

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

Books that you wish to be reviewed in *MFF* should be sent directly to *MFF* at the University of Oregon. The new book review editor is Chris Africa, but in the interest of not multiplying addresses, the books will be sent to her periodically from UO. Please send books to: *MFF*, c/o CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201.

ELECTIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD

Please vote to fill the FIVE vacancies on the Advisory Board! This term will run 2001–2004, and the ballot is at the back of this issue. The winners of our last election to the advisory board are: Natalie Grinnell, Monica Green, Sarah Poor, and Miriam Shadis (terms through 2003). Thanks to all who consented to run, and to all who voted. SMFS depends heavily on the insight and input of its Advisory Board.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2002

In 2002 two more members rotate off the Advisory Board, and we would like to ask you to submit nominations for colleagues to replace them. The chair of our nominations committee is Barbara Weissberger, and you may submit nominations to her c/o mff@oregon.uoregon.edu

By getting these nominations to Barbara early you guarantee that your nominees will have time to prepare a statement regarding their goals for the organization. Please include a full name, field, affiliation and mailing and/or email address. Members are also welcome to nominate themselves!

CALL FOR PAPERS: *MFF* 32: GENDER, THE ACADEMY, AND THE ARTS

The Fall 2001 issue of *Medieval Feminist Forum* will be devoted to the subject of women and the arts. We are interested in essays that illuminate the subject of women and the arts from a broad variety of perspectives. The category of “fine arts” would have been incomprehensible to the people we study; thus, we are particularly interested in how the academy has conceptualized and gendered “the arts.” Are “the arts” confined to painting, sculpture, and music? What about theater and dance? Why is “material culture” considered separate from “the arts”? Does one’s academic training (and the job market) facilitate or obstruct studying the artistic contributions of women? Is the academic construction of “the arts” in the Middle Ages changing, and have feminist perspectives facilitated change?

Deadlines for submission: September 15, 2001. Send to Mary Suydam, Department of Religious Studies, Kenyon College, Gambier OH 43022 or query Suydam@kenyon.edu

Contributions on other topics of interest to readers of *MFF* are also welcome.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: NEW SMFS *SUBSIDIA* SERIES

In May 1999 the advisory board of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship approved the launching of an occasional series, christened *Subsidia*. *Subsidia* issues will be produced and marketed in the same way as regular issues (obviously appearing less regularly). Proposals to edit individual issues of the series should be made by a member of SMFS to the editors and advisory board in consultation with the managing editor and book review editor.

We hope that the *Subsidia* series will meet various needs of the membership, allowing a forum for scholarship on focussed topics that are of a scope too substantial for an article and too short for a full-sized book.

If you would like to propose a *Subsidia* volume, please submit your proposal to Regina Psaki, Managing Editor, *Medieval Feminist Forum*, CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. She will forward it to the advisory board. Send queries to rpsaki@oregon.uoregon.edu or mff@oregon.uoregon.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Seeing Gender: Perspectives on Medieval Gender and Sexuality, January 4–6, 2002

A conference to be held at King's College, London, under the auspices of the Gender and Medieval Studies Group. Papers from all disciplines will be welcomed on any aspect of gender or sexuality in the late antique and medieval periods (broadly defined). Contributors may wish to consider some of the issues listed below.

- The visibility/invisibility of gender and sexuality. How does scientific, medical or legal discourse illuminate or obscure our view of medieval gender and sexuality?
- Gender as a way of seeing. How does it affect issues of reading and representation? Is the gaze in medieval images and texts gendered?
- Gender, sexuality and spectacle. In what ways are gender and sexuality displayed on or through medieval bodies? What is the relationship between gender, sexuality and performance in medieval culture?
- Gender and sexuality as sites of re-vision. How do issues of race, class and ethnicity encourage us to rethink sexual and gender categories in medieval culture? What impact do geographic, economic, religious or political concerns have on gender and sexuality? To what extent are medieval gender and sexuality historically variable or contingent?

Please send 200 word abstracts to Emma Campbell and Robert Mills, Seeing Gender Conference, c/o Dept. of French, King's College, London, WC2R 2LS,

U.K. or email abstracts to seeinggender@yahoo.co.uk as a message text or an MS Word attachment. Deadline **October 1, 2001**. Check out our web site at www.medievalgender.org.uk for further information about the conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Politics and Aesthetics of Gender in the Middle Ages: The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Illinois Medieval Association, February 22–23, 2002, at the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. The keynote speaker is Barbara Newman, Northwestern University. We invite one-page abstracts on the conference theme; proposals are due by November 1, 2001.

Suggested Topics: Sexual politics in courtly romance, chronicles and histories; Literary construction of masculinity; Gendered beauty; Beauty and the female body; Fictions of gender inferiority/superiority; Virile women: the gender of ethics; Courtly love as a discourse of power; Women's education; Gendered response to violence; Desire and its gender; Education and gender; Does genre have a gender?; Law and gender; Friendship between men and women; Men and women in the religious life; Persecution and gender; The gender of pleasure; Sign-systems of gender: clothing, gesture, posture; Masculinity / Femininity in epic and romance; Seduction: politics and aesthetics; Gender systems in crisis.

