

# Medieval Chronicle

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WINTER 2024

Happy mid-winter greetings, Medieval Studies community! I hope this finds you flourishing, wherever you may be.

Medieval Studies had an excellent fall term, and our spring semester calendar is well underway. As I mentioned in the fall newsletter, our extracurricular speaker series this year is entitled **"Then/Now: Modern Medievalisms."** It has been generously sponsored by the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund awarded to us by the Anonymous Fund Committee, as well as numerous other campus partners. The series kicked off in early November with a visit by **Professor Paolo Squatriti** (History, University of Michigan); Squatriti, an environmental historian and author of the recent monograph *Weeds and the Carolingians*, led a workshop for graduate students and faculty on his article, **"Patrons, Landscape, and Potlatch: Early Medieval Linear Earthworks in Britain and Bulgaria,"** which sparked an engaged discussion that ranged from the details of the article itself to historical methodology more broadly. His public lecture on **"Wheat as an Invasive Species? The Eucharist and Ecology in Early Medieval Europe"** provided a fascinating look at how wheat became the preferred grain crop of western Europe during the Middle Ages despite the difficulties inherent to its cultivation.



Just before Thanksgiving, **Professor Chris Jones** (English, University of Utah) joined us on campus as part of the series. His workshop, **"Carter Revard and Old English Riddles: An Indigenous Poet remaking 'Anglo-Saxon,'"** led a group of us in deciphering an Old English riddle (#7) and exploring Revard's translation of it as well as his own riddling poem inspired by the Old English tradition. Jones' fascinating, funny, and sobering lecture, **"Each his own lord': Anglo-Saxons, Brexit, the New English Nationalism and White Supremacy,"** explored how "Anglo-Saxon" tropes are currently inhabiting contemporary English nationalism in the twenty-first century, with potentially far-reaching cultural and political consequences. On the first day of December, we were treated to a marvelous Zoom lecture on **"Historical Accuracy in Medievalist Games: Impossible and Undesirable?"** by **Dr. Richard Houghton** (School of History and Archaeology, University of Winchester); Dr. Houghton touched on the many ways in which online medieval games seek to meet their players' expectations of "the medieval," favoring particular tropes over others in ways that both distort but can also provide useful windows into the past. The lecture was followed by a rousing afternoon of medieval-themed game play on campus, as undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty learned to play the Viking-age board game Hnefatafl and the online multiplayer game King of the Castle, among others; some pictures of this event, organized by two of our graduate students (thank you, Chris and Brendan!), appear later in this issue. I can highly recommend the tile game Carcassonne to all!

Second semester started with a bang, as on January 26 the Medieval Studies Program served as a co-host with Washington & Lee University Library for a webinar book launch of **Wan-Chuan Kao's** book *White before Whiteness in the Late Middle Ages* (Manchester University Press, 2024). Kao has been a several-time guest of the Medieval Studies program and so we were proud to co-host this event, in which six interdisciplinary scholars responded to his important and timely book. Almost 100 people attended the 90-minute webinar from all over the country and, in fact, the world, with some logging in from as far away as Australia.

We have quite a number of other events to look forward to in the coming months. I hope you will join us online on **Monday, February 26**, when **Dr. Mike Horswell**, (Fellow, Royal Historical Society) will give the lecture **"New Crusaders: Mobilizing the Crusades in the Modern Era."** Please note that you will need to set your alarm for this one; since the lecture is also forming part of Professor Elizabeth Lapina's spring semester course on the Crusades, it will take place at **8 AM CST. On March 7**, don't miss the Art History Department's annual Schwartz Lecture, which will be delivered by **Professor Nina Rowe** (Art History, Fordham University); her lecture will be on **"Moses through an Urban Lens: Jewish Neighbors, African Visitors, and the Life of a Biblical Patriarch in Late Medieval Regensburg,"** and she will also give a workshop earlier in the day. The very next day, **March 8**, we will welcome **Professor Bernard Hinojosa** (English, St. Norbert's College,) for a workshop and a public lecture on **"Roger Bacon's Rainbow: Experiment, Fictionality, and Modernity in the Middle Ages."** April will be an especially busy month for Medieval Studies, as the Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) will hold their annual symposium on **April 5** (further details below), and the two weeks after that will bring us two more guest speakers, **Professor Kristina Olson** (Italian, George Mason University) and **Professor Bryan Keene** (Art History, Riverside Community College) for workshops and lectures in the "Then/Now" series. Details of all these events either already are, or will be, posted on our [program website](#) and will also be announced over email.

