

Medieval Chronicle

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
SPRING 2024



Sumer is icumen in
Lhude sing cuccu!
Groweþ sed
and bloweþ med
and springþ þe wde nu
Sing cuccu!

—London, British Library MS Harley 978
mid-13th c., fol. 11v

Warmest greetings, all, as summer comes in (I encourage you to click the link above to learn more about the Middle English song celebrating the event). I am sure we are all happy to enter a quieter season after a very successful set of spring Medieval Studies events here on campus. In late February **Dr. Mike Horswell**, (Fellow, Royal Historical Society) gave the Zoom lecture **“New Crusaders: Mobilizing the Crusades in the Modern Era”** for our **“Then/Now: Modern Medievalisms”** speaker series. Dr. Horswell’s lecture explored the wide variety of ways the Crusades have been used to mobilize nation-building and social campaigns since the nineteenth century, and how important the idea of the Crusades have remained in constructions of the West and the Middle East to this day. The series continued in early March, when we welcomed **Professor Bernard Hinojosa** (English, St. Norbert’s College) for a workshop on his forthcoming article, “Spectacular Absence, Spectacular Presence: Experimenting with the Eucharist in the *Play of the Sacrament*,” and his evocative public lecture on **“Roger Bacon’s Rainbow: Experiment, Fictionality, and Modernity in the Middle Ages.”** Mid-April brought the visit of **Professor Kristina Olson** (Italian, George Mason University) for a workshop on her recent article “Maintaining Neutrality in a Period of Moral Crisis’: Appropriations of *Inferno* 3 in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century America,” and a lecture based on that same subject (**“Cowardice is Political: The Legacy of *Inferno* 3 in 20th- and 21st-Century America”**).

In mid-April, we held our last event of the series, hosting **Professor Bryan Keene** (Art History, Riverside Community College) for a workshop on “Curating Queer Themes in Medieval Art and Contemporary Medievalisms” and a public lecture on **“Queer Medievalisms in Contemporary Art,”** in which Professor Keene showed us how contemporary artists turn to the Middle Ages to demand that we engage with the queerness of both the past and the present on multiple levels.

Medieval Studies was pleased to be involved in promoting and attending the Art History Department's annual Schwartz Lecture in early March, which was delivered by **Professor Nina Rowe** (Art History, Fordham University) on **"Moses through an Urban Lens: Jewish Neighbors, African Visitors, and the Life of a Biblical Patriarch in Late Medieval Regensburg,"** as well as Professor Rowe's workshop, earlier in the day, on "Echoes of Social Life in Illuminated Manuscripts of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries." And we were thrilled to support the annual **Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) graduate student conference** on the theme of **"Fractals, Fragments, and Lacunas: Minding the Gap in Medieval World(s)."** The keynote speaker, **Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis**, Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America, gave a workshop at the conference using materials in our Special Collections as well as a keynote lecture, based on those same materials, entitled **"Blank Space: Filling Lacunae in Codices and Fragments."** A version of that talk, with exciting finds about some of UW-Madison's medieval manuscripts, [can be found here](#) on Dr. Davis's blog.

I want to thank the Anonymous Fund Committee, who generously supported our "Then/Now" series with an award from the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, as well as the numerous campus partners who co-sponsored the series across the year. And I am delighted to announce that we have once again received an award from the Anonymous Fund, and additional support from many other campus units, in order to host another speaker series next year on the theme of **"Authenticity and the Middle Ages."** As always, our speakers will come from a range of disciplines reflecting the dynamic interdisciplinary nature of our field—art history, literature, gender studies, environmental history, Byzantine social history, Islamic Studies—and each will help us to consider the apparently perpetual quest for the "authentic" as both a stumbling block and an opportunity to discover what we value most. Our first speaker, addressing the restoration of Notre Dame, will be here early—**Friday, September 6**—so please mark your calendars! And 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.

Finally, many congratulations to the seven (!) new graduates of our [undergraduate certificate program](#) (to the winners of the [Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship](#) for summer research, and to all the faculty and students whose achievements are highlighted below.

With best wishes for a lovely summer,



Lisa H. Cooper
Professor of English and Director of Medieval Studies
Senior Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities, 2023-27

Faculty News

Professor Martin Foys (English) has published an essay in a special issue of [ARCHIV](#) on original preservation and digitization that discusses the approach in [OEPE](#) (now over 70% complete!) to the digital re-editing of medieval texts. See a full link to the essay [here](#).

In addition, this February the Divisional Research Committees of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education selected Professor Foys for a Vilas Associates award, which "recognizes new and ongoing research of the highest quality and significance," for his continuing work on the [Old English Poetry in Facsimile](#) project.



