

Medieval Chronicle

THE MEDIEVAL STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON



Limbourg Brothers, *Très Riches Heures du duc de Berry*, Chantilly, Musée Condé MS 65, 1412-16, calendar page for February, fol. 2v.

Director's Note:

Greetings, Medieval Studies community! Wherever you may be, I hope you had a lovely holiday season and are enjoying the fact that spring is around the corner.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, this year our Anonymous-and-multiple-co-sponsor-funded series is on the theme of “Authenticity’ and the Middle Ages.” The fall brought us two wonderful speakers under this rubric. **Professor Jennifer Feltman** (Art History, University of Alabama) helped us think in September about the use of VR technology for the study of medieval architecture and gave us behind-the-scenes insight into the restoration of Notre Dame in Paris, which re-opened to the public in December. Mid-October brought us **Professor Margaret Graves** (History of Art and Architecture, Brown University), who led a fascinating workshop on the representation of the process of image-making in Persian miniature painting and then presented an equally compelling lecture on “**Islamic Ceramics and Other Fictions of Capital: Fabricating the Middle East for Modern Markets.**” (continued, next page)



We continued our exploration of Islamic culture at the start of this semester with a Zoom lecture by **Professor Rachel Friedman** (Arabic & Muslim Cultures, University of Calgary) on **“Establishing Authenticity: Language, Style, and Theorizing the Qur’ānic Miracle.”**

Looking ahead, on **March 6** the Art History department will welcome **Professor Suzanne Preston Blier** (Fine Arts, African and African American Studies, Harvard University) for the Howard S. Schwartz Memorial Lecture **“1325: Mansa Musa, Al-Saheli, and How Medieval African Helped Shape Modernity,”** while **March 14** will bring the program an in-person visit by **Professor Emeritus Derek Krueger** (Religious Studies, North Carolina-Greensboro); he will hold a workshop for graduate students and faculty/staff and give a lecture on **“Was Later Roman Society Heteronormative?”** On **April 25**, we will welcome **Professor Emeritus Richard Hoffmann** (History, York University), for both a workshop and a lecture on **“Whispers of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Fisheries Texts from Medieval Europe.”** Finally, on **May 2nd** we will hold the rescheduled visit of **Professor Holly Crocker** (English, University of South Carolina), for both a workshop and a lecture, **“Eleanor Cobham’s Literary Downfalls, and the Problems of Women’s Authenticity in Premodern England.”** In addition to these series events, **April 11-12** will bring us the annual **GAMS Colloquium**, which is entirely organized by the graduate students in Medieval Studies; more details about that can be found in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to all of these happenings and hope many of you can join us for them; details can be found [on our program website](#) and will also be announced over email. And by the way, have you checked out our refreshed Instagram account? We are [@uwmedievalstudies](#). Please follow!

Last but not least, I want to assure you that it’s never too late to “Open Your Heart” and [give a gift to the Medieval Studies Program](#). If you missed our Valentine’s Day card on this theme, you can find it at the end of this newsletter.

Warmly,



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



Faculty News

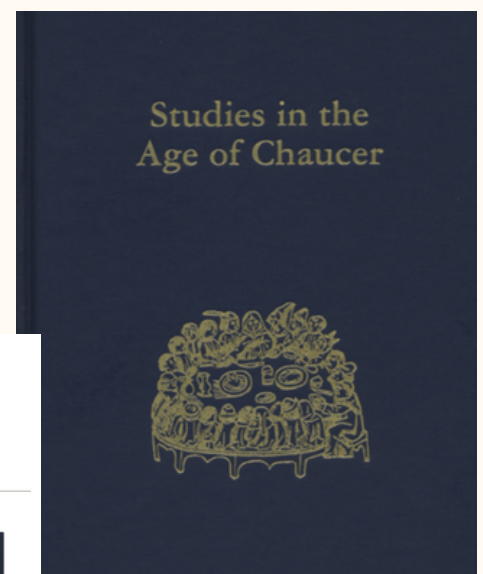
Walton O. Schalick, III, MD, PhD (Orthopedics & Rehabilitation, LEND, and Medieval Studies Steering Committee) presented “Silvester’s Choice: Medical Ethics, Disability, and Innovation in the Middle Ages,” “How the Hydra Can Be Your Friend: Experiences of a Physician-Medievalist,” and “Hobbes’ Heel: Structures of Care for Children with Disabilities, 1600 to 1946” as 2024 Visiting Scholar at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in London, ON. Walt was an invited plenary speaker at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, offering “Beyond the Bunsen Burner: A History of MRI,” including a section on medieval uroscopy as intromissive gaze. This fall, he shared a medievalist’s experience in local high school presentations to nurture students interested in the humanities. Walt coauthored, with lead-author/mentee Dr. Amber McKenna, a poster on firearms policy research at the Pediatric Academic Societies in Toronto and, as faculty mentor, co-authored with lead-author Prof. Michelle Poliak-Tunis, “Improving Journal Club in our PM&R Residency,” at the Association of Academic Physiatrists in Orlando. Volumes continue to appear in book series Walt co-edits (including Whitney Dirks’ *Monstrosity, Bodies, and Knowledge in Early Modern England* and Mari Eyice/Charlotta Forss’ *Health and Society in Early Modern Sweden*) for *Premodern Health, Disease, and Disability* with Wendy Turner and Christina Lee (Amsterdam UP) and *Disability History* with Julie Anderson, Coreen McGuire, and Aparna Nair (Manchester UP)). In his clinical research, this summer, Walt continued with the federal research network, PECARN, for which he chairs a national, ethics & quality review committee and serves on two clinical Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for pediatric, emergency research.



