

MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

The Medieval Studies Program University of Wisconsin–Madison Autumn 2022

Greetings to all! I'm honored to take over this year as the Director of the Medieval Studies Program. I want to extend a special thanks to our previous director, Professor Elizabeth Lapina, and wish her well as she spends this academic year as the director of UW-Madison's venerable study-abroad program in Aix-en-Provence, France. I would also like to thank **Patrick Eickman**, last year's program assistant, and to introduce everyone to **Bridget Anderson**, who replaces him. Bridget is a Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies program whose research interests include late medieval and early modern theatre history spanning roughly 1300-1700, and we are delighted to have her aboard.

Medieval Studies has had a great start to what is going to be a busy year. We got going in the first week of the new semester with a Zoom event on September 9 organized by Professor Lapina, "**Destruction and Preservation of Ukrainian Culture Heritage in Time of War.**" **Professor Ihor Lyman** (Department of History and Philosophy, Berdyansk State Pedagogical University) and **Professor Oksana Dovgoplova** (Department of Philosophy and Methodology of Knowledge, Odessa National University) joined us directly from the Ukraine; they spoke movingly of the struggle to protect, preserve, and, sadly, document the ongoing destruction of their country's cultural artifacts as a result of the Russian invasion. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for European Studies (CES) and the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA).

Later that same day saw the in-person **Eunuch Workshop: Gender & Power in 10th-Century Eastern Roman Court Culture**, which took place at the Memorial Union and featured a keynote address, "Eunuchs in the Imperial Family: Contextualizing Basil the Nothos," by **Professor Felix Szabo** (History, University of Chicago). Our own **Professor Leonora Neville** of the History Department led a workshop discussion on the "Sexualities of Constantine VII," and **Tiffany Van Winkoop**, Ph.D. student in History, led a workshop on "Eunuchs & Constantine VII: Evidence from *De ceremoniis*." Medieval Studies co-sponsored this event with the John and Jeanne Row Chair of Byzantine Studies.

Mid-September brought **Professor Wan-Chuan Kao** (English, Washington and Lee University) to campus; he held a workshop for graduate students and faculty on his recently published article "In the Lap of Whiteness," and gave a public lecture, "White Dorsality," which examined the language of racialization and conversion in the late-fourteenth century English romance *The King of Tars*. Professor Kao's visit was co-sponsored by the English Department.

Less intellectually but just as convivially, in mid-September we held our annual **Welcome Back Happy Hour** for graduate students and faculty at the Union Terrace; if you missed it, look for a similar gathering in the late spring term. We then went back inside on October 7 for 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 I hope we will continue to do.

Looking ahead, I hope that many of you reading this newsletter will join us for several more fall semester events. Our speaker series this year is **"In Sickness and in Health: Modes of Care in the Middle Ages."** Made possible by the generous support of the Anonymous Fund and supported as well by many other campus units, it begins on **October 28** with a workshop and lecture by **Professor Gregory Bryda** (Art History, Barnard College); on **November 11**, we will be joined for another workshop and lecture by **Professor Sarah Ritchey** (History, University of Tennessee-Knoxville). Because they will perhaps take place before the next issue of the *Chronicle*, I'll note here that the series will continue early in the spring semester with a Zoom workshop and lecture on **January 27** by Professor Nicole Archambeau (History, Colorado State), and another Zoom lecture on **February 10** by Professor Winston Black (History, St. Francis Xavier University).

Other upcoming events include **an online presentation for undergraduates on October 21** featuring program faculty who will speak about their upcoming spring semester courses and convey a little about their current research, and a workshop and talk about *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by **Professor Arthur Bahr** (Literature, MIT) on November 18, co-sponsored by the Anonymous Fund and the Department of English.

For more about all of these upcoming events, and to see the beautiful posters for them designed for us by Bridget Anderson, please check out our regularly updated [program website](#).

Medieval Studies also hopes to do some direct fundraising this year to support our many different activities. More information coming about that soon to an inbox near you. In the meantime, did you know that Medieval Studies [accepts donations](#) all year round? Whether you are able to contribute financially or not, please do help us spread the word about Medieval Studies. From our public events to our new [doctoral minor](#) and our long-standing but recently streamlined [undergraduate certificate](#) and our exciting [roster of course offerings](#) every semester, we have something for everyone interested in the study of the Middle Ages.

