

Scriptorium

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1, October 1992

Pro tem organiser: M. Jane Toswell
SSHRC application committee:
Joanne Norman, Bishop's; Ray St. Jacques, Ottawa; Doug Wurtele, Carleton

Program committee for Learned's Conference, June 3 & 4, 1993:
Seminar for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UWO (with help where necessary).

Nominating committee: Richard F. Green, Western; Sheila Delany, SFU
Local representative for Learned Conference: Doug Wurtele, Carleton

For the historiographically minded:
For me, the SCM had its origin in April 1992 when, thinking that as a Canadian academic I really should attend the Learned's, I searched the literature to find sessions of interest to me as a medievalists. There were two at ACCUTE, more than in past years, but still not enough to tempt me on the road to P.E.I.. What made me decide to go anyhow was the realisation, not particularly astounding, that the situation was unlikely to improve in future years, and if I as a Canadian medievalist wanted to see more medieval papers at the Learned's--and therefore more of my own colleagues at those conferences--then I should take steps to rectify matters myself. At the Learned's it quickly became apparent that many others agreed; that an association had been attempted before (but not a truly multi-

or interdisciplinary one), and that some preliminary work might result in a solid and continuing group of medievalists communicating amongst themselves, and attending the odd conference. The most heartening aspect of the preliminary work has been the alacrity and enthusiasm with which Canadian medievalists have responded. When a letter went out to every department chair or dean in the country who seemed even remotely likely to have a medievalist on board (244 letters in total), the response was nearly overwhelming. Some chairs responded themselves; others passed the letter directly to their medievalists for reply. As a result of those letters, filled with good advice and best wishes, a call for papers and request for dues went out to over 500 people in mid-September. So far the SCM has 101 members, which is almost fifty percent more than I expected for the first year of operation. This newsletter is the last mailing to the 500+ (now almost 600) people on the list of potential members: if you wish to receive the January and April newsletters, or to attend the conference next year, the dues are \$10 for regular members, \$5 for students, retired and underemployed members. The society is open to, and welcomes, both students and Canadian medievalists teaching abroad (although when we apply to become a continuing society under SSHRC regulations--which cannot happen until we have been a viable organisation for three years--some kind of special status will have to be accorded to non-residents). Dues are payable to the SCM, c/o M.J. Toswell, Dept. of English, UWO, London,

Ontario N6A 3K7. Aside from the usual notices of upcoming events and comments by or about members, the January newsletter will include a draft constitution for the society, and a preliminary program for the Learned's conference on June 3 & 4. (Please note the dates are not June 5 & 6 but June 3 & 4, which makes it the two days after ACCUTE (English) and CPA (Philosophy), overlapping the CAUCTF (French), Scandinavian Studies, Slavists, and Folklore Studies, and finishing the day before the CHA (History). Unfortunately, Patristic Studies, Theology, and Biblical Studies do not start until Monday the 7th. The April newsletter will include, among other things, a detailed program for the conference, including information about entertainment. It seems unlikely, unless the demand is overwhelming, that we will organise a formal banquet, but a wine and cheese or a drinks party is fairly certain. The first annual general meeting of the Society will be June 4th at 2:00 p.m., place to be determined later. Please contact R.F. Green or S. Delany if you wish to nominate or to be nominated for the Executive or the Board of Directors. Bear in mind, however, that the principal concern of the Nominating Committee will be to establish representation by discipline and by geographical region.

Name: Several people have written to comment on the Society's name and to suggest alternatives, particularly the Canadian Society for Medieval Studies/Société canadienne des Etudes Médiévales. The advantage to the name, as a number of us in Charlottetown saw

it, was that the acronym was the same in French and English, but others may well feel that to be a trivial point. A motion to change the name, before we approve the constitution, will do so by simple majority at the first meeting. And, since I expect to be chairing that meeting as my last act for the new society, I won't have a vote in the matter...The new treasurer will then set up a bank account in the new name.

Plenary Sessions: Two of the three plenary sessions at the conference have now been arranged. The SCM is extremely pleased to be able to announce that Antonette diPaolo Healey, Professor of Old English and Editor, Dictionary of Old English will speak, as will Bruno Roy, professeur titulaire, Département d'études classiques et médiévales, Université de Montréal.

Call for Papers: The Call for Papers that went out in mid-September is a general one. The specific sessions listed were intended to inspire new ideas, especially interdisciplinary ones, rather than stifle more traditional ones. Abstracts can be submitted until 15 November 1992 to the Dept. of English, UWO.

**Medieval Programs or Groups in Canada

(This list is by no means comprehensive as it derives from unsolicited information in the responses to the SCM's first letter. Corrections and additions are more than welcome.)

Carleton University B.A. Pass or Honours in Medieval Studies. Courses available in Art History, Classics, English, French, German, History, Italian, Law, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Spanish.

Dalhousie Late Medieval-Early Renaissance Studies Colloquium. organiser Cynthia Neville, History, Dalhousie.

Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the University of Toronto.

Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto.

Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. President: Martin Dimnik, C.S.B.

McMaster University Medieval Group. Anne Savage, English, McMaster.

UBC Medieval Studies Committee. Chair: Dr. Marguerite Chiarenza, Dept. of Hispanic and Italian Studies, UBC.

Medieval Studies Course Committee. University of Victoria.

Medieval Studies, Queen's University. Philip Rogers, Faculty Co-ordinator.

Medieval and Renaissance Circle, Queen's. Chair: Monica Sandor, English, Queen's.

Seminar for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UWO. Chairs: Madeline Lennon, Modern Languages, and Jane Toswell, English, UWO.

Université de Montréal, Département des études classiques et médiévales.

University of Calgary. Interdisciplinary minor in Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation Studies.

***Conferences and Papers

Oct. 24 "Literary History" a symposium sponsored by the Seminar for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Centre for Textual Scholarship, UWO. Speakers: E.G. Stanley, Pembroke College, Oxford; Carol Percy, David Pelteret of New College, Toronto, Andrew Taylor of Trent University, and Elizabeth Revell, Huron College, UWO.

Nov. 19, Norman Cantor, "American and Canadian Medievalism in the Twentieth Century" Faculty of Arts Lecture Series, UWO.

Nov. 12-14. "Late-Medieval Family Law, 1250-1500: Interdisciplinary and Comparative Perspectives" University

of British Columbia Committee for Medieval Studies, Twenty-Second U.B.C. Medieval Workshop, Vancouver. 25 papers, including plenary sessions by James A. Brundage (Kansas), James Muldoon (Rutgers), Charles Donahue, Jr. (Harvard), Armin Wolf (Frankfurt-am-Main), and Michael Freeman (University College, London). For further information contact: Dr. DeLloyd J. Guth, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1. Tel. 604-822-4237; Fax. 604-822-8108.

Mar. 1-4. Teetzel Lectures, University College, Toronto. Professor Richard Bailey, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, "England's Earliest Sculptors: The Stone Carvings of Anglo-Saxon England".

Mar. 4-6. "Heroic Poetry: A Conference in Honour of C.B. Hieatt" Department of English, Faculty of Arts, and Seminar for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UWO. 25 papers, including John Miles Foley, T.A. Shippey, Geoffrey Russom, Tom Cable, Robert P. Creed, John Leyerle. For more information contact Peter Auksi or Jane Toswell, English, UWO.

***Suggestions and Comments

a) Could we somehow be affiliated with the Medieval Academy of America, of which many of us are likely already members? Roy Laird, History, Carleton.

b) We should check the list of members in *Encomia*, the bibliography of the International Courtly Literature Society, which lists members by country. Carol J. Harvey, French, Winnipeg.

c) Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History is always interested in good papers suitable for publication. James A.S. Evans, Classics, UBC.

d) My one worry about your group and, indeed, about medieval studies in general is that the domination by vernacular literature specialists threatens to leave us without a proper centre of focus. How you overcome that problem remains to

be seen. Best of luck. Paul Edward Dutton, History, SFU

e) I am wondering whether the SCM and the Canadian Society of Byzantine Studies should not either be one, or at least working very closely together. This seems to me to be a highly desirable theme of further discussion. Daniel Sahas, Religious Studies, University of Waterloo and President, Canadian Committee of Byzantinists.

f) There is now a society of French-speaking medievalists; it publishes a newsletter entitled MEMINI. I've lost track, but perhaps someone should try to contact these people. Ray St. Jacques, Office of the Rector, Université d'Ottawa.

g) Certainly you have my support. And yet, it is less than enthusiastic, because I think there is a problem with the professional segregation of medieval studies. And medievalists already have a number of elysian conferences in which to gather, often in the season of the Learned. Some, apart from Kalamazoo, have already become rather drab and unattended affairs. So we might do better explaining what we do to colleagues in disciplines (including History) that want to avoid careful history. Envind C. Ronquist, English, Concordia University

h) Canadian medievalists only make rare appearances at the Learned. And yet, this is the only annual gathering of academics of this country, allowing us to hear what is going on not only in our own discipline, but in other allied ones as well. We should be attending the conferences in our own disciplines, if only to make us more aware of who is doing what in our own country. If the SCM brings more medievalists to the Learned, it will have served a purpose. Doug Wurtele, English, Carleton.

i) I am more interested in a newsletter, in the communication of what papers and conferences are going on in Canada, and in learning what Canadian medievalists are working on. I go to enough conferences; the SCM will be successful if it improves the flow of knowledge among

medievalists. Madeleine Jeay, French, McMaster.

j) Should we join the Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'études Médiévales? It produces the Répertoire International des Médiévistes, publishes an annual journal, is organising this year the first European Congress on Medieval Studies, and is organising a new European diploma for medieval studies.

(The comments above are not given in quotation marks because editing for length and clarity has taken place, although many of them are very close to the words of the speakers given. None of these suggestions has yet been pursued; the Executive Committee can take them up in June. Responses are more than welcome.)