ACMRS is one of the founding members of the Prato Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (PCMRS), which was established in a meeting at the Monash University Prato Centre in Italy on 16–17 June 2008. The Consortium aims to pool the expertise and skills of academics in member institutions in order to enhance international research, publication, and teaching in medieval and Renaissance studies. It will use the Monash University Prato Centre and the Datini Archive in the Archivio di Stato di Prato as key hubs for activities developed in member institutions for the benefit of students and researchers generally. The PCMRS is currently made up of 6 participating institutions: ACMRS; University of Durham; University of Edinburgh; Monash University; Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto; and the University of Toronto. ACMRS affiliates are welcome now at the Prato Centre (contact ACMRS for details), and opportunities for research and teaching will become available in 2010. Visit http://www.itamonash.edu/ for more on the Prato Centre and environs.

CARMEN (Cooperative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network) was established 3 years ago as a worldwide network, bringing together groups of medievalists (including “federations of centers,” such as national or supranational research centers, disciplinary bodies, or societies of individuals) that operate at a level above that of individual universities, as well as individual universities, and public and private bodies (e.g., museums, galleries, publishers), actively involved in the teaching or research of the Middle Ages (ca. 400–1500 AD/CE). Its primary objective is to promote the development of major international, interdisciplinary grant proposals to such entities as the European Science Foundation (ESF). ACMRS has been appointed to the steering group to oversee the future strategic and financial direction of CARMEN. As it currently stands, the steering group consists of the University of Bergen, University of Groningen, University of Copenhagen, University of Western Australia (Perth), University of York, and ACMRS.

CARMEN has recently met with some outstanding success. The ESF in Strasbourg has adopted a CARMEN-generated eurocores programme entitled “European Comparisons in Regional Cohesion, Dynamics and Expressions” (whose acronym is EuroCORECODE) as one of its key themes for 2009; the application to ESF was made by the CARMEN Academic Director, Prof. Dr. Dick de Boer of Groningen. The main purpose of the theme is to create a better understanding of the ways in which regional cohesion developed in the longue durée. This theme, the only one of 6 themes open to scholars in the arts and humanities, will act as an umbrella for collaborative networks and research projects. For more details, go to http://www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/programmes/eurocorecode.html. Visit the CARMEN website at http://www.carmen-medieval.eu/.
The Center for Medieval Studies at National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan, was formally established on January 6, 2009, and ACMRS Director, Robert E. Bjork, was appointed to its International Advisory Board. We look forward to working together with the new Center and to fostering a collaborative teaching and research relationship in Taiwan that will benefit all ACMRS affiliates.

The Center’s International Advisory Board consists of the following scholars: Brother Anthony of Taize (Sogang Univ., Korea); Robert E. Bjork (Arizona State Univ., U.S.A.); Piero Boitani (La Sapienza, Rome, Italy); Helen Cooper (Cambridge Univ., UK); Rosalind Field (Royal Holloway, Univ. of London, UK); Shen Hong (Zhejiang Univ., China); Mitsunori Imai (Setsunan Univ., Osaka, Japan); Jongsook Lee (Seoul National Univ., Korea); Alastair Minnis (Yale Univ., U. S. A.); James Murray (Western Michigan Univ., U.S.A.); Derek Pearsall (Harvard Univ., U. S. A.); and James Simpson (Harvard Univ., U. S. A.).

ACMRS and Taiwan

The Center for Medieval Studies at National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan, was formally established on January 6, 2009, and ACMRS Director, Robert E. Bjork, was appointed to its International Advisory Board. We look forward to working together with the new Center and to fostering a collaborative teaching and research relationship in Taiwan that will benefit all ACMRS affiliates.

The Center’s International Advisory Board consists of the following scholars: Brother Anthony of Taize (Sogang Univ., Korea); Robert E. Bjork (Arizona State Univ., U.S.A.); Piero Boitani (La Sapienza, Rome, Italy); Helen Cooper (Cambridge Univ., UK); Rosalind Field (Royal Holloway, Univ. of London, UK); Shen Hong (Zhejiang Univ., China); Mitsunori Imai (Setsunan Univ., Osaka, Japan); Jongsook Lee (Seoul National Univ., Korea); Alastair Minnis (Yale Univ., U. S. A.); James Murray (Western Michigan Univ., U.S.A.); Derek Pearsall (Harvard Univ., U. S. A.); and James Simpson (Harvard Univ., U. S. A.).

ACMRS Interdisciplinary Conference

The fifteenth annual ACMRS interdisciplinary conference will be held February 12–14, 2009, at Four Points by Sheraton, Tempe. The theme of this year’s conference is “The Five Senses in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” The conference registration fee is $100 ($45 for students) and includes welcoming and concluding receptions, two days of concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday, and the Plenary lecture “Senses of Imagination in Medieval Thought,” delivered by Stephen G. Nichols, Johns Hopkins University. There will also be a pre-conference workshop on Manuscript Studies led by Timothy Graham, Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico.

