Greetings from the Chair

In surveying the year’s events, I am pleased at the success our faculty and students in continuing to build upon an already strong Medieval Studies Program at UCSB, one that emphasizes close connections among a variety of departments and an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle Ages. The topic for this year’s colloquium series for Fall and Winter was “Travel and Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages.” As reported at length in the Fall 2004 Newsletter, we had a lively colloquium in October on “The Medieval Pilgrimage: History, Art, Literature, and Virtual Reality.”

The Winter Quarter colloquium was held on February 12th on the broader topic of “Travel in the Middle Ages,” bringing together the disciplines of history, religious studies, geography, cartography, and literature, in Europe as well as the East. For a full account of this exciting episode see page 3 of this newsletter. Also in the Winter Quarter Carol Braun Pasternack (English) organized a well-received lecture by Jocelyn Wogan-Browne on “Economies of Grace: Counting Female Piety in Medieval Britain,” using as a basis thirteenth-century penitential models of female selfhood as found in a corpus of Anglo-Norman manuscripts largely unexplored to date.

This Spring the Medieval Studies program held a variety of events. In recognition of UCSB undergraduate participation in Medieval Studies, our Executive Director, Edward English, organized an undergraduate reception held on April 14th. Two days later, we held our fourth annual Spring Quarter Graduate Student Conference, on the topic “Identity Formation in the Middle Ages: Images, Literature, and Culture.” There were four excellent UCSB graduate student papers on music, drama, narrative literature, and religious painting, and a plenary paper by Howard Bloch of Yale University. Details about this stimulating conference and the substance of the papers may be found on pages 8-9 of this newsletter.

Events for the Spring Quarter include a seminar by the distinguished historian of early medieval Italy, Chris Wickham (University of Birmingham, England) held May 19. Fall Quarter Medieval Studies will sponsor a workshop on archival research, involving faculty and graduate students.

In addition to publications and other professional activities listed by individual faculty members and graduate students in this and the Fall 2004 issues of our newsletter, Sharon Farmer (History) has won the singular honor of receiving two of the most coveted research awards available, a National Endowment for the Hu-
“The Value of Annual Meetings and Professional Organizations.”

From the Executive Director, Edward English

I attended the annual meetings of the Medieval Academy of America in Miami Beach and the Renaissance Society of America in Cambridge in the United Kingdom in early April. Both organizations and their annual meetings offer opportunities for graduate students. The Medieval Academy accepts applications for research grants for travel to collections and has funded UCSB students in the past. The Academy’s director told me how impressed the committee was with the quality of our applications and proposals. The Renaissance Society also offers funding opportunities for research. Both present prizes for publications. Their annual meetings are excellent venues for papers, though the selection processes by local committees can be quite rigorous. Both groups offer opportunities to circulate research and build networks of colleagues interested in the same topics. The annual membership fees for these professional organizations can be a good investment considering these scholarly opportunities and for easy access to the journals and newsletters they publish. Information for the Medieval Academy can be found at 
http://www.medievalacademy.org/index.htm and for the Renaissance Society at 
http://www.rsa.org/#

Both meetings enabled me to renew contacts with old colleagues and former students. The Medieval Academy meeting was much smaller than the Renaissance society meeting, and met in an old hotel right on the beach – one expected to see Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin

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Greetings from the Chair

Continued from Page 1

Guggenheim Fellowship. Our program proudly salutes Sharon and wishes her a productive sabbatical leave ahead. We also wish to congratulate Joshua Birk (History) and Randy Schiff (English) as they finish their Ph.D. degrees and the emphasis in Medieval Studies and move on to tenure-track teaching positions at the Eastern Illinois University and the State University of New York at Buffalo, respectively.

The program continues to receive the financial support and encouragement of the College of Letters and Science through David Marshall, Dean of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts. Despite serious budget cuts, the program has managed to put on a full series of events thanks to the financial support of the Graduate Division and its dean, Charles Li, as well as individual departments and campus centers, namely, English, French and Italian, Music, Religious Studies, the Center for Galician Studies, and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC). Under the auspices of the IHC we have also become a Center for Medieval Studies and we look forward to seeing the Center develop new activities and give our program a higher national and international profile.