Lisa H. Cooper (English; Medieval Studies Program Director) was recently elected by the faculty to represent the humanities division on the [University Research Council](#), which advises the Vice Chancellor for Research on the overall research enterprise of UW-Madison.

Her work was also highlighted in a recent article on "[Anonymity, Canonicity, and Literary Value](#)," by Myra Seaman in the journal *Textual Practice*. The article uses Professor Cooper's research as a notable example of current scholarship on anonymous and non-canonical Middle English writing, and commends it for revealing "previously unperceived possibilities for medieval literariness" (15).



Professor Cooper will present an overview of her current book project (*The Poetics of Practicality in Late Medieval England*) this summer at the New Chaucer Society's Biennial Meeting in Pasadena, CA, in a paper entitled "Practically Impossible But Almost Done."

Jennifer Pruitt (Professor of Art History) gave talks related to her new project, tentatively entitled *Inheriting an Islamic Golden Age: Globalism, National Identity, and Invented Histories in the History of Islamic Art in the Arabian Gulf*, at the University of Chicago and New York University. She was granted a Vilas Associates Award from the University of Wisconsin and is currently in Washington D.C., as a two month visiting senior scholar at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts.



Thomas Dale (Professor of Art History) has been selected as a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, UW-Madison, beginning Fall 2025. He will be completing his book project, "Visualizing Race and Cultural Encounter in Medieval Venice." He has in press a new article related to the book project: "Visualizing Muslims and/as Black Africans in Medieval Venice," in *Art, Power, and Resistance in the Middle Ages*, ed. Pamela Patton (University Park PA: Penn State University Press, to appear December 2024). He heads to Poitiers to give a paper in French "Genre, race et l'invalidité : perspectives alternatives sur la sculpture de Vézelay" at the conference *L'art roman au XXIe siècle. L'avenir d'un passé à réinventer* (May 28-31) hosted by the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale (CESCM). In the fall he will begin a three-year term on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C.



The Medieval Studies Program and the UW-Madison community mourn the loss of **Professor Emeritus of English and Scandinavian Studies Richard Ringler**. From 1961 to 2002, he taught in the English and Scandinavian Departments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His academic career and research spanned Shakespeare and Old English, *Beowulf* and Old Norse and Icelandic literature and language, including topics as broad as the Vikings, perspectives on nuclear war, and JS Bach. He published numerous books and is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Icelandic literature. In 2004 he was awarded the Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson for his service to Icelandic culture. In the same year he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Iceland for his work promoting the Icelandic language through an online portal, Icelandic On-Line! as well as his translation of the work of Iceland's National Poet, Jónas Hallgrímsson, in *Bard of Iceland*. He actively promoted peace and global cooperation through education. In 1983 he founded Wisconsin Educators for Social Responsibility and in 1985 he founded and led the Wisconsin Institute: Consortium for the Study of War, Peace, and Global Cooperation.



A memorial resolution for Professor Ringler is being prepared for next year's Faculty Senate.

GAMS COLLOQUIUM 2024

The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) successfully hosted its 11th annual Colloquium on Friday, April 5, 2024. The conference included three panels of presentations from UW graduate students working in medieval studies across several departments, and featured a visit from Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis, Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America, who gave a fascinating workshop in Memorial Library's Special Collections followed by a talk titled **"Blank Space: Filling Lacunae in Codices and Fragments,"** presenting her work on manuscript fragments held by UW and their place in the history of biblioclasm in the US.

The conference was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Associated Students of Madison and the departments of History, English, German, Nordic, and Slavic+, and Art History, and the programs in Medieval Studies and Religious Studies.

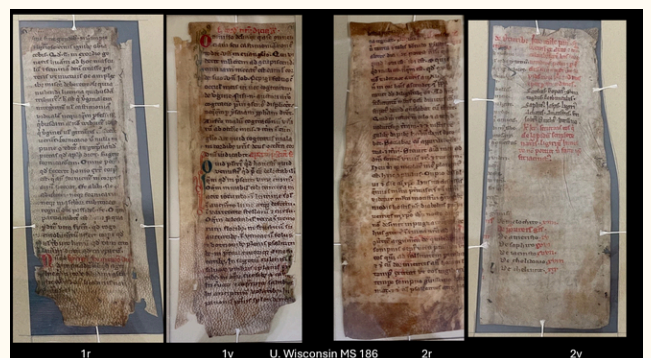
See the full schedule of panels [here](#).

Congratulations to GAMS officers Helen Smith (President), Kyle Smith (Vice President) and Aaryn Smith (Secretary) on a successful conference!

