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# MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

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The Medieval Studies Program  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Spring 2023

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Now welcome, somer, with thy sonne softe,  
That hast these wintres wedres overshake,  
And driven away the longe nyghtes blake!  
– Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Parliament of Fowls*

The [Medieval Studies Program](#) had a terrific, and terrifically busy, second half of the spring term. In early March, we welcomed **Professor Emma Lipton** (English, University of Missouri), an expert on late medieval English drama, for a talk on “**Witnessing and the Theatrical Temporality of York’s ‘Last Judgment,’**” and a workshop for graduate students and faculty about Professor Lipton’s 2022 book on the same topic. Late March brought us a workshop on homicide and mental illness in late medieval England and a public lecture on “**Age, Disability, and Retirement in Later Medieval England**” by medical historian **Professor Wendy Turner** (History, Augusta University). In early April, we co-sponsored with Art History a fascinating lecture on “**The Search for Tyrian Purple in Early Medieval England**” by **Professor Carole Biggam** (English, University of Glasgow).

The very successful **Graduate Association of Medieval Studies’ (GAMS)** annual conference took place on campus on Friday, April 21; it featured another one of our Anonymous Fund-supported healthcare series’ speakers, **Professor Erin Sweany** (English, University of Indiana-Bloomington), as its keynote. You can read more about the conference below, but I’d like to give a special shout-out here to the anonymous donor to Medieval Studies whose gift helped make the conference go on in the face of unexpected last-minute financial challenges, and to the three former undergraduates from my fall 2022 course in medieval romance who presented their fine work in a special session. Our last program event of the year was a visit by **Professor Nicole Rice** (English, St. John’s University), who held a workshop and gave a talk drawn from her new book, *The Medieval Hospital: Literary Culture and Community in England, 1350-1550*, published just this April by University of Notre Dame Press.

We hope those of you on campus will join us next year for a new speaker series, “**Then/Now: Modern Medievalisms,**” which will bring us a fascinating series of workshops and talks on the manifold ways that the Middle Ages are still with us, from environmental practices to national politics, from the visual arts to video games. If you’d like to help support this programming and other Medieval Studies events, as well as the research endeavors of our undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, we welcome gifts to the program at any time of year through [the website linked here](#).

I’d like to close this newsletter and usher in the summer by highlighting the achievement of the six undergraduates who are graduating this weekend with an [undergraduate certificate in Medieval Studies](#): **Pierce Kaufman, Amy Lien, Dylan Lippold, Dee Marcinkevic, Grace Quast, and Megan Sherman**. Congratulations and best wishes to you all!

Lisa H. Cooper  
Professor of English and Director of the Medieval Studies Program

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## Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) News

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The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies successfully hosted their **Tenth Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium: "In Sickness and in Health: Medieval Healing and the Community"** on Friday, April 21st, 2023. The conference featured graduate students from UW-Madison and beyond, an undergraduate panel, and fascinating keynote address by Dr. Erin Sweany (English, Western Michigan University), "Marks of Pain: Old English Medical Manuscripts, Institutions, and Acceptance." Prior to her keynote, Dr. Sweany held an informal workshop for graduate students over lunch on professionalization and the state of the field. The conference was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Associated Students of Madison and the departments of History, Art History, and Religious Studies, as well as the Anonymous Fund (in support of Dr. Sweany's keynote) and an anonymous donor to the Medieval Studies Program.



### Panels and Presentations

#### Racial Identities and Conceptions of Chivalry

*"When is the 'Black Knight' Black?": Hypo-visibility and Racialization in Jaufré (BnF fr. 2164)*

Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan, PhD Candidate, Art History, UW-Madison

*Racialization as a Tool in the Baltic Crusades*

Patrick Eickman, Ph.D. student, History, UW-Madison

*Healing the Norman Community in the Long Nineteenth Century*

Alice C. M. Kwok, Ph.D. Candidate, History, UW-Madison

#### Landscapes of Healing

*Seeking Reproductive Care at Mariazell: Pilgrimage as Healthcare in Late Medieval Styria*

Claire W. Kilgore, Ph.D. Candidate, Art History, UW-Madison

*"The Nearby Church Does Not Heal."*

Sarah Mady, Ph.D. Candidate, Archaeology, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

