

University of California Santa Barbara

## Medieval Studies Newsletter

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<http://medievalstudies.ucsb.edu>

Winter 2003

# Mid-Year Greetings from the Chair

The Medieval Studies program has been enjoying a lively year, including our highly interdisciplinary colloquium on sin and confession, which included professors Thomas N. Tentler, Konrad Eisenbichler, Allen J. Frantzen, and Christine Göttler and is described in this issue. The History Department is currently enjoying a chance to build the program through a search for an assistant professor specializing in Europe's medieval frontiers. Continuing this frontier theme, a number of our students and colleagues have recently returned from an extended seminar on Borderlands theory at the School of American Research in Santa Fe. Additionally, two of our students have been notified by the American Fulbright Association that they are finalists for research fellowships for Italy and France; and our collective fingers are crossed. Two Medieval Studies undergraduate majors are currently finishing very promising honors theses, Leslier Lerner and Mike Peixoto.

Upcoming events include a talk by Sylvia

Huot of Cambridge University on "Madness and Monstrosity" on April 2 and a conference on violence in Late Antiquity, organized by Hal Drake, March 20-23. Our



graduate conference on Passions, with Barbara Rosenwein as plenary speaker, is slated for April 19. Next year looks promising as well: Carol Pasternack from the English Department is taking over as Medieval Studies chair.

This note gives me the opportunity to thank Carol Pfeil, Rosa Arlington and Mike Tucker of the History Department staff for their efficient staff support for the program, as well as Mark O'Tool and Katie Sjursen, the hard-working newsletter editors.

Carol Lansing  
Chair, Medieval Studies Program

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# A Trip to the Borderlands

by Corinne Wieben

Over the last two quarters, James Brooks, former associate professor of history at UCSB, now at the School of American Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, has been conducting a research seminar with the help of professor Luke Roberts. This project involves UCSB history graduate students from a variety of fields examining the ways in which neighboring groups create, maintain, and subvert borders and boundaries. The impetus for this course stems from his own research in which he has explored the question, “How do local peoples get along—or not—when they’re relatively free to make up the rules?”

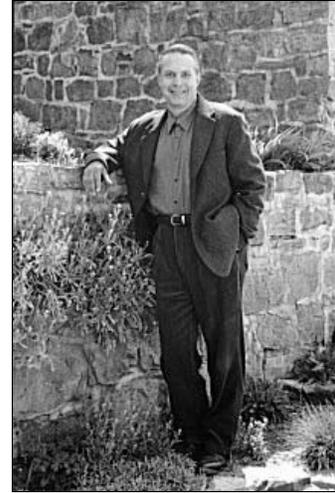
Alongside students of modern European, Latin American, and American history, several students associated with medieval studies were involved in the project: Josh Birk, Nancy McLoughlin, Tom Sizgorich, and myself. We have recently produced polished drafts of our papers, and attended a four-day seminar meeting and editing session with professor Brooks and other scholars at the SAR in early March.

Although professor Brooks is now permanently at the SAR, he remains an adjunct professor of the history department and hopes to repeat this project in the future with a new group of graduate students.

As a current participating scholar, I am convinced that this field needs more attention from medievalists. The examination of borderlands has generally been based on studies in anthropology, but this course attempts to synthesize such studies with history, where the students might contribute a

more nuanced view to the complexity of the historical borderland. I strongly believe that medievalists can contribute a unique perspective to borderlands studies, thus far largely dominated by modernists.

The particular appeal of this project, however, comes from interacting with graduate students from diverse fields and being able to connect my project with others located in completely different geographical or chronological spaces but which share the same basic issues of boundary-maintenance.