As chair of the Medieval Studies Advisory Committee for 2004-05, I want to express my appreciation to Bethanie Petersen for producing the two issues of this newsletter, to Bethanie and Corinne Wieben for organizing the Spring Graduate Conference, to Edward English, our Executive Director, for all his help in making this year’s activities run smoothly and for taking over the management of our website, so professionally developed by Corinne, and to Sharon Farmer as Vice Chair for her advice and assistance. I also thank the following staff members of the Department of History for their invaluable help with administrative detail, the budget, and student support services: Maria Perez, Carol Pfeil, Rosa Arlington, and Mike Tucker.

—Harvey Sharrer
Winter Colloquium: Travel in the Middle Ages

On 12 February, the UCSB Medieval Studies program hosted its annual Winter Colloquium, which focused on the theme of travel in the Middle Ages.

Jay Rubenstein (Assistant Professor of History, University of New Mexico) opened the colloquium with his paper, “Journey to the Center of the Earth: The Holy Land in Chronicles of the First Crusade.” Rubenstein explored the tensions born out of the capture of Jerusalem—both for travelers and those remaining at home—as the city was transformed from an imaginary “city of God” into a Frankish urban reality. Rubenstein argued that the solution to this problem, at once literary, political, and geographic, did much to define the spiritual and historical consciousness of twelfth century Europe.

In his paper, “Harley Lyrics & Hereford Clerics: The Implications of Mobility, c. 1300-51,” Daniel Birkholz (Assistant Professor of English, University of Texas at Austin) examined a collection of Middle English “love” poems and their relationship to the mobility of Hereford clerics in the fourteenth century. As Birkholz demonstrated, the Lyrics engage in the theme of travel, but also center on the notion of “a return to the beloved.” Through his interpretation of the Lyrics, Birkholz established that the Hereford clerics expressed the experience of “being world-weary and down-home both.” He furthermore compared the way in which the Lyrics functioned to affirm the centrality of Hereford to the community of clerics with a graphic depiction of the same idea in the Hereford cathedral’s mappamundi, which portrays Hereford as the center of Christendom.

Marina Tolmachëva (Professor of History, Washington State University) presented “From Ptolemy to Idrisi to Ibn Sa’id al-Maghribi: A double puzzle in the Islamic cartography of Africa and the Indian Ocean,” in which she explored the cartographic work of Abu Abdallah Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Abdallah Ibn Idris al-Qurtubi al-Hasani. Tolmachëva contrasted the work of this cartographer, born in Spain and a member of the mid-twelfth-century court of Roger II of Sicily, with that of Ptolemy, on whom al-Idrisi’s maps depended heavily. By looking at the later work of Ibn Sa’id al-Maghribi, Tolmachëva raised questions about the influence of Ptolemy and al-Idrisi, and the transmission of Ptolemaic thought in the Islamic Middle Period.

In the final paper of the day, “Currents and Currency in Marco Polo’s *Divisement du monde* and *The Book of John Mandeville*,” Suzanne Akbari (Associate Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Medieval Studies, University of Toronto) discussed the way in which the works of both authors approached the issue of flow and reciprocity. Both are works of medieval Orientalism, Akbari argues, but they construct two different Orientals. Mandeville’s is sacred; Polo’s, mercantile. Thus, the appearance of both currents and currency assume spiritual and mercantile forms respectively to indicate the origins and directional flow of spiritual blessings and financial gains.

―Corinne Wieben
The Faculty Times

Cynthia Brown (French and Italian) was invited to give a lecture at Stanford University, March 10-11, 2005, “From Stage to Page: The Celebration of Queen and Chronicler in Pierre Gringore’s Royal Entry Books.” Likewise, on April 7, 2005, she gave a lunch seminar for the Renaissance Society of America, Cambridge, England, the first session ever organized on Pierre Gringore. Her paper was titled “In Praise of Marriage and Authorship: Pierre Gringore’s Complai-\ntente de Trop Tard Marié.” While in Europe she also conducted a workshop, entitled “Matérialité et Textualité: le discours du livre à la Renaissance,” and presented a paper entitled “De la mise en scène à la mise en page: L’entrée royale de Marie d’Angleterre (1514).” Both were held April 9, 2005, at the University of Paris IV (Sorbonne).

