Distinguished Lecture in Medieval Studies and St. John's Bible Dedication

ACMRS will unveil a specially printed, facsimile copy of the St. John's Bible at its annual Distinguished Lecture in Medieval Studies on Thursday, 28 October at 7:00 pm in the Carson Ballroom of Old Main on the ASU Tempe campus. Dr. Rodney M. Thomson, Honorary Research Fellow at the School of History and Classics of the University of Tasmania, will speak on “The Great Illuminated Bibles of 12th-century England: A Study in Splendor.” His talk will be preceded by the dedication of the St. John's Bible and a reception.

The seven-volume Bible was the gift of Phoenix resident George Berkner. It will be housed in special cases in the Department of Archives and Special Collections in Hayden Library and in the offices of ACMRS, and, in accordance with Mr. Berkner’s wishes, will be available for viewing by ASU faculty, staff, and students, as well as by members of the community. The Heritage Edition is a full-size, museum-quality, limited edition reproduction of one of the very few complete handwritten and hand-illuminated Bibles produced in the last 500 years.

The St. John's Bible was commissioned by St. John's Abbey and University in Minnesota and was produced by multiple scribes and artists under the direction of Donald Jackson of Monmouth, Wales. It has been called a monumental achievement. The original is housed in the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at St. John's University. The text is in modern English, but the Bible was made by hand with methods used before the invention of the printing press. Calfskin vellum pages were soaked in lime, dried, then scraped and sanded smooth by hand. The calligraphy was done with goose, turkey, and swan quills cut by each scribe, using lamp black ink made from 19th-century Chinese ink sticks.

More information about the St. John's Bible is at saintjohnsbible.org.

This event, sponsored by ACMRS and the University Libraries, is free and open to the public.

ACMRS Lecture Series

Professor Robert Sturges, of the ASU Department of English, presented the first ACMRS lecture of the academic year on Wednesday, 22 September, at 2:00 pm in Coor Hall Room 4411 on the ASU Tempe campus. His topic was “Between Heresy and Authority: St. Augustine, the Bible and the Lollards in the Middle English Soliloquies.” The Middle English Soliloquies, falsely attributed to St. Augustine, is a never-published medieval text first identified correctly by Professor Sturges. Its anonymous commentary serves as a point of intersection for contemporary controversies over vernacular Bible translation, the Christian hierarchy, the role of women in the Church, the use of religious imagery, the sacraments, and other hot-button issues of late medieval England. It stages the confrontation between the Lollard heresy and orthodoxy in a particularly effective manner, revealing with unusual poignancy the fissures in Christianity in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The event was sponsored by ACMRS, ASU Jewish Studies, the ASU School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, and the ASU School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

Dr. Paul Sellin, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, University of California, Los Angeles and
Dr. Don Carlisle, Professor Emeritus of Geology and Mineral Resources, University of California, Los Angeles, will deliver a joint talk on Monday, 4 October at 1:30 pm in Coor Hall Room 4403. They will discuss “The Assays of Sir Walter Raleigh’s Ore from Guyana, 1595.” Prompted by Dutch, Latin, and French documents he discovered in the Riksarkivet in Stockholm, Dr. Sellin twice went to the Orinoco Delta and Lower Orinoco and traced Raleigh’s 1595 route up the river and back. The result of his research is a revisionist study entitled Treasure, Treason and the Tower: El Dorado and the Murder of Sir Walter Raleigh (forthcoming 2011). Dr. Sellin addresses the literary-historical aspects, and Dr. Carlisle, who began his professional life as a miner in Canada, addresses the mineralogical aspects of the study. Drs. Sellin and Carlisle assert that no one has properly analyzed the results of the 1595 assays, which appear in the preface to Raleigh’s Discoverie of the Large, Rich, and Beautiful Empyre of Guiana, addressed “To the Reader.” They attempt to determine the exact values Raleigh claimed for his ore and the meaning and implications of the terms and numbers he used. They conclude, “With respect to his ores, there are no grounds for accusing him of lese majesty, let alone clear proof of a capital crime deserving of public execution on the scaffold in 1618.”

The ACMRS Lecture Series is free and open to the public.

A COMMUNAL READING OF BEOWULF

Students, faculty, staff, and members of the public are invited to attend a communal reading of Beowulf from start to finish, Saturday, 9 October, from 1:30 to 5:30 pm, in Social Sciences (SS) Room 109 on the ASU Tempe campus. Everyone attending will be asked to read in Old English or modern English. Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of the poem with line numbers, preferably with Old English and modern English on facing pages. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone planning to attend should email Dr. Heather Maring at heather.maring@asu.edu by 30 September. For more information, email Dr. Maring, visit english.clas.asu.edu/beowulf or call 480-965-3744. This event is sponsored by ACMRS, the ASU Department of English, and the ASU Institute for Humanities Research.

