

SCRINIUM No. 1

[1995]

SSHRCC Grant

We have just received notice that the Society has received a grant of \$5500 towards expenses associated with the Montreal meeting. Individuals reading papers are still encouraged to apply for travel funds from their own institutions wherever possible; but those who do not have access to such funding can now be assured of support.

Left off the list?

Any member who has not yet received a registration packet from the Learned Societies Secretariat should let the secretary know as soon as possible (tel: 709-737-4406 or 709-722-1537 [evenings]; fax 709-737-4406; email: schipper@morgan.ucs.mun.ca).

Below is the programme for the Society's meeting, presented with apologies for its tardy appearance.

1995 Learned Societies, Montreal

Saturday, 27 May

9:00 a.m. Plenary Address: Margaret Wade Labarge (Ottawa), "Medieval Travel: From Piety to *curiositas*"

10:30 a.m.

I. General Session: Romance

S. Steele (S.F.U.), "Chrétien de Troyes across the centuries/ Chrétien de Troyes à travers les siècles"

Elizabeth Edwards (University of King's College, Halifax), "Malory's Abbreviation of the *Queste del Saint Graal*"

H.F. Nelson (S.F.U.) "The Epistemological Quest and the Fictional Exegete in Medieval Literature"

Mayer Hartwig (Toronto) "Love is a Many-

splendour'd Thing: Variations of Love and Sex in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*"

10:30 a.m.

II. General Session: Gender

Suzanne Klerks (SFU), "Gendering Domestic in *Amis and Amiloun*"

Joanne Findon (York), "The Women's War of Words: Female Combat in the Medieval Irish Tale 'Bricriu's Feast'"

Pauline Head (York), "Muris altis et firmis circumdata: the construction of Narrative and Gender in the *Vita Leobae Abbatissae*"

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00 p.m.

I. General Session: Philosophy

Julia A. Allen (Toronto), "Abailard on 'Goodness': An Absolute or Relative Attribute?"

Richard Upsher Smith, "'Sed Necessitas Non Habet Legem': The Logic of the Spiritual and the Practical in St Bernard's Friendships"

II. Arranged Session: Cross-Channel Romance

Organized by Brenda Hosington (Marianopolis)

Joan Brumlick (Alberta), "*Freine and Galeran*: A Destructive Plagiarism"

Carol Harvey, (Winnipeg) "The Aesthetic and the Dramatic in Philippe de Beaumanoir's Verse Romances"

Brenda Hosington, "The Legend of Otinel: Middle English Versions of a French *chanson de geste*"

Sunday, 28 May

9:30 a.m. Plenary Address: Dujka Smoje (Montreal), "L'Héritage médiéval dans la musique de notre temps"

11:00-12:30

Annual General Meeting

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30

Concurrent Sessions

I. Special Session - Medicine

Organized by Carol A. Everest (The King's University College)

Carol Everest, "Saint or Slattern: *Quid autem est mulier?*"

Peter Allen (Pomona College), "The Yearning Matrix and the Middle Finger: Gender, Morality and Lovesickness in Medieval Medical Texts"

Glenn Burger (Alberta), "Doing What Comes Naturally: Queering the Feminine in *The Physician's Tale*"

II. Special Session - Women's Song

Organized by Anne L. Klinck (UNB)

Anne L. Klinck (UNB), "The Continuity of Woman's Song: Sappho and her Daughters"

Judith Cohen (York), "Women's Musicians in the Three Cultures of Medieval Spain"

Janine Rogers (McGill), "Authorship and the Woman's Voice in Middle English Women's Songs"

Anne Marie Rasmussen, "Undoing the Conventions of Courtly Love: The Female Voice in the Poetry of Walther von der Vogelweide"

4:00 p.m.

Concert

"A chanter n'en ...:
Medieval Women's Songs"
(Ensemble la Carezza)

Monday, 29 May

9:00 a.m. Plenary Address: Richard F. Green (Western), "Iseult's Oath and the Development of the English Common Law"

10:30-12:30

I. General Session: Literature

Murray J. Evans (Winnipeg), "Subject and Gender in William Langland's *Piers Plowman*"

K. Morin (Ottawa), "What man artow?: Chaucer's Poet-Pilgrim and the Bakhtinian Construction of Self"

Ruth Wehlau (Concordia), "The Genres of Evil in *Beowulf*"

II. Special Session: Images of the Family in the Late Middle Ages

Organized by Rosemary Hale (Concordia)

Shannon McSheffrey (Concordia University) "Married with Children in Fifteenth Century England"

Virginia Nixon (Concordia University) "Saint Anne: A Wife for All Seasons"

Rosemary Drage Hale (Concordia University) "R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Joseph as Paradigm for Late Medieval Fatherhood"

12:30-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:30 Literature and Manuscripts
(Jointly with ACCUTE)

M. Jane Toswell (Western), "How Pedantry Meets Intertextuality: Editing the Old English Metrical Psalter"

James Weldon (Wilfrid Laurier), "Manuscript Traces and Dream Vision in *Piers Plowman*"

Eric H. Reiter, "Personal Production of Manuscripts and the History of Late Medieval Reading"

Obituary

Kathleen M.J. Openshaw
(1945-1995)

Kathleen M. J. Openshaw, assistant professor in the Department of Fine Art at Erindale College, the University of Toronto, died on January 3rd, 1995, at the age of fifty. Her premature and unexpected death cut short what promised to be

a brilliant scholarly and teaching career.

