Oénach: Journal of the Forum for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Ireland

Call for Submissions

Oénach: JFMRSI invites submissions for its first issue, to be published online in the summer of 2009. We welcome shorter articles on any topic Medieval and/or Renaissance, as well as new translations, and editions, manuscript descriptions, and other new findings, discoveries, and rediscoveries. The terms “Medieval” and “Renaissance” are intended in their broadest and most inclusive sense; that is:

- from the Late Antique to the Early Modern periods (roughly 4th - early 17th centuries CE/AD), in all parts of the world;
- including other cultures’ equivalents to a “Medieval,” “Renaissance,” or “post-Classical and pre-Modern” period (if this happens to fall outside the aforementioned chronological period);
- including comparative work, especially work crossing traditional boundaries between “Medieval” and “Renaissance,” and work discussing - and indeed questioning - the very terms themselves.

To combat our field’s (broadly speaking) characteristic slow turn-around time and consequent slowness in pace, and in the interests of intellectual re-invigoration, Oénach is a digital journal and specializes in articles of two types:

- 2,500-4,000 words: shorter articles building, for example, on material presented recently at colloquia and conferences, or as postgraduate course-work;
- 6,000-7,500 words: we will be publishing at most two or three such medium-length articles per issue.

For further details and a style sheet see: http://oenach.wordpress.com/ or contact the editors at oenach.journal@gmail.com.
Saint of the Month No 2:
Christina Mirabilis, also known as Christina the Astonishing (c. 1150-1224)

Feast Day: June 24
Offers protection against a range of mental illnesses. Patron saint of the mentally ill, physiatrists and mental health workers

The life of Christina, recorded by Thomas de Cantimpre, is indeed a strange and enigmatic affair. Born near Liège, Belgium in 1150, Christina seemingly died at age 21, returning to life at her funeral. Inspired by a vision of souls suffering in Purgatory, Christina offered her physical earthly pain to ease the passage of the dead to Heaven. Bodily torments included entering the graves of the dead, self-starvation, hanging herself on the gallows, walking through fire and standing in ice cold river waters. Ending her days in a convent, Christina would die twice at the age of 74; the pleading of an eager nun caused a brief resurrection before her final death. Despite the bizarre nature of her life, Christina was a highly respected member of the female spiritual community, especially among the Béguines at Liège; both Saints Marie D’Oignies and Lutgard of Aywieres make several praising references to her in their biographies, and over twenty-three manuscripts of her life in a variety of languages have survived to this day.

Further Reading:

Submitted by Grace Windsor, Dept of English, NUI Galway

Why Oénach?
The title of our journal: a popular assembly or gathering.
For the DIL entry see http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/07/19/oenach-the-fmrisjournal-title/
EXHIBITION REVIEW

‘My booke and my selfe’: Michel de Montaigne 1533 – 1592
Cambridge University Library

The Montaigne was donated by the family of Gilbert de Botton (1935-2000) to Cambridge University Library in 2008, and this remarkable collection is now open to the public until the end of the year. As well as books associated with Montaigne, and rare editions of his published works, the exhibition features ten of his personal volumes. These latter volumes are undoubtedly the key pieces in the collection, amongst them his heavily-annotated volumes of Lucretius’ *De rerum natura* (Denis Lambin, 1593), acquired from Eton College. Montaigne’s hand covers the blank flyleaves and margins of this volume, demonstrating his unique engagement with Lucretius. Other volumes owned by Montaigne and at one time housed in the famous circular library at his château, include a copy of Aimoin de Fleury’s chronicle of the Franks (Paris: apud Andream Wechelum, 1567), signed by Montaigne on the title page; Sophocles’ tragedies, a 1553 imprint, and Terence (also signed on the title page) from 1541. He also owned a first edition of Jacques Amyot’s translation of Plutarch’s *Moralia* (printed 1559).

Other volumes in the collection include an impressive selection of imprints of Montaigne’s own *Essais*, dating from 1580 – 1724. One edition was owned by Etienne Baluze, the librarian of Louis XIV’s finance minister, Colbert. There is also a copy of the famous English translation of *Essais* by John Florio in 1603, dedicated by Florio to Lucy, countess of Bedford and her daughter Anne. also on display are imprints of the *Essais* owned by Ben Jonson and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a letter from Voltaire on Montaigne, and several rare critical pieces relating to him, including a limited edition of Jorge Luis Borges’ *Montaigne, Walt Whitman* (1957) and Woolf’s *The Common Reader* (1925) in which she describes him as one of the few masters of the self-portrait in writing.