[Click here](#) to view the book!

Professor Lisa H. Cooper (English) published the article “Perpetual Illumination: The Ordinal of Alchemy and Another Technology of the Self” in the 2024 issue of the journal *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*. On January 31, she gave a Friday Lunch talk for the Center for the Humanities entitled “Knives Out: Medieval Recipes, Culinary Violence, and Literary Character.”

[Click here](#) to view the article!



Professor Thomas Dale has been appointed to a four-year term as Senior Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities beginning in the fall of 2025. He will be working on completing his book manuscript, *Visualizing Race and Culture Encounter in Medieval Venice*. With the support of the Simona and Jerome Chazen Distinguished Chair in Art History, he has been spending time during the summer reading and transcribing wills and notarial registers that document imported material goods alongside sales, acquisitions, and manumissions of enslaved people by Venetians during the later Middle Ages. Prof. Dale has just published an article related to the same 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: Penn State University Press, 2024), 57-89. He will present a paper on "Premodern concepts of Blackness and Whiteness: Visualizing Race and Cultural Encounter in Medieval Venice" at the 35th Annual James A. Porter Colloquium on African American Art and Art of the African diaspora—"The Shape of Race"—at Howard University in early April 2025. Prof. Dale has also begun a three-year term on the Board of Advisors at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery in Washington, D. C. The Center is among the most prestigious research institutions for art history in the world. The Center also supports faculty research with senior fellowships and has a variety of special programs. UW-Madison has longstanding connections with CASVA: Prof. Dale held a Samuel H. Kress Senior Fellowship at CASVA in 2006-07; Prof. Jennifer Pruitt was a Visiting Senior Fellow last summer; and Art History alumnus, Matt Westerby (Ph.D. 2017) joined the CASVA staff as Digital Research Officer in Spring 2023.



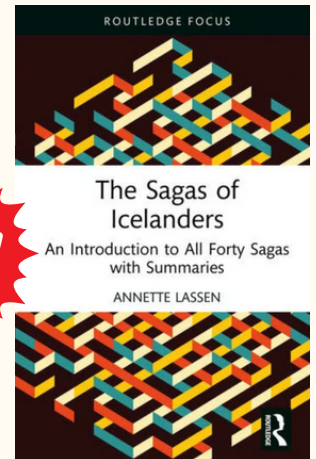
[Click here](#) to view the book!

Professor Elizabeth Lapina had two publications in 2024. First, together with Jessalynn Bird, she co-edited a collection of articles, *The Crusades and Nature: Natural and Supernatural Environments in the Middle Ages*, which came out with Palgrave. Second, she had an article entitled "Celestial Phenomena of 1097/1098 in the Chronicles of the First Crusade" published in the journal *Viator*. She finished the year going over proofs of her forthcoming book, *Depicting the Holy War: Crusader Imagery in Medieval French and English Murals*, to come out with Penn State in April 2025.



Professor Kirsten Wolf and Marianne Kalinke have translated *The Sagas of Icelanders: An Introduction to All Forty Sagas with Summaries* by Annette Lassen. Published by Routledge in December, this book offers an accessible and concise introduction to the sagas of Icelanders, perfect for both general and academic readers. Covering diverse tales from the Middle Ages, the sagas depict the struggles of ordinary farmers, fierce heroes, and shrewd women, including epic expeditions to Greenland and Vinland.

