

ACMRS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2014

AN INNOVATIVE JOURNAL ON RENAISSANCE WOMENS' STUDIES GOES BI-ANNUAL

Beginning with volume 9, *Early Modern Women Journal* (EMWJ) will be issued twice a year. It was simply getting too large to continue publishing in a single, annual volume. *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* is the only journal devoted solely to the interdisciplinary and global study of women and gender during the years 1400 to 1750. Each volume gathers essays on early modern women from every country and region, by scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines, including art history, cultural studies, music, history, languages and literatures, political science, religion, theatre, history of science, and history of philosophy.

EMWJ was founded in 2006 at the Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies of the University of Maryland by Jane Donawerth, Adele Seeff, and Diane Wolfthal (Rice University). Beginning with volume 2, EMWJ was co-published with ACMRS, and on 30 June 2011 when the Center at Maryland was closed because of budget cuts, ownership of the journal was transferred entirely to ACMRS. At the same time, Professors Anne J. Cruz, Mary Lindemann, and Mihoko Suzuki at the University of Miami were appointed the new editors of EMWJ (beginning with volume 7), and the journal is currently co-published with the University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences Center for the Humanities.

The journal has been remarkably successful. Because of the insight and foresight of its founding editors, who crafted an unusual if not unique venue for research in the field, it has received two awards from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) of the Modern Languages Association. In 2009, it received Honorable Mention for "Best New Journal," and in 2013, it received the "Voyager Award" for best journal covering the period 1500 to 1800:

EMW is an ambitious, and now accomplished, newcomer of about seven years. For the relatively short time it has been published, it is generously extensive, with 300 and more pages per issue. Treating the subject of women in this period, in an inviting, multiple-disciplinary approach, EMW engages critically and intelligently with the categories that it addresses—both "Early Modern" and "Women"—presenting a wealth of fascinating research and pushing readers to complicate their understanding of the fields. The journal also gives a powerful sense of scholarship as a communal endeavour, and research as part of larger conversations. The "Forum" section of each volume is very effective in organizing a multifaceted conversation of a timely topic, and the shorter essays in this section are very accessible to non-specialists. On top of all this, the journal is beautifully produced: the font is elegant and a pleasure to read; the images are multiple, large, and crisp; and the recent transition from endnotes to footnotes is greatly appreciated.

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ACMRS RECEIVES AHC GRANT FOR GAME OF THRONES PROJECT

We are pleased to announce that the Arizona Humanities Council has approved \$5,000 in funding for our grant proposal, "*Game of Thrones: Hierarchy and Violence – Analyzing Society in the Historical Landscape of the Imagination*," a joint project of ACMRS and the ASU Center for Film, Media and Popular Culture. This project seeks to analyze social interchange, acts of violence, and the over-all power structure in the historical landscape of an imaginary Middle Ages, as well as the importance of media literacy in deciphering that imaginary landscape in its televised form. The grant will be used during the 2015-2016 academic year to bring in three scholars from around the country for an open forum on aspects of medieval violence and dysfunction in government as portrayed in the series and on the significance of adapting a popular novel about the imaginary past for contemporary television.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

ALBRECHT CLASSEN, Distinguished Professor of German, University of Arizona

Article in *Marginalia: A Los Angeles Review of Books* called "An Interview with Albrecht Classen on marriage, family, and sexuality in the Middle Ages." September 2014.

<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/an-interview-with-albrecht-classen/>

IAN MOULTON, Professor of English, School of Letters & Sciences, ASU

Article on Prof. Moulton's book *Love and Print in the Sixteenth Century* called "Love always dies" by Alana Shilling-Janoff in *The Times Literary Supplement*. October 2014.

THE ONLY MANUSCRIPT BY LEONARDO DA VINCI IN AMERICA COMES TO AZ

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY
TO VIEW AN ORIGINAL

LEONARDO DA VINCI MANUSCRIPT

The word "genius" is synonymous with one name throughout history, from the Renaissance through today: Leonardo da Vinci.

The Phoenix Art Museum has been successful in securing Leonardo da Vinci's *Codex Leicester*, a remarkable and rare collection of Leonardo's scientific writings. ACMRS is excited to support academic and educational aspects of the exhibition.

This is not a replica or a facsimile. The only manuscript by Leonardo in America, the *Codex Leicester* consists of 18 double-page and doubled-sided sheets (72 pages total), which are filled with Leonardo's backwards or mirror-script, accompanied by more than 200 small sketches and diagrams. Its presentation at Phoenix Art Museum will be the first time a work by the hand of the master himself will be on view in Arizona.

