

Medieval Chronicle

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
FALL 2024



Detail of a miniature of the Three Dead from the the 'De Lisle Psalter',
England (London?), c. 1308-40, British Library Arundel MS 83, fol. 127r

Director's Note



Welcome back, one and all! I hope everyone had a restful summer and is enjoying the first half of the semester. Medieval Studies is off to an excellent year: for starters, we currently have a record high number of 21 students pursuing our [undergraduate certificate](#), just after having seen 7 students graduate with it in the spring term. On top of this, three graduate students have completed our [doctoral minor](#) (congratulations, Holly McArthur, Rachel Bott, and Nayoung Kim!) since it was established only three years ago; we look forward to seeing more students pursue this interdisciplinary option for their coursework outside their home departments.

We're also off to a great start with our extracurricular events. We began the year with our usual welcome back Happy Hour on the Memorial Union Terrace, and the very next day, at the end of the first week of classes, we held the first events of our Anonymous Fund-sponsored speaker series for 2024-25 ("**Authenticity' and the Middle Ages**"). **Professor Jennifer Feltman** (Art History, University of Alabama) gave a fun and informative workshop for faculty and graduate students on the use of virtual reality technology for the study and teaching of Gothic architecture; the workshop demonstrated the use of the Oculus Quest educational app [VR Cathedral](#), a project based on Notre Dame de Rheims that Feltman conceived and directed. Feltman's afternoon lecture on "**Is the Restoration of Notre Dame 'Authentic'? Historicity, Technologies, Expectations**" provided a large and enthusiastic audience with a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the [restoration process at Notre Dame de Paris](#) following the devastating fire of April 2019.

At the end of the month we held our **3rd Annual IRH/Medieval Studies Mash-Up** event at the Institute for Research in the Humanities; we welcomed Solmsen Fellow **Professor Daniel Davies** (English, University of Houston) and Universities of Wisconsin Fellows **Professors Thomas Leek** (German, UW-Stevens Point) and **Sarah Schaefer** (Art History, UW-Milwaukee), who shared with us a little about their current projects on late medieval war, using AI with ancient language corpora, and J.R.R. Tolkien's drawings.

Our remaining fall events in the "Authenticity" series are just around the corner, so please mark your calendars. On **October 18**, we will welcome **Professor Margaret Graves** (History of Art and Architecture, Brown University) for a workshop with graduate students and faculty on the conceptualization of images in the medieval Islamic world as well as a public lecture, **"Islamic Ceramics and Other Fictions of Capital: Fabricating the Middle East for Modern Markets."** And on **November 15**, **Professor Holly Crocker** (English, University of South Carolina) will join us for a discussion of the introduction to her award-winning book *The Matter of Virtue* (2019) as well as the public lecture **"Eleanor Cobham's Literary Downfalls, and the Problems of Women's Authenticity in Premodern England."** More details about these events will be sent by email and can also be found on the [events section](#) of our program website.

I want to extend my gratitude to the many campus sponsors who make our public events possible; this year, they include the Anonymous Fund, African Cultural Studies, Art, Art History, Classics and Near Eastern Studies (CANES), the Center for European Studies (CES), the Center for History, Culture and Environment (CHE), English, Gender and Women's Studies, History, the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, Middle East Studies, and Religious Studies – all of which goes to show both the extent to which medieval matters are of interest across departmental divides, and the commitment of our program to the field's inherent interdisciplinarity.

I also want to thank those individuals who have generously contributed so far this year to our [program fund](#). We will hold our annual Valentine's Day fundraiser on February 14, but I cannot emphasize enough the extent to which gifts of any size, at any time, help us to continue the program's work now and into the future.