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

Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) News:

Save the date for the Tenth Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium!

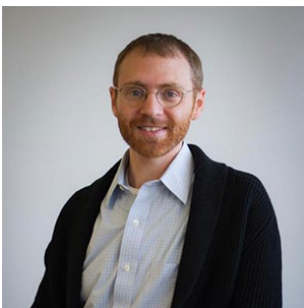
The annual GAMS colloquium will take place on Friday April 21, 2023. The theme and location will be released in the coming weeks. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Erin Sweany (English, Indiana University-Bloomington) as this year's keynote speaker.

Faculty News

The Medieval Studies Program is very happy to welcome **Sophie Pitman** to the University of Wisconsin-Madison!

Dr. Pitman is the Pleasant Roland Textile Specialist and Research Director of the [Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection](#). She is based in the Center for Design and Material Culture, within the School of Human Ecology. She received her Ph.D. in History from Cambridge University, and her research centered on clothing in early modern London. After finishing her doctorate, Sophie worked on two major interdisciplinary projects. The first, [the Making and Knowing project at Columbia University](#), explores the intersection of the history of science with art history. The second project, [Refashioning the Renaissance](#), spanned three years and was based in Finland. This project involved reconstructing early modern clothing worn by the artisanal or middle class since clothing historiography has a gap in this area. Most recently, Dr. Pitman received a Leverhulme early career fellowship in order to study weather, the environment, and clothing. Dr. Pitman is excited to get to know the Allen Textile Collection and its over 13,000 objects. She invites all members of the Medieval Studies Program to reach out to her to set up time to visit the collection, which is located in Nancy Nicholas Hall. The collection includes objects that are of interest to medievalists and early modernists alike. Dr. Pitman says that “Reconstruction, or hands-on, is a huge part of my method.” As an interdisciplinary scholar, she is committed to making historical objects accessible to scholars, but also craftspeople and a wider public audience. She looks forward to working with faculty to bring their classes to the collection and explore how the collection can work with the class topics and students’ research.

<https://sophiepitman.com/>



Dr. Samuel England, Associate Professor of Arabic, recorded an [episode of a WPR program](#) in which he discussed some premodern Arabic poetry and its many reincarnations and adaptations over recent decades. [Here](#) is a link to stream the episode. Much of what Dr. England covered is material he is including in a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Arabic Literature*.

Professor Lisa H. Cooper of the English Department presented the paper “Hack, Hew, Grind, Smite: Kitchen Poetics and Middle English Verse” at the Biennial Meeting of the New Chaucer Society in Durham, UK, in July. At the same conference, she chaired two panels that she co-organized on “Practicing Theory, Theorizing Practice with/in the Medieval Recipe.”



Professor Emeritus Christopher Kleinhenz has edited a special number of the *Rivista internazionale di ricerche dantesche* 2 (2021) on “The Rime di Dante” (172 pp.) and co-edited (with Dino Cervigni, Giuseppe Ledda, and Heather Webb) volume 39 (2021) of *Annali d’Italianistica* (395 pp.) dedicated to Dante on the topic of “Unholy & Holy Violence in Dante’s Comedy.” Over the past year and a half he has also published six articles and book chapters:

“Lettura della terzina *L’anima semplicetta che sa nulla* (Purg. xvi 88-90).” In *Citar Dante. Espressioni dantesche nell’italiano di oggi*. Ed. Irene Chirico, Paolo Dainotti, and Marco Galdi. Athens: ETPbooks, 2021, pp. 188-89.

“Petrarch and the Italian Madrigal Tradition.” In *Petrarch and His Legacies*. Ed. Ernesto Livorni and Jelena Todorović. Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2021, pp. 189-223.

“Dante and the Sonnet: Poetic Practices in Medieval Italy.” In *Rivista internazionale di ricerche dantesche* 2, 2021, pp. 99-111.

“Transitional Narrative Strategies and the Art of Usury in Dante’s *Commedia*.” In *Dante Beyond Borders: Contexts and Reception*. Ed. Nick Havely and Jonathan Katz with Richard Cooper. Cambridge: LEGENDA, Modern Humanities Research Association, 2021, pp. 63-73.