This exhibition, quite apart from its obvious interest in terms of early modern book culture, is an effective display of the fascinating directions book collections can take. Cambridge University Library have made excellent use of a limited display space and the books are splendidly shown. For anyone travelling to or near Cambridge in the run-up to Christmas the exhibition is well worth a visit, if only to pick up a free copy of the excellent, substantial and well-illustrated catalogue (compiled by Phillip Ford). Also, visitors who present a leaflet (available at the exhibition) to the CUP bookshop receive 20% off any title (including – but not limited to - several on Montaigne).

Until December 23rd, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR. Website: http://www.cul.ac.uk. Admission free. Monday – Friday, 09.00 – 18.00, Saturday 09.00 – 16.30. Closed Sunday.

Carrie Griffin

Have a Submission, Question or Suggestion? Contact the Editor, Carrie Griffin, at carrie.griffin@ucc.ie
MEMBER’S PROJECTS

Each month Cuttings runs a feature on the research activity being undertaken by its members. This month we hear from Grace Windsor, a doctoral researcher at the Department of English, NUI Galway.

The Other Estates: Saints, Lepers and Prostitutes in Medieval English Literature, 1200 to 1500

The body in the Medieval period was multi-layered and multi-vocal, acting as a metaphor not only for society and the universe but as a medium for the understanding of sexual and social identity. For such reasons, the purpose of my research is to examine the representations of the bodies of saints, lepers and prostitutes in Middle English literature.

My thesis works with three key, interconnected concepts in the Medieval imagination: religion, disease, and sexuality, interrogating a wide range of writers and genres to determine what types of bodies are most frequently represented in Medieval literature - are they male/female, confirmative/deviant, public/private, healthy/diseased? What relationship exists between these depictions and cultural institutions such as religion, medicine and the law? Who represents the body and what conflicts arise between male author and female subject, and vice versa? What cultural functions do these representations perform? Such inquiries will amply demonstrate the importance of a multivalent body to fluid gender and social identity in the Medieval period, the central hypothesis of this project.

My research has been kindly funded by the NUIG Department of English Doctoral Teaching Fellowship (September 2007 to August 2008) and by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (October 2008 to September 2010), and is supervised by Dr Catherine LaFarge.

Many thanks to Grace for her submission. Grace’s profile can be viewed at http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/05/19/grace-windsor/, and the programme for her upcoming conference, “Power in the Middle Ages”, here: http://medievalpower.com/call_for_papers.html.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO REVIEW FOR CUTTINGS?

We welcome reviews of the following exhibitions for publication in Cuttings.

Suggested exhibitions:

- The Long Room Exhibition, Nature’s Bounty, Trinity College Dublin, 3 October - 23 December 2008;
- Byzantium, 330-1453, Royal Academy of Arts London, until March 22;

If you are interested, please contact Cuttings editor Carrie Griffin (carrie.griffin@ucc.ie). We also welcome suggestions for review of other exhibitions also.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS FOR OÉNACH, JOURNAL OF THE FMRSI

The following books are available for review in the forthcoming first issue of Oénach: JFMRSI Reviews:

From the Gallica series (Boydell and Brewer) Gen. ed. Sarah Kay,
Fashion in Medieval France, Sarah-Grace Heller

Cultural Performances in Medieval France, eds E. Doss-Quinby, E. J. Burns, R. Krueger

The Medieval Warrior Aristocracy: Gifts, Violence, Performance, and the Sacred, Andrew Cowell

Miraculous Rhymes: The Writing of Gautier de Coinci, Tony Hunt

Desire by Gender and Genre in Trouvère Song, Helen Dell

Please get in touch if you would like to receive a review copy for this purpose by sending an e-mail to Dr Ann Buckley, reviews editor, at oenach.reviews@gmail.com.

Requests will be dealt with on a first-come first-served basis.

We would also be pleased to receive suggestions for other publications for inclusion. If you would like to review a particular title just send a brief message and we shall make the necessary arrangements.

EARLY MUSIC RESEARCH SEMINARS, UCC

Department of Music, St Vincent’s, Sunday’s Well, Cork

UCC’s Music Research Seminars take place in the Music Lecture Room on Thursdays, 11am-1pm, and are open to all interested researchers. For the full list, see http://www.music.ucc.ie/gs/seminars.html. If you plan to attend, please drop an email to Dr Melanie Marshall (ml.marshall@ucc.ie).

Nov. 27: Dr Lisa Colton (Huddersfield). ‘Playing the Old Wives’ Diddle: A Unique Source of English Keyboard Tablature from 17th-century Huddersfield.’

Jan. 8: Dr Noel O’Regan (Edinburgh), “‘Blessed with the Holy Father’s Entertainment’: Roman Music and Ceremony as Experienced by the Irish Earls in 1608.’

