

# MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

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## The Medieval Studies Program University of Wisconsin–Madison Winter 2022-2023

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The Medieval Studies Program greets you warmly in the middle of a cold February, with much to look back upon and exciting things ahead.

### *Fall Semester*

The program had a great fall! Our themed speaker series this year, **In Sickness and in Health: Modes of Care in the Middle Ages**,” generously sponsored by the Anonymous Fund and the support of many other campus units, began in late October with a workshop and lecture by **Professor Gregory Bryda** (Art History, Barnard College); Professor Bryda held a very stimulating workshop, attended by a mix of graduate students and faculty, on his article “Tainted Trees: Uncovering Germany’s Medieval Maypoles and Ancient Tree Cults,” an essay which explored the ways that both Nazi socialism and medieval Christianity appropriated forms of tree worship from folk culture. His public lecture, that same day **“Painting the Plasticity of the Virgin’s Healing Plants: Grunewald’s Heller Altarpiece in Frankfurt’s Dominican Church,”** was a marvelous exploration of the way a seemingly decorative background of greenery in a sixteenth-century painting conveyed meaning connected to cultures of healing and agronomy.

In November, **Professor Sara Ritchey** (History, UT-Knoxville), held a workshop from her book *Acts of Care: Recovering Women in Late Medieval Health* (2021) which uncovers evidence for medieval women’s healthcare knowledge and praxis from unexamined sources such as liturgy, miracle narratives, and saints’ lives. Later that same day, Ritchey gave a wonderful public lecture, **“From Archive to Repertoire in Late Medieval Women’s Caregiving Communities,”** in which she discussed her book’s methodology and presented some stunning examples of women’s healthcare praxis in medieval narratives and illuminated prayerbooks from northern France and the Low Countries

In addition to these events for the series, in early October the program hosted a research presentation by two of this year’s external fellows at the Institute for Research in the Humanities; Solmsen Fellow **Dr. Randall Todd Pippenger** and Kingdon Fellow **Dr. Nicole Pulichene** spoke to us about their current projects about the impact of the Crusades on those left behind at home, and about the later medieval re-use of late antique ivory consular diptychs. This event marked the first time in recent years that the Medieval Studies Program has collaborated with the IRH to showcase the work of its visiting medievalist fellows, something we hope to continue in the future. And with the English Department, and again with the support of the Anonymous Fund, in late November the program co-sponsored a visit by **Professor Arthur Bahr** (Literature, MIT). Professor Bahr and myself led a discussion of UW-Madison’s medieval manuscripts in Special Collections for a small group of undergraduates, and Professor Bahr held a workshop on the introduction to his forthcoming book about the unique manuscript (British Library MS Cotton

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Nero A.10) that contains the poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and Bahr gave a stimulating public lecture, “**Speculative Geometry and the First Page of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,**” which also drew on his new work.

The program also held its first-ever Zoom course fair in late October, in anticipation of registration for the spring semester, whereby a group of Medieval Studies faculty came together to briefly advertise their exciting undergraduate courses for the spring term. We will look to repeat this virtual showcase each term, so if you are faculty reading this, please look out for my upcoming email calling for participants for the spring iteration in anticipation of Fall 2023.

Last but not least, in late December yours truly completed and turned in to the dean’s office the requisite 10-year self-study report for the Medieval Studies Program’s [undergraduate certificate](#). The upshot of some 9,800 words and 74 pages of appendices is that the program is in great shape, with more certificate seekers enrolled than ever before. The requirements for completing the certificate are not onerous – faculty, please send your students our way!

### *Spring Semester*

Spring semester is off to a great start. At the end of the very first week of classes, **Professor Nicole Archambeau** (History, Colorado State University), entertained and instructed an engaged audience over Zoom about travel for healing in pre- and post-plague southern France in her talk “**Seeking a Distant Cure: Health Care and Travel in the Medieval Western Mediterranean.**” We learned about how the records of canonization inquest provide extensive evidence for what she called “healing tourism,” including the fact that one of the largest categories of travelers were those who, have already been healed by saintly miracle, returned to the place of healing in order to participate in the saint’s canonization inquest and answer questions about how they had been cured. And just last week, again over Zoom, **Professor Winston Black** (History, St. Francis Xavier University), in “**Miracles and Medicine: New Evidence for Healing in a Medieval Monastery,**” discussed the implications of a rediscovered twelfth-century medical manuscript from the English abbey of Bury St Edmund’s, one of the largest monasteries in medieval Europe, showing how it can be used to reconstruct the healing practiced at the abbey in a transitional period of medical history.