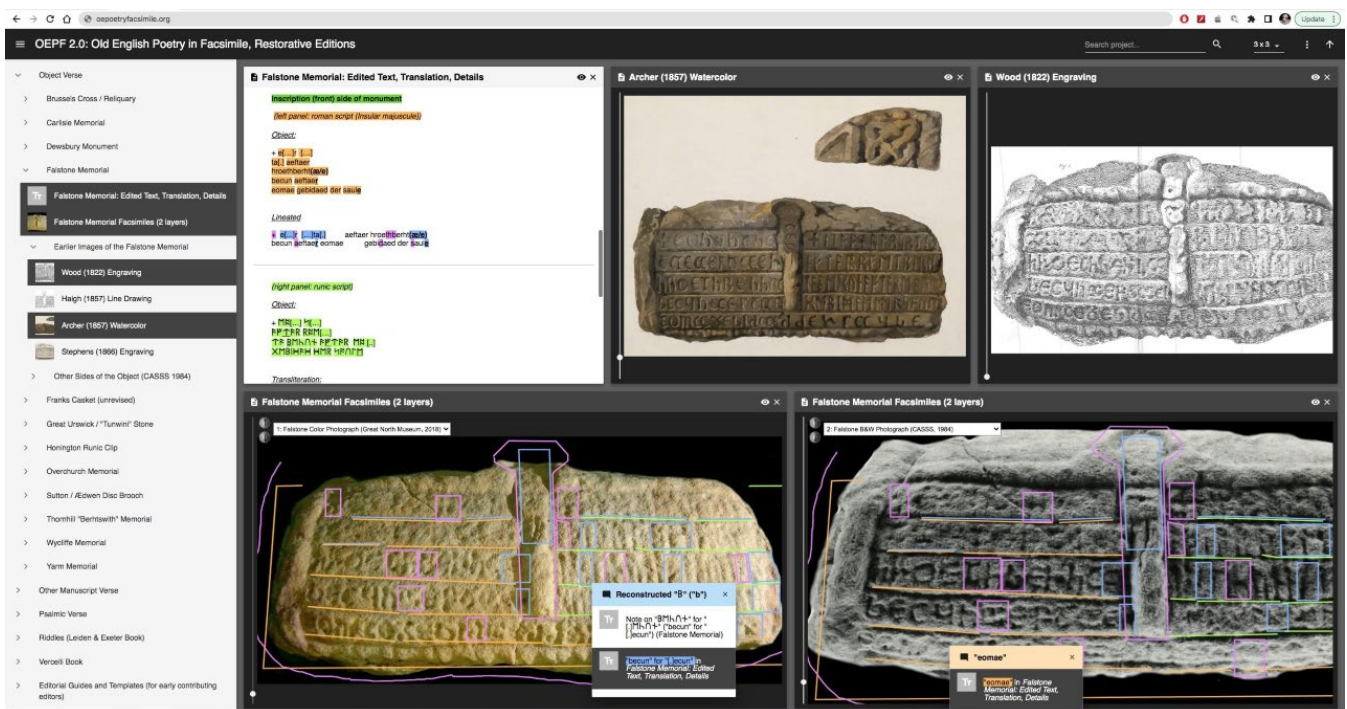
“Hysteron Proteron, Teleology, and Dante’s *Commedia*.” In *Interpretation and Visual Poetics in Medieval and Early Modern Texts. Essays in Honor of H. Wayne Storey*. Ed. Beatrice Arduini, Isabella Magni, and Jelena Todorović. Leiden: Brill, 2022, pp. 82-93

“Fiore and Detto d’Amore.” In *Dante’s “Other Works”: Assessments and Interpretations*. Ed. Zygmunt G. Barański and Theodore J. Cachey, Jr. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2022, pp. 35-70.

Old English Poetry in Facsimile

This summer the *Old English Poetry in Facsimile* project wrapped up another phase of its editorial work, thanks to the efforts of project director Professor Martin Foys (English) and the 2022 team of contributing editors, including Alex Fairbanks-Ukropen (English) Carsten Haas (GNS+), Catrin Haberfield (Stanford University), Aaryn Smith (English) and Kyle Smith (English).

OEPEF is a collaborative, open-access resource of digital facsimile editions, linking together moments of digital manuscript images, transcriptions, editorial annotations and modern translations of Old English poetry, to better allow people to study and explore these works. The project went public in 2019; planned completion of editing the entire Old English poetic corpus: 2028.