Abstracts on other topics related to medieval culture are welcome. Please send all abstracts to Stephen Jaeger, Program in Medieval Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana IL 61801.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Women Medievalists in the Academy is a collection of biographical essays and memoirs intended to illuminate the lives and careers of women who have helped build a field or a discipline or an area or a specific subject in Medieval Studies, along the lines of Helen Damico's monumental three-volume series on *Medieval Scholarship*, which includes only seven women among the seventy-five or so medieval scholars therein. This new collection would include 60–70 essays (preferably in two volumes but possibly in one) about women who were born predominantly before 1935. The collection would be published at a reasonable price, in 2003.

We're looking to provide some variety in terms of fields, that is, not just contributors in Literature and History but also Art History, Philosophy, Philology, Religion, etc. Such women scholars most likely would come from the earlier twentieth century, but we are also looking for those still living whose career has demonstrated a major contribution, and would welcome an essay by those women themselves or perhaps essays based on interviews with them. Thus far colleagues who have agreed to write such essays include Charity Cannon Willard, Mary McLaughlin, Jo Ann McNamara, Carolyn Bynum, Elizabeth Gössmann, Marjorie Chibnall, Elizabeth Brown, Marjorie Reeves, and Marie Borroff, among others. Other women about whom essays are being written include Elizabeth Elstob, Helen Maud Cam, Dorothy Sayers, Sylvia Thrupp,

Ruth Dean, Dominica Legge, and many others. Still missing are biographers for: Agnes Baillie Cuninghame Dunbar (1830–1920), who published a *Dictionary of Women Saints*; Lucy Tolmin Smith (1838–1911), Dorothea Waley Singer (1882–1964), late medieval Italian science and philosophy; Nora Kershaw Chadwick (1891–1972); Eleanor Patterson Spencer (1895–1992), in medieval art; Dorothy Eugenia Miner (1904–1973), in medieval art; Suzanne Solente, in Christine de Pizan; and several others.

Each essay, about 15–20 double-spaced pages (12 point font Times Roman), with bibliography of works by the subject and also a works cited, would sketch the woman's life and her intellectual contribution to Medieval Studies, but it might also discuss particular problems confronted by the woman working in a predominantly masculine field and how she circumvented those problems. It would be the responsibility of the contributor to locate a black and white photograph of the subject (5 x7, minimally, or an appropriate jpeg, and to obtain permission for its use). *Chicago Manual of Style* would be the style used.

We are presenting some of these essays on "founding mothers" at Kalamazoo 2002, with the formal essays in to me by January 1, 2002; I would be happy to have help in organizing sessions or other celebrations. A full table of contents is available via email upon request.

I am hoping that the importance of this venture as a corrective history of the founding of the Academy and the role of women medievalists in its development may interest others in participating. Interested biographers should send or email to me a brief bio or cv: Jane Chance, English Department MS 30, Rice University, PO Box 1892, Houston TX 77251-1892. jchance@rice.edu

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *MFF*

Jan Emerson of the CSWS Feminist Humanities Project keeps our *MFF* database; please contact her with any questions regarding the status of your subscription. It is she who answers the messages sent to mff@oregon.uoregon.edu. Our **old** email address, printed in issues 22–27, will no longer forward mail to the new one, so please insert our new address into your email address book. Thank you!

Please consider renewing your subscription, when it comes due, for four or six years rather than the usual two. Members who pay for multiple subscription cycles save themselves time and effort, as well as avoiding interruptions in their subscription, and the *MFF* saves the personnel hours and cost of mailing renewal notices.

Finally, if your library doesn't subscribe to *MFF*, do consider a gift subscription!

MEDIEVAL FEMINIST INDEX

This spring the *Medieval Feminist Index* has reached a landmark (record number five thousand) and has its first records for publications in Italian, including the

essays from *Il monachesimo femminile in Italia dall'Alto Medioevo al secolo XVII a confronto con l'oggi* edited by Gabriella Zarri (1997) and *Donne et sante: Studi sulla religiosità femminile nel Medio Evo* by Edith Pasztor (2000).

Please visit the Index and search for topics of interest:

<http://www.haverford.edu/library/reference/mschaus/mfi/mfi.html>

In May, 500 new records were added to the database. Please send suggestions for improvements and questions to: Margaret Schaus, editor of the *Medieval Feminist Index*; Magill Library, Haverford College. mschaus@haverford.edu

SUBSCRIBING TO MEDFEM-L

To subscribe to Medfem-l, the electronic discussion list on medieval feminist studies, send a message to listproc@u.washington.edu with no subject line and the following message body: **subscribe medfem-l <your name>**.

Use your actual name, not your email address (it takes the email address automatically from your return address). Once you are subscribed you will receive instructions on how to postpone and reset mail, and how to unsubscribe.