With best wishes for a happy fall term,



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) presented papers at two international conferences this summer: "The Material Untext: Restorative Retention in Old English Poetry in Facsimile Editions," at Islands of the North Atlantic (IONA), Kings College, London, and "The Digital, the Material, of Old English Poetry" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Additionally, [Old English Poetry in Facsimile \(https://oepoetryfacsimile.org/\)](https://oepoetryfacsimile.org/), the ten-year Digital Humanities project Martin directs, this year received the designation of a Medieval Academy of America [Medieval Digital Resource](#), which means its 300+ digital editions are now peer-reviewed scholarship, assessed and formally recommended by members of the [Speculum Review Board](#) and the Medieval Academy of America's [Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Committee](#).



With funding from his recent Vilas Associates Award, Martin is now working with a software developer to implement an archiving and export function for the Digital Mappa (DM) editing platform he developed, so that the scholarship in Digital Humanities projects like OEPP and others using DM will remain accessible for decades to come.

Professor Leonora Neville (History) started a series of Cambridge Elements with Darlene Brooks Hedstrom called "Rethinking Byzantium." She has also presented the following papers over the last year: "Politics, Religion, and Becoming Roman" (Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, December 2023); "Political Religion in the Long Roman Empire" (University of Tennessee, February 2024); and "Integrity, Naming, and Historical Epistemology" (Leeds International Medieval Congress, July 2024). She has also recently published an article titled "Contextualizing Gender in Byzantine Society and Politics" in the *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in Byzantium*, edited by Mati Mayer and Charis Messis, 2024, 79-95.



Professor Kristin Philips Court (Italian and Art History) has just published an article, “Vasari’s Other Poet,” *I Tatti Studies* 27.2 (Fall 2024), which explores the early modern artist and writer’s engagement with poetic formulations developed by his fourteenth-century predecessor Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch).



Professor Elizabeth Lapina has recently published a collection of articles, *The Crusades and Nature: Natural and Supernatural Environments in the Middle Ages* (Palgrave Macmillan), which she co-edited with Jessalynn L. Bird. The volume explores the intersection of crusader studies and studies of nature. It addresses encounters with, responses to and representations of a broad variety of phenomena: celestial objects and events; familiar and unfamiliar fauna and flora; seascapes and landscapes; the elements and the seasons. It introduces readers to crusaders' actual, but also largely or entirely imaginary, encounters with natural phenomena. Elizabeth's latest article, "Celestial Phenomena of 1097/1098 in the Chronicles of the First Crusade" will come out in the next issue of *Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies*. Over the summer, Elizabeth spent ten days doing hands-on (or, rather, feet-on) research of a portion of the Camino de Santiago.



Professor Emeritus John Niles (English) has recently published a substantial review essay titled “Parry, Lord, and Their Legacy: The Human Face of Extraordinary Scholarship,” *Western Folklore* 83:2 (2024): 225–64. The essay introduces readers to little-known aspects of the lives of a pair of ground-breaking scholars, Milman Parry (1902–1935) and Albert B. Lord (1912–1991), whose influence in Medieval Studies was just as profound as it was in Classics, Comparative Literature, and many other fields. Professor Niles has also recently completed three essays probing the prehistoric Eurasian roots of aspects of the elite cultures of early medieval Europe: “Reassessing Anglo-Saxon Origins from a Eurasian Perspective,” *Global Perspectives on Early Medieval England*, ed. Karen Louise Jolly and Britton Elliott Brooks (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2022), 139–70; “Myths of the Eastern Origins of the Franks: Fictions or a Kind of Truth?” *Origin Legends in Early Medieval Western Europe*, ed. Lindy Brady and Patrick Wadden (Leiden: Brill, 2022), 385–404; and “The Huns’ Impact in the West,” *Világhódító hunok / World-conquering Huns*, ed. Orsolya Varsányi (Budapest: Institute for Hungarian Studies, forthcoming 2024). A short version of this paper was first presented at an international conference, held in Budapest in 2021, where scholars from Mongolia, Russia, Germany, France, and North America joined with Hungarian scholars in offering insights into the ancient Hunnic Empire of Attila (d. 453) and its impact on neighboring cultures both East and West.