*Being Sick is Forbidden: How Did XIII-century Dominican Mendicants Fight Against Magical Healing?*

Fedor Nekhaenko, Independent Scholar

#### Transgressions of Time: Explorations of Gender and Translation

*Representational Communities: A Syntactic Comparison of Old English Depictions of the 991 Battle of Maldon*

Helen E. Smith, Ph.D. Student, English, UW-Madison

*Intersecting Identities: Eunuchs and Family Formation in Byzantine Legal Corpora (c. 534-892)*

Tiffany VanWinkoop, Ph.D. student, History, UW-Madison

*A Code of Chivalry Loftier and More Beautiful: Patrick Pearse and Irish Medievalisms*

Bridget B. Anderson, Ph.D. Student, Interdisciplinary Theater Studies, UW-Madison

#### Romance, Gender, and the Body

*The Leper Between the Legs: Visual and Malleable Truths in Bérout's The Romance of Tristan*

Kelley Schlise, Senior Undergraduate, UW-Madison

*Rethinking Romance: The Power of Non-Normative Relation in The Lais of Marie de France*

Dana L. Craig, B.A. English and Political Science, UW-Madison

*Collective Adventures and Individual Destinies: Adventure and Temporality in Marie de France's Yonec*

Sarah Egan, Senior Undergraduate, UW-Madison

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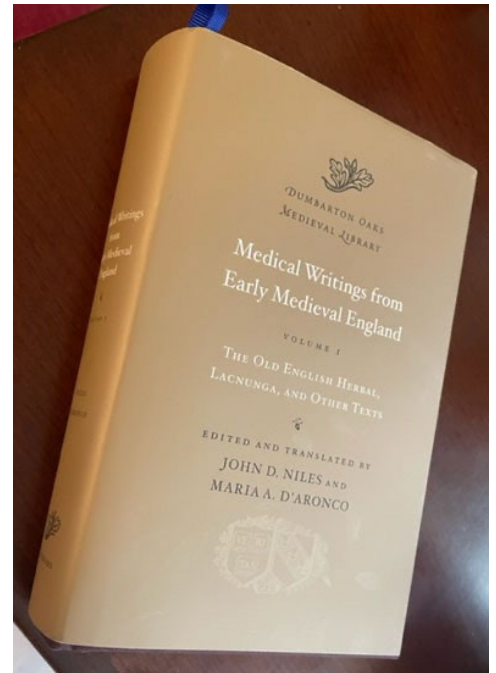
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## Faculty News

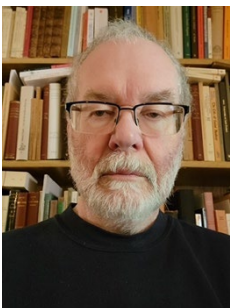
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**John Niles** (Professor Emeritus of English) announces the May 2023 publication of a new book for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library published by Harvard University Press. This is *Medical Writings from Early Medieval England*, co-edited and translated by himself and by Maria A. D'Arconco of the University of Udine. The first half of the volume, edited by D'Arconco, consists of the *Old English Herbal*, together with the ancillary text known as *Old English Remedies from Animals*. The remainder, edited by Niles, consists of the compilations known as *Lacnunga* and *Peri Didaxeon* plus 101 miscellaneous healing texts garnered from various sources. The book is the first to appear of a projected two-volume comprehensive edition that will replace Cockayne's pioneering editions dating from 1864–1866.



Last year Professor Niles brought out a book of a different kind that draws on his long-term research, dating back to the 1980s, into the living oral traditions of Scotland. This is a self-portrait, based on tape-recorded interviews, of a man who was arguably the most remarkable Scottish storyteller of recent times: *Webspinner: Songs, Stories, and Reflections of Duncan Williamson, Scottish Traveller* (University of Mississippi Press, 2022). Although not a contribution to Medieval Studies, the book may be of interest to medievalists wanting to know more about the ability of strong tradition-bearers to shape the materials of oral tradition, and of their own lives, into memorable verbal forms.

Niles's book *Webspinner* is accompanied by a website, *Scottish Voices*, where examples drawn from Niles's field collection in its entirety have been made available to the public through audio recordings, video recordings, and still photographs. See the UW-Madison Libraries Digital Collections site: <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/AScottishVoicesColl>.