Looking ahead, on March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will with the English Department welcome **Professor Emma Lipton** (English, University of Missouri) for an in-person visit; Professor Lipton, an expert on late medieval English drama, will speak on “**Witnessing and the Theatrical Temporality of York’s ‘Last Judgment,’**” and also hold a workshop for graduate students and faculty. March 24<sup>th</sup> will bring us another in-person workshop and public lecture by medical historian **Professor Wendy Turner** (History, Augusta University), and on April 6, the program will co-sponsor with Art History a lecture on “**The Search for Tyrian Purple in Early Medieval England**” by **Professor Carole Biggam** (English, University of Glasgow).

We are also eagerly looking ahead to the **Graduate Association of Medieval Studies’ (GAMS)** annual conference on Friday, April 21, which will feature another one of our healthcare series’ speakers, **Professor Erin Sweaney** (English, University of Indiana-Bloomington). Our last event of the year will be a visit by **Professor Nicole Rice** (English, St. John’s University), who will speak about her forthcoming book on the intersection of the late medieval English hospital and literary production.

For more about all of these upcoming events, and to see the beautiful posters for them designed

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for us by program PA Bridget Anderson, please check out our regularly updated [list of events](#) on our program website. And finally: hopefully you all received our Medieval Studies Valentine's Day fundraising card! If you did not – or if you did but have not yet had a chance to give a small gift to the program, it's not (and it's never!) too late. The card re-appears towards the end of this newsletter. We are grateful [for your support](#), now and all year round.

With best wishes,  
Lisa H. Cooper  
Professor of English and Director of the Medieval Studies Program

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## Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) News:

The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies is organizing the Tenth Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium "In Sickness and in Health: Medieval Healing and the Community." The colloquium will take place Friday, April 21st, 2023, in-person at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a keynote address by Dr. Erin Sweany (English, Western Michigan University). The Tenth Annual GAMS Colloquium is sponsored by the Program in Medieval Studies, the Department of Art History, the Department of History, and the Department of Religious Studies. For accessibility accommodations, please contact: [gams@rso.wisc.edu](mailto:gams@rso.wisc.edu).

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## Faculty News

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**Professor Elizabeth Lapina** (History) expects two of her articles to come out in 2023: "A Swift Answer: Wind in the Sources of Crusades" in *Sources for the Crusades: Textual Tradition and Literary Influences*, edited by Lean Ni Chleirigh and Natasha Hodgson; and "Celestial Phenomena of 1097/1098" in the *Chronicles of the First Crusade* in *Viator*.

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This past year, **Professor Martin Foys** (English) published the essay "The Body as Media in Early Medieval England" in the volume *Medieval English and Dutch Literatures: the European Context*, eds. Larissa Tracy and Geert Claassens (Boydell & Brewer).

He also continued work on the ten-year [Old English Poetry in Facsimile](#) project, overseeing by the OEPF team of editors the publications of over forty open-access digital facsimile editions of Old English poetry. Most recently, he personally completed a series of new OEPF editions, including multi-witness editions of the Paris and Eadwine Psalter metrical psalms 90-95 (the first time these witnesses have ever been edited together), as well as editions of the famous Old English elegies *The Wanderer* and *The Seafarer*. During this work he is pretty sure he discovered [a nerdy scribal joke](#) that maybe nobody has gotten in over 1,000 years.

He also presented four academic papers:

- "The Old English Psalmic Substrate: Medieval and Digital," Working Group on Digital Humanities and the Utrecht Psalter, Utrecht University, Utrecht, NL.
  - "Case Studies in Restorative Retention: The New Digital Editing of the Old English Poetic
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Corpus,” 32nd International Conference of the Spanish Society for Medieval English Languages and Literature, Universidad de la Rioja, Logrono, Spain.

