



## SCRINIUM

October 2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MEDIEVALISTS/  
NOUVELLES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES MÉDIÉVISTES

Octobre 2001

### DE LA PART DE LA REDACTION

Vous trouverez ci-inclus une lettre de notre président, Andrew Taylor, et des nouvelles de nos membres. On vous invite également à proposer des candidats pour deux prix: le prix Margaret Wade Labarge, pour le meilleur livre de l'année, et le prix Leonard E. Boyle, pour la meilleure thèse de doctorat.

### A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

In this copy of the newsletter, you will find a letter from our President, Andrew Taylor, and news about some of our members, as well as calls for nominations for the Margaret Wade Labarge Prize for the best book of the year and the Leonard E. Boyle Prize for the best dissertation of the year.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Le prochain colloque de la Société Canadienne des Médiévistes a lieu à l'Université de Toronto, 26-28 mai, 2002.

The Canadian Society of Medievalists will meet at The University of Toronto, 26-28 May, 2002.

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently, I had a chance to read a paper by a friend that dealt, among matters, with the Council of Vienne of 1312, which called for lessons in Greek, Hebrew, Syrian, and Arabic at the papal curia and at the universities of Salamanca, Bologna, Paris, and Oxford. No doubt, I should have known this already, but to be honest, I had forgotten all about the Council of Vienne and it came as a complete surprise to me to hear there had been such an ambitious project.

I read this paper in late September, in the sake of the tragic events that have brought words like "crusade" back into common use. It made me realize once more how long and complicated the history of Christian, Moslem, and Jewish relations has been and how little of this history most of us, even those who are professional medievalists, actually know. For me, the implication was clear. Some aspects of our job have become harder since September 11. The lines of international communication that have allowed medieval studies to flourish in North America suddenly seem more tenuous. But the value of our work is greater than ever.

The Canadian Society of Medievalists continues to provide a dynamic forum for exploring the full diversity of the Middle Ages. We had a fine conference in Laval in May, well attended by both old and new members, with a wide range of papers and powerful plenary addresses by Bruno Roy and Douglas Wurtele. I hope to see many of you at this year's conference in Toronto, May 26-28. The deadline for abstracts is January 7, but if you have specific themes you would like to address please feel free to contact me sooner.

Andrew Taylor  
President

## MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

J'ai eu l'occasion récemment de lire un article rédigé par un de mes amis dans lequel il était question, entre autres choses, du Concile de Vienne de 1312. Ce Concile recommandait l'introduction aux cours papales, ainsi qu'aux universités de Salamanque, Bologne, Paris et Oxford, de cours de grec, hébreu, syrien et arabe. Sans doute aurais-je dû le savoir, mais à dire la vérité, ayant complètement oublié le Concile de Vienne, j'ai été étonné d'apprendre qu'il avait préconisé un projet d'une telle envergure.

C'est vers la fin de septembre que j'ai lu cet article, après les tragiques événements qui ont réintroduit dans la langue quotidienne des mots comme *croisade*. Cela m'a fait comprendre à nouveau que l'histoire des relations entre chrétiens, musulmans et juifs est bien longue et complexe ... et si peu connue, même par nous autres médiévistes. Pour moi, les conséquences étaient évidentes. Depuis le 11 septembre, certains aspects de notre tâche sont devenus plus difficiles. Les lignes de la communication internationale qui ont permis aux études médiévales de prospérer semblent soudain plus fragiles. Mais notre travail est encore plus précieux.

La Société canadienne des Médiévistes continue de servir comme point de rencontre dynamique pour l'exploration du Moyen Âge dans toute sa diversité. Au mois de mai, nous avons eu un excellent congrès à Laval, avec la participation des membres anciens et nouveaux, des communications sur des sujets variés et de superbes conférences plénières prononcées par Bruno Roy et Douglas Wurtele. J'espère revoir beaucoup d'entre vous au prochain congrès, qui aura lieu à l'Université de Toronto du 26 au 28 mai. Envoyez-moi vos projets de communication avant le 7 janvier et n'hésitez pas à me contacter plus tôt si vous voulez proposer une session thématique.

