

# The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh Newsletter

No. 57: October, 2004

Electronic address: <http://www.pitt.edu/~medren/>

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Prepared and distributed by the Executive Committee of the Medieval and  
Renaissance Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh  
Alison Stones, Editor

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We welcome David Karmon who is visiting the History of Art and Architecture Department this year and teaching Italian Renaissance art. And congratulations to Déborah Blocker and her husband and to Adam Shear and his wife on the births of their offspring!

New this year, and much welcomed, is the Pittsburgh Medieval and Renaissance Consortium, an umbrella for our interests in our region, run by Michael Witmore of CMU: for details see <http://english.cmu.edu/medren/>.

## Lectures this Fall

Wednesday, 22 September, at 4:30 pm in CL 144 (English Nationality Room)

**Bruce Venarde**, University of Pittsburgh

'Your Daughter's Going to Hell' and Other Adventures in Medieval Latin Culture.'

Bruce Venarde is Associate Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh. He has also taught at Harvard and Tufts Universities. His books include *Women's Monasticism and Medieval Society: Nunneries in France and England, 890-1215* (Cornell University Press, 1997) and *Robert of Arbrissel: A Medieval Religious Life* (Catholic University of America Press, 2004). His current project, on culture and religion in late Romanesque France, is called 'The Loire Valley Humanists.' This talk has been generously co-sponsored by the departments of History and Religious Studies.

Friday, 15 October, at 4 pm in the Giant Eagle Auditorium (BHA51, Lower Level), Baker Hall (CMU)

## Eve Sussman

Eve Sussman's work received wide acclaim this year at the Whitney Biennial where she exhibited her piece, '89 Seconds at Alcazar,' a high-definition video recreation of the scene surrounding the painting of Velasquez's 'Las Meninas.' Of the piece, Mark Stevens writes in *New York Magazine*: 'For those who love painting, the most memorable work in the show will probably not be a painting but Eve Sussman's '89 Seconds at Alcazar,' an astonishing video that shows Velázquez painting Las Meninas. As the master paints, we see the king and queen, the dwarf, the little prince, the burly dog, and the servants wandering about the room. Sometimes, they are talking, but what we hear is like the murmur of voices from another room. The work is uncanny. The characters have stepped out of art into art, our art.'

This event has been organized by the Pittsburgh Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and co-sponsored by the [Carnegie Mellon Department of Art](#).

Friday, 22 October, at 4 pm in CL 501

**William Kennedy**, Cornell University

'Petrarch and Ronsard as 'Economic Men': Interest and Growth in the *Rime sparse* and the Futures of Later Petrarchism.'

William J. Kennedy teaches the history of European literature and literary criticism from antiquity to the early modern period. His interests focus on Italian, French, English, and German texts from Dante to Milton. His *Jacopo Sannazaro and the Uses of Pastoral* (University Press of New England, 1983), recipient of the MLA's Marraro Prize, traces the rise of modern pastoral from ancient models. His *Authorizing Petrarch* (Cornell University Press, 1994) explores the canonizing imitations of that poet's work throughout Europe. His most recent book is *The Site of Petrarchism: Early Modern National Sentiment in Italy, France, and England* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

Friday, 29 October, at 4 pm in the Giant Eagle Auditorium (BHA51, Lower Level), Baker Hall (CMU)

## **Rosamond Purcell**

Rosamond Purcell, distinguished photographer, artist, collector and author, will be lecturing on her most recent project, the 'Two Rooms' installation at Harvard -- a painstaking recreation of the Danish naturalist Olaus Worm's curiosity cabinet (1657) with a contemporary 'collection' curated by the artist. Purcell has collaborated with Stephen Jay Gould on a book about collecting and collectors entitled [Finders Keepers](#), is the author of [Special Cases](#) — a study of monsters and marvels in early modernity — and most recently, [Owl's Head](#), a series of essays on her relationship with William Buckminster and his prolific collection of junk in Maine.

Purcell will be discussing her recent extension of the 'Two Rooms' project, which involves reproducing various seventeenth century display techniques and objects. The lecture should be of interest to anyone interested in the history of museums and collecting, Renaissance art and aesthetics, and contemporary art and photography. This talk has been organized by the Pittsburgh Consortium for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and co-sponsored by the [Silver Eye Gallery](#) in Pittsburgh and the [Center for the Arts and Society](#), Carnegie Mellon University.

