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Medieval Feminist Forum (Formerly Medieval Feminist Newsletter)

2002–3 INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES ISSN 1536–8742

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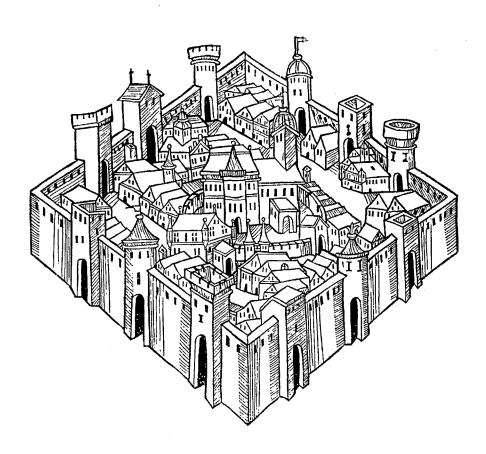
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CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO ADVISORY BOARD

Please vote for TWO nominees to the Advisory Board for the term lasting 2002–5. (Ballot on page 68)

Sandy Bardsley

I teach history at Emory & Henry College, a small school in southwest Virginia, and am interested in women and speech in late medieval England.

Montserrat Cabré, History of Medicine, Universidad de Cantabria, Spain: SMFS is doing a wonderful job at creating a community of feminist medievalists. By facilitating interdisciplinary exchange and debate, promoting research and teaching tools and welcoming young scholars to the endeavor, SMFS is defining a scholarly field. I would like to see SMFS ground this field's strength in diversity. Feminist scholars are everywhere, pursuing research and teaching agendas from areas and institutional contexts beyond those dominant in the Anglo-American intellectual setting. SMFS should also try to be everywhere, by making an effort to reach individuals and associations with similar scholarly interests worldwide. A practical goal in the global village.

Lorna Collingridge, Divinity School, Duke University, Durham NC I have been a member of SMFS since 1998; I am completing my PhD in the area of images of the Divine, concentrating primarily on the music of Hildegard of Bingen. My research is highly interdisciplinary, including feminist musicology, theology, and history, as well as issues of gender. My interests are diverse, but the depth of my research is in medieval music: by widening the parameters of inquiry we can discern things about this music which have gone unnoticed or been discarded as irrelevant. I strongly support a feminist perspective in all my work and am teaching in the areas of feminist theology and women's studies. After my PhD, I plan to extend my medieval music research to look at music written by and for medieval women other than Hildegard; I hope also to complete a new song cycle on the theme of "A Woman's Journey." I have completed two terms as postgraduate student representative on the Council of Griffith University; and I bring an international point of view to the table, and an Australian perception of things medieval.

David Hay

I am running for a position on the advisory board to facilitate diversification of the society's membership, raising its profile amongst Canadian academics and promoting cooperation between men and women in feminist scholarship. I have been active in the SMFS since I was a graduate student at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, and am currently also a member of the De Re Militari Society, the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, the AHA and the Medieval Academy. My research explores intersections of military history and gender studies and has centered on the military career of Countess Matilda of Canossa (1046-1115), one of the most

formidable and influential women of the Middle Ages. I have a particular interest in how Matilda's career was portrayed in the polemical literature of the so-called "Gregorian Reform" and "Investiture Contest," and in Matilda's patronage of, and influence over, the development of canon law. My research goals are to help to achieve a more accurate assessment of the record of women's involvement in warfare and to examine the effects such involvement had on the historical development of gender in medieval societies.

Bruce Holsinger, English, Univ. of Colorado

My research and teaching interests range from the interdisciplinary study of music and literature in the Middle Ages to issues of literacy and pedagogy in present-day penal institutions. I did my Ph.D. with Caroline Walker Bynum at Columbia University, and have published *Music, Body, and Desire in Medieval Culture: Hildegard of Bingen to Chaucer* with Stanford University Press. I have worked for a long time on Hildegard's music and poetry, and women's musical production more generally remains central to my current work on liturgical cultures in England from the Norman Conquest through the early Reformation. I also administer a program, "Prison Writing and Literacy," which has allowed my students to teach for credit at women's correctional facilities and halfway houses in the Denver area.

Lisa Lampert, English and Comparative Medieval Studies, UC-San Diego In 2002 I begin a new job as an Assistant Professor of English Literature and Comparative Medieval Studies at the University of California at San Diego. My primary area is Middle English literature, but I also have strong interests in Middle High German, Women's Studies, Jewish Studies, and critical theory. My forthcoming book, *After Eden, Out of Zion: Creating the Christian in Early English Literature*, examines the ways in which representations of Jews and women intersect in early English texts, including works by Chaucer and Shakespeare. I would bring my experience on the Advisory Board of the Illinois Medieval Association to the SMFS Advisory Board.