Andrew Taylor  
Président

**LE PRIX  
MARGARET WADE LABARGE  
PRIZE**

Présenté chaque année par la Société Canadienne des Médiévistes

Presented Annually by the Canadian Society of Medievalists

**Eligibility:** Any book in the field of medieval studies (including monographs, editions, translations, and other categories as determined by the Prize Committee), authored or co-authored, translated or co-translated, edited or co-edited, etc. (the test being at least 50% participation) by a Canadian or someone resident in Canada.

**Conditions:** Tout livre dans le domaine des études du moyen âge (y compris monographies, éditions, traductions, et autres catégories selon la décision des juges), est éligible, dont au moins la moitié des auteurs, rédacteurs, ou traducteurs soient canadiens ou résidents permanents.

Three copies of the nominated work must be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Society of Medievalists by 1 February for consideration in the competition. Only books bearing a publication date of 2001 will be considered in the Spring adjudication by the Prize Committee.

Trois exemplaires de l'oeuvre en question doivent parvenir à la Secrétaire-trésorière avant le 2 février, date limite pour la compétition de ce printemps. Seuls des livres portant la date de publication de 2001 pourront être considérés.

Écrivez à/Write to Prof. Cynthia Neville,  
Department of History, Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2; c.neville@dal.ca.

**LE PRIX LEONARD E. BOYLE  
POUR LA MEILLEURE THÈSE DU DOCTORAT  
DANS LES ÉTUDES DU MOYEN ÂGE  
THE LEONARD E. BOYLE PRIZE  
FOR THE BEST DOCTORAL  
THESIS IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES**

**Conditions:** Toute thèse de doctorat dans le domaine des études du moyen âge qui a été rédigée par un Canadien ou Canadienne qui détenait la citoyenneté ou la résidence permanente lors de l'achèvement du travail est éligible. On ne peut soumettre la thèse pour le prix qu'à condition de l'avoir soutenue avec succès il y a moins d'un an. Quatre exemplaires de la thèse, une lettre du directeur de la thèse et le rapport de l'examineur externe, doivent être envoyés au Président du comité Boyle avant le 15 décembre.

**Eligibility:** Any doctoral dissertation in the field of medieval studies produced by a Canadian or someone resident in Canada (at the time of its completion). The dissertation must be submitted within one year of a successful defence. Four paper copies of the thesis, a letter or report from the supervisor and the external report, should be sent to the Chair of the Prize Committee 15 December for consideration in the competition.

Écrivez à/write to:

**Prof. James Weldon**  
Department of English  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
75 University Ave. West  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5  
jweldon@wlu.ca

**See page 4 for 2001 Labarge Prize. /  
Voir page 4 pour le gagnant  
du prix Labarge 2001.**



## Margaret Wade Labarge Prize / Prix Labarge 2001

**Alexander Callandar Murray, *From Roman to Merovingian Gaul: A Reader*. (Peterborough, Broadview Press, 2000)**

This book represents at once a tremendously useful collection of documents relating to Gaul in the early medieval period and, less obviously, a thoughtful statement on the part of the editor about the importance of the early Christian centuries to the formation of the kingdom of France. Each of the several dozen documents included here has been chosen with especial care; some are well known to scholars and perhaps even to students (e.g. passages from Gregory of Tours's works, the Law of the Salian Franks); others have hitherto been all but inaccessible to a wide audience. Murray's extensive introductory essays are little gems in themselves, and all fulfill their purpose of locating the document in question within the context of the society that produced it. His editorial hand is light and refreshing, and his concern to bring to these old writings 'a modern and consistent voice' is accomplished in altogether successful fashion.

Murray's choice of documents demonstrates the vitality of Merovingian intellectual and political life. His emphasis on narrative texts rather than on 'official' documents generated by the remnants of Roman civil government suggests that contemporary and near-contemporary annalists were well aware of the challenges that confronted rulers in the early Christian centuries. Collectively, these accounts reveal the wide range of interests, concerns and prejudices that coloured the lives of the annalists. They also show clearly that writers in the so-called 'Dark Ages' of European history enjoyed a sophisticated and informed perspective, one that is too often associated only with the later medieval period.

