

*Apprentice* (winner of a Newbery Medal, a prestigious award for children's books) and *Catherine, Called Birdy* (a Newbery Honor book). A contribution that surveys and discusses some of this literature would be most welcome. Recently, the *medfem-1* discussion list has been responding to a request for suggestions for texts to use in teaching a group of "vulnerable, gifted" ninth-grade girls about the Middle Ages. There have been many, many interesting responses; perhaps someone would pull them together in an annotated bibliography that MFN could publish? Teaching middle school—and even elementary school—children about the Middle Ages happens regularly across the country, yet what resources do scholars have when the teacher-colleagues in our community schools turn to them for assistance and advice? Perhaps there are subscribers who have put together medieval lesson plans that they would share with us; perhaps some have had some experience in collaborating with primary and secondary school teachers. Please take the time to join in the conversation and write for MFN!

*Ann Marie Rasmussen*  
*Duke University*

### **MFN 23: GENDER AND MEDIEVALISM**

The topic for MFN vol. 23 will be a continuation of this discussion on gender and medievalism. We ask for contributions on this topic, including but not limited to: gender in popular representations of medieval culture; popular medievalisms in teaching; how we address our students' preconceptions about gender and medieval culture; the success, failure, advantages, disadvantages of using popularizations in teaching; how we recognize and channel our own nostalgia into scholarly discourse. We hope to receive as well contributions from creative writers on what kinds of medieval scholarship they read and how they use it.

Contributions for MFN vol. 23 can be forwarded either by email (preferred) or by regular mail.

DEADLINE: June 1, 1997

REGULAR MAIL: Mail to Prof. Ann Marie Rasmussen, German Department, Duke University, Box 90256, Durham NC 27708-0256. If possible, please send a diskette copy (in WordPerfect or any ASCII-format; for IBM) of your essay together with the paper copy.

E-MAIL: Post to [amras@acpub.duke.edu](mailto:amras@acpub.duke.edu)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT: THE COMPUTER CLEARINGHOUSE PROJECT**

The Computer Clearinghouse Project for computer-aided studies in all areas and periods of German Language, Literature and Language Pedagogy and in Medieval Scandinavian invites all colleagues working in these fields to list ongoing, completed and/or projected work with the Project directors, Professor Evelyn S. Firchow, University of Minnesota, 219 Folwell Hall, 9 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis MN 55455-0123, USA (e-mail: firchow001@maroon.tc.umn.edu) or Professor Anna A. Grotans, Ohio State University, 314 Cunz Hall/German, Columbus OH 43210-1229, USA (e-mail: grotans.1@osu.edu).

Only projects using the computer for calculations and research can be included—not word processing. All projects will be listed in the *International Annual Newsletter for German Computer Research* published in the first annual issue of the *Germanic Notes and Reviews*. Yearly subscriptions to this journal are U.S. \$14 domestic and U.S. \$16 international. All checks or inquiries should be sent to Professor Richard Krummel, Editor, *Germanic Notes and Reviews*, 2801 Arrowwood Circle N.W., Bemidji MN 56601, USA. The Newsletter is now also available on the Web: <http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/german/cclh/>

An abbreviated version of the Newsletter appears in the first yearly issue of *Germanistik* (Niemeyer, Tübingen). This list does not include projects in German Language Instruction or the items of Interest Sections.

## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please call all conferences to the attention of your colleagues and graduate students**

### **INTERNATIONAL COURTLY LITERATURE SOCIETY**

Ninth Triennial Congress

July 25-30, 1998

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

The Ninth Triennial Congress of the ICLS will be held at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada. Ideally located between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, beautiful Vancouver is a large, pleasant city, which enjoys a mild climate. It is easily accessible by air, with direct flights from Paris, London, Tokyo, and major North American cities. The University of British Columbia hosts numerous conferences in its modern Conference Centre and

every summer the internationally acclaimed Vancouver Early Music Festival, which includes medieval music concerts and master classes, is held on campus.

Proposals for papers and sessions are welcome from the broadest possible range of areas pertinent to courtly literature. While upholding the ICLS tradition of encouraging significant research on literature, the Ninth Triennial Congress also aims to build stronger ties between various disciplines and to reflect new methods and new outlooks.