Felice Lifshitz, Dept. of History, Florida International University My current project focuses on gender ideologies and religious culture in the area east of the Middle Rhine during the 8th and 9th centuries, based on an intensive study of the numerous manuscripts produced and used in women's and double monastic communities at the time. Research for this project enabled me to make many contacts with medievalists in Germany and Austria; I was invited to represent Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at a conference assessing the current state of Medieval Studies held in Paderborn in October of 2001. My main goal for the SMFS grows specifically out of those experiences, and the reactions they engendered among my various audiences. I hope to increase our institutional connection with feminist medievalists in Europe, particularly Central Europe. I saw how difficult it is to be a feminist (or even a female) medievalist in some European academic cultures, and female and feminist medievalists in Germany and Austria told me of their own pessimism about getting stable positions. Recent university reform programs threaten to hit women particularly hard. The

North American feminist medievalist community would be enriched and strengthened through increased international contacts, and increased institutionalized contact with us might help ameliorate the situation for feminist medievalists abroad. A second goal for SMFS is for us to attempt to address, in concerted ways, modernist communities and their misconceptions about women and gender in the Middle Ages; one way to do this would be to begin sponsoring regular sessions devoted precisely to those misconceptions at meetings such as the American Historical Association.

Roberta Morosini, Italian, Wake Forest University, NC If Lam elected, as a Mediterranganist medievalist. Lintend to ch

If I am elected, as a Mediterraneanist medievalist, I intend to channel the energies present nowadays in the field of medieval studies of the Mediterranean, and to further medieval feminist scholarship, particularly of Italian and French areas.

Montserrat Piera, Medieval Spanish and Catalan, Temple U., Philadelphia PA I did my Ph.D. in Spanish at The Pennsylvania State University in 1991. My focus is medieval Spanish and Catalan literature, and I have published a book and several articles on topics related to gender studies and feminist criticism. My feminist research has been devoted to two main topics: 1. the interrelation between gender and genre in chivalric novels of the Iberia peninsula and 2. women's texts of the Iberian peninsula, especially the work of the 15th-century Valencian writer Isabel de Villena. I am currently co-editing (with Dawn Bratsch Prince) a collection of articles about Iberian women writers and the Spanish literary canon, and writing a book on Spanish women writers of the Middle Ages. I am a member of the editorial bord of *Cuaderno Internacional de Estudios Hispánicos y Linguística* and of *Catalan Review*.

Michelle M. Sauer, English, Minot State University, Minot, ND I have a strong interest in broad gender issues and queer theory, which is a necessary expansion in our era of queries such as "are we post-feminist?"; I have the perspective of the smaller university setting: What does it mean to be the main medievalist, or the only medievalist? This question is related to larger ones of our profession, such as: What does it mean to be at a "teaching institution"? How does a 4/4 load affect publishing? I have an interest in underrepresented texts and cutting edge theory, as well as in new applications of existing lines of questioning; I am beginning my third year as a tenure-track professor, which means I inhabit the interesting space of a relatively new faculty member.

Liz Scala, English, UT, Austin

My areas of expertise/interests include 14th-century English narrative, Chaucer, critical theory, manuscript culture, and feminist biography and academic cultural study. I want to pursue strategies of feminist interpretation and activism in the traditionally "masculine" areas of historicism, manuscript study, and textual scholarship. I'd work to foster the varieties of feminist scholarship we currently enjoy and to build upon the intergenerational feminist connections the Society has made.

Myra Seaman

This year's SMFS-sponsored roundtable "Are We Post-Feminist Yet?," with its standing-room-only crowd and spirited debate, vividly attested to SMFS's strengths: it has established an important space for feminist medieval approaches in settings formal and informal, scholarly and social, including its medfem-l community, its many conference events, its mentoring matchmaking, and *MFF*. The roundtable also demonstrated SMFS's challenge: it must address the issues raised at the session and work to integrate the range of feminist voices, so that it may continue to be a guiding institution. As a member of the advisory board, I would work practically to encourage the diversity of viewpoints that bring complexity to both feminism and medieval studies.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO ADVISORY BOARD

Please vote for <i>two</i> nominees.	
Sandy Bardsley	Felice Lifshitz
Montserrat Cabré	Roberta Morosini
Lorna Collingridge	Montserrat Piera
David Hay	Michelle M. Sauer
Bruce Holsinger	Liz Scala
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