*James Brooks*

## **SHIFTING FRONTIERS V “Violence, Victims, and Vindication in Late Antiquity”**

20-23 March 2003

IHC Conference Room

Registration fees (primarily for meals):

Students: \$45

Everybody else: \$90

If cost is prohibitive, or for more information, contact:

Hal Drake, [drake@history.ucsb.edu](mailto:drake@history.ucsb.edu)  
or visit, [www.sc.edu/ltantsoc/sf5prog.htm](http://www.sc.edu/ltantsoc/sf5prog.htm)

## Spring 2003 Courses

### Graduate:

Art Hist 252B	Yegül	Seminar: Topics in Roman Architecture and Urbanism
Art Hist 253E	Armi	Seminar in Romanesque Architecture and Sculpture
Art Hist 275E	Khoury	Special Topics in Islamic Art and Architecture
History 201E	Bernstein	Advanced Historical Literature (15th-Century Europe)
History 201ME	English	From Vico to Croce and the <i>Annales</i> : The Histories of Medieval and Renaissance Italys
History 201ME	English	Paleography/Diplomatics (Manuscript Studies)

### Undergraduate:

Art Hist 105B	Staff	Medieval Art: Byzantine
Art Hist 105C	Armi	Medieval Architecture: From Constantine to Charlemagne
Art Hist 105F	Ayres	Medieval Art: Romanesque
Art Hist 106AA	Ayres	Special Topics in Medieval Art
Art Hist 107B	Staff	Painting in the Sixteenth-Century Netherlands
Art Hist 109D	Staff	Art and Formation of Social Subjects in Early Modern Italy
Art Hist 109E	Williams	Michelangelo
English 115	Fradenburg	Medieval Literature
History 4B	Bernstein	Western Civilization: 1050-1715 AD
History 113B	Drake	The Roman Empire
History 116	Carniello	Civilization of the High Middle Ages
History 117P	Farmer	Proseminar in Medieval Social History
History 119	Humphreys	The Crusades and the Near East, 1095-1291
History 122P	Friesen	Proseminar in Reformation Europe
History 145B	Humphreys	Islamic World, II: Expansion and Consolidation, 1000-1700
History 184B	Staff	History of China, Sixth to Seventeenth Centuries

*Course schedule subject to change. Please consult the course catalogue.*

## What's up, Docs?

**Cynthia Brown** (French) delivered a talk entitled "Rites of Passage: The Books of the Parisian Entry (1504) and Funeral (1514) of Anne of Brittany," on Feb. 3 at New York University, Maison Française. This Spring, she will present two papers: "Staking Out Authorial Claims: Another Example of Self-Defense by Pierre Gringore" on May 10 at the International Congress on Medieval Studies held at Kalamazoo; and "Pierre Gringore in Translation: English and Dutch Connections" in July for the Early Book Society Conference on "Circulation and Influence of MSS and Early Printed Books, 1350-1550," held at the University of Durham.

**Francis Dutra** (History) has recently published several works. For the book *Medieval Iberia. An Encyclopedia* (edited by Michael Gerli; Routledge, 2003), he wrote the articles on Kings of Portugal: Afonso II (r. 1211-1223); Afonso III (r. 1248-1279); Afonso IV (r. 1325-1357); Dinis (r. 1279-1325) and the article on Medieval Portugal. In addition, he wrote "Vasco da Gama and the Order of Santiago," published in *Vasco da Gama. Homens, Viagens e Culturas* (2 vols. Lisbon, 2002; I, 537-547) and "As Ordens Militares," for *O Tempo de Vasco da Gama*, edited by Diogo Curto Ramada (Lisbon: Difel, 1998; pp. 229-241, 387).

**Jody Enders** (French) will be half-time in the Department of Dramatic Art starting in July for 3 years. She is also the new Associate Editor of *Theatre Survey* (and in 2 years, will be its Editor) for a four-year total of service. This Spring, she will be in Paris with an affiliation at the CNRS on the me-

dieval drama work-team, and in April, she will speak at a conference on urban legends in Bellagio. Earlier this winter, she gave a talk about her new book to the theater department at Brown University

**Sharon Farmer** (History): gave a paper for California historians of France on Feb. 22 on "Saracen Paris." For the Society for French Historical Studies on April 4, she will deliver a plenary talk that looks at the impact of Muslim material culture on French material culture, technology, and identity.

