

NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



∞ FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

We are at an exciting new juncture in the history of our organization, and it is a dynamic time to serve as president of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship. I am very pleased to be working with the Advisory Board, the Editorial Board, and the membership as we continue to develop new initiatives that meet our fundamental goal of providing support for medieval feminist scholarship. In particular, I want to welcome four board members who joined us this year: Marian Bleeke and RáGena DeAragon, as well as graduate student representative Christine Kozikowski and founding mother Elizabeth Robertson. Please know you may contact any of us with ideas, suggestions, or concerns regarding SMFS.

This year has brought a number of changes, including a new Managing Editor, Chris Africa, and a new institutional home for *Medieval Feminist Forum*. A recent report shows that our online presence is an important one. Many articles from *MFF* are being downloaded at exceptional rates (400–500 times per month, some as high as 800 times per month). The data speak to the vitality of our publication and the continued success of our organization. I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to bring about this change, including Bonnie Wheeler, who served in an ex-officio advisory role as we navigated the shift.

I am happy to report that because of our move to online publishing we have the healthiest treasury in recent memory. Moreover, our membership numbers continue to rise, and our annual mentoring exchange and graduate receptions have been places of active engagement. I am delighted by the energy these events produce, as well as the number of graduate students who have become members. This excitement is a testament to our membership's investment in the future of SMFS. Please do continue to encourage your colleagues and students to join and let them know about the many ways in which students are supported through SMFS. We have had great success with the mentoring program at Kalamazoo for a number of years. This year, thanks to the hard work of Elizabeth

Freeman and Christine Kozikowski, we launched an exchange at Leeds. In addition, the relatively new SMFS book and article prizes, as well as the graduate student essay prize, speak, moreover, to our continued engagement in pedagogical and scholarly success. We feature in this issue of *MFF* the essay that was awarded the graduate student prize in 2009, Autumn Dolan's "A Revival of Female Spirituality: Adaptations of Nuns' Rules during the Hiberno-Frankish Monastic Movement of the Seventh Century." These are but some of the initiatives that we are underwriting with our membership dues. In addition, we hope to expand our support of graduate students through the newly formed Foremothers Fund. This fund is designed to honor scholars, teachers, and mentors for their inspiration and their collective gifts to the field, women such as Joan Cadden who was honored at Kalamazoo in 2009 for her scholarship and support. Essays written for that event are included in this issue of *MFF* and provide a strong indication of the legacy that Joan has given us. With the monies generated by the Foremothers Fund, we anticipate offering bursaries to support graduate student travel to conferences. If you would like to honor someone, please see the information in the Announcements or on the SMFS website, <http://hosted.lib.uiowa.edu/smfs/mff/>.

In May, the Advisory Board met at Kalamazoo and wrote a series of suggested modifications to our existing by-laws, which were approved by a vote of the general membership in September. Some of these changes were general updates to document what we are already doing; others were to institute some new board positions, as well as establish a Treasurer/Membership Coordinator position. In October, we held an election, with a full slate of candidates, and we are pleased that a number of new board members will be joining us in January, and that our new Treasurer/Membership Coordinator, Vickie Larsen, will soon be the person contacting you about the status of your membership. For full details on the election, go to the Announcements page of our website. My congratulations to all those who were elected and my thanks to all who ran for a seat. Your support of SMFS is infectious and we appreciate your willingness to serve.

With my best regards,

Virginia Blanton

President, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

∞ FOREMOTHERS FUND

The Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship announces the creation of The Foremothers Fund as a way to honor teachers, mentors, colleagues, and friends who have played an important role, not only in our own lives, but also in bringing to light the lives of medieval women. Each year at Kalamazoo we celebrate the work of a recently retired scholar through sessions devoted to her or his interests and a luncheon. Contributions to The Foremothers Fund will not only support these activities, but allow us to give travel grants to graduate student medievalists who work in feminist studies so that they may attend Kalamazoo and experience the fellowship that is the hallmark of the SMFS. No gift is too small, and the effect will ensure that our mission is passed on to a younger generation of scholars. At this time, gifts to SMFS are not tax-deductible.

