

Scriptorium

Vol. II, No. 2

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN

May / mai 1994

1994 Learned Societies Conference Congrès des Sociétés savantes 1994

Calgary, June 3-5 juin

Society of Canadian Medievalists Program
Programme de la Société canadienne des médiévistes
(tentative / provisoire)

June 3 juin

9:00-10:00

Science Theatre 127

Plenary Session plénière

[Chair/Présidence: Margaret Wade Labarge]

Leonard Boyle (Prefect, Vatican Library):

"On Being a Medievalist"

10:15-12:00

Room/Salle SS 105

History / Histoire (Memorial to/À la mémoire de Michael Sheehan) [Chair/Présidence: Margaret Wade Labarge]
Jacqueline Murray (U of Windsor): "Individualism and Consensual Marriage: Some Evidence from Medieval England"

Shannon McSheffrey (Concordia U): "I will never have none against my father's will: Consent and the Making of Late Medieval English Marriages"

Jennifer M. Forbes (U of Toronto): "The Depiction of a Marriage Miracle in *Cantiga* 135 in the *Cantigas de Santa Maria* of Alfonso X, el Sabio"

Room/Salle SS 106

French Literature / Littérature française

[Chair/Présidence: TBA/À annoncer]

Suzanne Klerks (Simon Fraser U): "The Pain of Reading and Female Bodies in Marie de France's *Guigemar*"

Joan Brumlik (U of Alberta): "The *Malmariee* as Sub-text of Marie's *Guigemar*"

Carol J. Harvey (U of Winnipeg): "Love and Marriage in *La Manekine*"

12:00-14:00

Lunch/Déjeuner

14:00-16:00

Room/Salle SS 105

Chaucer [Chair/Présidence: Douglas Wurtele, Carleton U]

Michael Peterson (McMaster U): "Chaucer's Prioress and Her Demonic Dogs"

Michael Fox (U of Manitoba): "Benign Incarnations: Chaucer's Pardoner and the Pardoner's Old Man"

Phyllis Portnoy (U of Manitoba): "The Best Text/Best Book of Canterbury, The Dia-Logic of the Fragments"

Room/Salle SS 106

Socio-Religious History/Histoire socio-religieuse
[Chair/Présidence: TBA/À annoncer]

Joanne S. Norman (Bishop's U): "A New Resource for the Hard-Pressed Preacher"

Kathryn Ann Taglia (CMS, U of Toronto): "An Examination of the Cultural Construction of Childhood: Some Aspects of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation in the Late Middle Ages"

Mary Rogers (U of Guelph): "The Treaty of Nantes of 1354: A Re-Examination"

17:00

President's Reception / Réception du Président

June 4 juin

9:00-10:00

Science Theatre 127

Plenary Session plénière

[Chair/Présidence: Hans R. Runte, Dalhousie U]

Paul Zumthor (U de Montréal):

"Lieux et espaces au moyen âge"

10:15-12:00

Room/Salle SS 105

Anglo-Latin Literature / Littérature anglo-latine
[Chair/Présidence: Haijo Westra, U of Calgary]

Elaine Park (U of Calgary): "Translation of Texts from the Vernacular"

Maura Lafferty (Dalhousie U): "The Capitula and the Text: Marginal Authority"

Michael Treschow (Okanagan U Coll.): "Eternity in the Alfredian Translations"

Room/Salle SS 106

History / Histoire [Chair/Présidence: DeLloyd J. Guth, U of Manitoba]

Timothy S. Haskett (U of Victoria): "The Early Court of Chancery in England Project: Questions, Sources, Approaches and Answers"

E. Alexandra Bovey (U of Victoria): "The Family at Law: Conflict and Collusion in the Court of Chancery"

DeLloyd J. Guth

12:00-14:00

Lunch/Déjeuner



14:00-15:45

Room/Salle SS 105

Medieval Philosophy, Science / Philosophie, sciences médiévales [Chair/Présidence: TBA/À annoncer]

W. R. Laird (Carleton U): "William of Conches and the *Nexus Elementorum*"

Helen Valls (CMS, U of Toronto): "Medical Text and Medical Illustration in Fourteenth-Century France: An Example of BL SL 1977"

Room/Salle SS 106

Medieval Literature, Modern Criticism / Littérature médiévale, critique moderne [Chair/Présidence: TBA/À annoncer]

Claire Le Brun (Concordia U): "La réception critique de Christine de Pisan: éléments d'analyse du discours français et du discours anglo-saxon (1980-1992)"