With Valentine's Day just past, I want to reassure you that it's never too late to "Conquer our Hearts" with a [gift to the Medieval Studies program](#). If you missed our Valentine's Day card on this theme, it reappears at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes to all,



Lisa H. Cooper  
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## John Niles (Professor Emeritus, English)

Professor Emeritus John Niles was honored in 2023 by the publication of a volume of papers celebrating his contributions to Old English literary studies. The volume, titled *Old English Poetry and Its Legacy*, was edited by Professor Robert E. Bjork of Arizona State University and was published in Basel, Switzerland, on the basis of articles previously published as a special issue of the online open-access journal *Humanities*, also based in Basel.

The articles that comprise the book can be consulted, and downloaded individually, free of charge.

In his Preface, Professor Bjork writes as follows about Niles's career: John D. Niles has long been a major voice in Old English studies. As a member of the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley, where he taught from 1976 to 2004 (and is now Professor Emeritus of English), and subsequently at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he taught from 2001 to 2011 (and is Professor Emeritus of Humanities), he has gained recognition as one of the premier scholars in the world in that field, and his work has had and continues to have a transforming impact on the profession. This book celebrates his numerous and varied achievements, ones that range across specialties ranging from orality and literacy studies, to textual and manuscript studies, to anthropological approaches to literature, to comparative folklore and mythology, to material culture and archaeology.

The volume addresses a variety of topics with a bearing on the earliest poetry written in English. Topics discussed range from certain highlights of the Exeter Book (*The Wife's Lament*, *The Ruin*, certain of the Riddles), to the ecclesiastical author Cynewulf and his runic signatures, to the riddling Solomon and Saturn dialogues, to *Beowulf* and the hunt, to the recurrent theme of tears and weeping in Old English literature, to the influence of Old English philological studies on the ghost stories of the Cambridge don M.R. James. There are contributions from North America, the British Isles, and Japan.



## **Sophie Pitman (Pleasant Rowland Textile Specialist and Research Director for the Center for Design and Material Culture)**

Dr. Pitman has curated an exhibition called "Remaking the Renaissance" about early modern textiles and clothing, touching on themes of economic, social, and cultural history. It opened on February 7 and will run through May 19 2024 in the Lynn Mecklenburg Textile Collection, at the Center for Design and Material Culture in the School of Human Ecology. The gallery will be open to visitors Weds-Sunday, and Dr. Pittman invites interested faculty and instructors to consider bringing their classes to the exhibition. Please find more information here about the exhibition and ideas for visits.



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## **Kristen Wolf (Professor in German, Nordic, Slavic+)**

Together with Professor Emerita Marianne Kalinke at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kirsten Wolf wrote and published *Pious Fictions and Pseudo-Saints in the Late Middle Ages: Selected Legends from an Icelandic Legendary* (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2023). Following a long introduction, the book provides a normalized / modernized edition and an English translation of a number of legends in *Reykjahólabók*, an Icelandic legendary produced at the eve of the Reformation. In late December, Kirsten finished and submitted the book manuscript *24 Hours in the Viking Age: A Day in the Life of the People Who Lived There*. The book was commissioned by Michael O'Mara Books and is scheduled to be published in spring 2024. This was Kirsten's first experience with historical creative writing, and she thoroughly enjoyed it.



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## **Christopher Kleinhenz (Professor Emeritus, French and Italian)**

Professor Kleinhenz has just published an article and a long review:

"Modes and Agents of Punishment in the *Inferno*," in *Dante, Eschatology, and the Christian Tradition: Essays in Honor of Ronald B. Herzman*, ed. Lydia Yaitsky Kertz and Richard K. Emmerson (Berlin and Boston: Medieval Institute Publications, 2024), 271-86.

Manuele Gragnolati, Elena Lombardi, and Francesca Southerden, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Dante* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), review in *Speculum* 99.1 (2024), 220-22.



**Leonora Neville (Professor of History)** had a busy fall semester, during which she gave the following talks:

“Wisdom, Virtue, and Intellectual Women in the Eastern Roman Empire” Notre Dame, Institute for Medieval Studies Conway Lectures, September 8, 2023.

“Masculinity, Ethics, and Power on Mount Athos” at the Third Workshop for the ERC Starting Grant “Mount Athos in Medieval Eastern Mediterranean Society: Contextualizing the History of a Monastic Republic (ca. 850-1550)” September 27th-29th, 2023, Oxford.