**Carol Lansing** (History) has recently given a number of talks on what she terms "Poisoned Relations" (medieval marital conflict) and is at last finishing revisions of her book on grief for the dead.

**Harvey Sharrer** (Spanish and Portuguese) co-authored (with Arthur L-F. Askins and Aida Fernanda Dias) *Fragmentos de Textos Medievais Portugueses da Torre do Tombo* (Lisbon: Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais, 2002).

## And in Alumni News...

**Susan Taylor Snyder** (History 2002) gave birth to a boy, Michael Dominic on January 10, who attended his first conference only two weeks later.



## Graduate Student Happenings

**Josh Birk** (History) presented “The Trial of Philip of Magdia: Religious Boundaries and Royal Identity in Medieval Sicily” at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ACMRS [Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies] Conference “Multicultural Europe and Cultural Exchange” this February. In March, he delivered “Borderlands and Borderlines: Narrating the Past in Twelfth-Century Sicily” at the Borderlands Conference in Santa Fe.

**Brian Carniello** (History) published his article “The Rise of an Administrative Elite in Medieval Bologna: Notaries and Popular Government, 1282-1292” in *The Journal of Medieval History* 28 (2002):319-347.

**Heidi Marx-Wolf** (History) will deliver “Disordered Passions: Records of Madness in Medieval Canonization Processes” at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific, held at Portland State University on March 28-29.

**Nancy McLoughlin** (History) had her article, “When What Does Not Exist May Be Useful: The Evolution of Franz Anton Mesmer’s Theory of Animal Magnetism from an Orthodox Explication of Human Tidal Flux to a Heterodox Practice of Charismatic Healing,” published in *Looking Up: Science and Observation in the Early Modern Period*, edited by Jason M. Kelly. The book was put out by Legas Publishing in 2002.

**Andrew Miller** (History) will present two papers at conferences this spring. At the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific, held at Portland State University on March 28-29, he will deliver “Torturous Tonsuring: Violence as Communication in the Reign of King Edward I.” In April, he will present “Devastating Deer-Parks and Episcopal Identity in England, c. 1272-1300,” at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America (“Encounter and Exchange”), hosted by the University of Minnesota.

**Tom Sizgorich** (History) presented two papers last November: “What You Know Can Hurt You: Arabs, Islam and Roman Colonial Knowledge,” at the biannual Friends of Ancient History meeting in Los Angeles, and “Born in the Borderlands: Narratives of Community in Late Antiquity and Early Islam” at the Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference in Washington, DC. He will deliver a paper titled “‘A More Civilized Style of Life’: Law and Loyalty in Late Antique Lazica” at the Fifth Annual Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity Conference, to be held at UCSB this March.

**Katie Sjursen** (History) presented the paper “Dutiful Wives, Power-Hungry Viragos: Contested Gender Roles in Medieval Warfare” at 119<sup>th</sup> annual Modern Language Association Convention in December 2002.

### Call for Papers:

Women in Conflict: Historical Perspectives  
An International Graduate Student Conference

Featuring Participation of UCSB Medieval Alumni

**Abstracts due 1 April 2003**

For more information visit:  
[www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~ae0/conf.html](http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~ae0/conf.html)

## Spotlight Scholar: Andrew Miller

*Editors' Note: We hope that the Spotlight Scholar will become a regular feature in the Medieval Studies Newsletter that will serve as a forum for our community to learn more about each other's current research. In the future we will focus on both graduate students and faculty. If you would like to be featured, or would like to recommend someone to be featured, please contact us.*

*Andrew Miller is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, who is in the final stages of writing his dissertation under the direction of Sharon Farmer. His dissertation is titled, "Carpe Ecclesiam: Households, Identity and Violent Communication ('Church' & 'State' under King Edward I)."*

My dissertation focuses on three English bishops who entered into protracted struggles with King Edward I, and especially with prominent members of the royal household, over ecclesiastical rights, liberties, and who had ultimate control of appointments to church benefices in their dioceses. The episcopal and royal parties struggled openly and violently to control or maintain rights concerning personal deer-parks, benefit of clergy, and especially the power and prestige that came from assigning lucrative benefices to "familial" candidates. Just as the king wished to provide churches and their revenues to his household clerks, the bishops desired to reward members of their own *familia* similarly.