M. Morgan Holmes (McGill U): "Becoming the Perfect Lover: The Mystical Nights of *The Cloud of Unknowing* and Roland Barthes"

Josefa Kropp (U of Toronto): "Ritual Narrating: Genre and Functional Meaning in Middle English"

16:00

Mountain Ranch Barbecue

Barbecue dans un ranch à la montagne

June 5 juin

10:00-12:00

Room/Salle SS 202

Literature, Narrative Theory / Littérature, Théorie narrative [Chair/Présidence: Stephen R. Reimer, U of Alberta]

Siân Echard (U of British Columbia): "Map's Mask: Narrative Voices and Narrative Theory"

Stephen Steele (Simon Fraser U): "The Ethics of Literacy in Chretien's *Yvain*"

Hartwig Mayer (Victoria U): "Herbert of Fritzlar and His Source: *The Death of Paris*"

Philosophy / Philosophie [Chair/Présidence: TBA/À annoncer]

Paul Edward Dutton (Simon Fraser U): "From Bacchic Verse to a New Work of Eriugena and His School"

J. J. McIntosh (U of Calgary): "Time and St. Thomas"

12:00-13:45

Lunch/Déjeuner

13:45-14:45

Science Theatre 127

Plenary Session plénière

[Chair/Présidence: William Schipper, Memorial U]

Andrew Hughes (CMS, U of Toronto):

"The Saint's Office of the Later Middle Ages as Literature"

15:00

Science Theatre 127

Annual General Meeting Assemblée générale annuelle

Agenda/Ordre du jour

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes of 1993 Annual General Meeting

3. Reports

- a. President's report (M. Wade Labarge)
- b. Secretary-Treasurer's report (W. Schipper)
- c. Report of Nominating Committee (J. Toswell)

4. Business arising

- a. Constitution
- b. Nominations for new executive

5. Any other business

Minutes / Procès-verbal of the Annual General Meeting held on June 5, 1993, in Ottawa / de l'Assemblée générale annuelle tenue le 5 juin 1993 à Ottawa

1. The motion (H. Richter/J. Weldon), "That it is the sense of this meeting that a Society of Canadian Medievalists / Société canadienne des médiévistes should now be formed" carried.
2. It was moved "that the by-laws drafted and published in the *pro tem* Newsletter of the Society [I.3, May 1993] be accepted provisionally for a period of one year, and that the future Executive undertake to solicit and consider submissions for changes to the by-laws to be considered in full at the Annual General Meeting in June 1994." The motion carried.
3. The slates for the Executive and the Advisory Board were approved.
4. The following motion (K. Le Fianu/S. Delany) was passed unanimously:
"Whereas the Université de Montréal has explicitly announced the suspension of enrolments in Medieval Studies in the Department of Classical and Medieval Studies (formerly the Institute of Medieval Studies), with the perspective of imminent closure of the Department; And whereas no plan has been proposed for replacing the Department,
Therefore this motion proposes that this assembly direct the new Executive of the SCM to send to the Université de Montréal a letter expressing its concern at the likelihood of the eventual closure of the Department."
"Étant donné que l'Université de Montréal a explicitement annoncé la suspension des inscriptions en études médiévales au Département d'études classiques et médiévales (ancien Institut d'études médiévales) en vue d'une fermeture prochaine du Département;
Et étant donné qu'aucune solution de rechange de département n'a été proposée,
Cette motion a pour but de proposer que cette assemblée encourage le nouvel Exécutif de la SCM à envoyer une lettre manifestant son inquiétude relative à la fermeture possible du Département."
[A copy of a letter over the signature of Margaret Wade Labarge has been deposited in the SCM archives. / La copie d'une lettre signée par Margaret Wade Labarge a été déposée dans les archives de la SCM.]
5. A motion instructing the Executive to write a letter to the SSHRCC urging support for the *Dictionary of Old English* ("The SCM applauds the work of the *Dictionary of Old English* and encourages the SSHRCC to continue its funding of this most worthwhile of projects") and other long-term projects was passed unanimously.

6. Financial report (J. Toswell): Since first being announced, the Society has collected \$1750 in membership dues. Expenses thus far have totalled \$300, with another \$150 in unpaid expenses. There are also conference expenses and those incurred by the nominating committee. However, the Society can expect some additional revenue from conference fees. Overall, the financial picture of the Society seems very healthy at this moment (details below).
7. A.O.B.: Other items discussed included the proposed membership of the Society in CARA, the use of electronic modes of communicating, and the danger of the ghettoization of medieval studies.