Jody Enders (French and Italian) was recently elected as a Council Member, Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society and has a forthcoming article in Mediaevalia (2005) entitled “Death by Dance.” Jody also presented two papers at the MLA in December: “Marital Rape and the Medieval Theater of Everyday Life” and “Walter J. Ong at the Crossroads of Medieval Cultural Studies.” In February, she gave a talk at Stanford: “Memories and Allegories of the Death Penalty: Back to the Medieval Future? Thinking Allegory Otherwise in the Twenty-First Century.” In May, she is scheduled to talk about two current projects: “Medieval Theater on Trial: Performance, Performativity, and the Death Penalty” at the Conference on Performance/Performativity in the Middle Ages, University of Chicago and “Murder by Accident: Theater, Medievalism, and Critical Intentions,” Northwestern University.

In addition to her contribution “Seeing is Not Believing” in The Passion of the Christ: Biblical and Theological Perspectives (See UCSB Medieval Studies Newsletter v.4 no. 1), her article “Coups de théâtre and the Passion for Vengeance” will be published in The Passion Story: from Visual Representation to Social Drama. Ed. Marcia Kupfer. University Park: Penn State University Press (forthcoming).

Francis A. Dutra (History) recently published “Cavaleiros e comendadores e os capítulos gerais da Ordem de Santiago, de 1550 e 1564: estudo preliminar” in Isabel Cristina Ferreira Fernandes, ed., As Ordens Militares e as Ordens de Cavalaria na Construção do Mundo Ocidental. Actas do IV Encontro sobre Ordens Militares (Edições Colibri/Câmara Municipal de Palmela, 2005).

Sharon Farmer (History) was awarded both an NEH Fellowship and a Guggenheim for her next book-length project: From Saracen Work to Oeuvre de Paris: Oriental Luxuries, Parisian Crafts, and the Making of Europe’s Fashion Capital.

Carol Braun Pasternack (English) co-edited Sex and Sexuality in Anglo-Saxon England: Essays in Memory of Daniel Gillmore Calder with Lisa M. C. Weston, published in the MRTS series (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, 2004). In this volume, she also co-wrote the introduction to a comprehensive review of gender, sex and sexuality studies of medieval English texts, and contributed a chapter entitled “The Sexual Practices of Virginity and Chastity in Aldhelm’s De virginitate” published in the same volume.
The Graduate Student Register

Nicole Archambeau (History) received a History Associates Fellowship from the UCSB History Associates.

Josh Birk (History) has accepted a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Eastern Illinois University. In addition, Josh will be presenting a paper at Kalamazoo in May and at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds in July. Josh was also the recipient of the Richard K. Mayberry Award from the UCSB Department of History.

Donna Beth Ellard (English) presented a paper entitled “Beowulf’s Deathbed Confessions: History and Heroic Language” at the Medieval Association of the Pacific’s annual conference in San Francisco in March.

Mary Lampe (History) gave a paper at the Vagantes conference at the Univeristy of Notre Dame. Mary also presented a paper at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Cambridge, UK. Afterwards she traveled to Paris and then on to Palermo to continue her archival research. While in Sicily, she will present another paper at the Mediterranean Studies Conference at the University of Messina.

Mark O’Tool (History) continues his archival research of the Quinze-Vingts in Paris. Mark, through his association with the Institut de Recherche et d’Histoire des Textes, presented a portion of his research for the seminar “Paris au Moyen-Age” in April. At the end of April, he presented a paper at the Spring Conference of the Graduate Medievalists at Berkeley. In addition, he is currently serving as a board member for the International Medieval Society Paris, a non-profit organization that provides a network for medievalists, French and foreign alike, who work, research, or pass through Paris. For more information, please contact him or see their website, http://www.ims-paris.org/. Mark also received the C. Warren Hollister Memorial Fellowship from the UCSB Department of History.

Bethanie Petersen (History) received the J. Bruce Anderson Memorial Fellowship from the UCSB Department of History as an outstanding TA in the department.

Jeanne Provost (English) organized a session and will be presenting her paper, “Fated Troth and the Right to Make Promises in Gower’s ‘Tale of Florent,’” at the UCSB Spring Conference and again at the Leeds Medieval Congress in July.