Through a contextualized examination of these three well-documented cases, I investigate the nature of ecclesiastical "identity" in that crucial period when the English church was allegedly moving in a more "national" direction (with the king gaining control at the expense of the pope), and when bishops were increasingly alarmed by royal encroachments on church appointments. I counter a scholarship that stresses

the "national" identity of the late medieval English church, demonstrating that these struggles over control of benefices highlight the local and negotiated nature of church identity. I argue that simplistic binaries, which emphasize the "papal" or the "national/royal" identity of the church in England, fail to recognize the local nature of church identities and the necessary ways in which church leaders played off pope and king in order to enhance their own independence, to reward their own relations, allies and subordinates, and to fend off secular encroachments.



In all three cases the struggles between the bishops and their king involved armed struggle and a wide array of violent tactics, allowing me to draw on and modify current medieval scholarship on the social and political meanings and functions of violence. The spectrum and depth of the episcopal, royal, and legal sources available enables me to add my own original twist to this extremely sophisticated scholarship by investigating the ways in which bishops negotiated their identities through, and despite, their uses of violence. Such negotiations were not easy, since on the one hand, without the resort to violence churchmen and their churches might lose their autonomy vis-à-vis royal and other secular encroachments; and on the other, the outright exercise of force could cause a churchman to lose his clerical identity, since clerics were not supposed to employ force. These three bishops knew how to wield a mace, even if the sword was forbidden.

## Upcoming Events in the UCSB Area

### December 20 – June 15

*Gloriana! The Golden Legend of Elizabeth I*  
– Huntington Library, West Hall

The Huntington Library, one of the greatest repositories in America of Elizabethan material, will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Virgin Queen with an exhibition of rare manuscripts, early printed books and engravings, to illustrate the creation of the golden legend of “Gloriana.”

### February 11 - June 1

*Five Hundred Years of Manuscript Illumination* – Getty Center

This exhibition introduces manuscripts that received lavish embellishment in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, including private devotional books, religious service books, and books of history and law from throughout Western Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

### March 23: 10:30 am – 4:30 p.m.

*Elizabethan Family Festival* – Huntington Library

Step back in time to the Renaissance for a full day of historic fun, with demonstrations of 16th-century customs and crafts, lively music and dance, hands-on activities for children, and “living history” reenactments by members of the Guild of St. George.

### April 4: 3:00 p.m.

*Tenth Annual History of the Book Lecture: "Reading and Meditation in Late Medieval Devotional Manuscripts"* – UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (Humanities Conference Room)

Dr. Sylvia Huot (Pembroke College, Cambridge) will discuss devotional manuscripts used in the education and edification of both children and adults in 14th-century France, and consider how the process of reading became a basis for meditation, prayer, and self-scrutiny. Advance registration is required. Contact [cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu).

### April 22: 4:30 p.m.

*Between Jews and Christians in Renaissance Italy: In the Mirror of Art* – UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (Humanities Conference Room)

CMRS Visiting Professor Shalom Sabar (Chair, Jewish and Comparative Folklore, Hebrew University, Jerusalem) compares the image of the Jew in Italy to German images from the 15th and 16th centuries.

### May 17

*The Byzantinists' Colloquium: Byzantium and the Slavic World* – UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (Humanities Conference Room)

Byzantium's efforts at bringing Orthodox Christianity to the Slavs provided common cultural, artistic, and economic interests, while political ambitions often brought conflict. This conference, coordinated by Professor Claudia Rapp (History, UCLA), will explore Byzantium's interaction with and lasting influence on the Slavic world.