Addendum: "For reasons of time, the Society decided (*nem. con.*) to accept the draft constitution circulated in the Newsletter as being in force for a year, to be considered and voted at the next annual general meeting. The report of the *pro tem* organiser was accepted [see above]. There was a lengthy discussion about the nature of any association with the Medieval Academy, affiliation being a term which disturbed many members. The matter was left for the new executive to investigate further. Motions were passed unanimously in support of the *Dictionary of Old English*, and (after some discussion as to the nature of our intervention) in support of the campaign to retain the Institut des études médiévales et classiques at Université de Montréal. The meeting closed with some announcements and with a vote of thanks to Doug Wurtele for his fine job as liaison with the Learned's" (M. J. Toswell).

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Membership and Directory: As of the date of this writing, we have about 260 paid members, and more are trickling in as the result of a letter I circulated to medievalists in Canada who were not yet members, inviting them to join. Shortly after the Learned's meeting I will be asking all members to renew their membership for 1994-95. At that time I will also include the information I am planning to put in the membership directory for you to check for accuracy. The directory will be mailed out by the end of the summer. The first edition will include names, address, telephone and fax numbers (where available), email addresses (when they exist). Meanwhile the entire directory, including research interests, will become available via gopher. More information will be included in the fall newsletter.

SSHRCC Conference Grant: It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that the Society has again been awarded a SSHRCC grant to assist with travel and other expenses for the annual meeting in Calgary. The amount of \$6000 is, if memory serves, an increase over last year; we can only hope that SSHRCC will continue to support us in this way in future. This success is largely due to our president's hard work in formulating a convincing proposal, and in bringing together all the abstracts in time for the submission deadline.

Conference Programme: Elsewhere in this newsletter is a tentative programme for the annual meeting in Calgary. Among other things we have three plenary speakers (Paul Zumthor, Leonard Boyle, and Andrew Hughes).

Society Constitution: A draft of the Constitution is enclosed. It was first drafted by our president, and revised by Hans Runte. The present version was revised on the basis of that first draft by Professor Art Braid, now Dean of Law at the

University of Manitoba. We are particularly grateful to Professor Braid for taking the time to make these revisions, Professor DeLloyd Guth for discussing them with Professor Braid.

In the coming year I hope to make an appeal to graduate students at Canadian universities to join the society. If the current trend in membership continues the society faces a healthy future.

William Schipper, Secretary-Treasurer

Renaming / Rebaptiser Scriptorium Proposals / Propositions

1. *Translatio studii*
2. *Translatio studii medievalis*
3. *Translatio studii medii ævi*
4. *Scrinium* ["bookchest," later "reliquary (shrine)," if the Society wants to keep the S-C-M motif; SCM in some parts stands for Student Christian Movement!]
5. *Castoreum* [cf. *Beaver* of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Canadian history magazine]
6. *Castorium* ["castor oil" (?) or "beaver-king"]
7. *Acer* ["maple" and "eager"]

Officers of the SCM Responsables de la SCM

Executive / Bureau

President: Margaret Wade Labarge (Carleton)
Vice-President: Hans R. Runte (French, Dalhousie)
Secr.-Treas.: William Schipper (English, Memorial)
LSC Liaison: Murray MacGillivray (English, Calgary)

Advisory Board / Conseil

Georges Ferzoco (Histoire, U de Montréal)
Rhoda Friedrichs (History, Douglas College)
DeLloyd Guth (Law, UBC)
Brenda Hosington (Linguistics, U de Montréal)
Andrew Hughes (Music, U of Toronto)
Jane Toswell (English, UWO)
Juliette Valcke [student] (Études médiévales, U de Montréal)
Henry Vandeliinde [graduate student] (English, Queen's)

Nouvelles de la SCM News

Assessment in Medieval Latin

In recent years concern has been expressed at the inadequate level of Latinity often seen in medieval studies; both in doctoral theses and in published work. This is clearly serious, in a subject in which most of the primary sources (documentary, narrative, philosophical, theological, and literary) are in Latin: essential material may be either ignored or misunderstood. One step towards improving the situation would be an internationally accepted standard of competence, against which potential medievalists could measure themselves. The logistic problems of establishing such a standard, however, would be formidable. Therefore, the Centre for Medieval Studies in Toronto has decided to make its own well established examinations in Medieval Latin (held twice annually) available to the medieval community at large, and

will issue "statements of proficiency" (at MA and PhD levels) to successful candidates. "External" candidates will take the same examinations as Toronto students and at the same time.

