT READING OF DANTE'S INFERNO

St. Philips in the Hills Episcopal Church in Tucson is planning its seventh annual "All-Night Reading of Dante's *Inferno*" as part of its Maundy Thursday vigil. This year it will take place starting at 9:00pm on Thursday, 2 April 2015, and ending at 10:00am on Friday, 3 April 2015. There are periods of silent meditation and music, interspersed with readings of the *Inferno* (in English translation).

St. Philips in the Hills
4440 N. Campbell Ave (at River Road)
Tucson AZ 85728

<http://www.stphilipstucson.org/>



MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

The Department of Medieval Studies offers multidisciplinary courses on both the Master's and the doctoral levels to medievalists from diverse backgrounds such as history, art history, archaeology, philology, philosophy and theology. The program focuses on late antique and medieval civilization in Europe (c. 300-1550 AD), dealing with different methods of communication, migration of peoples, mobility of objects, texts, and ideas in the larger medieval arena, including Asia and North Africa. Students are provided with a broad grounding in these areas as well as training in advanced research methodology with special reference to interdisciplinary, comparative, and supranational issues.

Watch the informational video: <http://www.ceu.hu/article/2015-01-26/why-medieval-studies-ceu>

WWW.ACMRS.ORG

THE MEDIEVAL CANADIAN SCENARIO: NATIVE AMERICAN AND NORSE CULTURE IN TRADE, CONFLICT, AND COEXISTENCE

By Dr. Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director, ACMRS

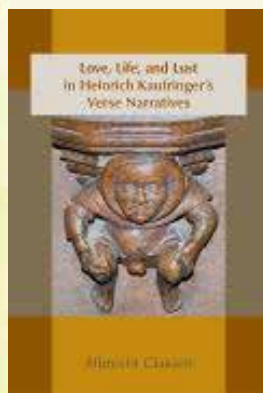
Apart from brief mentions of “possible Norse” voyages to the Northern Americas, little mention is made of Canada in the field of medieval studies. Archaeology in Newfoundland, Labrador, and Baffin Island are transforming preconceptions regarding Canada’s role in the global medieval world. Conventional wisdom had it that the only verifiable Viking settlement in the New World was that found in Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland, and that its duration was barely two decades long. Supposedly, that settlement had minimal contact with the Algonquin peoples of the area, and its members, like its founder Lief Ericson, returned to either Greenland or Iceland by the mid-11th century.

Anse Aux Meadows is turning out to be a fascinating piece of a much larger puzzle. Arctic archaeologist Dr. Pat Southerland and her team have unearthed a trove of artifacts from the Baffin Island area, called Helluland in the Norse sagas of the 12th century. Baffin island, the site of the pre-Inuit Dorset hunter-gatherer culture, was dismissed till now as a “backwater” of Native civilization. It was anything but that. Southerland’s finds have demonstrated substantial Norse-Dorset interchange, including copper, whalebone, spinning implements, iron items, beads, and even a Dorset doll of a women in 14th century Norwegian garb. Pots, crockery, and hundreds of household items showing the marks of Dorset and Norse culture attest to a period of relative tranquility and intense trade. What made Southerland’s finds so controversial at first were the dates that the laboratory analysis showed. The majority of the items were fabricated between the 12th and the late-14th century, long after the “Viking” settlement of Anse Aux meadows had faded away.

It is a misnomer to label all the Norwegian and Icelandic settlers of medieval Canada as “Vikings.” Arctic archaeological research is revealing them to be farmers, fishers, and traders, something which may have contributed to a fruitful coexistence with their Dorset neighbors. The University of Pompeu Fabra in Madrid, together with the National Geographic Society, has looked into possible DNA contacts between medieval Canadians and Icelanders and are currently studying the case of four Icelandic families with DNA markers found, in 95% of the cases, in Native American populations. (The other 5% are from Southeast Asia, with which Iceland has had no contact at all). The DNA lines are dated between the 12th and 18th centuries, which may indicate sporadic contact even after the collapse of the Norse settlements in Baffin Island and Labrador.

The onset of the Little Ice Age in the 14th century may have been the determining factor in the decline of the Norse presence in both Canada and Greenland. Those Norse who stayed would have intermarried with the dominant Inuit culture and eventually been assimilated into the mainstream. While the early sagas, which focus on Lief Ericson’s settlement, tell of frequently conflictual relations between some of Lief’s followers and the nearby (probably Algonquin) Indians, that frictional pattern is not replicated in the more northerly Arctic finds. Interestingly, even the sagas do not depict individual aggressive actions as indicative of a whole group. While Lief Ericson enjoyed relatively good relations with the Native peoples, his brother Thorvald massacred some of them and was murdered in turn. That did not, however, lead to generalized violence. Medieval Norse and medieval Algonquin ethics focused on individual responsibility rather than collective guilt, so in cases such as Thorvald, the “blood-price”, from both the point of view of the Norse and the Algonquin, had probably been paid, and there was no need for further conflict. The sagas tell of trade between the groups following the Thorvald incident, proving that the generalized warfare of the later Age of Exploration had not yet manifested itself in the Americas.

