

reading the enclosure/exposure contradiction, its significance, and in what kind of historical context one should locate these texts' preoccupations. The paper continued work begun in "Saints Lives and the Female Reader," *Forum for Modern Language Studies* (forthcoming, 1991) and "The Virgin's Tale" in *The Wife of Bath and All Her Sect* (ed. Lesley Johnson and Ruth Evans), forthcoming from Routledge, London, and is part of work on a book provisionally entitled *Authorizing Virgins: the Literature of Female Celibacy in Medieval England, c. 1150-1350*.

Marion Wynne-Davies (English, University of Lancaster), "An object of desire: the problems of locating female identity in *Pearl*", discussed the ways we relate literature and history and how to explore the female experience in 14th- and 15th-century England. Drawing on Bakhtin's *The Dialogic Imagination*, she argued that *Pearl* not only anticipates an oppositional voice outside the text, but incorporates within it a hidden polemic. Her paper grew out of work linking materialism and symbolism with the female subject in medieval English literature, the subject of a book she is writing.

Catherine Batt (English, QMW, London), "On the margins? Space for women in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*," considered the presentation of women and the antifeminist *topos* in *Sir Gawain* in the context of concerns voiced in the poem with regard to the epistemological importance of its spatial coordinates, and its structure as a piece of alliterative poetry. She argued that examination of the dialogues between Gawain and the Lady draws our attention to the consequences of ambiguity evident in both the written and the spoken word. A fuller version of this paper will appear in the Reading *Yearbook of English Studies*, a special 1992 issue on medieval narrative, under the title, "Gawain's antifeminist rant, the pentangle, and narrative space."

The next meeting of the Gender and Medieval Studies Group will be held at the University of Cardiff, Wales on January 7 and 8, 1992. Topics will include "what is a text?" and possibly witchcraft. If you would like to offer a paper or contribute to a workshop, please contact Dr. Sioned Davies, Dept. of Welsh, University of Wales, P.O. Box 910, Cardiff CF1 3XW.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Kate Westoby, Department of French, Cardiff. Kate was a very active and enthusiastic member of our group who participated in the workshop in teaching at the Warwick conference and would have been an organizer of the Cardiff meeting. She will be greatly missed.

Karen Pratt, Goldsmiths' College, London (organizer of the London meeting).

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



FUTURE ISSUES OF MFN:



MFN 12 (FALL 1991) will feature feminism and art history. Gay and lesbian issues in medieval studies will be the topic for *MFN* 13 (Spring 1992). Anyone interested in contributing should contact E. Jane Burns, Department of Romance Languages, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3170.

Please send bibliography and announcements for the Fall issue by October 15, 1991. Send book reviews and copies of books to be reviewed to Beth Robertson, Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

THE JULIAN LIBRARY. An essential part of the pedagogic process calls for involving students more closely with the texts that we study in class. All too often medieval literature comes off badly, since it commands neither the immediacy of twentieth-century works, nor the material reminders of centuries closer to our own — the tourist shrines at Stratford, Haworth, and Grasmere. Indeed, *MFN* has been addressing this issue by including very useful suggestions in the “Teaching from a Feminist Perspective” section. I’d like to contribute to the growing body of information, but tangentially, from a locational viewpoint.

During the summer I visited St. Julian’s Church and Lady Julian’s Cell in Norwich. Many of you probably know of this small medieval church with its anchoress’ cell still intact, but for me it was an interesting discovery. I especially enjoyed seeing the space in which Julian lived and the small window between her cell and the church through which she could hear mass and receive Holy Communion. But greater rewards lay — literally — around the corner.

Just above the church a modern building houses the Julian Library run by Jean Furness; it acts as a resource center, a bookshop and a lending library, as well as a quiet spot to sit, have coffee, and chat with other visitors. There is a wide range of books on Julian and other spiritual writers and mystics. The Library welcomes all researchers, especially undergraduates; it’s a useful place for any student wishing to pursue an interest in women mystics, whether they come from a British university or are studying abroad as part of a U.S. college scheme. There is a reasonably priced guest house attached to St. Julian’s church.

An organization called the Friends of Saint Julian encourages further interest in the work, past and present, of the Shrine of Lady Julian of Norwich. In addition, the Library has its own newsletter and will send a mail-order list of the books it stocks for sale. The Julian Centre is still very much a living Christian community, but it openly welcomes anyone with a religious or scholarly interest in Julian. If you would like more detailed information, or simply some of the “Discovering Julian” pamphlets to give students, Jean Furness is exceptionally helpful. The address is: The Julian Library — Saint Julian’s Church, c/o All Hallows, Bouen Road, Norwich NR1 1QT, England.

Marion Wynne-Davies, Dept. of English, University of Lancaster

THE CHRISTINE DE PIZAN SOCIETY is seeking the names of interested scholars and students. For a copy of the newsletter, please send names, addresses, and \$5.00 annual dues to: Nadia Margolis, 29 Hitchcock Road, Amherst, MA 01002. Anyone interested in collaborating on a team to edit Christine’s prose works should contact: Eric Hicks, Français Médiéval BISH2, Université de Lausanne, CH 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

SEX AND SEXUALITY in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: An Interdisciplinary Conference, November 22-24, 1991.