Randi Schiff (English) has accepted a tenure track assistant Professor position in the English Department at SUNY Buffalo.

Tom Sizgorich (History) has accepted an endowed chair at the University of New Mexico.

Katrin Sjursen (History) delivered a paper “Temporary Fighters, Permanent Commanders: French Noblewomen’s Martial Roles” at UCLA’s Women and Gender Symposium, entitled “Women of Violence in the Medieval World.” She received a department travel award to deliver “Mindful of her blood: The Gender and Social Status of Women Commanders in Medieval France,” at Kalamazoo in May. In addition, Katie organized the panel session; “Who Were the Alpha-males? Factoring Gender and Violence into Medieval Identities.” Katie also received the Marjorie Milbank Farrar Memorial Award, offered by the Society for French Historical Studies and a History Associate Fellowship from the UCSB History Associates.

Corinne Wieben (History) presented her paper “‘Foster-mother of vipers’: Santa Verdiana, Episcopal Conflict, and the Commune of Castelfiorentino” at the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific at San Francisco State University and again at the California Medieval History Seminar at the Huntington Library on May 21, 2005. In addition, Corinne received a Fulbright for her research in Lucca, Italy and the Esme Frost Fellowship from the UCSB Department of History.
Exhibitions in the UCSB Area

October 18, 2005 – January 8, 2006
Painted Prayers: Books of Hours from the Morgan Library, the Getty.
This exhibition will provide visitors the opportunity to see books of hours from the Pierpont Morgan Library’s famous collection. These books of hours, produced in France, England, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, and Spain, date from the 13th through the 16th centuries. Among the collection on display are The Psalter-Hours of Yolande de Soissons, The Hours of Catherine of Cleves, The Hours of Henry VIII, and The Farnese Hours.

March 29 – June 12, 2005
Manuscripts in Miniature: Italian Manuscripts from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, The Getty.
This exhibition examines Italian manuscript painting from the 1200s through the 1500s, focusing on five centers of manuscript production in Italy.

June 28 – October 2, 2005
Shrine and Shroud: Textiles in Illuminated Manuscripts, the Getty.
This exhibition, focuses on the relationship between manuscripts and textiles. Pieces of textile were used in manuscripts and textile-inspired designs are evident in a number of illuminated manuscripts. The exhibition also explores the role of textiles as shrines and shrouds.

Value of Annual Meetings

Continued from page 2

at the bar alongside a row of distinguished medievalists, all enjoying themselves. At the Medieval Academy meeting Josh Birk read a well-received paper on teaching outside one’s immediate medieval field. I also had the pleasure of witnessing both a fellow Toronto student, Michael McCormick, win the Haskins prize for his recent monumental tome on the early medieval economy, and a former teacher, Virginia Brown, win a teaching award, while my former student at Notre Dame won the best first article competition.

The Renaissance Society was much the same, although there is some difference between walking back to the hotel through a fen or next to the warm waters of the Atlantic. Another high point was lunch at Clare College under the twice life size painting of one of my favorite English generals, Lord Cornwallis, a graduate of Clare. Carol Lansing and I along with numerous eminent scholars of medieval Italy heard Mary Lampe give an excellent paper on merchants in thirteenth and fourteenth century Palermo. Mary then had several fine opportunities to discuss her evolving research before she departed for Palermo to work in its rich archival holdings.

Mary’s joy at getting back to her archive and friends in Palermo made me look forward to getting back to Tuscany soon to finish my own book on fourteenth-century Siena. Seeing again successful friends and colleagues, making a wide range of scholars aware of our program, attending international meetings of people interested in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and looking forward to the prospect of enjoyable research and writing point to the many good reasons to study the Middle Ages.