Information packages (price \$2.00), including details of procedures, application forms, and specimen examinations, may be obtained from Prof. A. G. Rigg, Centre for Medieval Studies, 39 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 2C3. The examination fee will be \$50 per script (Canadian dollars for applicants resident in Canada, US dollars for those resident outside Canada); the examination fee should not be sent until a formal application is made.

Icelandic Sagas

Thrand of Gotu: Two Icelandic Sagas from the Flat Island Book, tr. George Benson Johnston (Erin, Ontario: The Porcupine's Quill, 1994), 192 p. ISBN 0-88984-180-2. \$14.95.

The two sagas of the Faroe Islanders and Greenlanders may be counted among the "Sagas of Icelanders," though Icelanders play no part in the first and little in the second, and events in both are remote from Iceland. They may be so categorized on account of their style, which is that of sober history, and not less so when events that we would consider supernatural occasionally take place in them. Both have been assigned approximate dates of composition early in the thirteenth century, among the first sagas to have been written down, yet their narrative lines have the assurance of a fully developed art. Their stories are told with finesse, many events in *Faroe Islanders* are given a comic slant that seems sophisticated, and both have small casts and little clutter of genealogies.

Thrand of Gotu, in *Faroe Islanders*, is the most fully developed character in either, and one of the more complex and memorable villains of European literature.

George Benson Johnston is an internationally renowned translator of the Icelandic sagas: *The Saga of Gisli* (1963), *The Faroe Islanders' Saga* (1975), *The Greenlanders' Saga* (1976). He also translated *Pastor Bodvar's Letter*, by O.J. Sigurdsson (1985). The Porcupine's Quill published his collected poems *Endeared by Dark* (1990).

[The Porcupine's Quill, Inc., 68 Main Street, Erin, Ontario NOB 1T0; tel./fax 519-833-9158.]

Devotional Literature of the Later Middle Ages: Three Manuscripts in the McMaster University Library, Hamilton, Canada

This new video (VHS, colour, 42 minutes), the first in a series, features three unique and intriguing manuscripts from fourteenth and fifteenth century Europe: a French Book of Hours, a Dutch Legendary and an Italian devotional work. Specialists in the literature and history of the latter medieval period guide the viewer through a sort of archaeology of the books, sharing their insights into the content and structure of the texts and into the period in which they were produced.

Written and presented by: Dr. Laurel Braswell-Means, Dr. Bernice M. Kaczynski, Dr. Anne Savage, and Dr. Nicholas Watson. With contemporary music performed by *McMaster Collegium Musicum*, directed by Dr. Susan Fast. Produced and irected by Dr. K. E. Garay.

Institutions: \$99, students: \$49 (plus tax and postage).

Address: Titles, McMaster University Bookstore, P.O. Box 1022, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1C0; phone: 905/525-9140, ext. 24751; fax: 905/572-7160; e-mail: BOOKSTR@

McMASTER.CA.

Forthcoming:

From Manuscript to Printed Book, the second video in the series; and *Music of the Later Middle Ages and Renaissance*, an audio cassette.

[Draft] Constitution of the Society of Canadian Medievalists [Projet de] Statuts de la Société canadienne des médiévistes (version française en préparation)

I. Name

The name of the organization shall be the "Society of Canadian Medievalists / Société canadienne des médiévistes," hereafter referred to as the "SCM."

II. Objet

The purpose of the SCM is to foster medieval studies in Canadian universities and colleges, and to encourage a wider knowledge in Canada of the Middle Ages.

III. Membership

1. Member: Membership is open to all students and teachers at Canadian universities and colleges who are interested in medieval studies, and to those persons working in medieval studies outside universities and colleges. Members are eligible to vote.
2. Associate Member: Membership is open to any person who does not qualify for membership under paragraph 1. but who is interested in medieval studies. Associate members have all the rights and privileges of members except that they are not entitled to move or second motions or to vote.
3. Honorary Member: The SCM at any general meeting may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, elect a person to be an honorary member of the SCM and the resolution shall set out the privileges of an Honorary member. Honorary members are not entitled to move or second motions or to vote.
4. Persons may be admitted as members and associate members by the Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with procedures established by the general meeting of members or by the Executive Committee.
5. The personal liability of all members is limited to the amount of their annual subscription, which amount shall be set at a meeting of the general membership.