Murray's book will be of great use to scholars in the field of early medieval history, who will find in it a unique collection of carefully edited documents. It will also prove valuable to students as a classroom text. Many of the excerpts are long enough to provide more than just a passing glimpse of the world that produced them, and the elegant translation of the sources will go some way towards making early medieval concepts intelligible and appealing.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGM AT LAVAL / NOUVELLES DU COLLOQUE À LAVAL

### President's Report

President Andrew Taylor agreed to take over the duties of Secretary-Treasurer for one year, and will try to maintain the well-organized files that Mary-Ann Stouck passed over to him. Members should send their fees and abstracts for papers for the Toronto conference to Andrew at his new address (see the enclosed Call for Papers). For the moment, the Society's website will remain at the University of Saskatchewan, thanks to the generosity of the Department of English there, and Andrew will be updating it in the near future.

Jim Weldon and Cynthia Neville generously agreed to continue serving as chair of the Boyle Dissertation Prize and the Margaret Wade Labarge Prize Committees respectively. Submissions are to be sent to them directly. Those submitting dissertations to Jim can, if they prefer, submit one copy on disk and the Society will cover the printing costs.

Andrew closed with his thanks to all who helped him over the year, especially Carol Harvey for her work on *Scrinium*, Jane Toswell for her work on *Florilegium*, Jim Weldon and Cynthia Neville for their work on the Boyle Prize and the "Polly", and outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Mary-Ann Stouck.

### Report on *Florilegium*


Editor Jane Toswell reported that the journal has a system of reviewers in place and an acceptance rate of about 40%, including re-submissions of revised manuscripts. The journal tends to publish in any given issue two to three papers by Americans or Canadians living in America, two to four papers by European scholars, and the rest Canadian scholars. A cluster, such as the one in vol.17 (2000), sometimes shifts away from the Canadian focus of the journal.


Jane noted that the editorial board needs to develop an international flavour, especially in light of the upcoming application to SSHRC's Aid to Learned Journals Programme (we are presently in year 3 of a 3-year). Suggested members\* were Lesley Abrams (Balliol, Oxford), historian; Steven Kruger (Queen's University, New York), theory, literature; Claire Kappler (CNRS, Strasbourg).


Reporting on the website, Jane stated that it is improving. A SSHRC Special Initiatives Grant in the amount of \$3000 was received, including \$2000 for a computer for the journal office. \$1000 was paid for vols.10-14 (including vol.12 cumulative index) on CD-ROM in form for posting to the website.

\* ratified by the membership.

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS / NOUVELLES DE NOS MEMBRES


 **Jacqueline Murray**, CSM Past President, has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Professor in the Department of History at the University of Guelph. As well, she was awarded a SSHRC grant for her project on male sexuality, embodiment and masculinity in the medieval West. Members can contact Jacqueline at the College of Arts, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1. Email [jacqueline.murray@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jacqueline.murray@uoguelph.ca)

 **Constance Hieatt's** new book on medieval cookery, edited and translated in collaboration with Rudolf Grewe (dec.), was released in June. Titled *Libellus de arte coquinaria: An Early Northern Cookery Book*, it is published by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, MRTS 222.

 **Andrew Taylor** has relocated from the University of Saskatchewan to the University of Ottawa, where he has accepted a position in the English Department (address: 70, Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5). Members can also contact Andrew at his new email address: [ataylor@uottawa.ca](mailto:ataylor@uottawa.ca)


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## NEWS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS NOUVELLES POUR ÉTUDIANTS GRADUÉS

 **Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowships**  
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York City has made a substantial grant to fund post-doctoral Fellowships at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in the academic year 2002-2003. The grant will provide for up to four Fellowships, to be used for research at the Institute in the medieval field of the holder's choice. Mellon Fellows will also participate in the interdisciplinary Research Seminar.

The Mellon Fellowships are intended for young medievalists of exceptional promise who have completed their doctoral work, ordinarily within the previous five years, including those who are starting on their professional academic careers at approximately the Assistant Professor level. Fellowships are valued at (US) \$30,000 (approx. CDN \$45,000). Applications for the academic year 2002-2003 must be received no later than **March 1, 2002**.

