

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

A reminder: Books for review in *MFN* should be sent to Medieval Feminist Newsletter, CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. Books will not be reviewed unless we get a review copy, so make sure your publisher sends us one!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The new graduate student representative on the *MFN* Advisory Board, replacing Laine Doggett who has joined the faculty of Erskine College, is Cathy Darrup, Department of Fine Arts, Harvard University. Her research fields are African and Medieval Art History. She will serve together with Christine McWebb.

The by-laws of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship provide that two of the original four editors of *MFN* shall have permanent, rotating membership on the Advisory Board, with two serving at any given time. We welcome Beth Robertson and Jane Burns back to the Board.

ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

We need to elect five new members to the *MFN* advisory board, for three-year terms beginning at Kalamazoo 1998. The mail ballot, with candidates' statements, is located at the end of this issue. Please keep in mind when voting the desirability of having a balance of different disciplines on the board. The departmental affiliations of the continuing members of the board are as follows: Jane Burns—French, University of North Carolina; Dyan Elliott—History, Indiana University; Ruth Evans—English, University of Wales; Laurie Finke—Women's and Gender Studies, Kenyon College (research interests in English and French literature); Beth Robertson—English, University of Colorado; Christine Rose—English, Portland State University; Helen Solterer—French, Duke University; Lisa Weston—English, California State University at Fresno.

CALL FOR PAPERS, MFN 25: TEACHING MEDIEVAL WOMEN

We welcome brief submissions on teaching medieval women, in any discipline, in any type of course. Articles can focus on a particular text or issue, a classroom experience, or any relevant theme. This issue will include contributions from the members of the NEH Summer Institute on the Literary Traditions of Medieval Women held at Rice University in the summer of 1997; if you were a participant in that institute, and wish to contribute, please contact Jane Chance. All others should send submissions to: Ruth Mazo Karras, Department of History, Temple University, 913 Gladfelter Hall, 1115 W. Berks Street, Philadelphia PA 19122. Please send hard copy and an IBM-compatible diskette (in MS Word, Word Perfect, or RTF). DEADLINE: April 1, 1998. If you have questions, please contact Ruth at rkarras@nimbus.ocis.temple.edu.

MEDIEVAL FEMINIST INDEX: ABSTRACTS NEEDED

Authors who find their articles or essays indexed in the Medieval Feminist Index (<http://www.haverford.edu/library/reference/mschaus/mfi/mfi.html>) may send abstracts for inclusion in the database. These summaries provide much additional information and are a real help to users. Please spend a few minutes writing a summary (100 to 125 words) and send it to the editor, Margaret Schaus (mschaus@haverford.edu).

MATRIX PROJECT

Matrix: A Collection of Resources for the Study of Women's Religious Communities, 500–1500 is now online at <http://matrix.divinity.yale.edu>.

Matrix is a collaborative research project made available on the World Wide Web by an international group of scholars of medieval history, religion, history of art, archaeology, and other disciplines, as well as librarians and experts in computer technology. Our goal is to document the participation of Christian women in the religion and society of medieval Europe. In particular, we aim to collect and make available online all existing data about all professional Christian women in Europe between 500 and 1500 C.E. The project draws on both textual and material sources, primary and secondary, although its basis is unpublished archival evidence. It addresses a variety of individuals and groups in medieval Europe, and a range of ecclesiastical institutions, including monastic houses of every size, affiliation, and rule. Our editorial intentions in selecting and presenting material are both scholarly and pedagogical—Matrix is designed for use by scholars, students, and anyone interested in the study of women, medieval Europe, or the history of Christianity.

Matrix began in the 1980s when a team of medievalists directed by Mary McLaughlin, together with Suzanne Wemple, Heath Dillard, and Constance Berman, began to gather data on women's religious communities. Their intent was to produce a three-volume repertoire of monastic communities. The original project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, produced a vast wealth of information (over 3,000 pages) which has remained unpublished in any form. Much of the data was encoded and entered into a now-inaccessible computer database. In 1994, this data was turned over to a new group of scholars for development and publication. Under the stewardship of Katherine Gill, the extraction and publication of the database in electronic format began, first at Mount Holyoke College, and now at Yale University and the University of Kansas. A new editorial board, composed of Katherine Gill, Lisa Bitel, and Marilyn Dunn, is now guiding the project, with a larger board of advisors and regional editors assisting.

The basis of Matrix is the Monasticon, a repertory of profiles of religious women's communities. The Monasticon can be used to find individual histories of communities or can be searched as a database. Matrix also includes Biographies, which contain entries on individual men and women associated with the communities in the Monasticon; a Chartulary of primary source documents; a Bibliography of published and unpublished sources; a Glossary; an Archive of articles; and a Visual Library of site plans, images, and maps.