IV. Governance

1. Executive Committee

a) There shall be an Executive Committee of the SCM which shall, subject to the plenary power of the general meeting of members, manage the affairs of the SCM between meetings of members.

b) Membership of Executive Committee

The membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

i. **President:** The President shall assume office for a one-year term by virtue of having served a term as Vice-President, and shall serve an additional year as "Past-President". The President shall represent the SCM's interests in the academic community and, in consultation with the Vice-President and the Advisory Board, shall arrange the program for the annual

conference and meeting of members. In consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, the President shall determine the agenda for the annual general meeting of members.

ii. **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall be elected at the annual general meeting for a one-year term and shall succeed to the Presidency. The Vice-President shall edit the newsletter of the SCM which shall be published and circulated to the membership regularly.

iii. **Secretary-Treasurer:** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the annual general meeting for a two-year term. The Secretary-Treasurer shall manage the finances of the SCM, keep the books and membership lists and record the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee and the members.

iv. **Local Liaison Representative:** The Local Liaison Representative shall be elected at the annual general meeting for a one-year term and shall be from the university which is hosting the Learned Societies Conference. The Local Liaison Representative shall attend the Learned Societies Conference organizational meetings preceding the next year's conference.

2. Advisory Board

a) **Purpose:** The Advisory Board shall assist the President and the Vice-President in determining the program for the annual conference and annual meetings of members and shall advise the officers and the Executive Committee on matters of general policy and advise as to issues to be brought before the members at the general meetings.

b) **Membership:** The membership of the Advisory Board shall consist of eight persons, including seven members-at-large who shall be elected at the annual general meeting for staggered two-year terms and who should reflect the geographical and disciplinary diversity of the SCM. In addition to the seven members-at-large, there shall be one graduate student elected for a one-year term.

3. Nominating Committee

a) **Appointment:** The Executive annually shall appoint a Nominating Committee which shall be responsible for presenting nominations for a slate of officers to be elected at the annual general meeting and to nominate persons to fill any vacancies caused by completion of a term or resignation.

b) **Membership:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least one member of the Executive Committee and two members of the Advisory Board, provided that there shall be no more than two members of the same discipline on the Nominating Committee and both of Canada's official languages shall be represented.

c) **Nominating Procedure:**

i) The Nominating Committee shall solicit from the membership by means of an announcement in the newsletter, suggestions for nomination for the Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Local Liaison Representative and members of the Advisory Board.

ii) The slate of nominations shall be given to the members along with a notice of the annual general meeting, provided however that nominations may be made from the floor at the annual general meeting if the proposed nominee has consented to

stand for election.

V. Committees

The Executive Committee and any general meeting of members are each empowered to establish from time to time such committees as may be deemed advisable and to appoint the members thereof.

VI. Meetings

1. Meetings of Executive Committee

a) Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the President or by any two other members of the Executive Committee. The length of the notice required shall be set by the Executive Committee.

b) A meeting may be held by telephone conference call or electronic medium provided that all members participating can hear each other at all times during the meeting.

c) A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of the President or, in the case of the inability of the President to act, the Vice-President, and any other two members.

2. Meetings of Advisory Board

a) Meetings of the Advisory Board may be called by the President or by any three members of the Advisory Board.

b) A meeting of the Advisory Board may be held by telephone conference call or electronic medium provided that all members participating can hear each other at all times during the meeting.

c) A quorum for a meeting of the Advisory Board shall consist of five members.

3. Meetings of Members

a) There shall be an annual general meeting of members to be held in conjunction with the annual conference. A special meeting of the members may be called by the Executive Committee.

b) The agenda for meetings of members shall be distributed to the membership either separately or as part of the newsletter at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

c) A quorum for meetings of members shall be fifteen members present in person.

d) Meetings of members shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*.

VII. Amendment of the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed in writing by the Executive Committee, the Advisory Board, or by any members of the SCM. Amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer by 15 March next preceding the annual general meeting and shall be circulated with the agenda for that meeting.

At the meeting of members a motion shall be made for a mail ballot in respect of any duly proposed amendment and, if the motion for the mail ballot passes by a simple majority of those present and voting, then a mail ballot in respect of the proposed amendment shall be conducted. The mail ballot shall be taken between the September and May next following the annual general meeting and if the amendment is passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the mail ballot, the amendment shall be adopted and the Constitution shall be amended accordingly. The result of the mail ballot shall be announced in the next newsletter following the counting of the ballots and shall also be announced at the next following general meeting.