THIRD ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

The Third Annual ACMRS Undergraduate Conference, “Discipuli Juncti: Students Connected through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance,” is set for Friday, 29 October, at ASU West. Dr. Rodney Thomson, Honorary Research Fellow at the School of History and Classics of the University of Tasmania, will deliver the plenary address, “From Script to Print: Reactions to a Technological Revolution.”

The conference gives undergraduates interested in medieval and/or Renaissance culture an opportunity to present their research or projects to a group of their peers and others.

The conference is sponsored by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University, ACMRS, ASU Jewish Studies, ASU University College, ASU’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and the ASU Faculty of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies.

For more information, visit acmrs.org or write to Dr. Mary Bjork at mary.bjork@asu.edu.

ACMRS ANNUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM

The ACMRS Annual Fall Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, 13 November, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in West Hall Room 135 at the ASU Tempe campus. The topic will be “Medieval and Renaissance European Ballads.” Guest speakers will be James Massengale, Emeritus Professor of Scandinavian Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; Patricia Fumerton, Professor of English, University of California, Santa Barbara; and Samuel G. Armistead, Distinguished Professor of Spanish, University of California, Davis. Selected ballads will be performed by members of the ASU Early Music Chamber Choir. This event is sponsored by ACMRS and the ASU Institute for Humanities Research and is free and open to the public. A buffet luncheon will be provided to attendees.
2011 ACMRS Interdisciplinary Conference

The seventeenth annual ACMRS interdisciplinary conference is scheduled for 10 to 12 February 2011 in Tempe, Arizona. The conference theme is “Performance and Theatricality in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” The keynote speaker will be Dr. Pamela Sheingorn, Professor Emerita, Baruch College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She specializes in the European Middle Ages, especially in hagiography, drama, and visual, cultural, and women’s history. Her books include Myth, Montage, and the Visible in Late Medieval Manuscript Culture: Christine de Pizan’s Epistre Othea (2003, co-authored with Marilynn Desmond); Writing Faith: Text, Sign, and History in the Miracles of Sainte Foy (1999, co-authored with Kathleen Ashley); The Book of Sainte Foy (1995); and Interpreting Cultural Symbols: St. Anne in Late Medieval Society (1990). Her current research projects focus on representations of the late medieval family, medieval masculinities, a cultural history of Joseph the Carpenter, and illuminations in medieval drama manuscripts.

ACMRS invites session and paper proposals on 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 performance and theatricality, both in literal and metaphorical manifestations. The deadline for proposals is 9:00 PM MST on 1 November 2010. Submissions will be accepted online only, at link.library.utoronto.ca/acmrs/conference/. Audio/visual requirements and other special requests must be listed at the time of submission. The conference registration fee is $95 ($45 for students and emeriti/ae faculty), which includes welcoming and farewell receptions, two full days of concurrent sessions (Friday and Saturday), and the keynote address. Selected papers related to the conference theme will be considered for publication in the conference volume of Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance series, published by Brepols Publishers (Belgium).

Before the conference, ACMRS will host a workshop on manuscript studies, led by Professor Timothy Graham, Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico. The workshop, set for Thursday afternoon, 10 February, is limited to 25 participants, who will be determined by order in which registrations are received. To be added to the list, email acmrs@asu.edu with “conference workshop” as the subject line. The cost of the workshop is $25, in addition to the regular conference registration fee.

ACMRS Hosts Medieval Academy of America and Medieval Association of the Pacific

ACMRS will host the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, which will be held jointly with that of the Medieval Association of the Pacific (MAP), at the Chaparral Suites Hotel in Scottsdale, 14 to 16 April 2011. The Program Committee invites proposals for papers on all topics and in all disciplines and periods of medieval studies but is especially interested in papers on issues at stake in Arizona and in medieval society, such as race, ethnicity, immigration, tolerance, treatment of minority groups, protest against governmental policies judged unjust, and standards of judicial and legislative morality. Any member of the Medieval Academy, except those who presented papers at the annual meetings of the Medieval Academy in 2009 and 2010, and any member of the Medieval Association of the Pacific may submit a proposal. Each individual may submit one proposal. Sessions usually consist of three papers of 30 minutes each, and proposals should be geared to this length. The Program Committee will try to develop sessions that address subjects of interest to a wide range of medievalists and that invite scholars from different disciplines and periods into dialogue with one another. The Committee seeks proposals for innovative papers and sessions and invites cross-disciplinary participation in a broad range of topics and periods.