Tuesday, 2 November, at 4 pm in William Pitt Union, Dining Room A

## **Elliot Wolfson**, New York University

'Othering the Other: Polemic Images of Christianity and Islam in Medieval Kabbalah.'

Elliot Wolfson is the Judge Abraham Lieberman Professor of [Hebrew Studies](#) at NYU. He is an expert in Jewish mysticism and philosophy and publishes widely on gender construction and the history of religion. His numerous books include *Through a Speculum That Shines: Vision and Imagination in Medieval Jewish Mysticism* (Princeton University Press, 1994), which won the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Historical Studies. This talk has been organized by the departments of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies.

Friday, 19 November, at 4 pm in Frick Fine Arts Building 202

## **Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt**, New York University

'Self and Status in Renaissance Portraits: Some Alternative Approaches.'

Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt writes on high Renaissance painting and sculpture and has published widely on Michelangelo.

## **Other Events**

At Duquesne University: Wednesday, October 20, 6:30 pm, Duquesne University Student Union 610 (for directions, see <http://www.duq.edu/frontpages/main/campusMap.html>).

**Déborah Blocker**, Department of French and Italian, The University of Pittsburgh: 'Texts, Traditions, Transmissions: Aristotle's \*Poetics\* in Early Modern Europe'

This Fall's major exhibition at the **Cleveland Museum** is **Art from the Court of Burgundy: The Patronage of Dukes Philip the Bold and John the Fearless (1363-1419)**, from 24 October 2004 to 9 January, 2005 (see <http://www.clevelandart.org>). Not to be missed! Alison Stones will take her students on Oct. 24, Oct.

30 (for the one-day symposium) and Nov. 20. There may be space for other medievalists: if you or your students would like to come along, email [mastones@hotmail.com](mailto:mastones@hotmail.com).

### **Newberry Library**

The Newberry has excellent resources in the early history of the book including manuscripts and incunabula as well as a first-rate collection of secondary materials in areas of interest to medieval and renaissance scholars. Pitt participates regularly in Newberry programs and again this year is co-sponsoring the History of the Book series. **Funds are available** through Pitt's membership in the Newberry Library Consortium for faculty and students to attend events at the Newberry and/or do research there. Contact Janelle Greenberg, History Department ([janelleg@pitt.edu](mailto:janelleg@pitt.edu)) for information and see the Newberry website <http://www.newberry.org>. We encourage faculty and graduate students to make the most of our Consortium membership. Please remind graduates about the Annette Kade Fellowship in French or German Studies in the Middle Ages or Renaissance, and the Newberry Library-Ecole des Chartes Exchange Fellowship, both deadlines in January, and about the forthcoming summer palaeography courses: Italian in 2005, French in 2006, and English at the Folger in 2006. Further details on the Newberry's website listed above. The Newberry has excellent resources in the early history of the book including manuscripts and incunabula as well as a first-rate collection of secondary materials in areas of interest to medieval and renaissance scholars.

### **News from the Departments**

#### **English**

**Marianne Novy** presented papers on Shylock's conversion in the context of other forced early modern conversions at the conference of the Shakespeare Association of America in New Orleans in April, and also in May in Washington D.C, at the Folger Institute seminar on the English Reformation led by Diarmuid MacCulloch, in which she was a participant.

**Kellie Robertson** has co-edited (along with Michael Uebel) a collection of essays entitled, *The Middle Ages at Work: Practicing Labor in Late Medieval England* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004). The volume includes her essay, 'Branding and the Technologies of Labor Regulation.' In May, she gave a paper entitled 'Jack Cade and Rebel Drag' at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo. In July, she travelled to Glasgow, Scotland, for the New Chaucer Society Meeting, where she gave two papers ('Imperialism, a Medieval Cargo Cult?' and 'Chaucer Behind Glass').

#### **French and Italian**

**Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski** published an entry on Catherine of Siena in the *Supplement to the Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. William C. Jordan (New York, 2004) and also gave two lectures: at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy in Seattle in April she presented 'Politics, Gender, and the Discernment of Spirits: Three Examples from the Time of the Great Schism,' and in September she was invited to speak at Princeton University on 'Political Allegory and the Great Schism of the Western Church.'