Jan. 22: Dr Jasmin Cameron (Aberdeen), ‘Beyond Mere Plagiarism: Vivaldi’s Use of Giovanni Maria Ruggieri’s Scores.’


Have a Submission, Question or Suggestion? Contact the Editor, Carrie Griffin, at carrie.griffin@ucc.ie
CALLS for SUBMISSIONS


CALLS FOR PAPERS


EVENTS

The Third Annual Distinguished Lecture to the Centre for the History of the Media, UCD, will be delivered by Professor Andrew Pettigrew. He will speak on ‘The Book World of Renaissance Europe’. The lecture takes place on 11 November at 4 pm in K114, History, Newman Building, UCD. All welcome; further particulars at: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/11/01/public-lecture-andrew-pettigree-3rd-annual-distinguished-lecture-centre-for-the-history-of-the-media-ucd-dublin-11-november-2008/

 Micheál Ó Cléirigh Seminars at University College Dublin, October & November; details at: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/09/24/micheal-o-cleirigh-seminars-ucd-fridays-at-4-pm-october-november-2008/

Power in the Middle Ages, Graduate Conference 7-9 November at the Moore Institute, NUI, Galway. This conference will deal with all areas of medieval studies including language, literature, art, archaeology and philosophy. Details at: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/06/18/medieval-power-postgraduate-conference-at-nui-galway/

Na Ranna Gaeilge, COC ~ Cumann na Scribhreann nGaedhilge 

Tenth Annual Seminar: Saturday, November 8, 2008 University College, Cork Contact: p.riggs@ucc.ie; details and programme at: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/09/19/programme-na-ranna-gaeilge-co-cumann-na-scribhreann-ngaedhilge-ucc/
EVENTS (continued)


Medieval and Renaissance Forum Seminars, in Association with the Faculty of Science & Engineering, NUIM:

Tuesday November 11th 2008

Dr Carrie Griffin, Dept of English, UCC:

1pm: “Plagues, Barbers and Humours: A Look at Medicine in the High Middle Ages” (in with the Faculty of Science and Engineering)

6pm: “Scribes, Audiences, and Patrons: Reading the Evidence of Consumers of Scientific Texts in Medieval England”.

Details at: http://www.nuim.ie/medievalforum/seminars.shtml

or from Dr Ann Buckley: medrenforum@nuim.ie

OTHER NEWS


Advisory Board member Dr Daniel McCarthy’s new publication will be launched shortly. For full details see: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/11/01/new-book-daniel-mccarthy-the-irish-annals-dublin-four-courts-press-2008/

A new online bank of images from the manuscript and rare book collection at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München. See: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/2008/11/02/news-digitised-mss-at-munich/


The Boole Library UCC has recently acquired through donation the Library of the Irish Literary Society (Est. 1891). A reception to celebrate this will be held at 5.30pm on Friday 7 November in the College Council Room.

HAS YOUR FMRSI PROFILE BEEN UPDATED? Please check that your profile page on the Forum website is up to date. Please check your profile at: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com/members. If you would like anything changed, expanded or amended, just contact the coordinators at medrenforum@nuim.ie.
FMRSI MEMBERSHIP

Membership of FMRSI is open to all who are engaged in teaching and research in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and who are based on the island of Ireland. Membership is also open to Medievalists and Renaissanceurs abroad who are either in active association with universities and public and private bodies in Ireland (e.g., libraries, museums, galleries), or who are graduates of Irish or Northern Irish universities and colleges.

Contact us at medrenforum@nuim.ie or see our website: http://fmrsi.wordpress.com.

FMRSI: Forum for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Ireland
http://fmrsi.wordpress.com
medrenforum@nuim.ie

Coordinators
Dr Ann Buckley, Department of Music, NUI Maynooth
Dr Carrie Griffin, Department of English, University College Cork
Dr Juliet O’Brien, School of Languages and Literatures, University College Dublin / Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Trinity College Dublin

International Advisory Board
Professor Susan Boynton, Department of Music, Columbia University
Dr Damian Bracken, Department of History, University College Cork
Dr Michael Dunne, Department of Philosophy, National University of Ireland Maynooth
Dr Phyllis Gaffney, Department of French and Francophone Studies, University College Dublin
Dr Anthony Harvey, Royal Irish Academy
Dr Colum Hourihane, Index of Christian Art, Princeton University
Dr Daniel P. McCarthy, Department of Computer Science, Trinity College Dublin
Professor David Mackenzie, Department of Hispanic Studies, University College Cork
Professor Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Department of English, Trinity College Dublin
Professor Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin, Department of Italian, Trinity College Dublin
Professor Elisabeth Okasha, Language Centre, University College Cork
Professor John J. Thompson, School of English, Queen’s University Belfast