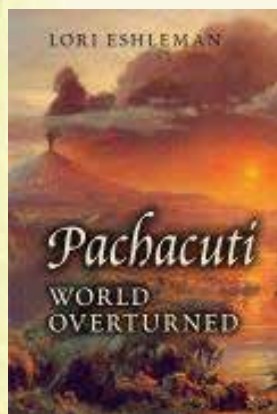
THE BOOK NOOK: FEATURING ACMRS PUBLICATIONS AND BAGWYN BOOKS



Love, Life, and Lust in Heinrich Kaufringer's Verse Narratives By Albrecht Classen

Heinrich Kaufringer (fl. ca. 1400) was one of the most important late medieval German authors of verse narratives (*maeren*). This significant contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer composed truly insightful, entertaining, and didactic verse narratives in which he addresses fundamental issues in human life: Love, marriage, sexuality, money, religion, virtues and vices, faith, the seven deadly sins, the conflicts between Jews and Christians, problems with alcohol, corruption, the role of lawyers, priests and mayors, merchants, and students. Though still steeped in medieval traditions, Kaufringer's tales invite us to reflect on universal concerns affecting all human life, such as communication, trust, confidence, cowardice, greed, compassion, character weakness and strength, foolishness, and intelligence. There is much to learn from his insights couched in most intriguing narratives, here rendered, for the first time, from late medieval German verse into modern English prose.

<https://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/love-life-and-lust-heinrich-kaufingers-verse-narratives>



Pachacuti: World Overturned By Lori Eshleman

Three centuries after Columbus, uprisings in South America still held out the hope of a Pachacuti, or world-turning, which would reverse the fortunes of the Spanish and the Indians. One such revolt in the eighteenth-century Kingdom of Quito entwines the lives of three people in a story of desire and unextinguished hope that mirrors the complex relations between conquerors and the conquered. For Santiago Huamán the revolt sparks a quest to become a medicine man; for young Ana Alfaro it brings exile and an illicit love affair; and for the Jesuit inquisitor Gregorio Moncada, it precipitates spiritual doubt. From the baroque city of Quito to a remote hacienda in South America's largest crater,

Pachacuti: World Overturned captures the grandeur and decay of the Spanish Empire on the eve of disintegration. <http://bagwynbooks.com>

Pachacuti brings both Pululahua and Quito to life with the stories and struggles of those who inhabit this majestic land of volcanoes and jungles, and pulls the reader into the tumultuous times of 18th Century revolt against both the Spanish, and the Jesuit missionaries. Deftly weaving history with strong characters in conflict with both class and race, Eshleman returns the human elements, both inhuman and humane, that are so often stripped away from history. —James Thomas Stevens, Author of *Combing the Snakes from His Hair*



UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS



FEBRUARY

ACMRS ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

"Trades, Talents, Guilds, and Specialists: Getting Things Done in the Middle Ages and Renaissance"

February 5-7, 2015 - Embassy Suites Phoenix-Scottsdale Hotel

Click here to learn more: <https://acmrs.org/conferences/annual-acmrs-conference>

FEARLESS FEMALES OF THE GLOBAL RENAISSANCE

"Malinche: Aztec Voice of the Conquistador"

Presented by Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director, ACMRS

"Arcangela Tarabotti: A Venetian Nun Wages War"

Presented by Marsha Fazio, Lecturer, School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, ASU

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00pm - University Center Building

Click here to reserve a seat: <https://ladymacbethandophelia.eventbrite.com>

SHAKESPEARE READING GROUP, LED BY CRIS SMITH

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00pm in Coor Hall, Room 4403

Click here to register: <https://shakespearereadinggroup.eventbrite.com>

ASU'S NIGHT OF THE OPEN DOOR

Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 4:00 to 9:00pm

ACMRS will be located on the 1st floor patio of Coor Hall on the ASU Tempe Campus.

Click here to learn more: <http://opendoor.asu.edu>

MARCH

ACMRS AD HOC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY ZAELLOTIUS WILSON

"Sancha's Palace-Monastery Complex: The Rebuilding of the Leonese Community in the Eleventh Century"

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00pm - Coor Hall, Room 4403

ACMRS PUBLIC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY KIMBERLY MARSHALL & SHARONAH FREDRICK

"The Renaissance in the Southwest: Musical Defiance of the Conquest"

Sunday, March 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:30pm - ASU Organ Hall

ACMRS AD HOC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY ERIC BREAUULT

"The Grim Reaper as Religious Icon"

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 11:00am - Coor Hall, Room 4403

WWW.ACMRS.ORG