For complete conference details, visit the ACMRS website or phone the Center. Also, if you would like to submit an idea for next year’s conference theme, email the Center at acmrs@asu.edu with “2010 Conference Theme” in the subject line.

ACMRS Administers NEH Summer Seminar

ACMRS is administrating the summer seminar “Disease in the Middle Ages” at the Wellcome Trust Centre in London in summer 2009. This seminar is being taught by Monica Green (ASU Department of History and ACMRS faculty affiliate) and Walton O. Schalick, III (University of Wisconsin). Professor Green received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct this seminar. Monica would like to especially thank ACMRS Assistant Director Bill Gentrup “for all his amazing work in sustaining this project administratively.” Congratulations Monica!

ODMA Delivered to Press

ACMRS is proud to announce the Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages (ODMA) was delivered to Oxford University Press at the close of 2008 and is now in production. The ODMA has been the major research project at the Center for the past 10 years, and it will be unique in its extensive coverage of such topics as women and children, as well as archaeology. The dictionary is due for publication in Spring 2010, and it will consist of four volumes containing roughly 7,000 entries, 60 maps, and 500 illustrations. Visit the ACMRS website for further details.
The 14th annual ACMRS Cambridge Study Abroad Program will be in residence at St. Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge, England, July 3–August 10. The Cambridge program continues to be a vital part of the Center’s offerings, providing students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the study of various topics on medieval and Renaissance history and culture, while inhabiting and visiting many of the locales that provide the context for their studies.

For the 2009 program, the faculty and their respective courses are Paul Hartle (University of Cambridge), *Shakespeare in Performance*; James Helfers (Grand Canyon University), *Pirates, Poets, and a Preacher: Renaissance English Exploration*; Diane Facinelli (Arizona State University), *The Arthurian Legend in History, Literature, and Art*; and Edward Mallot (Arizona State University), *Postcolonial Shakespeares*. These courses include an off-site excursion every Thursday, organized by each of the faculty and pertaining to his or her specific course. This summer, students will venture to Glastonbury, Liverpool, London, and Stratford-upon-Avon. The program also includes opening and closing receptions in the formal dining hall at St. Catharine’s College, and students have ample opportunity to travel and explore on their own.

Some of the highlights for the Summer 2008 program included trips to Oxford and the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial, as well as a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon to attend a Royal Shakespeare Company performance of *Hamlet*, featuring Patrick Stewart.

For further details about the program and upcoming meetings, visit the ACMRS website or contact Jennifer Michaud at jennifer.michaud@asu.edu.

ACMRS is holding three reading groups this semester, the first two of which are being led by Center Director Robert E. Bjork. The Old English group is meeting Tuesdays, 3:00 PM, and is reading lyrics and sapiential poems; the Old Norse group is meeting Thursdays, 10:00 AM, and is working through basic grammar; and the Latin group, co-facilitated by Professor Taylor Corse and Mr. Paul Arena, is meeting Thursdays, 2:00 PM, and is reading Bede’s Ecclesiastical History. All three groups will be held in the ACMRS conference room, Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4457. These reading groups are open to interested students, faculty, and friends. For further details, contact ACMRS.

ACMRS is pleased to announce Kyle DiRoberto as the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for her paper “Sacred Parody in Greene’s *Groatsworth of Wit*.” Kyle is in the dissertation phase of the Ph.D. program in literature at the University of Arizona, and her dissertation examines the carnivalesque in Robert Greene’s repentance and coney-catching pamphlets, as well as the influence of these works on William Shakespeare’s Henriad. She is particularly interested in ideologically centralizing and decentralizing representations of the body in the construction of identity in Puritan and popular literature of the sixteenth century.

This award provides an all-expenses-paid trip to the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, which is one of the most prestigious conferences in medieval studies. Ms. DiRoberto will present her winning paper at the annual conference in May 2009. In addition, she will give a pre-conference presentation of her paper on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 1:00 PM, at the ASU Tempe Campus, Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403. Congratulations, Kyle, on this tremendous achievement!

We are currently accepting submissions for the 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2009.


— and New York: de Gruyter, 2008), 903 pp., 85 ill.


—, guest editor, special issue of Journal of Medieval History 34, no. 2 (June 2008) [table of contents, plus letter from the editor of “Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index,” announcing that one of the essays (that by Rebecca Winer) was selected as “Article of the Month”).

—, “Conversing with the Minority: Relations among Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Women in the High Middle Ages,” Editor’s Preface to a special issue of Journal of Medieval History 34, no. 2 (June 2008): 105–18.