### May 20 - September 7

*The Making of a Medieval Book* – Getty Center

Several manuscripts in the Museum's collection are on view, illustrating the materials and techniques of medieval manuscript production.

### May 23

*Aspects of Equus* – UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (Humanities Conference Room)

In addition to recent developments in "equischolarship" in medieval studies, the program will include skits, recitations, music, and dance. Among the participants will be Professor Kelly DeVries (Loyola College, Baltimore). Registration is required. Contact [cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu).

### June 5-6

*New Perspectives on Medieval English Topics* – UCLA, Royce Hall 314 (Humanities Conference Room)

A two-day conference, coordinated by Professors Donka Minkova (English, UCLA) and Theresa Tinkle (English, University of Michigan), to honor Professor Henry Ansgar Kelly as he completes his term as Director of CMRS.

### June 17 - September 7, 2003

*Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe, 1467-1561* – Getty Center

The exhibition—which includes illuminated manuscripts and leaves from manuscripts, panel paintings, and drawings—centers on the art and careers of the most important artists. The show examines the degree to which the innovative style of these books' decorations, the naturalism of their miniatures, and the illusion created by their floral-pattern borders came to be identified with Flemish glory and Hapsburg power.

## Panelists Confess the Sins of Medieval and Early Modern Europe at Colloquium

By Karen Frank

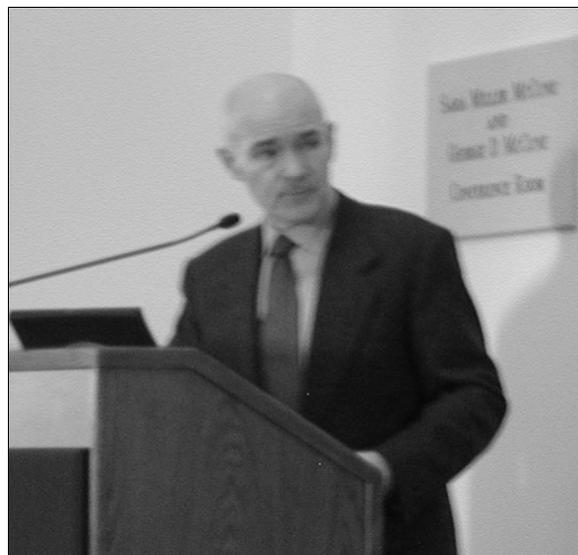
The UCSB Medieval Studies department was indeed fortunate this past January, welcoming to our academic community four distinguished scholars whose work has been influential in the field of sin and forgiveness. Thomas N. Tentler (Professor Emeritus, History Department, University of Michigan), Konrad Eisenbichler (Professor of Italian Studies and Director, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto), Allen J. Frantzen (Professor, English Department, Loyola University of Chicago) and Christine Göttler (Associate Professor of Art History, University of Washington) enriched our appreciation of the tensions created in medieval and early modern society by understandings of sin, penance, and forgiveness.

As each of these scholars explained, theological understandings of forgiveness did not always mesh with practical considerations. This point of intersection and unease proved the focal point for all four scholars who discerned how individuals from as early as ninth-century England to as late as Tridentine Europe attempted to deal with the psychological and social implications of ideas concerning sin and forgiveness.

Tentler's "Deathbed Forgiveness from Abelard to Luther" approached this problem by studying the problems created by the public's demand for the validity of last-minute confessions and theological insistence that stressed the absolute necessity of individual contrition from the twelfth through sixteenth centuries. According to

Tentler, although theologians did not approve of putting off confession until the last minute, the social reality was such that the ever-growing list of sins throughout the late medieval period created feelings of impotence in penitents who believed that once they confessed, they would be unable to remain without sin. Thus, in what Tentler calls a "cost-benefit" analysis, Christians often put off confession to the moment when they were sure they could sin no more, i.e. death. While theologians tenuously accepted this practice, it still created anxiety concerning both the sincerity of contrition, and hence, the validity of the sacrament.