- “How to Revolutionize the Old English Edition: the *Old English Poetry in Facsimile Project*,” Digital Resources for Teaching and Learning Old English Workshop, Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland (TOEBI), University of Galway, Ireland.
  - “Digitally Editing Medieval Maps: *Virtual Mappa / Digital Mappa*,” *Quo Vadis: Digital Mapping and Medieval Studies Today*; *Digital Medievalist* & Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
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**Lisa H. Cooper**, Professor of English and Medieval Studies program director, delivered the paper “No New Information: Alchemy and Everyday Aesthetics” at the Modern Language Association conference in San Francisco in January, and she is slated to present related work at the New Directions in the Humanities conference “Literary Landscapes: Forms of Knowledge in the Humanities” in June at the Sorbonne University in Paris. She has also been invited to join the editorial board of the new journal *Ourania: The Journal for the History of Cosmological Thought*. Professor Cooper has also been awarded a Senior Fellowship at UW-Madison’s Institute for Research in the Humanities for 2023-27, where she will work on finishing her book on the intersection of practical knowledge and poetry in late medieval England.



**The UW-Madison community welcomes Professor Steffani Bennett!** Dr. Bennett is a new addition to the Art History faculty. She specializes in medieval Japanese art (late 12<sup>th</sup> through early 16<sup>th</sup> century) with a focus on late medieval art of the fifteenth century. This semester, she is teaching an introductory course on Japanese art using prints from the Chazen Museum.

To this point, Professor Bennett’s research has focused on the work of Sesshū Tōyō (1420–ca.1506), a Japanese monk and professional painter. Her dissertation, titled “The Other Shore: Sino-Japanese Culture Sphere in the Fifteenth Century,” argues that Sesshū established a new kind of artistic identity in medieval Japan.

Professor Bennett’s parents are diplomats, and she was raised in East and Southeast Asia. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington and her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2020. She looks forward to connecting to the medieval community here at UW-Madison, particularly since the field of medieval Japanese art history is quite small in the United States. She also looks forward to cross-country skiing this winter. Welcome, Dr. Bennett!

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## Alumna Spotlight

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After writing a dissertation on monsters under the directorship of Professor Tom Dale of UW-Madison and Professor Christina Maranci (Harvard), **Ashley Cook**, Ph.D. (Art History), M.S., L.P.C., became a licensed professional counselor and opened her own professional counseling practice here in Madison. Dr. Cook is also one of the original founders of the medieval graduate student organization on campus, GAMS.



Dr. Cook says she's always been an art historian, but not always a medieval art historian. Her love for medieval art was born during a study abroad period in England during her undergraduate studies. After receiving her MA from UW-Milwaukee, she spent several years working in historical museum homes and art auction houses before embarking on the PhD.

At UW-Madison, she worked with literary studies faculty as well as those in art history. She claims that Dr. Jordan Zweck's *Beowulf* course was a favorite of hers, both challenging and rewarding. Dr. Cook also founded GAMS with her colleague Mark Summers. The original impetus for GAMS' creation was a desire to host the annual Vagantes Medieval Conference; she and Mark had participated in Vagantes at other institutions and wanted to bring the conference to Madison. They also saw a need to promote interdisciplinary conversations between graduate medievalists on the UW-Madison campus.

Dr. Cook says that not every medieval scholar should become a therapist, but she uses her Ph.D. every day in her current profession. She finds that work in the humanities lends itself well to being a therapist since humanities scholars think about what it means to be human and how people create worlds. This type of study is similar to therapy, which examines a person's narrative, rhetoric, and the structures they create for themselves. Practice in research also trained her to develop insight into complicated situations from various viewpoints.

Dr. Cook particularly loves working with graduate students in her practice today since she knows the process and its struggles well. Her areas of specialty are trauma studies, body image, sexual trauma, personality disorders, and LGBTQ needs.

If you're interested in learning more about her practice, Yahara Healing and Psychotherapy, you can visit her website: <https://www.yaharahealing.com/>.