GAMS Keynote Speaker Dr. Lisa Fagin Davis (Executive Director of the Medieval Academy of America) wrote a [blog post](#) with an abbreviated version of her keynote. For this talk, Dr. Fagin Davis selected several manuscripts in UW-Madison's Special Collections to use as case studies to answer the question of how medievalist scholars (fragmentologists in particular) can "fill the different varieties of blank space accrued by manuscripts as they journey through space and time: congenital, chronological, textual, codicological, and cultural."



UW Madison Manuscript 161
A French Book of Hours



UW Madison Manuscript 186

Graduate Student News

Sarah Friedman (Ph.D. Candidate, English) will defend her dissertation this summer. She has a forthcoming article on *The King of Tars in Digital Philology: A Journal of Medieval Cultures*. She will present her paper, "Revising Female Pain in Chaucer's retelling of Philomela and Lucretia" at The New Chaucer Society Biennial Meeting in Pasadena, CA this July. She received a Donald Howard Travel Scholarship from the New Chaucer Society to attend.



She has accepted a full-time job as a Senior College Admissions Consultant at [Spark Admissions](#), where she will guide high-schoolers and their families through the college admissions process.

Alex Ukropen (Ph.D. Candidate, English) will present at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK on the panel "Landscapes in Crisis, IV: Crises of Landscapes in Medieval Chronicles." His paper is titled "Sacred Bodies and a Land in Turmoil: The Symbiotic Relationship between Saints and the Environment in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*." Alex just presented on the panel "Bede as Source" at Kalamazoo. He also received an English Department dissertation fellowship for Fall 2024.



Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) received a Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation Award for his dissertation, "Sultans of Babylon: Racialization and 'Crypto-Visuality' in Fourteenth- and Fifteenth-Century European Manuscripts." He also received a Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship from the Medieval Studies Program at UW-Madison. He will be using these awards to support a research trip to France and Italy this summer.



Abby Armstrong Check (Ph.D Candidate, Art History) is the gracious recipient of the Lemoine-Midelfort Fellowship courtesy of the Medieval Studies program to help fund her dissertation research trip to Provins, France this August. Abby's dissertation explores the visual developments of late medieval urbanism in Northern France. Specifically, this funding will aid in her spatial analysis of three specific architectural and public space case studies to discern how these places interacted in the complex web of royal, religious, and civic institutions which defined late medieval urban identity in Provins, France



Tania Kolarik (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) has been awarded a 2024 Samuel H. Kress Foundation Special Mobility Grant to attend the 36th Congrès du Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) in Lyon, France this coming June.

Additionally, Tania's exhibition report on Africa & Byzantium, which was open at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, November 19, 2023–March 3, 2024, has now been published in the Spring 2024 issue of ICMA News. You can read her report [here](#). ICMA News, of which Kolarik is also the Assistant Editor, is the tri-annual newsletter of the International Center for Medieval Art. While Africa & Byzantium is no longer on display at The Met, it will be shown at The Cleveland Museum of Art, April 14–July 21, 2024.



Tania will also present her paper "Textility: A New Textile Centric Art Historical Methodology" at Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) this Summer.

Tania Kolarik, Claire Kilgore, and Abby Armstrong Check (Ph.D. Candidates, Art History) are co-curating an exhibition on American Catholic collecting practices at the Haggerty Museum of Art on the campus of Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. The exhibition, [Material Muses: Medieval Devotional Culture and Its Afterlives](#), will run from August 23 to December 22, 2024. The show explores the material objects that make religion happen and are sourced from the collections of UW-Milwaukee Emile H. Mathis Art Gallery and the Haggerty Museum of Art. The images provide a sneak peek at what may be in store next fall.



Özlem Eren (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) has been awarded the 2024-25 ASEEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) Dissertation Research Grant (Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Research Grant in Russian Studies) for her dissertation project, "Decentralizing the Architecture of Rus'." Özlem will utilize this funding to facilitate her research travel to Hungary and Poland in the summer of 2024.



Charlotte Whatley (Ph.D. '24, History) gave a talk at William & Mary Law School, titled "Kingship, Corruption, and the Common Law: Litigation and Legitimacy in the Age of Edward III." She also gave a workshop called "Excommunication in the English Common Law"

Charlotte also successfully defended her dissertation, "Property and Power: Legal Performance and Royal Legitimacy in the Reign of Edward III" on Wednesday April 25, and graduated this spring (congratulations, Charlotte!).



She is teaching LS 450: The History of Prisons this summer; next fall, she will start as a lecturer in the UW History Department.

