

# ACMRS NEWS

JULY 2014

## A DIFFICULT JOURNEY IN THE VERNACULAR: BIBLES IN TIME AND SPACE

By Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director, ACMRS

The Holy Writ manifests itself in many tongues. ACMRS, in conjunction with the Melikian Center, is compiling a collection of extraordinary Bibles that span the globe, and illustrate the central role played by the Text of Texts during the formative periods of the Middle Ages and the Global Renaissance. The exhibit charts the political and historical trajectory of the Bible as it spreads across the globe, beginning with medieval silk trade routes and reaching its apex during the growth of exploration and colonization from the 16th century onwards. The Bible as a global phenomenon includes a multiplicity of linguistic and cultural voices, including that of the individual translations done in the period between 700-1700. These thousand years illustrate linguistic and philosophical orientations that influence, sometimes intentionally and sometimes not, the supposedly unalterable text. Whether it is an early 20th century Tibetan translation of the Book of Genesis, based on older research done by Portuguese Jesuits in the 16th century; or one of the first Catholic Bibles in the vernacular, based on texts of medieval Armenia; or Early Modern Amsterdam, where Christians and Jews published and edited their respective Bibles together; or Shi'ite Islamic editions from medieval Syria of King David's psalms, this collection raises the issues of diversity and inclusion, not only as elements of societal organization, but as components of spiritual and cultural activity. Which texts were considered suitable for which cultures, and why? At the same time, which cultures were drawn to certain Biblical texts, and why?

Finally, the exhibit showcases the importance of material culture as a catalyst for the spread of the Bible, as it has been since before the days of the Gutenberg Press. How do we "dress" the Bible? And which Bible: the Jewish or the Christian one, and which Christian one? Are we referring to the Catholic Bible in 16th century Spain, disseminated in the New World and approved by King Charles V, itself based on an earlier version done by a Spanish Jew, Moises Araguel, in the 15th century? Or do we mean the priceless first printings from Renaissance Scandinavia, or the illuminated manuscripts from 18th century Coptic churches in Ethiopia? Is it the same Bible, or is even that question left open to interpretation? The different styles of publishing and dissemination delineated in the Melikian/ACMRS collection demonstrate the Bible's interaction with technology-manuscripts, printing, writing, illumination-across a global time-space continuum. It is a continuum whose origin lies in the Medieval and Renaissance periods, but is not confined solely to them. Whether seen as an article of faith or a historical construction, or both, the collection possesses appeal for the general public while in no way sacrificing academic excellence and rigor. For more information on this exhibit visit: <https://acmrs.org/news/bible-crossing-religions-and-languages-excerpts-melikian-collection>

WWW.ACMRS.ORG

# ACMRS GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

ACMRS now offers a graduate student travel award in both **Medieval** and **Renaissance** Studies!

## MEDIEVAL GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

- \$500 toward travel expenses to attend the International Congress on Medieval Studies held every year in May at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
- Papers may be submitted on any subject suitable to the Kalamazoo program
- Applications consist of a paper (15 pages maximum) and a letter of support from a faculty mentor
- The winning paper will be included in the ACMRS Spring 2015 lecture series
- Deadline: September 1, 2014

## RENAISSANCE GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

- \$500 toward travel expenses to attend any Renaissance of Medieval and Renaissance conference at which a paper has been accepted
- Applications should consist of a 15-page paper on any subject suitable in Renaissance studies that has been accepted at an upcoming conference and the name and contact information of a faculty mentor ACMRS may consult regarding your work
- The winning paper will be included in the ACMRS Spring 2015 lecture series
- Deadline: December 30, 2014

Applications for either award should be emailed to Professor Robert Bjork, Director, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University, at [acmrs@acmrs.org](mailto:acmrs@acmrs.org) by their respective due date.

Please visit our website for details: <https://acmrs.org/academic-programs/awards-grants> or email [Kendra.TerBeek@asu.edu](mailto:Kendra.TerBeek@asu.edu) with any questions.

---

## ACMRS FALL LECTURES

Attention ACMRS affiliated faculty and graduate students!

Beginning in August, ACMRS will once again be hosting graduate students and faculty in our various lecture series: ACMRS Ad Hoc Lecture Series and ACMRS Scholar Series.

If you have research that you'd like to share or an idea that you'd like to get some feedback on, please consider presenting in one of these lecture programs. For more information about these series please email ACMRS Outreach Coordinator [Kendra.TerBeek@asu.edu](mailto:Kendra.TerBeek@asu.edu). To check out upcoming ACMRS events, please visit our Calendar of Events at: <https://acmrs.org/news/events>

## PHD GRAD, ALAYA SWANN

Medieval Midwifery Motivates Research, Community Work for Alaya Swann - via ASU Dept. of English.

"My research probably first inspired my interest in service," says Alaya Swann, a spring 2014 English PhD graduate. The talented student, teacher, singer, and grass-roots organizer has found a way to link her passions for academia, the arts, and helping others—and it all started in the medieval birthing chamber. Swann's dissertation, "Childbirth and Midwifery in the Religious Rhetoric of England, 1300-1450" explored medieval midwifery and the medicalization of birth. Read more at: <http://english.clas.asu.edu/accents2014/student-swann>

# ACMRS ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

ACMRS invites session and paper proposals for its annual interdisciplinary conference to be held February 5-7, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Scottsdale. 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: *"Trades, Talents, Guilds, and Specialists: Getting Things Done in the Middle Ages and Renaissance"*. **The deadline for proposals is midnight Mountain Standard Time on August 1, 2014. Please submit an abstract of 250 words and a brief CV via email to:**

**ACMRSconference@asu.edu.**



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Henry S. Turner, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Program in Early Modern Studies at Rutgers University. Intellectually imaginative and energetic, Professor Turner is one of the few - and the finest - scholars now writing on the historical intersection of literature and science. His first book, *The English Renaissance Stage: Geometry, Poetics, and the Practical Spatial Arts, 1580- 1630*, was awarded honorable mention from the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, in competition for being the best book in interdisciplinary science studies in 2007.