The deadline for submissions is 15 October. The Committee will make final decisions on 5 November. Notifications of acceptance or regrets will be sent shortly thereafter. Proposals may be submitted online at cf.itergateway/meda-cad/conference/. A statement of Academy or MAP membership, or a statement explaining that your specialty would not normally involve membership in either organization, must be made at the end of the submitted abstract.

The Committee will also consider proposals for entire sessions. Those wishing to propose a session should consult the Committee Chairman, Dr. Robert Bjork, before preparing a proposal.

More conference details, including suggested areas of investigation for paper proposals and instructions for submitting a hard-copy proposal are available at acmrs.org/conferences/MAA_2011/MAAconference.html. Further questions should be addressed to Audrey Walters at acmrs@asu.edu or 480-965-5900.

Reading Groups

ACMRS is hosting two reading groups on the ASU Tempe campus this fall. The Latin Reading Group meets from 2:00 to 3:30 PM on Thursdays in Coor Hall Room 4457. The group’s facilitators are Taylor Corse, Associate Professor of English, and Paul Arena, Lecturer in the School of International Letters and Cultures. Anyone interested in joining the group should email Dr. Almira Poudrier, SubCoordinator for Latin in the School of International Letters and Cultures, at almira.poudrier@asu.edu. The Old English Reading Group meets in Coor Hall Room 4411 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Thursdays. Those interested in this group should email Dr. Heather Maring, Assistant Professor of English, at heather.maring@asu.edu.
2010 Summer Study Abroad in Cambridge

Twenty ASU students traveled to Cambridge, England, this summer to attend the ACMRS Summer Study Abroad program at St. Catharine’s College. Each student enrolled in two of the four interdisciplinary courses offered and participated in group activities in and around Cambridge.

Dr. James Helfers of Grand Canyon University taught “Pirates, Poets, and a Preacher: Renaissance English Exploration,” focusing on important figures in English colonial expansion and exploration and introducing students to the instruments and methods of navigation, shipbuilding, and mapmaking. Dr. Asa Mittman of California State University, Chico, offered “Man-Eating Monsters and Marvel-Filled Maps,” leading students in an investigation of identity construction and image-making practices in medieval England. Dr. Albrecht Classen of the University of Arizona presented “Crossing Borders: Medieval and Renaissance Travelers and Travel Narratives,” exploring the experiences and perceptions of medieval and early modern travelers crossing Europe and bordering countries and encountering “the other” in countries, languages, religions, cultures, and individuals. Dr. Paul Hartle of University of Cambridge taught his always-popular “Shakespeare in Performance,” focusing on the performance of Shakespeare’s plays during his own time, as well as our own.

The group saw a Royal Shakespeare Company production of As You Like It in Stratford-upon-Avon and a performance of Henry IV, Part I at the Globe Theatre in London. Students led discussions of the plays before going to the performances, in addition to attending faculty-led class lectures and discussions.

There were several library tours. Program participants saw the rare book collection at St. Catharine’s College Library and were given the opportunity to look through texts ranging from a unique copy of the Confessio Amantis to incunabula and early atlases. The faculty and students were so impressed with the work of the library that they made a donation to the conservation of a 1623 edition of the Atlas sive Cosmographicae meditationes de fabrica mundi et fabricati figura of Gerardus Mercator. The group also saw rare manuscripts in the Parker Manuscript collection in Corpus Christi College and the Wren Library at Trinity College.

The group visited several museums and historic sites. The Scott Polar Research Institute Library and Museum provided a workshop on Northwest Passage Exploration and gave students the opportunity to handle artifacts from the Frobisher Expeditions of 1576–1578. The National Maritime Museum Curators, led by Curator of the History of Navigation, Richard Dunn, demonstrated early maps and navigation instruments. Students were able to handle and study these materials and learn about internship opportunities at Greenwich. An Ely Cathedral tour included history and architecture lectures as well as a climb to the towers and a visit to the Stained Glass Museum. A visit to Lincoln Cathedral included a lecture on Jewish history in England and a viewing of a facsimile of the Magna Carta (one of the originals is housed there). The group also visited York pilgrimage sites, including the Minster.