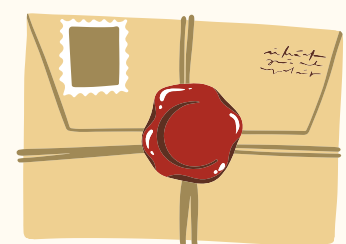
[Click here](#) to view the book!



NEW

Graduate Student News

Tiffany Van Winkoop (Ph.D. Candidate, History) Last Fall, Tiffany presented a paper at the 50th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference titled "Queer Phenomenology, Liminal Spaces, and the Erotic Cave in the Life of St. Makarios the Roman," and received her award for the Best Graduate Student Paper from the previous year's Byzantine Studies Conference. She also presented at the annual Society for Classical Studies conference on a panel focused on queer time and spaces, with a paper titled "Cruising to Byzantium: Queer futurity in The History of Michael Attaleiates." This academic year she has been awarded the George L. Mosse Teaching Fellowship in European history, and is serving as the instructor of record for the Spring 2025 course titled, "Women, Sex, and Power in the Mediterranean World c. 450 BCE - 1200 CE)



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

Last semester Drew conducted a research trip to British, French and Italian libraries supported by the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation Grant for Venetian Studies. He also presented his paper "Theorizing Crypto-Visuality: A New Lens for Deciphering Premodern Racialization" at the Emerging Scholars in Premodern Critical Race Studies Virtual Symposium at the Newberry Library. Most recently he published "A decadent and child-murdering Wali: The Targeted Racialization of the 'Arab Sectarian' in Youssef Chahine's *Saladin the Victorious* (1963)" in the collection *Cinema Medievalia: New Essays on the Reel Middle Ages*, edited by Kevin J. Harty & Scott Manning.



Patrick Eickman (Ph.D. Candidate, History) has organized two panels at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds: Crusader Chronicles as Pedagogical Tools, I: The Latin East; and Crusader Chronicles as Pedagogical Tools, II: Beyond the Latin East. He will present his paper, "Sentimentalising Divine Intervention: Emotional Communities and Battlefield Miracles in the Teutonic Order's Chronicles," in the latter panel. He will also present at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo on the panel "Not Just Nazis: Political Medievalisms beyond the Far Right." His paper is titled "Potsdam, Weimar, and the Teutonic Knights: The Medievalism of the Young German Order." Patrick is continuing his research in Germany this spring through his DAAD fellowship and will return to Madison in the fall.



Welcome to Our New Project Assistant

Mariana Sarkis Olson (Ph.D. Student, History) Mariana is our new Project Assistant for the Medieval Studies Program and the Center for Early Modern Studies. She is a Brazilian historian and theologian, currently in her second year as a PhD student in the History Department. Last fall, Mariana worked as a TA for the course “The North American West to 1850” and last summer, she received the Tinker-Nave Short-Term Field Research (LACIS) and traveled to Mexico for archival research. Her research focuses on the early modern period in New Spain (present-day Mexico).

You can reach Mariana at sarkisolson@wisc.edu—feel free to ask for help with event-related questions, social media, updates for our newsletter, and advertisements.



“I’m very excited about this opportunity to be a PA for the MSP community, and I hope to build more academic connections through this role. Medieval Studies holds a special place in my heart, ever since my theology studies.”

Undergraduate Student News

Many congratulations to **Arielle Barber** and **Makenna Yeske**, who both graduated in December 2024 with the undergraduate certificate in Medieval Studies. This spring, **Arielle** begins a coordinated MA program in Library Information Studies and History at UW-Milwaukee. For the history portion of her degree, she will most likely focus on medieval and early modern Italy and England, with a particular interest in the intersection of gender, witchcraft (on which she wrote her History 600 research paper), politics, and the Renaissance.

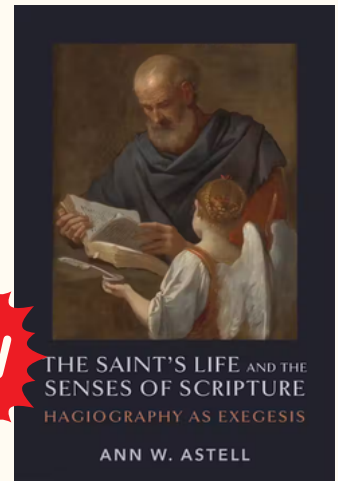
Congrats!