---

**NEW FINDS AT THE NEWPORT TOWER**

The Newport Tower, a round stone tower in Newport, Rhode Island, has been the subject of controversy for more than 150 years. Who built it, when, and for what purpose? No solid answers to these questions have ever materialized. However, in 2006 and 2007, Jan Barstad, ACMRS adjunct scholar and President of the Chronognostic Research Foundation (CRF) of Tempe, Arizona, sponsored an archaeological excavation to discover whether the Tower’s surroundings contained anything that might relate directly to its origins.

In 2007, CRF confirmed findings of William Penhallow (astronomer, University of Rhode Island) that there were astronomical alignments built into the Tower, and they identified the target used to track the Summer Solstice. In May 2008, when Newport was about to remove asphalt sidewalks in place in Touro Park since 1949, CRF received permission to explore the area around the Tower for wooden posts associated with the eight columns. A small team was able to delineate two remnant posts, each 10–12 feet away from and in line with the NNE and NE columns. There was no time to find the other six posts before concrete was poured.

The two finds may indicate that there was once another structure around the Tower; the finds are tantalizing, because they suggest the Tower may be a structure from a time earlier than the 17th century, when Europeans settled the northeastern United States.
Spring 2009 Calendar of Events
(All events will be held at the ASU Tempe Campus unless otherwise noted.)

FEBRUARY 12–14
15th Annual ACMRS Conference
The Five Senses in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
Four Points by Sheraton
1333 South Rural Road, Tempe
For complete details visit www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/conferences.html

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Paul Hartle, The University of Cambridge
“‘Look with Thine Ears’: Hearing Shakespeare’s Voices in a Visual World”
4:00 PM, USB 266
ASU at the West Campus

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20
El Mundo
directed by Richard Savino
Acclaimed Hispanic-Baroque ensemble El Mundo, performs Jesuit music from missions in Paraguay, as well as a zarzuela and other secular works by Latin American and Spanish composers (ca. 1700). This event is co-sponsored by the Phoenix Early Music Society.
7:30 PM
ASU School of Music, Organ Hall
Free and open to the public

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Jonathan Rose, Arizona State University
3:30 PM
“Musing on Clio: Why Study the Past, History, and Legal History”
cosponsored by the School of History,

FEBRUARY 27–28
3rd Annual Beowulf Symposium
Friday, February 27
“Beowulf in Bits”
12:00–3:00 PM
“The Many Guises of Beowulf (and Grendel, too)”
Professor Robert E. Bjork
3:00–4:00 PM
Pima Auditorium, Memorial Union

COMMUNAL READING OF BEOWULF
Saturday, February 28
Reading will be conducted in Old and Modern English — feasting included —
Robert Bjork’s residence
(a.k.a. Bob’s Mead Hall), 4:00–9:00 PM
co-sponsored by the Department of English
For more information contact Heather.Maring@asu.edu

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
ACMRS Ad Hoc Lecture
“The Medieval Problem of Paganism and the Ancient Schools of Philosophy”
John Marenbon, University of Cambridge
3:30 PM
Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4411

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
ACMRS Ad Hoc Lecture
Outstanding Graduate Student Paper
“Sacred Parody in Greene’s Groatsworth of Wit”
Kyle DiRoberto, University of Arizona
1:00 PM
Lattie F. Coor Hall, room 4403
Friends of ACMRS 2008

Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Alexander
Robert and Mary Bjork
Christine Blunt
Sheila Bonde
Roger Dahood
Bob Dare and Penny Wilson
Joerg O. Fichte
Virginia and David Foster
William F. Gentrup
Monica H. Green
Nancy A. Gutierrez
Antoinette Healey
Intel Foundation
Alyce A. Jordan
Siiri Granfelt Julian
Asuncion and David Lavrin
Joan W. Marshall
John H. Olson
Barbara Rasnick
A. C. Reeves
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
Joel and Jennifer Satterlee
Lynn D. Sims
John C. Ulreich
Kenneth Walko
Retha and Ronald Warnicke
2008 Friends of ACMRS Membership Form

Bequest ________ (ACMRS will contact you.)

Monthly payroll deduction of $ __________
(You may be able to set up payroll deduction with your current employer. Your place of employment will send the ASU Foundation a check indicating the donor, payroll deduction date, and dollar amount.)

Credit Card pledge of $ __________ (annually, bi-annually, quarterly, monthly—please circle one.)
   Credit Card # ___________________________
   Name on card ___________________________
   Date of expiration _________________________

Check enclosed $ __________ (Please make check payable to "ASU Foundation.")

Does your company supply matching funds for charitable donations? _____ If yes, will you be applying for them? _____

 _____ I give permission for my name to be added to the published list of friends.

 _____ Please do not add my name to the published list of friends.

My name and address are: ______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

Mail to: ACMRS, Arizona State University, Box 874402, Tempe, AZ 85287-4402.
(All funds are being deposited with the ASU Foundation, a non-profit organization that exists for the benefit of ASU.)

Solicitation code: LMRGM8F
Account: 30-A-MLMR0001