**Dennis Looney** has been appointed Assistant Dean in the Humanities in A&S. He is also serving as president of the executive council of the Association for Departments of Foreign Languages, 2004. He has had two essays reprinted in anthologies in the past year: 'Tasso's Allegory of the Source in *Gerusalemme Liberata*,' cap. 5 of *Compromising the Classics*, rpt. in *Literature Criticism*, ed. Thomas Schoenberg, vol. 94 (Gale, 2004); 'Recent Trends in Ariosto Criticism: Intricati rami e aer fosco,' *Modern Philology* 88:2 (1990): 153-65, rpt. in *Literature Criticism*, ed. Thomas Schoenberg, vol. 87 (Gale, 2003). He gave two invited lectures: 'Petrarch's Coronation Oration,' Conference on 'Petrarch: A Life's Work.' University of Pennsylvania, April 2004; 'Dante in Black and White,' Bard College, May 2004. He gave two conference papers: 'A Reconsideration of the Prefaces to Boiardo's Translations for Ercole I d'Este,' Renaissance Society of America, New York, 2004; 'Ariosto Minore,' American Association of Italian Studies, Univ. Ottawa, 2004.

**Daniel Russell** spoke in April on 'Petrarch and Emblems' at the Western Pennsylvania Symposium on World Literatures. In May (6-8), he attended the annual meeting of the North American Society for Seventeenth Century French Literature in Portland OR, where he read a paper on 'Illustrating Ovid: From

Memory Aid to Courtly Satire.' He has recently become 'Managing Editor' of *Emblematica* and is currently preparing volume 14. Daniel has been named a 'collaborator' of GRES (Groupe de recherche sur les entrées solennelles). This research team, based at Concordia University in Montreal, consists of a director, 7 researchers, and 5 collaborators (consulting specialists in ancillary fields). The project is a 12-volume edition of all French Renaissance Royal Entries to be published by Champion. It is funded for five years at \$1,000,000+ by the Canadian government. So far Daniel has lectured to the group on emblems this past August, and participated in September in their successful 2.5-year review.

**Barbara Sargent-Baur** published two articles: 'Los et repos: à propose d'une lecture de *Cligés*,' *Romania* 121 (2003), 526-38; and 'Accidental Symmetry: the First and Last Episodes of Bérout's *Roman de Tristan*,' *Neophilologus* 88 (2004), 335-51.

### History

**Janelle Greenberg** gave a paper at the North American Conference on British Studies in Philadelphia in October, entitled '1641 Come Again? Continuities and Discontinuities in Stuart Political Thought from the Civil Wars to the Glorious Revolution.'

**Jonathan Scott** has given a talk entitled 'The Mariners and the Ship: James Harrington's prescription for healing and settling' to both a conference on seventeenth century English royalism at Clare College, Cambridge in late July, and the British Studies seminar at the University of Kansas in Lawrence on October 1st. In September in the *Historical Journal* he published an article entitled 'What were commonwealth principles?' based in part on his inaugural lecture here at Pitt the previous October. And he had two entries in the new *Dictionary of National Biography* which was published by Oxford University Press also in September: one on the republican political writer Algernon Sidney, 1623-1683, and the other on the diplomat and political economist Sir George Downing, 1623-1684.

### History of Art and Architecture

**Fil Hearn**'s recent book, *Ideas That Shaped Buildings*, published by MIT Press, received Foreword Magazine's Silver Award for books on architecture at the 2004 Chicago Book Mart. The text is now being translated into Spanish and Chinese for re-publication respectively in Europe and South America and in East Asia. Continuing as Director of Architectural Studies, he was the organizer and sponsor of a guest lecture by Dr. Eleanor Mannikka, 'Angkor Wat and the Transformation of Space into Time,' on October 14, co-sponsored by the Architecture Club, the Honors College, the Indo-Pacific Council of the Asian Studies Center, and the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He will be on sabbatical leave in the Spring Term of 2005 to work on writing a book-length narrative of the building of the Early Gothic portion of Canterbury Cathedral.