Faculty led walking tours in Cambridge, showing students medieval architecture, Cambridge University college organization, museums, and musical and theatre events. Finally, the students attended a social mixer hosted by the St. Catharine’s College Cambridge University graduate student program leaders.

The five-week program was demanding but productive. Many of the students have expressed an intention to submit their class papers to conferences and competitions, including the upcoming Discipuli Juncti undergraduate conference and the ACMRS Outstanding Graduate Student Paper competition. Summer program faculty have committed to mentoring students through the submission process.

Planning is underway for the 2011 Summer Study Abroad Program in Cambridge. Undergraduate and graduate students interested in receiving more information and faculty members who would like to submit proposals to teach on the program should email acmrs@asu.edu.

In Memoriam Dr. Richard Jensen

Dr. Richard Jensen, a friend of ACMRS, died 16 August in Tucson. He is remembered at ASU for commuting from Tucson to teach Medieval Latin in Tempe. Dr. Jensen joined the University of Arizona Classics Department faculty in 1961 and taught there until he retired in 1994. He taught Latin at all levels, and was instrumental in establishing the Arizona Junior Classical League, which he sponsored from 1961 to 1991. When Dr. Jensen retired in 1994, donations from students, colleagues and friends led to the establishment of the Richard C. Jensen prize, which has been awarded annually since 1995 to a Classics major for excellence in Latin.
ASU Professor Researches History of Medicine

Monica Green, Professor of History in ASU’s School of Historical, Religious and Philosophical Studies, worked on multiple projects during her 2009–2010 sabbatical year, which was supported by fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and All Souls College, Oxford. She conducted a study of the so-called “School of Salerno,” a center of vibrant medical activity in 12th-century southern Italy, from which two more projects took form: an essay on the medical oeuvre of Constantine the African, a Benedictine monk who translated more than two dozen works from Arabic into Latin in the late eleventh century, and, in collaboration with Florence Eliza Glaze of Coastal Carolina University, a symposium at the National Humanities Center, focusing on the corpus of more than 400 twelfth-century medical manuscripts Dr. Green has identified.

Dr. Green also does research at the intersection of the history of medicine and the historicist sciences, including paleopathology, paleomicrobiology, and genomics. She is undertaking a project with Professor Rachel Scott, of ASU’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change, on the value of historical perspectives for the field of global health. In a talk at an international conference on the history of medicine held in London in July 2010, which was later cited in BMJ (British Medical Journal), Dr. Green urged historians to forge alliances with their colleagues in the sciences.

During her sabbatical, Dr. Green also addressed three scholarly faculties: the Section of the History of Medicine at Yale University; the Program in History of Science, Facultad de Medicina, and Women’s Studies Program at the Universidad de Cantabria in Santander, Spain; and the Oxford Medieval Society. Her topic at Oxford was “The Role of Vernacular Literacy in the Professionalization (and Masculinization) of Surgery in the Later Middle Ages.”

Dr. Green’s 2008 book, Making Women’s Medicine Masculine: The Rise of Male Authority in Pre-Modern Gynaecology, was awarded the 2009 Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize by the History of Science Society in recognition of an outstanding book on the history of women in science.

ACMRS Visiting Professor

Dr. Chauncey Wood will return to ACMRS and offer two courses in Spring 2011. He will teach English 494/598, Troilus and Criseyde, and English 598, George Herbert. Dr. Wood was the ACMRS Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2001–2002 and also taught at ASU in 2002–2003 and 2004–2005. He is a regular speaker at the annual ACMRS Conference, having given seven papers there since 2004. Before coming to ACMRS, Dr. Wood spent most of his career at McMaster University in Canada, where in addition to teaching he served as Dean of the Graduate School for a decade. Since his retirement he has taught not only at ASU but also at the University of Western Michigan and the University of New Mexico, and was Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College of Charleston. As a Chaucerian, he has served on the Board of Trustees of the New Chaucer Society, and he is presently on the Editorial Board of the George Herbert Journal. He is the author of numerous books and articles on medieval and Renaissance topics. Dr. Wood looks forward to renewing acquaintance with former students and to welcoming new students to his classes.