In his talk entitled, "Confratelli and the Compagnacci: Sin, Boys and Confraternities in Renaissance Florence," Eisenbichler argued that these confraternities made up of predominantly teenage boys emphasized not the interior awareness of sin, contrition, and



*Allen J. Frantzen examines the artwork from his multimedia presentation during his lecture.*

forgiveness, but rather those sins that to commercially oriented Renaissance Florentines endangered social and economic stability, i.e., gambling and fighting. Thus, in Eisenbichler's opinion, despite increasing theological concerns with interior spirituality and an emphasis on the individual soul, Florentine confraternities stressed the social implications of sin and attempted to curb them through public confessions within the confraternities' walls, thereby creating moral Florentine citizens.

Describing "The Scene of Forgiveness in Anglo-Saxon Literature," Frantzen returned to the idea of private confession emphasized by Tentler in his earlier paper but focused instead on the "scene" created by the confessional atmosphere. According to Frantzen, this scene by its very nature was an artificial creation, but one in which the participants (priest and penitent) both shared the same world view, and knew well their parts to play. Frantzen compared this medieval "performance" with modern notions on forgiveness derived from such scholars as Kristeva and Derrida. Ultimately, he argued that conflating Christian pastoralism with modern psychoanalysis cannot work due to the fact that in a modern setting, participants in conflicts that involve notions of repentance and forgiveness share neither similar worldviews nor understand the same "plot." These modern attempts at reconciling opponents are therefore less effective than medieval attempts to achieve the relief sought in repentance and forgiveness.

Lastly, Göttler's "Shaping the Soul: Giovanni Bernardino Azzolini's Wax Figures of the Four Last Things and Their Aristocratic Owners" stressed the importance of the psychological implications of sin in a Europe post-Trent. Göttler shows how, at least in artistic representations, the anguish



*Our own Randy P. Schiff (English) provides technical assistance for the live-feed to Prof. Frantzen's class in Chicago.*

of the soul came to be seen in physical terms, responding to an increased emphasis on internal spirituality itself reminiscent of Ignatius Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. In other words, the physicality of the soul became the recipient of punishments or benefits due the individual as the soul itself burned in the fires of hell, or experienced the cleansing fires of purgatory, or the ecstatic rewards of heaven. This can be seen, she argued, in the emphasis on emotional response vividly portrayed in the colorful wax devotional heads owned by aristocrats intensely concerned with the status of their soul in the Tridentine era.

In sum, these four papers contributed greatly to our understandings of the ways that individuals and communities, theologians and penitents attempted to deal with the implications of human sin, as well as the fervent desire for forgiveness and salvation in the medieval and early modern period.

## Spring Graduate Student Conference *Passions*

**Saturday, 19 April 2003**  
**Centennial House**

**Morning Session:**

*'Spiritual Consolation': Seeking External Aid for Inner Passions*

- Nicole Archambeau (History)

*No Passion, Please: Desire and Restraint in Chretien's Perceval*

- Zia Isola (English)

*Disordered Passions: Records of Madness in Medieval Canonization Processes*

- Heidi Marx-Wolf (History)

**Plenary Speaker:**

*Passions at Court in Merovingian Gaul*

- Barbara Rosenwien (History)

Loyola University Chicago

**Afternoon Session:**

*Carissima Domina Mater: Verdiana and*

*Castelfiorentino as Civic Saint*

- Corinne Wieben (History)

*Lijdens Christi and Flemish Medelijden—The Passion Narrative in Fifteenth-Century Visual Culture*

- Mitzi Kirkland Ives (Art History)

*The Relics of the Passion and the Veronica in France at the time of Louis IX*

- Bethanie Petersen (History)

### Special Event

Dr. Sylvia Huot will present

“Madness and Monstrosity: Crises of Identity in Medieval French Literature”

2 April 2003 at 4:00 pm  
 IHC Conference Room

Professor Huot, one of world's leading French medieval scholars, is Reader in Medieval French Literature and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge University.

### Program in Medieval Studies

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