Unlike a traditional repertory or bibliography, our data is continuously updated, edited, and expanded. All material in Matrix is refereed by our editorial board, advisors, or regional editors. We have loaded much of the original material into a database and have now launched a preliminary Monasticon (consisting largely of records of English, French, Irish, and Italian communities) onto the World Wide Web. We plan to launch other parts of Matrix as soon as possible. We welcome contributions, corrections, suggestions and queries. Please direct your messages to:

Prof. Lisa M. Bitel
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3001 Wescoe Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence KS 66045
E-mail: lbitel@falcon.cc.ukans.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS: NEW COLLEGE CONFERENCE

11th New College Conference on Medieval-Renaissance Studies, Sarasota, FL, March 12-14, 1998. A full three-day conference with c. 200 participants. Send abstract by 12/1/97. All subjects before 1620. See Web page for full call for papers and 1996 conference program. <http://www.sar.usf.edu/~lsnyder>

CALL FOR PAPERS: (RE)SOUNDINGS

(Re)Soundings: A World Wide Web Publication is a collaborative effort among an international group of scholars published in electronic form on the Internet. The journal is innovative in comprising music, visual art, and verbal texts while allowing readers to engage these texts with their own multimedia commentary hot buttons which become part of the journal. The scope of the journal is the humanities.

While materials are accepted at any time, texts submitted by November 1, 1997, will move smoothly into the next publication set. Articles are particularly solicited that take advantage of the multimedia potential of the World Wide Web. While materials are most easily accepted as HTML coded materials, there is no necessity that they be submitted in that format. Hard copy submissions are

entirely welcome, as are materials on diskette utilizing either IBM or Macintosh platforms. Materials are peer-reviewed. The critical texts should be primarily in English; translations should be supplied for texts in other languages.

The multimedia format encourages interaction among traditional disciplines including art, history, literature, and music, while particularly inviting multicultural, ethnic, and women's studies participation. This is an environment in which scholars and artists can create and discuss texts, sharing and building commentary in a variety of media, integrating sound and graphics as well as written materials.

Send submissions to:

Bonnie Duncan

(Re)Soundings

E-mail: resound@marauder.millersv.edu

Department of English

Phone: (717) 872-3069

Millersville University

FAX: (717) 871-2446

Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551

To view (Re)Soundings, or for further information, see
<http://www.millersv.edu/~resound>

SCWSA CONFERENCE

Come celebrate a Texas spring at the South Central Women's Studies Association annual conference, March 6-7, 1998. "Women's Identities" is the conference theme. This year's host will be the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Conference events will include speeches, panels, and paper presentations on all academic fields; practitioners, community organizers, and feminist activists describing their work and discussing current issues arising from it; creative writers reading their poetry and fiction; a feminist book exhibit; and a professionally curated exhibition of women's art. Several medieval papers have been promised.

The keynote speaker will be Adrienne Rich, author of 22 volumes of poetry and essays including *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution*. Other plenary speakers include Norma E. Cantu on "Borderlands Culture and Tradition" and Shelley S. Armitage on "Wacky Women: Female Humorists and American Life."

To request registration forms or other conference information, contact: Dr. Susan Turell, Conference Coordinator, 281-283-3332, or send E-mail to her at Turell@uhcl4.cl.uh.edu. Registration materials will be mailed early in January.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: WOMEN WRITERS IN LATIN

Submissions are invited for *Women Writers in Latin*, a new volume in the series *Women Writers of the World* to be published by Garland. *Women Writers in Latin* will be a 600-page anthology of primary texts, translations, and essays that represent women writing in Latin from antiquity to the present. One purpose of the anthology is to make Latin works by women accessible to a broad audience and to provide the basis for further study and research. The editors seek translations of selected texts accompanied by essays which provide a historical, social, and biographical context along with relevant bibliography. For women writers for whom quality translations already exist, translations of lesser known and/or previously untranslated works are particularly welcome. For further information and submission guidelines, contact one of the editors. Send 2–3 page proposals and vitae by March 31, 1998, to one of the editors: Laurie J. Churchill, Coordinator of Women's Studies Program, Humanities-Classics Department, Sturges Hall, Ohio Wesleyan Univ., Delaware OH 43015 (ljchurch@cc.owu.edu); Anne Clark Bartlett, English Dept., Rm. 255, 802 W. Belden Ave., DePaul University, Chicago IL 60614-3214 (abartlet@condor.depaul.edu); Jane E. Jeffrey, English Dept., West Chester Univ., West Chester PA 19383 (jjeffrey@wcupa.edu).