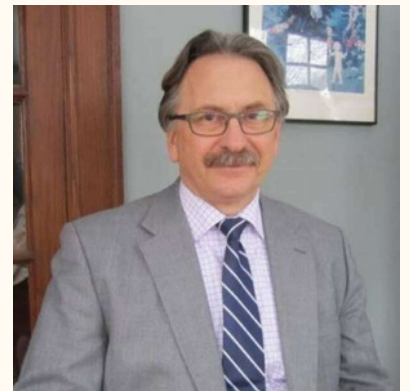
Alumni News

Medieval Studies alumna **Ann W. Astell** (John Cardinal O'Hara Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame; PhD, UW-Madison English, 1987) has just published her seventh monograph, *The Saint's Life and the Senses of Scripture: Hagiography as Exegesis* (Notre Dame Press, 2024).

[Click here](#) to view the book!



Medieval Studies alumnus **Tim Machan** (Professor of English, University of Notre Dame; PhD UW-Madison English, 1984) has recently been appointed the Mary Lee Duda Professor of Literature at the University of Notre Dame. His most recent books are *English Begins at Jamestown: Narrating the History of a Language* (Oxford, 2022) and *Northern Memories and the English Middle Ages* (Manchester, 2020).



Medieval Studies alumnus **Andrew O'Connor** (BA UW-Madison, History, 2010; MA, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, 2013; PhD, Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2019) is Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at St. Norbert College, where he has been on the faculty since 2019. This January, Andrew took a group of St. Norbert students to Italy and Jordan for a "Global Seminar" (a short-term study abroad course) called "Interfaith Relations in the Mediterranean"; the first half of the course focused on the history of the Jews in Italy and medieval Europe more broadly, while the second half focused on Christian-Muslim relations, particularly during the Crusades.



Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 14: Professor Derek Krueger (Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Greensboro)

2 pm, Hagen Room (Elvehjem 150)

Workshop for graduate students and faculty.

Please contact Professor Leonora Neville (leonora.neville@wisc.edu) for the reading.

5 pm, Elvehjem L150:

Public lecture: "Was Later Roman Society Heteronormative?"

Co-sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, the Religious Studies Program, and the Departments of Art, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25: Professor Emeritus Richard C. Hoffmann (History, York University)

2 pm, Hagen Room (Elvehjem 150)

Workshop for graduate students and faculty.

Please contact Professor Richard Keyser (rkeyser@wisc.edu) for the reading.

5 pm, Elvehjem L150

Public lecture: "Whispers of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Fisheries Texts from Medieval Europe"

Co-sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholar Fund, the Center for European Studies (CES), the Center for History, Culture, and Environment (CHE), and the Department of History.

Call for Papers!

The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) at UW-Madison invites submissions for the 2025 colloquium, *Making Medieval*, taking place on **April 11 & 12, 2025**. This event welcomes 15–20 minute paper presentations, roundtables, performances, exhibitions, and demonstrations engaging with medieval subjects, medievalism, and the reception of the Middle Ages.

Please submit your approximately 300-words proposal by **February 28**.

Making Medieval

SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2025
GRADUATE ASSOCIATION OF MEDIEVAL STUDIES (GAMS)
COLLOQUIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

presentations of 15 to 20 minute papers

Submissions for papers or roundtables in English from any field or methodology that engages with medieval subjects, including medievalism and the reception of the Middle Ages.

exhibitions and demonstrations

Including but not limited to:
visual artistic work inspired by medieval themes and making,
demonstrations of medieval craft techniques,
medievalism in media (games, film, literature, etc.),
guided discussions of medieval texts or objects in University of Wisconsin-Madison collections.

performances of medieval theater or music

April 11 & 12, 2025

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPROXIMATELY 300-WORD PROPOSALS BY FEBRUARY 28 TO
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/2MGQHBDABDFYV2XB9](https://forms.gle/2MGQHBDABDFYV2XB9)



Detail of a lectern cloth with the Marriage at Cana, c. 1400. Handcolored woodcut printed on linen, c. 1400, German. Collection of the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC Rosenwald Collection, 1949.5.81

Open Your Heart



DEAR READER,

Does your heart open a little wider and beat a little faster at the thought of the Middle Ages? If so, please consider supporting the Medieval Studies Program at UW-Madison this February 14th.



Detail of panel painting of Saint Jerome and Saint Catherine of Alexandria. Bruges or Brussels, c.1480-1490, oil on panel. Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum, on loan from the Broere Charitable Foundation.

YOUR GIFT WILL HELP US:

- * 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 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!



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