Suggested Areas: Palaeography, Manuscript Studies, Editions / Courtly Literature and its Historical Context / Medieval and Modern Translations of Courtly Texts / Medieval Contrafactum / Redefining Genres, Re-evaluating Authors, Characters, Texts / Music and Poetry in Courtly Song / Linguistic Approaches to Courtly Literature / Computer Analysis and the New Philology / Courtly Literature and Mysticism / Iconography and Literary Interpretation / Philosophical and Sociological Approaches to Courtly Literature / Performance of Courtly Literature, Then and Now / Reception and Intertextuality.

Papers must be limited to a reading time of 20 minutes. All proposals are subject to limitations of time, space and the approval of the Organizing Committee. The official languages of the ICLS are English, French, and German; however papers in Italian, Spanish, and other languages will also be considered. One-page abstracts must be received by **August 1, 1997**. Abstracts may be sent by regular mail, E-mail or fax; however a hard copy must follow E-mail and fax submissions. Information concerning registration, excursions, concerts and social events, and housing options (on and off-campus) will be sent in December 1997.

Please address all correspondence to the Congress Coordinator:  
Professor Chantal Phan (ICLS 1998)  
Dept. of French, University of British Columbia  
797-1873 East Mall, Vancouver V6T 1Z1, Canada  
Fax: (604) 822-6675 E-Mail: phan@unixg.ubc.ca  
Telephone: (604)-822-4038

## **QUEER MIDDLE AGES**

"Queer Middle Ages," November 5-7, 1998, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Manhattan, New York. This conference is dedicated to queering all aspects of medieval studies. Send abstracts for papers and proposals for sessions to: Francesca Canade Sautman, Department of French, Hunter College, fsautman@shiva.Hunter.CUNY.edu; Steven Kruger, Department of English, Queens College, steven\_kruger@qc.edu

## ROMAN DE SILENCE

Proposals are invited for a symposium of new work on the 13th-century *Roman de Silence* to be held at the University of Oregon on Feb. 6-7, 1998. Deadline for proposals: September 1, 1997. Contact Gina Psaki, Romance Languages, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1233. Tel. 541-346-4042. Fax 541-346-4030. E-mail: rpsaki@oregon.uoregon.edu

## REFLECTION AND REFLEXIVITY IN WOMEN AUTHORS

Colloque: "Réflexion et Réflexivité dans les Textes des Femmes Ecrivains sous l'Ancien Régime," les 15, 16 et 17 mai 1997.

Organisé conjointement par le Département d'études françaises de l'Université de Montral et le Département de langue et littérature françaises de l'Université McGill.

Les études récentes portant sur les écrits des femmes de l'Ancien Régime suggèrent que c'est à travers la prise de parole et le retour réflexif sur celle-ci que se construit l'identité du sujet féminin. Le colloque que nous organisons à Montréal vise à préciser ces mouvements de réflexion sur soi et sur l'écriture présents ou suggérés dans les textes des femmes écrivains de cette période. Lieu privilégié d'échanges, cette rencontre réunira des contributions où seront repérés, explorés et analysés de tels mouvements réflexifs, afin de voir notamment quelles images de la femme écrivain se dessinent dans le miroir de l'écriture. Quelle est la fonction, la finalité de cette mise en abyme du sujet dans son discours? Il nous apparaît important d'interroger les représentations textuelles d'un certain nombre d'activités féminines mettant en scène une scriptrice-locutrice parlant, dialoguant, commentant, devisant, etc. La diversité des textes et des situations mises en relief par une telle interrogation nous permettra de saisir les modalités féminines de l'émergence du sujet moderne.

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## **NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE, JUNE 9–JULY 18, 1997**

“The Literary Traditions of Medieval Women,” an NEH Summer Institute for College and University Faculty, will be held at Rice University, June 9–July 18, 1997. The new criticism on medieval women attempts to redress two misconceptions: that medieval women were not literate, and that what they wrote was mediocre in comparison to writing by male authors. The Institute will examine the literary traditions of medieval women writers from Europe and the Byzantine Empire, between the 9th and 15th centuries. The purpose of the Institute will be to outline the shape of a female literary tradition distinct from the traditions associated with Latin and vernacular poets. For information and application, contact Jane Chance. The deadline for applications is March 1, 1997.