In Remembrance



Medieval Studies greatly mourns the sudden passing of **Dr. Robin Rider**, Curator of Special Collections at UW-Madison's Memorial Library and Senior Lecturer in the History of Science, on August 25. As Associate Dean for Special Collections David Pavelich wrote when he sent the sad news to her colleagues, Dr. Rider "loved the university and the life of the mind, and she was especially happy working among books and manuscripts with her dear colleagues and students in the Department of Special Collections. She thrived most when teaching and sharing her enthusiasms with students and learners of all ages. The department and its collections are forever stamped with her spirit, care, and expertise." We will send out notice of an obituary when it is available, and we look forward to showcasing some of the most recent acquisitions in which Dr. Rider had a hand in an upcoming newsletter.

Graduate Student News

Sarah Friedman (Ph.D., English) defended her dissertation, “Spectacular Pain: The Male Experience of Female Suffering in Late Medieval English Literature.” She is working in New York City as a Senior College Admissions Consultant at Spark Admissions.



Tania Kolarik, Claire Kilgore, and Abby Armstrong Check (Ph.D. Candidates, Art History) curated *Material Muses: Medieval Devotional Culture and its Afterlives*, an exhibition at Marquette University Haggerty Museum of Art. The exhibition opened on August 23rd and will run through December 21, 2024; it explores how the Middle Ages (ca. 500–1500 CE) was often perceived as a period of heightened religious devotion, particularly in the Catholic regions of Western Europe.

Focusing on the Joan of Arc Chapel and drawing from the collections of the Haggerty Museum and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, *Material Muses* examines how artists since the end of the Middle Ages looked back to this period's art as inspiration for creating “authentic” devotional objects of their own time. It also delves into the allure of medieval materials as they engage with and energize post-medieval religious narratives.

Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Martha and Ray Smith, Jr. Endowment Fund and in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Welcome to New Graduate Students

Sarah Ganzel (Art History) holds a BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College, an MA in Viking and Medieval Norse Studies from the University of Iceland, and an MA in Art History and Advanced Certificate in Curatorial Studies from CUNY Hunter College. She is interested in the socio-material and tactile dynamics of medieval art and especially in how medieval manuscripts mediated users' relationships to the self and others. Her recent research has examined the "social lives" of medieval oath books. In addition to her love of medieval art, Ganzel enjoys exploring parallels between medieval and contemporary modes of expression and has curated contemporary art exhibitions at LOAM.fun, Casa Lally, and FROSCH&CO in New York City. This interest extends to her work with the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, where she serves as Assistant Editor of the society's journal, *Alta Studia Heraldica*, and organizes the society's online lecture series in her role as Programming Officer.



Daniel Stoll (English) is a Ph.D. student in Literary Studies studying Old English language and literature. His research interests also include Old Norse language and literature, the epic, tricksters, and extinction.



Richard W. Ellis (Art History) joined the University of Wisconsin–Madison as a doctoral student in the fall of 2024. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in art history from the University of South Florida (USF), where he focused on Islamic art and architecture. After graduating, he instructed various courses in art history at USF and at the University of Tampa. His research is centered around Persian calligraphy, painted manuscripts, and ceramic ornament from the Islamic era. Other research areas include Orientalism as well as modern and contemporary art of the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.



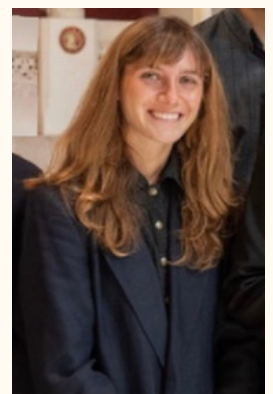
Faezeh Jafari Mohammadabadi (Art History) holds a bachelor's in Carpet Studies from the Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman and an MA from the Tehran University of Art. Her research focuses on Islamic art, Persian carpets, and paintings. She is passionate about exploring Islamic ornaments and motifs as ways to gain a better understanding of the society, culture, and history of the Arab and Persian worlds. While in Iran, Faezeh worked as a lecturer at the Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman. She also volunteered in three projects on the conservation and preservation of Islamic carpets and textiles in the Carpet Museum of Iran, Saadabad Complex, and Golestan Palace. She worked closely with the museum's collection of 16th-, 18th-, and 20th-century carpets and textiles from Iran, India, Turkey, along with French tapestries, and some nomadic textiles and rugs. She also worked as a repairer of antique rugs at the Grand Carpet Bazaar of Tehran in 2020.