This rarely exhibited work is the cornerstone of a larger exhibition that emphasizes Leonardo's intense curiosity and observational skills. It will be displayed in Phoenix Art Museum's Steele Gallery from January 24 – April 12, 2015, and will coincide with the annual ACMRS conference held February 5-7 on the theme of "Getting Things Done in the Middle Ages and Renaissance." ACMRS is finalizing details for gallery talks with ASU scholars on February 14-15 and March 14-15 as well.

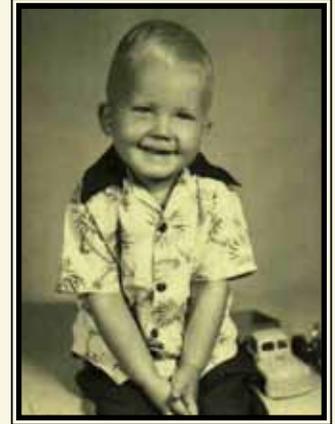
We wanted our friends to be the first to know... a special VIP Reception is also being planned at the Art Museum for ACMRS giving society members. Please watch your ACMRS newsletter for further details or contact Michele Peters, Manager of Marketing and Development, at Michele.peters@asu.edu for more information.

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THERE'S STILL TIME TO HAVE LUNCH WITH BOB!



BRING YOUR LUNCH, IDEAS,
AND QUESTIONS TO COOR 4438
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON
FOR THE REST OF THE SEMESTER
TO CHAT WITH THE DIRECTOR
— NO STRINGS ATTACHED!
CALL (480) 965-8097 WITH
QUESTIONS.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!



MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES IN OXFORD

Spend your summer in the City of Dreaming Spires! Travel abroad with ACMRS to the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Oxford and study for 5 weeks with Prof. Edward Mallot (English, ASU) and Prof. Ralph Hanna (Keble College, Oxford). Students earn 6 credits in 5 weeks with “The Afterlives of Beowulf” and “Shakespeare and His Contemporaries in Performance” while visiting London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Glastonbury, and Stonehenge.

This interdisciplinary opportunity is open to all undergraduate and graduate students, regardless of major, discipline, or institutional home. Apply through the ASU Study Abroad Office. Please visit the ACMRS website to learn more or contact ACMRS Outreach Coordinator, Kendra TerBeek (Kendra.TerBeek@acmrs.org). <https://acmrs.org/academic-programs/oxford>



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READING THE STARS AND KILLING YOUR NEIGHBOR: AN EARLY MODERN ASTROLOGICAL PASTIME

Sharonah Fredrick, Asst. Director ACMRS

Astrology in human history was nothing new by the time of the Age of Exploration/Conquest/Renaissance/Early Modern period (the description of the period varies with the historian's political outlook). But the application of astrology to achieve strictly political goals reached new heights when European cultures, rent with dissension themselves, came into contact with other internally divided civilizations in the Americas. The arbiter in many of these cases of factionalism and war would end up being the stars...or at least, the motives for the wars would be attributed to the stars, in a Machiavellian and cynical sense. But then, Niccolo Machiavelli was also a product of the Early Modern period, a time as brutal as the Middle Ages, though socially more skeptical, and a bit more jaded. When Shakespeare declared, through the mouth of Cassius in Act I of *Julius Caesar*, that "the fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings..." it was the cynicism of a time that, while no longer hostage to earlier medieval superstition, was learning to substitute black magic with crass political manipulation.

Queen Elizabeth Tudor's personal advisor, statesman, and above all astrologer, John Dee, was hell-bent on convincing his malleable monarch that the stars had foretold the return of King Arthur's ancestors to the New World — quite a feat, as they had never been there to begin with. But since the Tudors claimed descent from a Welsh lineage, and since legends of the Welsh Prince Madoc getting lost in the Lands of the West could be used to great avail, it was left to Dee to justify the expansion of the British empire in the Americas with the alignment of the stars, which, he affirmed to Good Queen Bess, were urging her to go to war with Spain over its American possessions.