—Edward English
Spotlight Scholar
Randy Schiff Resituates Alliterative Texts

Randy Schiff is finishing up his dissertation, *Alliterative Revivalism: Oppositional Poetics in Late Medieval Britain*, which he is writing under the direction of Professors L.O. Aranye Fradenburg, Carol Braun Pasternack, and Richard Helgerson. In his dissertation, he resituates alliterative texts in their socio-political contexts, with the larger goal of isolating regionally specific “Revivals” in the Anglo-Scottish Borderlands, the Northwest Midlands, and the Southwest Midlands-London nexus. At the same time, he keeps in the foreground what he calls the “layers of editorial and critical baggage” of “Revivalist” critics, who have, for better or worse, shaped the way medievalists view late medieval alliterative texts. Schiff’s research focuses on the 19th- and early 20th-century editors who have shaped our literary histories through the concept of an “Alliterative Revival” of the 14th Century, such as George Saintsbury and J.R. Hulbert. Informed by the New Philological focus on the materiality of literary texts, Schiff aims to steer scholarship towards questions of current social practice, rather than continuity with Old English traditions. His analyses pursue the hypothesis that alliterative texts feature subjects that are significantly “other”—with respect to regional, ethnic, and socioeconomic identity—to those of an increasingly royalist and Francophile South. He focuses on the manner in which late medieval alliterative texts feature marginalized subjects. The marginalized subjects mirror the provincial provenance of much of the literature, which was produced in regions on the geo-political margins of the monarchical center, London.

He has also been working on a paper about the representations of the medieval world in the films of Akira Kurosawa, as well as an encyclopedia article on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

Randy has accepted a tenure-track position at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is looking forward to his first semester teaching, where he will begin with two undergraduate courses—a course on Chaucer’s dream visions and *The Canterbury Tales*, and a survey course on medieval Arthurian Literature, which will cover works translated from Latin, Old French, and Middle English. In the Spring 2006, he will teach another undergraduate course as well as a graduate seminar, in which he will look at the medieval “writing of empire” through the lens of post-colonial theoretical perspectives.

Editor’s Website Picks

Voice of the Shuttle Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pages:  [http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2740](http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2740)

Under the direction of Alan Liu, Randy Schiff and Zia Isola updated and expanded the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval research pages of the Voice of the Shuttle, a research database for the humanities, created and maintained by the English Department’s Transcriptions Project. The site contains a wealth of annotated links to digital resources for medieval scholars in all disciplines.
Identity Formation in the Middle Ages: Images, Literature and Culture

The Fourth Annual UCSB Medieval Studies, Graduate Student Conference, 16 April 2005

This year’s final conference of the Medieval Studies Program drew a talented array of panelists from a variety of disciplines as well as a large audience from both the academic and local communities. Four graduate students from three departments (Music, English, and the Department of Art and Architecture) presented on the topic. Plenary speaker R. Howard Bloch presented a portion of his upcoming book on the Bayeux Tapestry and Anglo-Norman identity. The papers were well-received and generated lively discussion amongst the participants and the attendees who met in the McCune Conference Room in HSSB.

James Vincent Maiello (Music, UCSB) argued that the incorporation of the “L’homme armé” tradition into two masses written at the court of Ferrante of Naples highlighted not only Ferrante’s involvement with the Burgundian Order of the Golden Fleece—with which the l’homme armé tradition was clearly associated—but also Ferrante’s desire to place his own court on equal footing with other great courts of the era, including Florence, Rome and Venice. The use of a specifically northern tradition of music in conjunction with Ferrante’s desire to attract northern musical composers to his court reveals his cultural and political aspirations in establishing Naples as one of Europe’s great courts.

Liberty Stanavage (English, UCSB) focused on the York Register, an English manuscript begun in the second decade of the fourteenth century that represented the civic government’s attempt to regulate the contents and performance of the annual guild pageantry. Stanavage argued that viewing the register as a fixed text is not only incorrect, but overlooks the function of the text itself as a civic document. The register was not the only copy of the pageantry programs; guilds maintained their own private pageant texts from which the plays were delivered each year. The register was used to restrict and regulate performance scripts. Stanavage concluded that the York Register thus acted as a continual reminder of the civic government’s control over the guilds, and represented the somewhat successful attempt of that government to establish its identity as head of not only the city, but of the powerful guild organizations as well.

Plenary speaker R. Howard Bloch (Augustus R. Street Professor of French, Yale University) presented his paper, “The Weaving of England: The Bayeux Tapestry and the Forging of Anglo-Norman Identity.” Bloch pointed out that scholars who view the provenance of the famous tapestry as specifically English or French have missed stylistic elements.

“The Tapestry points to the future, Bloch concluded, as well as the past and represents a vision of what would become the Anglo-Norman world.”