**Keith Busby** (MAA Fellow, Douglas Kelly Professor of Medieval French Emeritus) recently sent his new edition and translation of the Statute of Kilkenny (1366), "Ireland's Magna Carta" and "blueprint for apartheid in Ireland" to the Irish Manuscript Commission, where it joins the publication queue.

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**Karl Shoemaker** (Professor of History) has edited a volume entitled *A Global History of Crime and Punishment in the Medieval Age*, which will be published by Bloomsbury this summer.

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**Leonora Neville** (Chair, Byzantine History) and **Jeff Beneker** (Professor of Classics) organized the Spring 2023 Byzantine Studies Symposium at Dumbarton Oaks, which took place May 5-6. Their title was “Ancient Histories and History Writing in New Rome: Traditions, Innovations, and Uses.”

For more information, see: <https://www.doaks.org/events/byzantine-studies/symposium>



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## Graduate Student News

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**Holly McArthur** was awarded a [Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship](#) from the Medieval Studies Program to support summer research towards her dissertation project, “A New Critical Edition of *Flóvents Saga*.”

**Özlem Eren** (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) received the CREECA Graduate Student Short-Term Research Award for 2023, the Graduate School Research Grants Competition Combined Award, and the Margaret Davidson Schorger Award to conduct dissertation research in Northern Italy and Croatia in May-June 2023. Özlem will explore sculptural decorations in 11-12<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque, Pre-Romanesque and Southern Slavic architecture in various Italian and Croatian cities to make a comparative analysis with the architecture of Galicia-Volhynia and Vladimir-Suzdal Rus' for her broader dissertation project.



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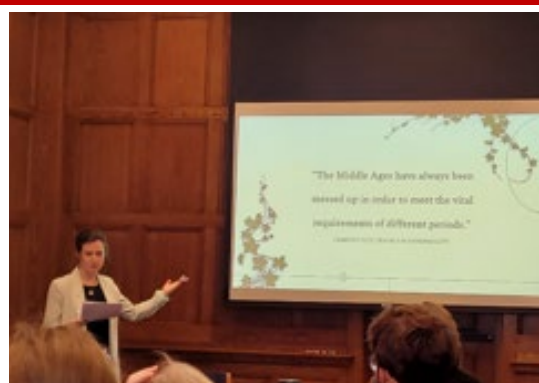
**Patrick Eickman** (Ph.D. Student, History) will present his paper: "The Military Functions of Medieval Race-Building on the Baltic Frontier." at the 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies.



**Claire Kilgore** (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) has received the 2023 Helen Maud Cam Dissertation Grant from the Medieval Academy of America! This grant will support research travel to Munich, Vienna, and Mariazell, as well as Bolzano (South Tyrol), this summer for her dissertation "Sensing the Bodily Interior: Visualizing Pregnancy and Reproductive Anatomy in Central Europe, 1300–1550." In addition to the MAA award, Claire's summer research travel is also supported by the Medieval Studies Program's [Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship](#) and the Art History Department's Schorger Award.

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**Bridget Anderson** (Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Theater Studies), **Mateusz Ferens** (Ph.D. candidate, Art History), and **Tiffany Van Winkoop** (Ph.D. student, History) presented papers at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies, held this year at Harvard University over March 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>.



**Drew Narayanan** (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) recently won the "Transforming the Discipline" Award in the Art History Department for his peer-reviewed chapter in *The Arthurian World* (2022) titled "Sir Palamedes the Indelibly 'Saracen' Knight: Heraldry, Monstrosity, and

Race in Fifteenth-Century Arthurian Romance Manuscripts." The award is "granted each year to a graduate student, whose research makes a significant contribution toward transforming the discipline of art and architectural history in terms of its structural inequities." Drew organized a roundtable session at the 2023 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan titled "Revisiting a Racialized Camelot: Lesser-Known 'Knights of Color' and Addressing Lacunas in Our Approaches" at which he will be presenting "When is the 'Black Knight' Black?: Racialization and 'Hypo-visibility' in Jaufré (BnF 2164)." Drew will also be presenting "Finding Palomedes: How the Difficulties of Digital Accessibility Led Me to New Considerations about Race in Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant*."

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*For alumni profiles, as well as information on forthcoming events, visit our website: [medievalstudies.wisc.edu](https://medievalstudies.wisc.edu)*

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