“Religion and Senatorial Service in the Later Roman Empire,” 2023 Byzantine Studies Conference, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, October 26-29, 2023.

“Politics, Religion, and Becoming Roman,” Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, December 15, 2023.

She also organized a symposium with Professor Jeffrey Beneker at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center on the theme “Ancient Histories and History Writing in New Rome: Traditions, Innovations, and Uses” on May 5-6, 2023, at which she gave the talk ““Getting from Adam to Alexios: Roman History Looks Back.”



## Graduate Student News

### GAMS Colloquium Spring 2024

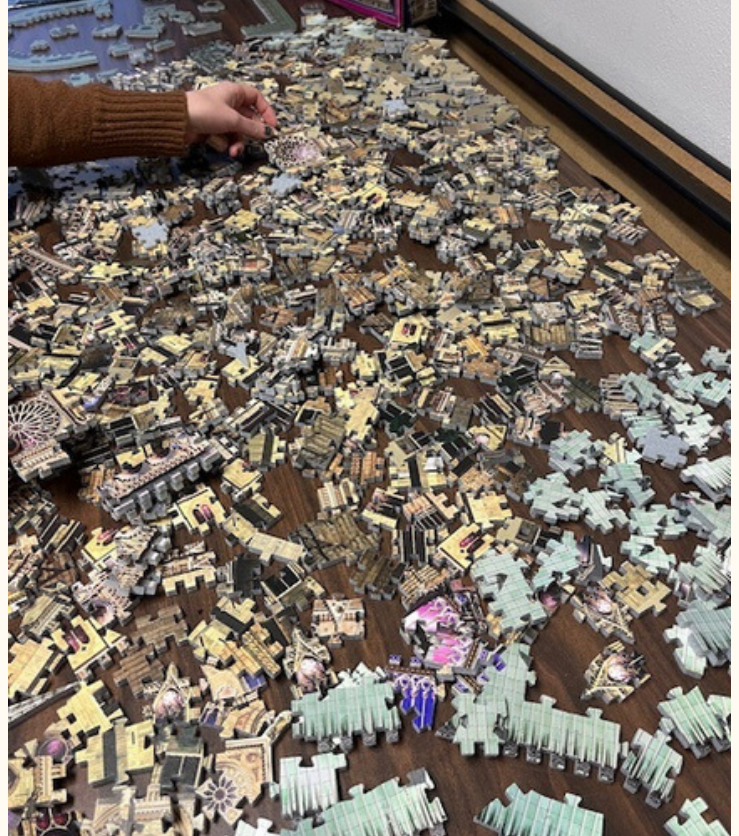
The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies at UW-Madison (GAMS) will host its Colloquium on April 5th, featuring a workshop and talk by **Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis**, Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America. The theme of the colloquium is **“Fractals, Fragments, and Lacunas: Minding the Gap in Medieval World(s),”** and will include papers from graduate and undergraduate students on topics relating to the incomplete, the remnant, and the (re)creative in the medieval era. All members of the Medieval Studies community are warmly invited to attend! More details will be forthcoming soon.





## Medieval Game Day

On December 1st, following a lecture on “Historical Accuracy in Medievalist Games: Impossible and Undesirable?” by Dr. Robert Houghton of the University of Winchester, some 20 graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty enjoyed an afternoon of medieval-themed games, including the Viking-age board game Hnefatafl, the tile-laying game Carcassonne, a 3-D puzzle of Chartres Cathedral, and the multiplayer online game King of the Castle. Many thanks to graduate students Chris Herde (History) and Brendan McNeely (English) for organizing this fun event, which we hope to repeat in the future!





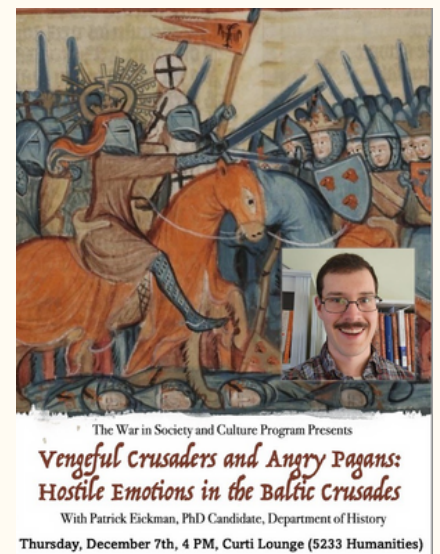
### **Sarah Friedman, Ph.D Candidate, English**

Sarah Friedman recently served as a respondent on Professor Wan-Chuan Kao's book launch Zoom webinar for his recent book, *White Before Whiteness in the Late Middle Ages* (Manchester UP, 2024). This summer, she will present work at The International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK and The New Chaucer Society Conference in Pasadena, CA. She also has a forthcoming article on *The King of Tars* in a special issue on race in the fourteenth century in *Digital Philologies: A Journal of Medieval Cultures*.