This summer's work brings the total of *OEPEF* editions to 215 (13,360 lines), which means that nearly half of the Old English poetic corpus is now available as open access digital facsimile editions online. Contributing editors published 43 new editions, for a total of 3,180 lines, or 10.2% of the total Old English poetic corpus. Editions included: *Andreas*, (Vercelli Book), *Juliana* (Exeter Book), 30 Exeter Book Riddles (40-69), 5 Paris Psalms, with corresponding Junius 121 excerpts (85-89), microverses of "Ælfwine's Cryptogram", "Epic Scribble", "Eglaaf and Ulf" and "A Saxon Maxim", and the inscribed objects the Falstone Memorial and the Yarm Memorial - a digital image of the latter was provided by Professor Lisa Cooper, who was in England this summer and able to convince its keepers to allow her into a closed museum to photograph it.

Highlights from this summer's work included (with links to Twitter posts which provide more detail and images):

- The potential discovery of a previously unrecognized Old English word: *wic-sele* ("settlement-hall") in Exeter Riddle 54:

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1533661258788085761>

- * For the first time, the editing together of Paris Psalter Old English psalms and their analogues found in the Junius 121 psalm excerpts (some of which come with glosses from the Tremulous Hand):

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1527274772962361344>

- The collaborative online editing of the 1722-line *Andreas* (itself over 5% of the poetic corpus alone), which took place over 12 weeks by four OEPPF contributing editors:

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1562071549905145857>

- Using the *Digital Mappa*'s platform's new layering feature to layer new and old folio facsimiles and transcriptions of the Vercelli Book for the annotation and editing of the manuscript's reagen stains:

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1540384254265270274>

- The first comprehensive edition of a double cryptogram, one-line micro-verse about Ælfwine, abbot of New Minster Winchester, first decoded in 1998 and only identified as verse in 2009:

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1549035672840937472>

- A digital edition of the fascinating eighth-century Falstone Memorial, with "facing page" roman and runic script verses, plus the use of annotated layers of older representations of the stone going back to 1822:

<https://twitter.com/digitalmappa/status/1556621441080098819>

Graduate Student News

The **2022 International Medieval Congress**, which takes place annually at the University of Leeds, U.K., featured paper presentations by both current and former UW–Madison Art History Ph.D. students. Badgers in attendance were (left to right): Claire Kilgore (Ph.D. Candidate), Abby Armstrong Check (Ph.D. Student), Tania Kolarik (Ph.D. Candidate), Özlem Eren (Ph.D. Candidate), and Matthew Westerby (Ph.D., 2017).

All of these medievalists are/were under the advisement of Professor Thomas E. A. Dale.



Claire Kilgore (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) traveled to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland over the summer to conduct research on her dissertation, "Sensing the Bodily Interior: Pregnancy and the Generative Body in Religious and Medical Practice in Late Medieval German-speaking Lands." Her research was supported in part by the Medieval Studies Program's [Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship](#). One of the highlights of her trip was getting to see firsthand multiple panels from the now dismantled Intercession Altarpiece polyptych produced by the workshop of Konrad

Witz in Basel in the mid-fifteenth century. A double-sided panel, located in the Kunstmuseum Basel, shows the Incredulity of St. Thomas and Christ and the Virgin interceding before God the Father (see photo), while the reverse shows the Nativity. She also had the opportunity to examine another of the Intercession Altarpiece panels, now located in Berlin's Gemäldegalerie, depicting the Council of Redemption, a moment described in the visionary writings of thirteenth-century mystic Mechthild of Magdeburg, juxtaposed with the Visitation.

Patrick Eickman (Ph.D. Student, History) received the Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship for Polish in the 2022-2023 academic year. This past summer he completed an intensive Polish-language course at the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic, East European and Near Eastern Summer Language Institute. Patrick also presented his paper titled: "The Virgin Mary as a *Zarte Mait?* Authorial Judgments and the Emotionality of the *Kronike von Pruzinlant*" at the Inaugural Conference of the Society for the Study of Medieval Emotions in St. Andrews, Scotland.



Patrick also recorded an episode of the Medieval Grad Podcast discussing Baltic crusaders. A link to the podcast is available at Medievalists.net or [here](#).



Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan (Ph.D. Student, Art History) recently published his first peer-reviewed academic publication. The chapter is titled "Sir Palamedes the Indelibly 'Saracen' Knight: Heraldry, Monstrosity, and Race in Fifteenth-Century Arthurian Romance Manuscripts, and appears in *The Arthurian World*, edited by Miriam Edlich-Muth, Renée Ward, & Victoria Coldham-Fussell (Routledge, 2022), 326-47.