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MEDIEVAL MONASTIC CUISINE IN OETTINGEN

ASU Professor Corine Schleif and ACMRS Adjunct Scholar Volker Schier, with the help of ASU student Spring Williams, organized a community event held 1 May in southern Germany. The gathering commemorated an episode from the Peasants’ War in 1525, when the Birgittine nuns of Maria Mai in Maihingen were forced out of their monastery and had to walk 10 miles to Oettingen, where a beer brewer gave them shelter. An estimated 30 to 40 people from various parts of Germany attended a talk given by Drs. Schleif and Schier and then walked from Maihingen to Oettingen, stopping along the way to hear parts of the *House Book* of Maria Mai, a chronicle written by the nuns, including the story of how they were forced to flee as peasants stormed their monastery. Drs. Schleif and Schier read from a 19th-century edition of the 16th-century German text, modifying portions so that speakers of modern German could easily understand.

Ms. Williams researched medieval monastic cooking, provided the now-Franciscan monastery of Maria Mai with adapted recipes, and explained the meanings and uses of the recipes to the group. The monks from the monastery brought the food, dishes, and utensils to the group when it reached about the halfway point of the walk, serving the food from rocks and benches. The monks prepared *Käseküchlein* (cheese pastries), *Apfelpolster* (apple pillows), and a pea soup containing saffron, beer and vinegar. The pea soup recipe was adapted from the oldest known German cookbook, written by Sabine Welser during the mid-16th century in Augsburg.

Museums in Maihingen and Oettingen also participated in the event. When the group arrived in Oettingen, the museum there prepared tea for them, and Dr. Schier sang part of one of the peasants’ protest songs from 1525.

The event was inspired by the archival research of Drs. Schleif and Schier in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg. In their recently published *Katerina’s Windows: Donation and Devotion, Art and Music, as Heard and Seen Through the Writings of a Birgittine Nun* (2009), Drs. Schleif and Schier tell the story of Katerina Imhoff Lemmer, a wealthy widow who entered the abbey of Maria Mai in 1516 and helped to rebuild and refurbish it, using her own resources and raising funds from family and friends. Visitors to katerinaswindows.asu.edu/Images.htm can see 360-degree panoramas of Maihingen and its surroundings; the footbridge over the Mauch River, which runs through the village of Maihingen and across the grounds of the monastery; and the fishponds and former brickyard of the monastery.

Dr. Schleif is currently working on another project in Germany. She has been awarded a six-month fellowship at the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, to work on “The Holy and Unholy Lance: Metaphorical Appropriations of Sex and Violence from the Fourteenth Century to the Present.” The project focuses on the lance believed to have pierced the side of Christ at the Crucifixion. Venerated and displayed as a relic during the Middle Ages, it is now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. Liturgical texts refer to the wound that was inflicted with the lance as “the love wound.” A stained glass window at the women’s monastery at Wienhausen shows Caritas, the personification of love, thrusting the lance into Christ as he embraces her with his arm. Dr. Schleif is looking at the invention and fashioning of the lance during the late Middle Ages and early modern era.

Spring Williams discusses medieval monastic cooking

Participants partake of 16th century monastic cuisine

*photos by Volker Schier*
FALL 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD ON THE ASU TEMPE CAMPUS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2010

ACMRS LECTURE
Dr. Paul Sellin, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, UCLA
Dr. Don Carlisle, Professor Emeritus of Geology and Mineral Resources, UCLA
“The Assays of Sir Walter Raleigh’s Ore from Guyana, 1595”
1:30 pm, Coor Hall Room 4403
Free and open to the public

SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2010

A COMMUNAL READING OF BEOWULF
1:30 – 5:30 pm, Social Sciences (SS) 109
Sponsored by ACMRS, the ASU Department of English, and the ASU Institute for Humanities Research
Free and open to the public
RSVP by 30 September to heather.maring@asu.edu

FRIDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2010

THIRD ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE
“Discipuli Juncti: Students Connected through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance”
Sponsored by the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University, ACMRS, ASU Jewish Studies, ASU University College, ASU’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and the ASU Faculty of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies
Registration is free but must be completed in advance.
More information at acmrs.org.

SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2010

ACMRS ANNUAL FALL SYMPOSIUM
“Medieval and Renaissance European Ballads”
James Massengale, Emeritus Professor of Scandinavian Studies, UCLA
Patricia Fumerton, Professor of English, UCSB
Samuel G. Armistead, Distinguished Professor of Spanish, UC Davis
1:00 pm, West Hall Room 135
Sponsored by ACMRS and the ASU Institute for Humanities Research
Free and open to the public

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2010

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES AND DEDICATION OF THE ST. JOHN’S BIBLE
Dr. Rodney M. Thomson, Honorary Research Fellow at the School of History and Classics of the University of Tasmania
7:00 pm, Old Main, Carson Ballroom
Sponsored by ACMRS and the University Libraries
Free and open to the public

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