Jane Chance, Professor  
English Department-MS30  
Rice University  
6100 Main St., Houston TX 77005-1892  
Tel: (713) 527-8108 x2625  
Fax: (713) 285-5991  
Web Pages: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~jchance>  
<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~jchance/neh.html>

## **SMFS SESSIONS AT KALAMAZOO, MAY 8–12, 1997**

### **I. “Women and Death in the Middle Ages”**

Organizer: Judith Laird, Department of English, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos TX 78666 E-mail: [JL10@admin.swt.edu](mailto:JL10@admin.swt.edu)

This session will explore the ways in which medieval authorities either depicted the deaths of women or associated women with death. Contributions from a broad variety of disciplines both generate new questions about familiar sources and explore the significance of previously neglected artifacts.

### **II. “The Poetics and Politics of Female Enclosure”**

Organizers: Shari Horner, Pennsylvania State University  
E-mail: [SLH25@PSU.EDU](mailto:SLH25@PSU.EDU); and Virginia Blanton-Whetsell, Binghamton University,  
208 Kaypat Dr., Phoenix NY 13135 E-mail: [76142.220@compuserv.com](mailto:76142.220@compuserv.com)

This session explores the aesthetic and social dimensions of female enclosure. Envisioned as a panel comprising several short presentations, this panel features contributions from scholars working in a wide range of time periods, sources, and academic disciplines. Some topics include: material practices and enclosure, anchorism and sainthood, and the changing rules and rituals associated with this vocation.

### III. "Knowledge and Use of Medieval Women's Literature by Later Female Writers"

Organizer: Chris Africa, Bibliographer, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City IA 52242 E-mail: cafrica@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

This session examines the potential impact of medieval women writers on post-medieval female authors. For the purposes of this session, "post-medieval" may include writers from the Renaissance to the present and papers may analyze any number of genres. The purpose of this session is not to establish an unbroken lineage of literary "foremothers," but to discover what aspects of medieval women's culture might have survived beyond the Middle Ages and to ask how and why post-medieval women appropriated them. The presentations in this session are:

1. "Vox Matris: The Influence of St. Birgitta's Revelations on *The Book of Margery Kempe*," Nanda Hopenwasser (English, Univ. of Alabama) and Signe O. Wegener (English, Univ. of Georgia)
2. "Reflections and refractions: Marguerite de Navarre reads Marguerite de Porete's *Mirror of Simple Souls*," Carol L. Thysell (Philosophy and Religion, Univ. of North Carolina, Wilmington)
3. "The Medieval Legacy at Work in Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz's *La Respuesta*," Jane E. Jeffrey (English, West Chester Univ.)
4. "Louise de Karalio Reading Christine de Pizan," Josette A. Wisman (Language and Foreign Studies, American Univ., College of Arts and Sciences)

### IV. "Autobiographical Criticism and Medieval Studies: A Roundtable"

Organizer: Anne Clark Bartlett, Department of English, 802 W. Belden Ave, DePaul University, Chicago IL 60614. abartlet@condor.depaul.edu

Inspired by recent critical work by such authors as Alice Kaplan and Jane Tompkins, this session invites reflection on the complex identifications that individual medievalists/feminists develop with their work. Topics of discussion include race, class, and gender histories; the motives for choosing a topic, discipline, or profession; and how the relationships between scholar and subject matter develop and evolve over time. The presentations and respondents in this session are:

1. "Becoming the Hazelnut: Teaching Julian of Norwich's *Showings* in the Face of Mortality," Laurel Broughton (University of Vermont)
2. "A Loss of Innocence: A Jewish Feminist Medievalist," Charlotte Newman Goldy (Miami University of Ohio)

3. "Medieval Self-Fashioning, or Watching the World Become Text," Angela Jane Weisl (Seton Hall University)
4. "Rhetorical Questions, Sexual Violence, and Chaucer," Karen Arthur (University of Toronto)
5. "Criticism as Autobiography and Autobiography as Criticism," Natalie Grinnell (SUNY-Buffalo)

**Respondents:**

1. "Effective and Affected Pieties," Elizabeth Scala (University of Texas, Austin)
2. "Confession, Seduction, Striptease," Anne Clark Bartlett (DePaul University)