Checks should be sent to:

Virginia Blanton

President, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

Department of English, CH 106

University of Missouri–Kansas City

5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110

∞ 2010 BEST BOOK PRIZE

Elizabeth L'Estrange's *Holy Motherhood: Gender, Dynasty and Visual Culture in the Later Middle Ages* (Manchester University Press, 2008) received the 2010 SMFS Book Prize.

Debra Blumenthal's *Enemies and Familiars: Slavery and Mastery in Fifteenth-Century Valencia* (Cornell University Press, 2009) and Helene Scheck's *Reform and Resistance: Formations of Female Subjectivity in Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Culture* (State University of New York Press, 2008) received honorable mentions.

∞ SUMMER GRANT FOR WOMEN MEDIEVALISTS

The Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship Fund of The Dallas Foundation announces its inaugural Summer Research Fellowship for 2011, designed to support the research of women medievalists below the rank of full professor. The \$7,000 award is to be used during the period of June 1–December 31, 2011.

In the future, when more funds are available, Wheeler Fellowships will be awarded for full-year and half-year projects, but the Fellowship Committee recognizes the need in the current economic climate for the immediate support of women scholars.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be women who hold a Ph.D. in any area of medieval studies and who are full-time faculty in an academic department. Preference will be given to candidates who are “caught in the middle” in the promotion ladder, as described in the MLA report, “Standing Still: The Associate Professor Survey.”

MENTORING: A special feature of the Fellowship is that it will connect the recipient with a mentor in her scholarly field.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES will be announced shortly on the Fellowship website: bonniewheelerfund.org. On this site you will also find more information about the Fellowship, its rationale and goals, and contact information.

TIMETABLE: Completed applications must be received no later than January 15, 2011. The award will be announced February 28, 2011.

SMFS has made a donation to the Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship Fund.

∞ CONFERENCE

A conference on “Nuns’ Literacies in Medieval Europe” will take place at the University of Hull from 20–23 June 2011. It is designed to bring together specialists working on diverse geographical areas to create a dialogue about the Latin and vernacular texts nuns read, wrote, and exchanged, primarily from the late eighth to the mid-sixteenth centuries. Twenty-five international experts (from Belgium, Denmark, England, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, the United States, and Wales) will address these issues in Hull. The resulting papers from this conference will form the chapters of a published volume.

For further details, please contact the organizers: Dr Veronica O'Mara, University of Hull (V.M.OMara@hull.ac.uk), Dr Virginia Blanton, University of Missouri-Kansas City (blantonv@umkc.edu), and Dr Patricia Stoop, University of Antwerp (patricia.stoop@ua.ac.be). A conference website on 'Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe' will be available early in the New Year.

☞ SMFS AT THE MLA

January 7, 2011

Los Angeles Convention Center, 304 B, 1:45–3:00 PM

322. Gender and Anger in Medieval Culture

Alain Chartier's Angry Women

Daisy Delogu, University of Chicago

Gender and the Assuagement of Anger in Raoul de Cambrai and Doon de la Roche

Jeri Fackelman, Independent Scholar

Anger Management in Post-conquest Welsh Courts: Women, Men, and Gender-Blind Justice

Lizabeth Johnson, South Dakota State University

Irked at Man and Irked at God: Leonor López de Córdoba and Teresa de Cartagena

Anthony J. Cárdenas-Rotunno, University of New Mexico

☞ SMFS SESSIONS AT THE AHA

Boston, January 6–9, 2011

Friday, January 7: 9:30–11:30 AM

Marriott Boston Copley Place, Northeastern Room

Women's Experience, Imaginary Women and Male Authority

Chair: Jennifer D. Thibodeaux

Ordering the University with the Order of Love: Robert of Sorbonne, Pastoral Care and the Beguinage of Parish

Tanya Stabler, Purdue University Calumet

Silencing the Widow with a Prayer for Peace: Gerson, Valentina Visconti, and the Murder of Louis of Orleans (Paris, 1407–8)

Nancy McLoughlin, UC-Irvine

Male Authors and Female Authority in the Medieval Military Sphere
Katrin Sjursen, Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville

Friday, January 7: 2:30–4:30 PM

Marriott Boston Copley Place, Northeastern Room

Persuasive Texts and Holy Contexts: Women, Writing and Community in the Middle Ages