An interdisciplinary conference on “Sex and Sexuality in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance” will be held at Victoria College, University of Toronto, November 22-24, 1991. The conference will include forty scholars speaking on a variety of themes such as chastity, sexual transgressions, and homosexuality from the perspectives of Latin and vernacular literature, history, art history, medicine, law, and theology. The conference

will feature plenary addresses by Vern L. Bullough (SUNY, Buffalo), "Sex in History: A Redux" and James A. Brundage (University of Kansas), "Playing by the Rules: Sexual Behavior and Legal Norms in Medieval Europe." For further information and registration write to: Sexuality Conference, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada M5S 1K7. Phone (416) 585-4484; fax (416) 585-4584.

THE ROLES OF WOMEN in the Middle Ages: A Reassessment, The Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies, State University of New York at Binghamton, 26th annual conference: October 16-17, 1992. To mark the anniversary of the first CEMERS Conference on "The Role of Woman in The Middle Ages" (1972), the Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton would like to invite interested scholars to meet again, to assess progress made and the present state of research, and to shape directions such research might take in the future.

Scholars are invited to submit abstracts on a variety of topics outlined below, as well as to suggest panels. Panels will consist of about three 20-minute papers. Possible topics for panels: history of research; assessment of current research; gender and models of power; fixed or changing roles and role models; ritual behavior and practices; depictions of women in medieval and Renaissance literature and art; the significance of *topoi* and archetypes; the place of women; the voice of women: depictions of sexuality in symbolic and non-symbolic representations; status of women; the material life of women; women writers and narrative; lyrical modes; specific medieval and Renaissance women; female communities; transgression, submission, and escapism; the reception and transformation of models in the old and new world. Inquiries and suggestions should be addressed to: Rosmarie Thee Morewedge, State University of New York PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000. Deadline for abstracts: May 18, 1992.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE 1992: Art and Symbolism: University of York. An international, interdisciplinary forum for presentation of new information and debate, primarily on archaeology, but dealing with all aspects of medieval Europe. In the "Art and Symbolism" session, we hope to bring together detailed empirical investigations, contextual historical analyses, and well-informed theoretical perspectives. Please address proposals or inquiries to: C. Pamela Graves, Medieval Europe 1992, 1 Pavement, York YO1 2NA, England. Telephone 0904 643211; fax 0904 640029.

A HAGIOGRAPHY SOCIETY has been founded to promote communication among scholars in different disciplines whose research involves the study of early Christian or medieval saints' legends. During 1990-91 the society will publish its first newsletter, containing a directory of researchers in hagiography and a list of works in progress, and will sponsor two sessions at the 26th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. For further information please write Sherry L. Reames, Department of English, University of Wisconsin, 600 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION would like to encourage broad participation in its conference in Washington, D.C., December 27-30, 1992 on the

subject of "unification in history and the historical profession." The year 1992 marks the quincentenary of the first Columbus voyage to America, and it will also mark the first formal steps toward the political integration of Europe. Both events merit reflection about unification as a theme and its consequences for the modern world. For more information, contact Jo Ann McNamara, Dept. of History, Hunter College, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021. All program participants must be members of the AHA.

WOMEN IN FRENCH is an organization for individuals who wish to promote research on female Francophone authors, on women in Francophone literatures and in other domains of feminist literary criticism. *WIF* has recently been approved as an Affiliated Organization of MLA and so will organize sessions at the annual conference; it holds an annual business meeting at the December MLA. *Women in French* publishes a newsletter with announcements and bibliography of interest to feminist scholars. To become a member and receive the newsletter, send \$5.00 to Emily Guignon, WIF Treasurer, 7827 Davis Drive, Clayton, MO 63105.

QUERY



DE CLARIS MULIERIBUS: Margaret Ferguson would like to borrow a copy of a microfilm of the 1401 French translation of Boccaccio's *De Claris Mulieribus*. She can be reached at the English Department, University of Colorado at Boulder.

BIBLIOGRAPHY



- Blumfeld-Kosinski, Renate, *Not of Woman Born: Representations of Caesarean Birth in Medieval and Renaissance Culture* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1990). A study of artistic representations of caesarean birth.
- Green, Monica H., "Female Sexuality in the Medieval West," *Trends in History* 4, no. 4 (1990), 127-58.
- Kusche, Brigitte, *Frauenaufklärung in Spätmittelalter: Eine philologisch-medizinhistorische Untersuchung und Edition des gynäkologisch-obstetrischen GKS 1657 Kopenhagen*, Acta Universitatis Umensis (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1990). Although the introduction is not particularly helpful, Kusche's edition of this unique Middle Netherlandic gynecological text is an important addition to the fund of published medieval gynecological literature. There is no translation into a modern language, but the comprehensive glossary is valuable. Addressed to a female audience, the text is anonymous and is largely a translation from Latin sources, but a full source analysis remains to be done.
- Paschold, Chris E., *Die Frau und ihr Körper im medizinischen und didaktischen Schrifttum des französischen Mittelalter: Wortgeschichtliche Untersuchungen zu Texten des 13. und 14. Jahrhunderts. Mit kritischer Ausgabe der gynäkologischen Kapitel aus den 'Amphorismes Ypocras' des Martin de Saint-Gilles*, Würzburger medizinhistorische Forschungen, Band 47 (Pattensen/Han.: Horst Wellm, 1989). A very useful examination of the vocabulary and concepts of