Patrick Eickman (Ph.D. Candidate, History) just presented his paper, "Revenge and Loathing in Medieval Prussia: Displaying Rage in Nicolaus von Jeroschin's *Kronike von Pruzinlant*," at the De Re Militari panel on Late Medieval Warfare as part of the International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Patrick also received a One Year Research Grant for Doctoral Students from the DAAD for archival work in Germany at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz. There, he will be conducting research on the emotionality of the Ordensbriefarchiv (the Teutonic Order's Letter Archive) in affiliation with the Freie Universität Berlin.



The History Department also awarded Patrick an Early Excellence in Teaching Award. This citation honors Teaching Assistants who demonstrate exceptional proficiency in teaching undergraduate discussion sections.

Holly McArthur (Ph.D. Candidate, Scandinavian Studies)

received the 2023 Lemoine-Midelfort fellowship, which funded Holly's travel to Denmark in August 2023. There, she conducted archival research for her dissertation, "A New Critical Edition of Flóvent's Saga." She worked with medieval and early modern manuscripts from both the Royal Library and the Arnamagnean collection. These manuscripts included some of the earliest copies of Flóvent's saga, antiquarian recreations from the seventeenth century, and late nineteenth-century scholarly copies intended for study and translation into Danish. Holly was able to access manuscripts that have never been digitalized and so are not accessible outside of the archive, along with ones that were photographed in black and white, but which have visible damage which makes this a less than ideal format. She made great progress in understanding the relationship between the many extant copies of a little-studied saga.

Holly was awarded a Leifur Eiríksson fellowship to fund research in Iceland next academic year, to work with more manuscripts for her dissertation.



Chris Herde (Ph.D. Student, History) and Brendan McNeely (Ph.D. Student, English) organized and hosted the second Medieval Game Day on May 3rd. Students played the following games:

- *Hnefatafl*, a recreation of an 11th-century Norse board game
- *Gwent*, a card game adapted from the *Witcher* videogame series
- *Carcassonne*, a game of building up and claiming features of the southern French countryside
- *Love Letter*, a small card game of court intrigue and social deduction
- *Dominion*, a medieval-themed deckbuilding game



Additionally, attendees continued the slow process of rebuilding Notre Dame Cathedral in the form of a massive 3D puzzle. The day also included a presentation and discussion with Dr. Robin Rider of UW's Archives and Special Collections about her experience collecting and analyzing board games within the archives for the exhibition entitled "[Most Agreeable and Rational Recreation: Two Centuries of Educational Games](#)," on view through August 2nd.

Undergraduate Student News

Many congratulations to the seven students who have just graduated with the undergraduate certificate in Medieval Studies: Avery Beirne, Joseph Finkelmeyer, Andrew Kruck, Keegen Kuehne, Zoe Scrivener, Sophia Smith, and Makenna Yeske! A couple of these just-graduated students and one recent graduate shared their upcoming plans with us, and their thoughts on their time with Medieval Studies.

Grace Quast (BA '23, English) accepted a spot in the English Ph.D. program at Brown. Her offer includes six years of guaranteed funding.

Here is what Grace had to say about her time in the Medieval Studies Certificate Program:

“The medieval studies program impacted my undergraduate work extensively. I took many fantastic medieval courses, both in the English and History departments, that influenced my interests, scholarship, and particularly my senior thesis. Although I am an early modernist, elements of the medieval romance genre, which I learned about in class in the fall of my senior year, were essential for my argument, and I plan to continue to work with the medieval at Brown. I hope to have a medievalist on my committee and work with the influence of medieval literature and culture on the early modern.”



Andrew E. Kruck (BA '24, History) will start at UNM Law School in the Fall.

Here is what Andrew had to say about his time in the Medieval Studies Certificate Program:

“Getting the medieval studies certificate involved taking classes where I got to read very interesting primary sources, which contributed to me wanting to pursue writing an honors thesis for my History major.”



Harry Joseph Finkelmeyer (BA '24, Education Studies and History) will continue his studies at UW-Madison, where he will pursue his Master's degree in Social Studies Curriculum and Instruction. I hope to teach history at the middle school or high school level.

Here is what Harry had to say about his time in the Medieval Studies Certificate Program:

“Earning the Medieval Studies certificate has heightened my understanding of the period's continual influence on our world today. This influence is something I want to stress to my future students.”

CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT MEDIEVAL STUDIES!

The Medieval Studies Program welcomes and appreciates gifts that will help us to support students, faculty, and scholarly activities in pre-modern studies. To this end, we have established a Medieval Studies Program Fund at the University of Wisconsin Foundation. Gifts to this fund will help us continue to attract first-rate faculty and graduate students, encourage promising undergraduates, and host stimulating lectures, symposia, and other special events. Gifts of any size are welcome and gratefully received, and they can be made by clicking the link above. Thank you!

