

# MEDIEVAL FEMINIST NEWSLETTER

NO. 22 FALL 1996



*with  
karras@wimbois.dcu  
temple.edu*

# MEDIEVAL FEMINIST NEWSLETTER



NO. 22, FALL 1996

GENERAL EDITOR 1996-97

Ann Marie Rasmussen, Dept. of German, Duke University, Durham NC

EDITORS

Margaret Schleissner, Foreign Languages, Rider University, Lawrenceville NJ  
Ruth Mazo Karras, History, Temple University, Philadelphia PA  
Nancy A. Jones, Cambridge MA

DESIGN

Office of University Publications, University of Oregon

ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Aronstein (1998), Sarah Beckwith (1997), Sharon Farmer (1997), Simon Gaunt (1996), Paula Gerson (1997), Joan Gibson (1997), Nancy Jones (1996), Clare Lees (1996), Linda Lomperis (1997), E. Ann Matter (1996), JoAnn McNamara (1997), Louise Mirrer (1997), Mary Suydam (1998)

BIBLIOGRAPHER

Chris Africa, University of Iowa Libraries



SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP

President: Pamela Sheingorn, Art History, Baruch College, CUNY, NY

Vice President: Regina Psaki, Romance Languages, University of Oregon

Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Anne Clark Bartlett, English, DePaul University

Graduate Student Representative: Lisa Lampert, UC-Berkeley

Nominating Committee: Regina Psaki and Margaret Schleissner

MFN is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society's Feminist Humanities Project at the University of Oregon. Address: CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201 E-mail: [mfn@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:mfn@oregon.uoregon.edu)

Ann Marie Rasmussen would like to thank Norma Dockery, Nina Hammer and Gita Murthy for their help in preparing this issue of MFN.

© Medieval Feminist Newsletter, 1996 ISSN 1054-1004

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A New Home for MFN . . . . .	3
A Brief History of MFN and SMFS . . . . .	3
Message from the President of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, Pamela Sheingorn . . . . .	6
Message from the Editor . . . . .	6

## GENDER AND MEDIEVALISM

Breaking Down the Barriers: Writing Novels About Medieval Women for Modern Readers (Sharan Best) . . . . .	15
Wishing for History (Katharine Kerr) . . . . .	17
Medieval Art as Nostalgia for the Future (Madeline H. Caviness) . . . . .	19
Joan of Arc: Maneuverable Medievalism, Flexible Feminism (Nadia Margolis) . . . . .	21
The Influence of J.R.R. Tolkien's Masculinist Medievalism (Michael D.C. Drout) . . . . .	25
Feminism Within and Without the Academy (Karma Lochrie, Clare A. Lees, and Gillian R. Overing) . . . . .	26
<b>BOOK REVIEWS . . . . .</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>LIST OF NEW AND RENEWING SUBSCRIBERS . . . . .</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION . . . . .</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION: CANDIDATES . . . . .</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION: BALLOT . . . . .</b>	<b>68</b>