Bayeux Tapestry
French have missed stylistic elements emblematic of both cultures, as well as an older Scandinavian tradition. Bloch made use of a wide range of data to present his case, concluding that the tapestry represents an attempt at a peaceful “weaving together” of cultures so lately at odds in the Norman Conquest. However, this peaceful agenda is complicated by the presence of Eastern stylistic elements—such as paired animal figures and embroidered borders—that foreshadow Norman ambitions in the Middle East (fifteen to twenty years before the conquerors were to lead the first Crusades). The tapestry, Bloch concluded, points to the future, as well as the past, and represents a vision of what would become the Anglo-Norman world.

Jeanne Provost (English, UCSB) examined the relationship between memory and power in Gower’s Tale of Florent. This tale tells the story of a knight who haplessly kills the favorite son of a powerful house and then, as penance, is sent on a quest to discover within a year’s time what is the heart’s desire of all women. With his time nearly up, and the answer no clearer than when he began, he finally learns what he needs to know from a horrible old crone, who tells him only in exchange for his promise to marry her. Provost argued that the relationship between the crone and the knight is essentially a didactic one, and that what the loathly lady teaches him is to restructure his memory. Provost then considered this claim in light of the references to memory in important medieval legal texts, such as Bracton’s On the Laws and Customs of England, and suggest that the concepts of proper remembering and licit behavior were closely linked in the imaginations of fourteenth-century English elites.

Jennifer Hammerschmidt (Art and Architecture, UCSB) presented the final paper of the day, “Viewing and Identity in Rogier Van der Weyden’s Seven Sacraments Altarpiece.” The painting presents an interior crucifixion scene set within a generic Gothic cathedral in the fifteenth century; surrounding the central figure of Christ are scenes depicting the seven sacraments. In the background a priest elevates the host before an altar, ritually reproducing Christ’s incarnation and sacrifice. Hammerschmidt explained the painting’s layered imagery, which addresses the importance of the sacraments for medieval spiritual identity. But it is the painted frame, with its accompanying coat of arms of the bishop who commissioned the work—Jean Chevrot—that reveals an important and often overlooked message of the painting. Hammerschmidt argues that these references to Chevrot stressed his role in commissioning the work, which itself facilitated the viewer’s devotional experience. Thus through the inclusion of the Chevrot coat of arms in Van der Weyden’s work, Bishop Chevrot was able to further his identity as spiritual patron of the Church.

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The French of England: Visiting Scholar Jocelyn Wogan-Browne Illustrates the Diversity and Breadth of Anglo-Norman Texts

Jocelyn Wogan-Browne (Dept. of English, Fordham University), visited UCSB in February to share her work on Anglo-Norman literature. Her visit to UCSB began with a stopover at Carol Pasternack’s Orality and Textuality graduate seminar, where she led a fascinating session about different French-language versions of the Albina story (a prologue to the Brut), discussing both the diversity of the materials and the ways in which they foreshadowed and contradicted the more well-known Brut materials. The session related to a larger project that Wogan-Browne is working on, the Albina project, which examines the interrelationships among versions of the albina, as well as the connections between these versions and the Brut. The website for the project can be found at: http://www.fordham.edu/frenchofengland/albina.html.

Dr. Wogan-Browne then proceeded to her main engagement for the day, her talk on “The French of England,” at the McCune conference room. According to Wogan-Browne, prior scholarship has tended to dismiss Anglo-Norman literature as short-lived in England or as indicating a coterie circulation. Contrary to these studies, Wogen-Browne stated that French-language texts continued to be circulated and composed throughout the 14th and 15th centuries in England, meaning that the Anglo-Norman corpus shows a 400 year span of multilingual literary composition and scholarship in England. Wogan-Browne also noted that the genres and subjects of Anglo-Norman literature show considerable overlap with English works of the period and that standard ideas of linguistic hierarchy in Norman England do not reflect the diversity and overlap of these materials. To those interested in seeing the scope of Anglo-Norman works she suggested Ruth Jay Dean’s Anglo-Norman Literature: A Guide to Texts and Manuscripts as a resource, which surveys the entire surviving corpus. As part of her broader topic, Wogan-Browne gave a close reading of images from the Lambeth Apocalypse to show the importance of counting to the construction of the reading self, as well as how women made up an important part of the text’s intended literary audience.