**EXHIBITION:** The Phoenix Art Museum is hosting an exhibition in support of ACMRS's next annual conference. The exhibition, "Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Leicester and the Power of Observation" will be held January 24 – April 12, 2015. It will be featured in the Steele Gallery, which is the museum's main changing gallery space. We will share more information when it becomes available.

---

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPT READERS BAGWYN BOOKS: HISTORICAL FICTION

### CALLING ALL READERS!

Do you love to read?  
Do you love historical fiction?  
Do you love the Middle Ages and Renaissance?  
If so...  
Become a volunteer manuscript reader for Bagwyn Books!

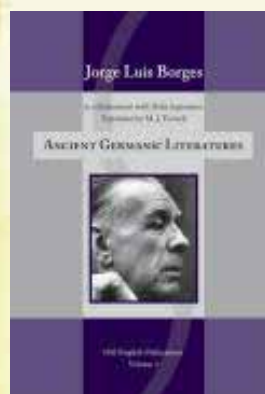
Periodically we'll send you vetted manuscripts that you can read and review for publication. We'd love your feedback and your help on this new historical fiction venture. If you are interested in being a manuscript reader for Bagwyn Books, please email [BagwynBooks@acmrs.org](mailto:BagwynBooks@acmrs.org) today!



[WWW.ACMRS.ORG](http://WWW.ACMRS.ORG)

## THE BOOK NOOK:

FEATURING ACMRS PUBLICATIONS AND BAGWYN BOOKS



### Old English Publications: Studies and Criticism, Vol. 1 Ancient Germanic Literatures

By Jorge Luis Borges  
In collaboration with Delia Ingenieros  
Translated by M. J. Toswell

The extent to which Jorge Luis Borges had been interested in Old English and Old Norse and Old High German all his life has perhaps not been fully assimilated in studies of his thinking and writing. In interviews of all kinds, Borges worked references to the Anglo-Saxon matter in, commenting particularly on how the language sounded and how its harshness and sheer lack of sentimentality made

it very fine poetry.

This inaugural edition in the new series “Old English Publications: Studies and Criticism,” presents the translation of the first extended work Borges engaged in on matters medieval and Germanic, with the collaboration of Delia Ingenieros and published in its first edition in 1951. Available online at: <https://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/ancient-germanic-literatures>

#### PRAISE FOR JORGE LUIS BORGES:

“Borges is the most important Spanish-language writer since Cervantes.” --*Mario Vargas Llosa*

“[A] founder, and principal practitioner, of post-modernist literature.” --*poetryfoundation.org*

“[Borges] has effectively influenced the destiny of literature.” --*Alberto Julián Pérez*



### Fanning the Flames Book Two: Women of *Beowulf* Trilogy

By Donnita L. Rogers



Fleeing to Beowulf’s country after the deaths of her father and brothers in Denmark, Freawaru arrives in the midst of a crisis: Beowulf’s king has been killed in a raid. Can Freawaru build a new life among the Geats for herself and the child she carries?

The increasing attraction between Beowulf and Freawaru is complicated by a vow each has made to the gods and is threatened by the demands of a rival queen.

At home, Freawaru leads the women in worshipping the goddess — the source of Freawaru’s own powers. Abroad, her gifts as seeress and peacemaker are put to the test when she attends the Great Sacrifice at Uppsala.

Caught up in the on-going warfare between the Geats and the Swedes, she desperately seeks to foresee the future for herself and Beowulf. Hanging just outside of her reach is the meaning of those recurring dragon sightings in the night sky . . . What do they portend?

Available online at: <https://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/fanning-flames>

WWW.ACMRS.ORG



# UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS:



## AUGUST

FEARLESS FEMALES SERIES:

**"African Warrior Princess of Brazil: Aqualtune, New World Freedom Fighter"**

Sharonah Fredrick, Assistant Director, ACMRS

Tuesday, August, 26, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

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

## SEPTEMBER

ACMRS SCHOLAR SERIES:

**"Apocalypse in the Andes: Saint Francis, the Incas, and Militant Angels"**

Jaime Lara, Research Professor, ACMRS

Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

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

FEARLESS FEMALES SERIES:

**"Abandoned Daughter: A Venetian Nun Wages War"**

Marsha Fazio, Lecturer, Division of Humanities, Arts, and Cultures

Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 7:00pm - Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

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

STAY CONNECTED WITH ACMRS!



Questions? Please feel free to contact ACMRS with any questions or suggestions you might have. Send all correspondence by email to [acmrs@acmrs.org](mailto:acmrs@acmrs.org) or by mail to this address. We'd love to hear from you!

ACMRS  
P.O BOX 874402  
TEMPE, AZ 85287-4402  
(480) 965-5900  
[WWW.ACMRS.ORG](http://WWW.ACMRS.ORG)

[WWW.ACMRS.ORG](http://WWW.ACMRS.ORG)