Drew was also featured on the "Art For the End Times" podcast, produced by the Real News Network alongside Benjamin Bertrand (Fordham University), in which they discuss popular medievalisms. The episode is available to stream [here](#).

Tania Kolarik (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) will be chairing the Historic Interiors Group sponsored session "Material Religion Through the Sacred Interior" at the Society of Architectural Historians' 76th Annual International Conference that will take place April 12–16th, 2023 in Montréal, Canada. The CFP will open through the Society of Architectural Historians [website](#) on April 19th, 2022.

She also attended the 21st Vagantes Conference at Case Western Reserve (Cleveland) in her role as Webmaster on the Board of Directors. She took pictures and posted to social media throughout the conference, acted as a judge for the paper prize, and attended the Board of Directors meeting.



In addition, Tania received a Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship in spring 2022 for work on her dissertation project, "The Fabric of the Trecento: The Culture of Textiles in the Long Fourteenth Century."



Özlem Eren (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) has contributed an article, "A Cathedral and Its Patron: Yaroslav the Wise and Saint Sophia in Kyiv" to the second issue of the magazine *Medieval World: Culture & Conflict*.

Many congratulations to **Holly McArthur**, the first graduate student to complete the new [Doctoral Minor in Medieval Studies](#)! Holly, a Ph.D. student in Scandinavian Studies, completed the 9-credit minor with courses in Art History, French, and German. Other doctoral students wishing to declare the minor are asked to do so as early in their studies as possible (this helps us with both advising and record-keeping); please contact Professor Cooper (lhcooper@wisc.edu) for assistance.



Sarah Friedman (Ph.D. Student, Department of English) received the Lemoine-Middlefort Fellowship and a Schallek research award from the Medieval Academy of America to support her dissertation research on medieval texts about women's health. With those resources, Sarah went to England, where she spent time examining medieval gynecological manuscripts in the British Library, the Bodleian Library, and various libraries at Cambridge University. She will use her findings to analyze the choices of different English translators of *The Trotula*, an ensemble of Latin texts that dates to the twelfth century and is often attributed to a female writer named Trota.

London, British Library MS Ashmole 399, fol. 21r (contains a version of a Trotula ensemble text known as the *Liber de sinthomatibus mulierum*).



Dane Sullivan Smith is a first-year Ph.D. student in History. Dane received a BA in History from the University of Pittsburgh and an MA in European and Mediterranean Studies from New York University. Dane is originally from Los Angeles but considers Pittsburgh to be his home. He is interested in Byzantine history and conceptions of identity, difference, and race in the Middle Ages. He is interested in furthering his interdisciplinary education that he began in New York and further engaging with the field of historical anthropology. Besides those, Dane is very interested in culinary history and the depictions of the Middle Ages in contemporary media. Welcome, Dane!



In Memoriam



Medieval Studies mourns the loss of **Olivia Ernst**, a former Ph.D. student in the Department of English. Olivia was a scholar of Old English and of premodern literature more broadly. Her particular intellectual interest was poetic meter, and she was the first contributing editor to the [Old English Poetry in Facsimile Project](#) (OEPF), directed by her advisor Professor Martin Foys. One of her lasting contributions to the OEPF is its edition of the “Journey Charm,” which has been dedicated to her memory. As Professor Foys put it at a memorial event held for her on October 8 on the tip of Picnic Point, “Olivia had firm convictions and a kinetic critical instinct that could be thrilling, and our small world here

is smaller for no longer having her.” Olivia will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to work and study with her here at UW-Madison.

Undergraduate Certificate News

Professor Lisa H. Cooper is the new faculty advisor for the Medieval Studies Undergraduate Certificate, succeeding Professor Elizabeth Lapina. You can learn more about Professor Cooper [here](#).

Whether you have finished earning your certificate or not, we urge you to reach out to Professor Cooper if you have any questions about medieval studies courses or events on campus. Her office hours are on Wednesdays from 12:30-2 pm in 7135 Helen C. White Hall, and she is available by email at lhcooper@wisc.edu.

For alumni profiles, as well as information on forthcoming events, visit our website: medievalstudies.wisc.edu

✉ bridget.anderson@wisc.edu