—Liberty Stanavage

Identity Formation

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The event drew to a close in the late afternoon, and was followed by a reception made possible through the combined contributions of UCSB’s Graduate Division, Medieval Studies Program, French and Italian Department, the Music Department and the IHC. Many thanks are owed to the sponsors, the participants, and last but not least the organizers, Bethanie Petersen and Corinne Wieben, who all helped to make this successful event possible.

—Karen Frank
Religious Studies Department Considers Two Medievalists for an Endowed Catholic Studies Chair

Medieval Studies faculty and students recently had the pleasure of attending two excellent lectures, both of which were part of the Religious Studies Department’s search for a suitable candidate to fill their endowed chair in Catholic Studies. Richard Kieckhefer (Department of History, Northwestern University) and E. Ann Matter (Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania) were the two medievalists of three scholars chosen to come and speak as part of the job search.

The endowment itself was incepted in 2001 when Charles R. Schwab pledged $1 million to support Catholic Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In making his contribution, Schwab also sought to honor Father Virgil Cordano, a Franciscan Friar and pastor at the Santa Barbara Mission, an important member of the Santa Barbara Catholic community and a Schwab family friend.

Kieckhefer’s talk focused on two distinct late medieval mystical approaches to the question of Christ’s presence: Meister Eckhart’s apophatic theology and Gertrude Helfta’s cataphatic spirituality. He argued that both approaches form central components of the history of Catholic spirituality. This lecture returned to themes found in his earlier work Unquiet Souls: Fourteenth-Century Saints and Their Religious Milieu (1984). A brief overview of Kieckhefer’s main monographs reveals a diverse and broad scholarly career. His published books include Repression of Heresy in Medieval Germany (1979), Magic in the Middle Ages (1989), and Forbidden Rites: A Necromancer’s Manual of the Fifteenth Century (1998).

E. Ann Matter’s talk traced the reception of the Bible in Catholic tradition back to the medieval practices of reading and interacting with the text. She considered not only the way the Glossa Ordinarii ordered biblical text and commentary on the page, but also the way in which scripture itself was broken into smaller units based on technological and exegetical factors. In so doing, Matter addressed the lacuna first noted by Smoley in 1940 that historians had failed to study the medieval tradition of bible study, namely study of the most studied book in the Middle Ages. Matter also challenged current scholarly approaches to the Bible, which employ a historiographical apparatus determined by categories that are only appropriate to a period when Protestants and Catholics debated the right approach to scripture. Matter’s scholarly work ranges over a number of important domains. Not only does she write on biblical commentary in the Middle Ages as can be seen in her book The Voice of My Beloved: The Song of Songs in Western Medieval Christianity (1992), but she has also done extensive work on medieval Italian women. Furthermore, she has done students and scholars a great service through her many translations and critical editions. These include Lucia Brocadelli da Narni, “Liber” (Seven Revelations) text and introduction in Archivum fratern. Praedicatorum LXXI (2001), 3. Alberto Affieri’s Ogdoas (1421), edition and translation with introduction. She is also co-editor of The New Cambridge History of the Bible, vol. 2, The Middle Ages.

Although the Religious Studies Department has not announced their final decision on the position, the prospect of having another medievalist is one many students in the Medieval Studies Program would meet with great enthusiasm as either scholar would contribute significantly to the already strong program at UCSB.

—Heidi Marx-Wolf
Upcoming Conferences

International Medieval Congress 2005: Youth and Age, Leeds, July 11-14. For more information visit the International Medieval Congress website: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/imi/imc/imc.htm

Florilegium: 23rd Annual Graduate Student Medieval Studies Conference
Yale Univ., New Haven, Connecticut, October 29, 2005. Deadline for 250-word abstracts: June 15, 2005. Contact: Irina Dumitrescu, Yale Station Box 206585, New Haven, CT 06520-6585; or Sara McDougall, email sara.mcdougall@yale.edu.

Medieval Association of the Pacific: 40th Annual Meeting March 3-4 2006, Salt Lake City, UT. Deadline for abstracts due November 1, 2005. See their website for more information http://medieval.ucdavis.edu/map/