**Ann Sutherland Harris**'s book, *Seventeenth-Century Art and Architecture*, came out in September (Pearson-Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey), 426 pp., 410 illustrations, 185 in color. It surveys painting, sculpture and architecture in Italy, Spain, France, Flanders, the Dutch Republic and England. She published a review article on *Disegnatore Virtuoso. Die Zeichnungen des Pier Francesco Mola und seines Kreises*, catalogue by Sonja Brink, at museum kunst palast (sic!), Sammlung der Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf, 2002 in *Master Drawings*, Vol. 42, no. 3, 2004, pp. 262-268, in which she sorts out the identity of G. B. Pace, whose drawings have been confused with those of Mola. The catalogue of the exhibition, *Master Drawings in Pittsburgh Collections*, opening at the Frick Museum here on October 20, contains catalogue entries prepared in her graduate seminar of 2001 as well as a couple of entries by a recent art history major now in graduate school at the University of Maryland, and two by Ann herself (on drawings by Anthony van Dyck and Thomas Gainsborough).

**Alison Stones** gave several talks: 'Some Portraits of Women in their Books, 13-14c.,' at the ARTES, Université de Lille conference on Women and Books, May 10; 'The Egerton *Brut*,' Wace Conference, Société jersiaise, Sept. 11; 'Who is In and Who is Out? The Cult of Saints along the Pilgrim's Route,' at *Visitandum est*, the VII Congreso de Estudios Xacobeos, Santiago de Compostela, Sept. 18, and again at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Fall Conference on Medieval Pilgrimage, October 16. Photographs from <http://www.pitt.edu/~medart> were supplied to the Jerusalem school system (a capital from Vézelay of Moses and the Golden Calf), and to Patrick Honohan of the World Bank for the cover illustration

to *Financial Sector Policy and the Poor: Selected Findings and Issues* (World Bank Working Paper no. 43), Washington, D.C., 2004 (a relief from the porch of Moissac showing Dives and Lazarus).

**John Williams** gave three Lectures: 'Reconstructing the Lost Facades of Santiago', at the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Study Annual Meeting, UCLA, April 2, 2004; 'The Tomb of St. James: the View from the Other Side,' at the 39th International congress on Medieval Studies, W. Michigan University, 8 May 2004; and 'Filming Beatus,' at the Lincoln Center, New York city, Gala for Muse Film and Television. He published three articles: 'La Mujer del craneo y la simbología románica,' *Quintana*, 2, 2003, 13-27; '*Generaciones Abrahæ*: Iconografía de la Reconquista en León,' in *El Tímpano románico*, coord. Rocío Sánchez Amijeiras and José Luis Senra Gabriel y Galán, Santiago de Compostela, 2003, 157-80; and 'Los Beatos and the Reconquista,' in *Homenaje a Serafín Moralejo*, Santiago de Compostela, 2004. His article, 'Meyer Schapiro in Silos: Pursuing an Iconography of Style,' *Art Bulletin* 85 (2003): 442-68, won the 2004 Charles Julian Bishko Prize awarded by Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies for the 'Best Article on Medieval Iberia' published in 2003.

**Kate Dimitrova**, graduate student in the Ph.D. program, gave a paper at the International Medieval Conference in Leeds in July. She is spending 2004-5 in Brussels on a Fulbright Fellowship and has also been awarded grants from the Walter Read Hovey Memorial Fund and the Spanish-American Cultural Co-Operation Program. Her dissertation topic is the artistic patronage of Dalmau de Mur, Archbishop of Zaragoza, and his major commission, a set of tapestries of the Passion of Christ woven in Flanders.

### **Religious Studies**

**Bernard Goldstein**, University Professor Emeritus (Religious Studies and History & Philosophy of Science), has published two articles since the Newsletter of last March: 'Symmetry in Copernicus and Galileo', *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 35 (2004), 273-92 [with Giora Hon]; and 'Ptolemy, Bianchini, and Copernicus: Tables for Planetary Latitudes', *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*, 58 (2004) 453-73 [with José Chabás].

**Adam Shear** published 'Judah Moscato's Scholarly Self Image and the Question of Jewish Humanism,' in *Cultural Intermediaries: Jewish Intellectuals in Early Modern Italy*, ed. David Ruderman and Giuseppe Veltri (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004). In June, Adam and his wife celebrated the birth of their second child. He also began a term as undergraduate advisor in the Department of Religious Studies this fall.