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## Graduate Student News

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On Friday, December 30th, 2022, several past and current Department of Art History medievalist graduate students assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota to see an exhibition of works from Renaissance Florence focused on Sandro Botticelli that are on loan from the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, Italy. [Anna Betz](#) (Art History, M.A. 2020), [Tania Kolarik](#) (Art History, Ph.D. Candidate), [Claire Kilgore](#) (Art History, Ph.D. Candidate), and [Özlem Eren](#) (Art History, Ph.D. Candidate) all enjoyed the exhibition along with the works on display in the



permanent collection. The excursion of medievalist Art History Badgers ended with dinner at The News Room in downtown Minneapolis. The exhibition, [\*Botticelli and Renaissance Florence: Masterworks from the Uffizi\*](#), closed Sunday, January 8th, 2023 at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

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**LauraLee Brott** (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) won a J.B. Harley Research Fellowship in the History of Cartography. The fellowship will support her residency in London as she continues to conduct dissertation research at the British Library on the Tournai Maps of Asia and Palestine. Her project, “The Holy Land within the Manuscript: Performative Cartography in BL Add. MS 10049” investigates how the pair of maps interact with their manuscript setting.

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**Patrick Eickman** (Ph.D. student, History) presented his paper “Emotionality and Ethnic Inclusion in Medieval Livonia,” at the Midwest Medieval History Conference at Xavier University in Cincinnati this past October. Additionally, Patrick's review of Rombert Stapel's *Medieval Authorship and Cultural Exchange in the Late Fifteenth Century: The Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order* was just published in Volume 21 of *Crusades*, the journal of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East.



Ph.D. student [\*\*Abby Armstrong Check\*\*](#) (Art History) has published a review of Alison Locke Perchuk's 2021 book [\*The Medieval Monastery of Saint Elijah: A History in Paint and Stone\*](#) in the 53rd volume of *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*. You can access Abby's review [here](#).

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[Tania Kolarik](#) and [Abby Armstrong Check](#), Ph.D. students in the Department of Art History, have both been awarded the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) Annual Conference Graduate Student Fellowship to attend the SAH's 76th Annual International Conference in Montréal, CA, April 12–15, 2023. Tania will be chairing the session “Material Religion Through the Sacred Interior” organized by the SAH Historic Interiors Affiliate Group. Abby will be presenting her paper “Re-creating the ‘American’ Medieval in Milwaukee, WI: St. Joan of Arc Chapel.”



[Sarah Friedman](#) (Ph.D. student, Department of English) is publishing two peer-reviewed articles this year:



“‘Sovereyn pestilence’: Contagion, Sexual Violence, and Healing in Chaucer’s *The Physician’s Tale*,” *Essays in Medieval Studies* 36 (forthcoming 2023).

“‘To harbour thoughts effeminate and faint!’: Feminine Influence and the Medieval Conversion Fantasy in Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine* Parts I and II,” *Otherness: Essay and Studies* 9, no. 1 (forthcoming 2023).



## Will You Be Our Valentine?

Dear reader,

Did you know that the connection between St. Valentine and love was probably invented in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer? It’s true! And if you love the Middle Ages and the Medieval Studies Program at UW-Madison, we would be grateful for your support this February 14<sup>th</sup>.



### Your gift will help us to:

- \* fund prizes for the best undergraduate work in medieval studies
- \* fund conference and research travel for graduate students working on medieval topics
- \* fund outreach events (lectures, exhibitions, films, more) on medieval culture and history

Every gift is enormously appreciated. We are delighted that so many have loved the classes, lectures, workshops, and exhibits that are the heart of our program—and your gift will help us keep spreading the love.

**Happy Valentine's Day from Medieval Studies@UW-Madison!**

Image: Works of Christine de Pizan, London, British Library MS Harley 4431, fol. 100r.



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## Professor Dale Honored by the Medieval Academy

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**Professor Thomas E. A. Dale** of the Art History department (and recent director of the Medieval Studies Program) has been named a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America.

The chief purpose of the Fellowship is to honor major long-term scholarly achievement within the field of medieval studies. Fellows are nominated by MAA members and elected by the Fellows. To learn more about the Fellows of the Medieval Academy of America, please see the Fellows section of the [website](#). The Program warmly congratulates Professor Dale on this significant honor.

Additionally, Professor Dale's article, "Cultural Encounter, Race, and a Humanist Ideology of Empire in the Art of Trecento Venice," is featured in the latest edition of *Speculum*.

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*For information about the program, including upcoming events, visit our website: [medievalstudies.wisc.edu](http://medievalstudies.wisc.edu)*

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