Further details will be supplied on application to: The President's Office, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 59 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C4. Tel: (416) 926-7142. Fax: (416) 926-7292.

 **Helen Ann Mins Robbins Fellowship**  
This is an award of \$10,000 for a woman working on a dissertation in some area of medieval studies supported by the Robbins Library (medieval Arthurian studies and almost every area of Middle English are especially well supported). The Fellowship requires at least a six-month residency at the Robbins Library. For more information and for a downloadable application (deadline April 1 for the next year's award): <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/fellow.htm>

 **VAGANTES**  
The graduate medievalists of Harvard University and the University of Toronto are pleased to announce VAGANTES, a new conference organized by and for graduate students pursuing research on any medieval topic. VAGANTES will offer a forum in which graduate students can freely share ongoing research, discuss recent trends or future directions in their fields, and engage with a community of their peers. The first annual conference will take place at Harvard University, March 7-10, 2002. The University of Toronto will host the second conference in 2003. The location will rotate in subsequent years. For further information contact Danielle Joyner, email [djoyner@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:djoyner@fas.harvard.edu) or [vagantibus@hotmail.com](mailto:vagantibus@hotmail.com).



## JOB / POSTES



**The Department of English at Trent University** invites applications for a tenure-track position in the area of **Post-Conquest Medieval English Literature**, effective 1 July 2002, subject to budgetary approval. Trent University is a primarily undergraduate liberal arts and science university located in a pleasant setting in Peterborough, Ontario, approximately 125 kilometres northeast of Toronto. Its English Department seeks candidates with a strong demonstrated ability in effective undergraduate teaching and a demonstrated commitment to research and scholarship. The Department employs formal lectures, with a focus on small-group tutorials among its preferred teaching methods. Please consult the Department website for further information on our programs, faculty, and activities: <http://www.trentu.ca/english>.

The successful candidate will be versatile, able to teach in at least one area in addition to the area of specialization, and will be expected to participate in one of the Department's team-taught introductory-level courses. The position is at the rank of Assistant Professor, for which a Ph.D. is required. In accordance with Canadian immigration regulations, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Trent University is an employment equipment employer, and especially invites applications from women, aboriginal people, visible minorities and people with disabilities.

Please send applications, including cv, teaching dossier and a writing sample, and arrange to have three letters of reference sent to:

Professor James Neufeld, Chair, Dept. of English Literature, Trill College, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada K9H 7P4, by December 15, 2001. Tel: (705) 748-1733; Fax: (705) 748-1823; Email: [english@trentu.ca](mailto:english@trentu.ca)



**The University of Massachusetts at Amherst** invites applications for a tenure track assistant professorship in **Medieval European History**, to begin September 1, 2002. Candidates with interests in global history and comparative perspectives desirable. Opportunity to play a crucial role in the undergraduate Medieval Studies Certificate Program, and to work closely with the University's Religious Studies Program, Renaissance Center, and Umass/Five College Graduate Program in History.

Applicants should have completed a Ph.D. by the time of their appointment and demonstrate the promise of excellence in their teaching and scholarship. Please send a letter of application outlining teaching and research interests, c.v., course syllabi, a short writing sample, and at least three letters of recommendation no later than **December 10, 2001** (postmarked) to Professor Carlin Barton at the address provided. The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is an AA/EOE. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Please apply to: Professor Carlin Barton, Chair, Medieval Europe Search Committee, Dept. of History, Herter Hall, 161 Presidents Drive, U of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-9312; Tel: (413) 545-6758; Fax: (413) 545-7137; Email: [cbarton@history.umass.edu](mailto:cbarton@history.umass.edu); Website: <http://umass.edu/history>



**The Department of History at Western Kentucky University** invites applications for a tenure track appointment at the Assistant Professor level, to begin August 2002. Must have a Ph.D. in History at the time of appointment. Must teach survey classes in Western Civilization, in addition to upper-level courses in the candidate's specialty. Excellent teaching, scholarly publications, and university and/or community service expected. Salary competitive. Send letter of application, vita, official graduate transcripts, and three letters of reference to:

*continued....*



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