Chair: Rabia Gregory, University of Missouri—Columbia

A Sweet Cecilia for Benedictines with Love from the Mendicants

Mary Beth Long, Ouachita Baptist University

Writing as a Spiritual Practice among the Holy Women of Helfta

Anna Harrison, Loyola Marymount University

“We’ll all Go Together When We Go”: Purgatorial Visions and the Convent Community in Medieval Germany

Jennifer Welsh, Davidson College

Saturday, January 8: 9–11 AM

Marriott Boston Copley Place, Northeastern Room

Women, Reform and Monastic Culture

Chair: Sean Fields, University of Vermont

Nuns as Patrons of Reform

Fiona J. Griffiths, New York University

Religious Women and Church Reform: From Rhetoric to Participation, 1150–1250

Anne Lester, University of Colorado–Boulder

Female Power and Monastic Reform: Fifteenth-Century Abbesses of Fontevraud and Sainte-Croix

Jennifer Edwards, Manhattan College

Saturday, January 8: 11:30–1:30 PM

Marriott Boston Copley Place, Northeastern Room

Death and the Maiden: Inflicting and Experiencing Violence in the Accounts of Female Saints

Chair: Jennifer Welsh, Davidson College

The Old English Judith: A Palimpsest

Laurence Erussard, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Maiden who might be worth so much?: Watching Spectators and Reading Torture in the Life of Saint Margaret

Allison Adair, Fordham University

Paths of Pain: Sainthood for Historical Female Taoists

Janice Bogstad, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

Sunday, January 9: 8:30–10:30 AM

Place TBA

**Women's Religious Patronage in Early Medieval Europe:
Medieval and Modern Connections**

Chair: Barbara Finan, University of New Hampshire

Meritis Propriis Effulget: The Ecclesiastical Patronage of Queen Fredegund

Greg Halfond, Framingham State College

Secret Knowledge and the Protection of the Soul: Cynewulf's Juliana as Patroness and Dialectician

Christina Heckman, Augusta State University

Judith of Flanders and Her Books: Patronage and Politics

Mary Dockray-Miller, Lesley University

Commentator: Karen V. Hansen, Brandeis University

Sunday, January 9: 11:00–1:00 PM

Hynes Convention Center, Room 110

**Finding Common Ground? Comparing the Practice of Clerical
Concubinage in Northern Europe and the Western Mediterranean
During the Middle Ages (roundtable)**

Chair: Daniel Thiery, Iona College

Sources for the Study of Clerical Concubinage: The View from Italy

Roisin Cossar, University of Manitoba

The Evidence from Two Spanish Kingdoms: Why a "Mediterranean" Model of Clerical Concubinage is Problematic

Michelle Armstrong-Partida, Univ. of California-Los Angeles

"A Woman of Good Character and Reputation": The Clerical Concubine in the Parish Community

Daniel Bornstein, Washington University in St. Louis

Clerical Concubinage and English Exceptionalism

Janelle Werner, Kalamazoo College

*Rethinking Clerical Marriage in the Norman Church (1050–1300):
A Top-Down Model?*

Jennifer D. Thibodeaux, University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

∞ SMFS AT ANZAMEMS (Australian and New Zealand
Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies)

University of Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand

February 2–5, 2011

Session 1: Knowledge and Learning in Medieval Women’s Convents

Chair: Constant Mews, Monash University

“The Hours that they ought to direct to the study of letters”: *Learning
in the Institutiones for Dominican Nuns*

Julie Ann Smith, University of Sydney

*Knowledge, Learning and Communication: Sources from Southern
German Poor Clare and Dominican Sisters in the Late Middle Ages*

Almut Breitenbach, University of Muenster

*Letters of Friendship—Letters of Compassion. The Writings of
Benedictine Nuns in Luene between Daily Life, Amor Dei and
Politics in the 15th–16th Century*

Eva Schlotheuber, University of Muenster

Session 2: Creating Female Religious Identity

Chair: Julie Ann Smith, University of Sydney

*The Sponsa Christi and the Identity of Female Religious: The Penitent
Prostitute and the Virgin in Fra Filippo Lippi’s Coronation of the
Virgin, 1439–47*

Claire Renkin, Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne College
of Divinity

*Female Founders and Communal Identity at the Augustinian
Monastery of Heiningen, c.1500*

Julie Hotchin, Australian National University

Surviving the Dissolution: The Syon Community at Denham, 1539–50

Peter Cunich, University of Hong Kong