### **Patrick Eickman, Ph.D. Student, History**

Patrick delivered his paper, "Vengeful Crusaders and Angry Pagans: Hostile Emotions in the Baltic Crusade" on December 7th for the War in Society and Culture Program. Patrick will be presenting his paper "Revenge and Loathing in Medieval Prussia: Displaying Rage in Nicolaus von Jeroschin's *Kronike von Pruzinlant*" as part of De Re Militari's panel on Late Medieval Warfare at the upcoming 2024 International Congress on Medieval Studies.



### **Tiffany Van Winkoop, Ph.D. Student, History**

Tiffany will be co-presenting a paper with her colleague Rachel Andrews at the 120th annual meeting of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS). Their paper is titled "Coming Out: Acknowledging Antinous in the Apotheosis of Sabina." This conference will be held from April 3 to 6. Tiffany's abstract was accepted for the International Medieval Congress in Leeds from July 1 to 4. She will be presenting a paper titled, "Ceremonies of Crisis? Gendered Imperial Processions in the Middle Byzantine Era."



## **Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan. Ph.D Candidate, Art History**

Drew published an article in a Special Issue of *Arthuriana* titled "Why is he Indian?: Missed Opportunities for Discussing Race in David Lowery's *The Green Knight*" (2021). Drew will also present his paper, "A Sultan of Babylon, a Sultan of 'Saracens': Redesignating 'Saladin' in the Luttrell Psalter" and will participate in two Arthurian roundtables at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo.



## **Claire Kilgore (Ph.D Candidate, Art History)**

Claire will be presenting research pertaining to her dissertation, "Sensing the Bodily Interior: Visualizing Pregnancy and Reproductive Anatomy in Central Europe, 1300 – 1550" at several conferences this spring including at a panel on sacred interiors at the 99th annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America (MAA) and a panel on archaeologies of motherhood for the 89th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). She will also present research on medieval plaid, striped, and checked textiles at the 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo this May. Her conference travels are supported by the UW-Madison Graduate School's Student Research Grants Competition.



Claire was also featured in a Graduate School write-up. And, as part of her medieval fun facts and public-facing educational outreach Instagram account, Claire compiled a 12 Days of Medieval Art Christmas. Catch up at Claire's Instagram!



## **Holly McArthur, Ph.D. Student, German, Nordic, and Slavic+**

This Spring, Holly will be attending the Newberry CRS Workshop "Thinking and Working Beyond the Medieval Archive." She has also helped organize and is participating in three sessions for Kalamazoo which are co-sponsored by Society for Queer Medieval Studies and *Arthuriana*. The series is Courtly Loves, and the three sessions are Queer(ing) *Le Roman de Silence* (presiding), Queer(ing) Arthurian Traditions (presenting), and Queer(ing) England (presiding).





## Tania Kolarik, Ph.D. Candidate, Art History

Ph.D. Candidate Tania Kolarik will be presenting part of her dissertation research, "Textility: A New Textile Centric Art Historical Methodology," during a roundtable session at the 36th Congrès du Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) in Lyon, France. This conference will take place in June 2024.




## Anna Betz, Art History Alumni (B.A. 2017; M.A. 2020)

On October 21st, Anna Betz (B.A. 2017; M.A. 2020) hosted the first viewing of her original ballet based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, including original choreography and music. Ph.D. Candidates Claire Kilgore and Tania Kolarik attended the evening, and dressed according to the encouraged costume theme of Angels and Demons. Kilgore and Kolarik jointly won the best costume prize for their biblically accurate angel or seraphim costumes, for which they were awarded a poster, the first copy of the original music, and the album cover for the music. Congratulations, Anna!



If you missed our Valentine's Day fundraiser, it's never too late to conquer our hearts with a gift!



### Love Conquers All

Dear reader,

We don't actually know if *omnia vincit amor* (love conquers all), as the Roman poet Virgil claimed. But if *you* love the Middle Ages and the Medieval Studies Program at UW-Madison, you could certainly conquer our hearts with 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 events 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: Codex Manesse, UB Heidelberg, Cod. Pal. germ. 848, fol. 311r.

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