Chase Carter's (Language Sciences) research interests include historical linguistics, perceptual dialectology, and government and language policy, suppression and revitalization. He has been recognized for his work with several awards, including the L&S Community of Graduate Research Scholars Fellowship from UW-Madison and the John Asher Dunn Linguistics Award from the University of Oklahoma. He completed his master's degree in linguistics at the University of Kentucky and holds a bachelor's degree in linguistics, along with studies in Japanese history, literature, and language from the University of Oklahoma. As a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Chase is particularly passionate about language contact, history, migration, and government policy.



Maria Hellenbrand (Art History) is a dual-degree master's student in the Art History and Library Science programs. She holds a BA in Classics from Barnard College, Columbia University. She has excavated archaeological sites in Greece.



Undergraduate Student News

Many congratulations to the winners of the 2024 **Schulenburg Prize for Excellence in Medieval Studies**. This prize honors Jane Schulenburg, Professor Emerita in History, and is awarded annually for the best undergraduate paper or project on any medieval subject. This year there were two winners. **Matthew Nangle** received the prize for his essay "Identity in Opposition: English Tomb Effigies and Class Conflict," written for a course with Professor Thomas Dale (Art History), while **Sophie Stein** was recognized for her thesis "The Walters MS. 102: Dreaming and Imagination in the Middle Ages," also with Professor Dale.

Medieval Studies Certificate Abroad

This summer, **Carmina Heideman** completed the CET Florence Summer Program. During the program, she took third-semester Italian as well as a course on Italian Art and Architecture. For her final paper, Carmina wrote about depictions of the Madonna in 15th-century art. Outside of class, she explored the rich culture and art of Tuscany, visiting sites such as the Siena State Archives, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the city of Lucca, and numerous museums around Florence.



This summer, **Xylina Graf** studied abroad at the University of Westminster in London, where she took a class on Climate, Change, and Culture. During her time abroad, she made many new friends with whom she is still in contact today. One of Xylina's favorite aspects of studying abroad was the opportunity to challenge herself in a new environment, particularly while navigating the city alone. She became enthusiastic about her independence, attending multiple West End shows during the week and enjoying long walks through Queen Mary's gardens after class. As a medieval studies student, she values her education and seeks to understand how to engage with the world around her and assert her place in the political and social sphere. London, with its many art institutes and beautiful cathedrals, enriched her perspective on the medieval world. Some of the exciting medieval landmarks she visited included Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Tower of London fortress. Xylina highly recommends that any student interested in studying abroad reach out to their advisor for more information.



Upcoming Events

Workshop and Public Lecture by Professor Margaret Graves Friday, October 18

2:00 PM - Hagen Room (Elvehjem 150)

Workshop for Graduate Students and Faculty/Staff

Join us for a discussion of Professor Graves's recent article on the conceptualization of images in the medieval Islamic world. For a copy, please contact Professor Jennifer Pruitt at jpruitt@wisc.edu.

5:00 PM - Elvehjem L150

Public Lecture: **"Islamic Ceramics and Other Fictions of Capital: Fabricating the Middle East for Modern Markets"**

This lecture explores how historical ceramics from the Islamic world were influenced by colonial collecting practices. Professor Graves will discuss how these objects reflect skillful craftsmanship and the complexities of value in a modern capitalist context.