Kay discovered her passion for medieval art and culture after a first career as registered nurse. She then undertook a second academic career at the University of Toronto. Completing her B.A. with a history major in 1982, she continued in the Centre for Medieval Studies which awarded her an M.A. in 1983 and a Ph.D. in 1990. It is a measure of her remarkable determination and ability that she accomplished all this while raising two young children and battling recurrent major illness.

Her doctoral thesis, "Images, Texts and Contexts: the Iconography of the Tiberius Psalter, London, British Library, Cotton MS. Tiberius C. vi," was a ground-breaking study of an Anglo-Saxon psalter famous for its enigmatic prefatory cycle of Old and New Testament pictures. She succeeded in showing the devotional function of these images within the specific manuscript context while also elucidating the origins of what would become a major scheme of medieval psalter illustration. At the time of her death she was revising her thesis for publication by Princeton University Press, and there is some optimism that others might be able to complete the project on her behalf. Kay did have time to publish facets of her research in several significant articles. In "The Battle between Christ and Satan in the Tiberius Psalter" (*Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 52 [1989]) she demonstrated how the theme of the fight against sin linked the manuscript's miniatures in a penitential program. "The Symbolic Illustration of the Psalter: an Insular Tradition" (*Arte medievale*, ser II, 6 [1992]) analyzed the symbolic typological schemes of early Insular psalters and their influence on later systems of psalter illustration. Most recently, in "Weapons in the Daily Battle: Images of the Conquest of Evil in the Early Medieval Psalter" (*Art Bulletin*, 75 [1993]) she traced the impact of changes in the intellectual, social, and religious climate from the eighth to the twelfth century on developments in psalter imagery.

Kay frequently contributed to conferences, both as an organizer and a speaker. She instituted annual sessions on the psalter and on medieval ruler portraits at the International Congress on

Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, as well as Toronto conferences on "New Approaches in Medieval Studies" and "Italy in the Age of the City State." In the past two years alone she lectured at the Medieval Academy of America, The Canadian Learned Societies, Kalamazoo, and a Binghamton meeting on "Contextualizing the Renaissance." Her intellectual interests extended far beyond her published works, as is clear from some of the topics of her recent papers: the origin and function of an usual psalter prefatory text, an image of St. Michael in an eleventh-century Italian prayerbook, the influence of metaphor theory and *ruminatio* on picture cycles, and a feminist, contextual interpretation of fifteenth-century representations of Bathsheba. Kay had become increasingly interested in critical theory and new methodologies, while retaining a healthy regard for the value and utility of more traditional approaches to art history and medieval studies.

Although she only assumed a full-time position this past September, Kay had previously taught numerous courses as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Toronto. She was widely recognized as a sympathetic and gifted teacher, who was able to bring to life medieval art and civilization to diverse student audiences with little or no previous knowledge of the period.

To honour the memory of this outstanding scholar and teacher, a fellowship to support the graduate study of medieval art has been established in her name. Contributions made out to the "University of Toronto" and annotated "The Kathleen M. J. Openshaw Memorial Fellowship" can be sent to The Department of Fine Art, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5S 1A1.

Robert Deshman
Centre for Medieval Studies
University of Toronto

Call for Nominations

The nominating committee, chaired Margaret Wade Labarge is calling for nominations for a new executive slate to be elected at the next AGM. Needed are nominations for the following: Executive Board (2 members, plus one student member); Vice-President (who automatically become president in 1996). It would be helpful if the nominee had agreed to stand, but this is not essential at this point. Send nominations to the chair:

Margaret Wade Labarge

402 - 555 Wilbrod Street

Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5R4

They can also be faxed to her at 613-742-7569.

Secretary's Report

Because of unforeseen circumstances, I have had to take it in hand to produce this issue of the newsletter. We apologize for this, and will make a proposal at the next AGM to prevent this from happening again. A second issue of the Newsletter will be circulated at the end of April with copies of the minutes from last year's AGM, as well as an agenda for this year and a final copy of the programme.

As part of the next issue I would like to include a section on "News from Members". If you have information to include in this, such as a book or article published, a paper read at a conference, a promotion, or a new appointment please send this information to me, via ordinary mail, fax, or email. (Dr William Schipper, Department of English, Memorial University, St John's, Nfld, A1C 5S7)

Call for Papers for 1996 Meeting

The 1996 meeting of the society will be held at Brock University, St Catherines, Ontario. To get started on a programme as early as possible, we would like to issue a first call for papers at this time. We are especially eager to broaden the disciplinary range of the conference, by including papers from disciplines other than literature. As in the past, we welcome proposals for sessions as well.

Call for Papers

Memorial University will host the Learned Societies Congress in 1997. As part of the Society's I would like to organize one or two paper sessions addressing the issues of modern technologies and Medieval Studies, as well as a workshop on "On-line Bibliographies in Medieval Studies". If you are interested in participating in the workshop, or would like to present a paper, please get in touch with:

William Schipper

Department of English

Memorial University

Paul Zumthor

Paul Zumthor, Professor Emeritus in Medieval Studies at the University of Montreal, and one of Canada's leading medievalists, died in January 1995. We hope to include an obituary in the next issue of *Scrinium*.