

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SMFS

Dear Members and Subscribers,

When I became President of SMFS, I decided to read through back issues of *MFN*, whose new name is *Medieval Feminist Forum*. One of the strengths of the contributions to *MFN* is how clearly they make visible the conditions under which we produce and transmit scholarship about the past. While reading I was struck by the academic diversity represented by the members of SMFS. We work in many different capacities within many different kinds of institutions. Most of us teach; many conduct research and publish; some work in libraries or are independent scholars; many of us are engaged in graduate study; most are employed, but in positions representing the entire range of professional positions in academia today, from adjuncts and visiting professors to tenured scholars. We are affiliated with a startlingly diverse array of institutions: community colleges, private research universities, liberal arts colleges, religiously affiliated colleges and universities, public research universities, public teaching universities large and small, and high schools as well.

Our institutions present us with different missions, different values, different goals, different political and scholarly dilemmas and opportunities. To a certain extent, disciplinary differences pale before the political and social conditions within institutions, which shape what we teach and write in such profound, yet at times seemingly everyday ways. What holds us together? In the face of such complexity, what do we, as subscribers to (now) *MFF* and members of SMFS, share? Reading *MFF* showed me that we share a commitment to making knowledge of the distant past a part of the lived experience of the present. What distinguishes us from others holding the same commitment to historically-based teaching and research is that we do it from a feminist perspective. This is not to suggest that there is one, monolithic feminist perspective uniting us! We differ in our disciplines, our approaches and methodologies, our views of feminism, and our positions as feminists, but we all believe that feminist perspectives matter and that they have become and must remain an enduring part of academia.

I remind our readers that *MFF*'s first *Subsidia* volume has appeared, *Medieval Women in Film*, edited by Virginia Blanton-Whetsell and Charlene Miller-Avrich. All current subscribers to *MFF* should have received their complimentary copy. *Medieval Women in Film* is a superb addition to any medievalist's reference shelf of teaching tools. In addition to an exhaustive

handlist of films that is clearly organized and helpfully annotated, *Medieval Women in Film* provides bibliographies for reference works and essays, film databases, movie guides, and internet resources. Finally, it includes six excellent, thought-provoking essays on teaching medieval film in today's classroom. And all this in a handy, 68-page format!

Copies can be purchased for \$5 in check or money order from *MFF* (c/o CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1201). I bought five copies to give to my graduate students at semester's end this year because I believe that this excellent volume is an indispensable aide for present and future teachers of medieval studies. Join me in supporting the scholarly efforts of *MFF* and SMFS by using this extraordinary volume as a gift for colleagues, students, friends, and libraries!

Ann Marie Rasmussen

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

At first *Dame Folly* intended to devote issue only to Carnival and submissions on humor. The *Grande Dame* has changed her mind, however, and will be publishing two issues with humor submissions juxtaposed with serious ones. She trusts that the membership will appreciate this choice, since far too many serious publications must cross their desks; and she hopes that members and subscribers will continue to send in the occasional parody and joke even after her editorship has ended.

My own message for the membership is in part a repeat. I would like to ask you again to 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 will save themselves the effort of memory it takes to get the check sent out, as well as avoiding interruptions in their subscription. And the *MFF* will save the personnel hours and cost of mailing renewal notices!

Jan Emerson of the UO 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 E-mail address (mfn@oregon.uoregon.edu) will forward mail automatically for the next six months; but after Dec. 2000, any messages sent there will disappear into the void.

Gina Psaki