Margaret Graves is the Adrienne Minassian Associate Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at Brown University, specializing in the art of the Islamic world. She has published extensively on Islamic art, including her recent work, *Ceramic Art* (Princeton University Press, 2023).

Co-sponsored by: The Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, the Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, the African Cultural Studies Program, the Middle East Studies Program, and the Departments of Art, Art History, and History.

Workshop and Public Lecture by Professor Holly A. Crocker Friday, November 15

2:00 PM - Hagen Room (Elvehjem 150)

Workshop for Graduate Students and Faculty/Staff

For the reading (TBA), please contact Professor Lisa Cooper at lhcooper@wisc.edu.

5:00 PM - Elvehjem L150

Public Lecture: **"Eleanor Cobham's Literary Downfalls, and the Problems of Women's Authenticity in Premodern England"**

Professor Crocker will examine the story of Eleanor Cobham, a historical figure depicted as a witch, and discuss how narratives of her downfall reflect societal views on women's ambition and authenticity in late medieval and Tudor England.

Holly A. Crocker is Professor of English at the University of South Carolina and a leading scholar in medieval and early modern English literature. Her research focuses on gender representation and the cultural constructions of selfhood. She is the author of *The Matter of Virtue* (2019) and co-editor of the volume *Medieval Affect, Feeling, and Emotion*.

Co-sponsored by: The Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, and the Departments of English, Gender & Women's Studies, and History.

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!



Old English Poetry in Facsimile Project

This summer, **OEPEF** finished its seventh year of work, with its team of contributing editors completing 56 new digital facsimile editions for publication, a total of 3,849 lines of Old English poetry, or about 12.5% of the surviving corpus of OE poetry. This brings the project to 85% completion, with 311 open-access digital facsimile editions published so far.

This year, OEPEF also became a Medieval Academy of America Medieval Digital Resource, meaning its published editions have been designated as peer-reviewed and formally recommended by members of the Speculum Review Board and the Medieval Academy of America's Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Committee.

2024 Editors:

Under the direction of Martin Foys, this summer's team of editors had four new editors completing the Digital Edting of Old English practicum, and four continuing editors funded with assistantships:

Practicum Editors:

- Daniel Stoll (English, UW-Madison)
- E. Alice Grissom (English, Rutgers University)
- Novella Fraiser (English, Rutgers University)
- Helen Smith (English, UW-Madison)

Continuing Editors:

- Kyle Smith (Associate Editor, English, UW-Madison)
- Alex Fairbanks-Ukropen (English, UW-Madison)
- Carsten Haas (Germanic Languages, UW-Madison)
- Aaryn Smith (English, UW-Madison)

Works Completed this summer:

Exeter Book:

- Christ I, Advent Lyrics
- Christ II, Ascension
- Christ III, Judgment Day
- The Death of Guthlac (B)
- Vainglory
- Gifts of Humanity
- Judgment Day I
- Riddles 71-87

Others:

- The Ruthwell Cross (with 3-D scans supplied by Visionary Cross Project)
- Boethian Meters 12-16 (with UV images supplied by the Electronic Boethius Project)
- Paris Psalter Psalms 119-139
- Kentish Psalm 50
- The Lord's Prayer II
- The Return of Prince Edward (Old English Chronicle: 1057D)
- The Suffering under King Henry (Old English Chronicle: 1104E)
- Thornhill 3 (the "Ethelwini" Memorial Stone)

The screenshot displays the OEPEF 2.0 website interface. The main content area shows a digital facsimile of a manuscript page (CCCC MS 201, p. 167) with an overlay of the edited text. The text is in Old English, and the interface includes a sidebar with navigation links, a search bar, and a right-hand panel with source details and a key. The key explains the color coding used in the text: blue for editorial notes, blue bold for editorial emendation, purple for visual elements, and green for page links. The right-hand panel also includes a section for 'Single half-line or triplet' with a note on the single half-line or triplet in the Lord's Prayer II: CCCC MS 201, p. 167.