Not that Spain needed any urging of its own. A generation before Elizabeth's confrontation with invading Spanish ships in 1588 (the supposedly invincible, and then easily defeated, Spanish Armada), Spain made a successful — and cynical — use of Aztec astrology in the Mexican conquest. In 1520 Malinche, the Nahuatl-speaking slave and Hernan Cortes' translator, informed Cortes that the Aztec ruler Moctezuma II awaited the return of the wind-god Quetzalcoatl, believed by Aztec astrologers to be incarnated in the Conquistador himself. Despite Cortes' attempts to "evangelize" Moctezuma, the Conquistador showed no hesitation in accepting the jewels of Quetzalcoatl in the month when Aztec astrologers determined the return of the wind-god. Although colonial authorities burned Aztec codices following Tenochtitlan's collapse in 1521, Cortes and his armies (of Spanish and Tlaxcallan Indian followers) saw no problem in employing Aztec astrological terror to achieve the immediate goal of Conquest. Moctezuma believed that Quetzalcoatl would end his reign for disobeying the wind-god's teachings, which prohibited human sacrifice. This was foretold in the stars, which is why the Aztec monarch spent much time perusing the heavens for signs, such as comets. And Cortes, an observant (so he claimed) Counter-Reformation Catholic, should have abhorred all mention of astrology. But the Early Modern period is the time of Machiavelli, and Cortes abolished astrology *after* Tenochtitlan had been conquered.

Nostradamus, (b.1503) the famed French sage known more for misinterpretations of his misnamed "predictions" (he used the word "imagination") practiced what he called "mundane astrology": the concrete science of predicting, according to the stars, when certain villages, towns, and prefectures would be attacked or engulfed in France's religious fratricide. In other words: read the constellations well when you plan to kill your neighbor.

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THE GEORGE HERBERT SOCIETY CONFERENCE

On October 16 to 18, the George Herbert Society held its fourth triennial Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Tempe, assisted by Michele Peters, the Manager of Marketing and Development at ACMRS. The topic for the Conference was "Choice Observations," a phrase taken from Herbert's book *The Country Parson*, in which he exhorts Parsons when preaching to expound biblical texts first by a "plain and evident declaration of the meaning of the text," and secondly by "some choyce Observations drawn out of the whole text." The Society turned Herbert's recommendations for reading biblical texts around, and invited scholars to make "choice observations" on Herbert's own writings.

The Conference attracted twenty-six participants, including one from Canada, one from England, and two from Japan. A special feature of the Conference was the participation of graduate students who gave papers: two from the University of Alabama at Huntsville, one from Waterloo University in Ontario, and Jennifer Downer, a doctoral candidate in English here at ASU.

The Society's newly established prize for an outstanding doctoral dissertation substantially concerned with George Herbert was awarded to Dr. Simon Jackson of Cambridge University at the banquet Friday night. Dr. Jackson's dissertation was entitled "The Literary and Musical Activities of the Herbert Family." Dr. Jackson also delivered a paper derived from his dissertation work, called "Putting Things in Perspective: 'Sinne' (II)."

In a surprise announcement at the "Wrap," Dr. Christopher Hodgkins informed everyone that the prize for the outstanding doctoral dissertation would henceforth be known by the name of the Conference Organizer, Dr. Chauncey Wood. Dr. Wood is Professor Emeritus at McMaster University, Adjunct Professor at ACMRS, and has taught twice as Distinguished Visiting Professor here. The Conference adjourned on Saturday afternoon with tentative plans for the next triennial meeting to be held in 2017 in Paris.

THE BOOK NOOK:

FEATURING ACMRS PUBLICATIONS AND BAGWYN BOOKS



Center for Law Reporting, Vol. 4

Reports of Cases in the Court of Exchequer in the Time of King George I (1714 to 1727)

Edited by W. H. Bryson

This first edition of manuscript law reports covers cases in the English Court of Exchequer, the court of revenue, which court had acquired also a general civil jurisdiction. The cases cover disputes over the collection of the public revenue, particularly import taxes, and there are in addition many cases involving creditors' rights, bankruptcy, governmental prerogative, tithes, etc. There were previously in print very few case reports from this important court from this period, and this book adds a large corpus of printed material that was hitherto inaccessible.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS



NOVEMBER

ASU HOMECOMING BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, November 1, 2014 3:00-8:00pm

The ACMRS tent will be on Cady Mall and University on the ASU Tempe Campus.

ACMRS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES

“What is Middle in the Middle Ages? Center and Periphery in the Middle Kingdom”

Stephen West, Foundation Professor of Chinese in the School of International Letters and Cultures, ASU

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 7:00pm at the Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

[Click here to reserve a seat: https://medievalchina.eventbrite.com](https://medievalchina.eventbrite.com)

DECEMBER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Please consider donating to ACMRS to help support our programs for scholars, students, and the community.

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