Dear Colleagues,

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you have had a wonderful holiday season. Most of you will be receiving this as an attachment on an e–mail. If any of you have difficulty in opening the message (this will be repeated in the introduction to the e–mail) or would rather have a printed copy of the Newsletter, please contact me by e–mail or regular mail at one of the following addresses: paul_thomas@byu.edu or Paul Thomas, Dept. of English, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602-6218. For those of you who are not current members of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, we invite you to join this regional association of the Medieval Academy of America that serves the scholarly multi–disciplinary interests of Medieval and Renaissance teaching and independent scholars found in the Rocky Mountain West of North America as well as from around the world.

The May 2004 Conference in Durango, Colorado: Call for Papers and Sessions—Katherine Clark, who is chairing the Association’s 36th Annual Conference in Durango this coming May, has posted the following call for papers: The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association 2004 Conference, “Fame and Notoriety in the Middle Ages and Renaissance,” welcomes papers in all areas of Medieval and Renaissance studies, and especially encourages papers that speak to the theme of fame and notoriety. Abstracts/proposals of circa 250 words should include the paper’s title, presentation time (limited to 20 minutes, please) and a summary of the proposed paper. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is February 16, 2004. The Conference, hosted by Fort Lewis College will be held at the Doubletree hotel in Durango, Colorado, May 13–16, 2004. Abstracts may be sent in hard copy, faxed, or e–mailed to:

Katherine Clark
Department of History
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301
clark_k@fortlewis.edu
Fax: (970) 247–7127
Phone: (970) 247–7324

Many of us are looking forward to this Conference being held in the historically interesting and thoroughly western town of Durango, close to Mesa Verde National Park (where an excursion is planned during the Conference). In addition to its restaurants, bookstores, shopping, and other attractions, Durango is the starting point for one of the historic steam railways of the United States.

Please get your one–page proposals for your papers/sessions to Katherine Clark this month of January, if possible. We will have a follow–up reminder at the beginning of February with more details of the Conference and hotel bookings. Plan to join us for another memorable RMMRA Conference in Durango this May.
2005 Conference in Jackson, Wyoming—Plans are progressing to hold the Association’s 2005 Conference again at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming under the leadership of Susan Frye and Susan Aronstein of the University of Wyoming. We hope to hear more details about this in the near future. As the 2006 Conference site is not yet settled, Paul Thomas would welcome correspondence from those interested in organizing this conference two years off.

The 2003 Allen Dupont Breck and Delno C. West Awards—The 2003 Breck Award for the best submitted paper given by a younger scholar at the 2003 Conference in Colorado Springs has been given to Catherine Winiarski for her paper, “Iconoclasm and Iconophilia in Othello.” Catherine Winiarski is a graduate student in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at University of California Irvine. Having read the many essays without knowing the names or universities of those submitting for the Breck Award, the judges praised the clarity of Miss Winiarski’s essay and its use of “historical information intelligently to illuminate the play” as well as its ability to make a “persuasive case for the connection between theater and idolatry in early modern England.” As one of the judges added in summary, Catherine Winiarski’s essay offers “a fresh and illuminating reading of Othello.”

The 2003 West Award for the best submitted paper read at the Conference by a senior scholar recognizes the essay by Professor James K. Otté entitled “Caught Betwixt War and Peace: The Bell Goes to War.” Though geographically a member of and current President of MAP (Medieval Association of the Pacific), our neighboring Regional Association of the Medieval Academy, Professor Otté is a regular participant in our RMMRA conferences. He is a Professor of History at the University of San Diego. The West Award committee particularly noted the wide sweep of history and literature taken in by this interesting essay on the varying roles of bells in warfare. A bonus to medievalists in this essay is the idea that the Roman military use of bells for organization and discipline translated into communal monasticism through the Rule of Saint Pachomius (c. 292–346).

Quidditas—Our editor, Sharon Beehler, continues to catch up on the publishing of the Association’s journal, Quidditas. Volume 22 for 2001 was published late last spring. Starting with Volume 24 for 2003, we hope to be moving primarily to an online and CD–ROM journal (see 2003 Executive Board Meeting below.) The Breck and West Award winners are invited to publish their essays in Quidditas, but we also need a steady production of publishable articles from other members of the Association to be presented to the Editorial Board for review (20–30 double–spaced pages typically). If you have an article ready for publication, please submit three copies following the new 15th edition of the Chicago Manual of Style. These three copies should appear without your name or other clues to your authorship and should be sent with a cover letter to Professor Sharon A. Beehler, Department of English, Montana State University–Bozeman, Bozeman, MT 59717–2300. Members of the Association who are interested in reviewing books for Quidditas should contact Lowell Gallagher, Review Editor. Professor Gallagher’s e–mail address is gallaghe@humnet.ucla.edu. His postal address is Dept. of English, Rolfe 4316, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

2003 Executive Board Meeting—The Executive Board met at 7 a.m. on 5 April at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. This was Charles Smith’s culminating meeting as the Association president, and many of his improvements to the Association’s governance, tax–deductible status, and future financial stability were discussed before the meeting dismissed at 9:15. Professor
Smith’s intensive work on a Manual for the Association’s officers and members of the Board was fully accepted with gratitude by the Board members. Another aspect of Professor Smith’s putting the Association’s history in order bore fruit in his continuing role also as the RMMRA’s Registered Agent in securing tax-exempt status for the Association with the IRS. (See more detail on this below under Tax–Exempt Status for the Association).

Professor Hoyt Duggan of the University of Virginia was invited to the Board meeting as an expert on the possible plan to convert our journal, *Quidditas*, to electronic format. Michael Walton and Paul Thomas reported to the Board on the advantages of a CD–ROM and online format for the journal. Board members received their own CD–ROM version of *Quidditas* (volume 21) in Acrobat Reader format (PDF), compatible for both PC and Mac users and easy to put online. Board members saw the capabilities to search quickly for keywords and subjects or individual authors in Acrobat Reader and were shown that CD–ROMs have such large capacity that the journal could feature illustrations in full color, sound files, and other features not normally found in print journals.

Though the typography and editing fees of the journal would remain much as they are now, the reduced number of printed copies (perhaps just a few dozen copies in Docutech format for libraries) would greatly reduce the Association’s costs, enabling the organization to operate on a steadier financial basis. Volume 23 (2002) should be the journal’s last paper–only version. The Board unanimously voted for the change to an electronic journal, noting that contractual obligations to those who have already submitted articles should be fulfilled. Professor Sharon Beehler, editor, was asked to contact those whose articles had already been approved about their agreement to the change in format.

The online status of the journal was also discussed with reference to its long–term availability through such means as Iter and D Space. Board members have been following up on a motion to establish an agreement with Iter or one of our intermountain universities for a permanent home for the online journal. Members will hear about those results at our 2004 meeting in Durango. The Board is pledged to keep the Association solvent but is mindful of the negative effects of rising dues and other expenses. We appreciate the members’ continuing renewals as well as their donations to help stabilize the Association’s finances. The report of the 2002 audit committee made some recommendations for further cost reductions. Because of her accounting background, Phyllis Walton was asked to join Jean MacIntyre, chair, as a member of the 2003 audit committee. This arose out of Professor MacIntyre’s desire that our accounting methods be properly scrutinized to establish a continuing model for a tax–exempt organization. The Board is happy to report that Phyllis Walton agreed to join the audit committee for 2003 at the Colorado College meeting.

**Tax–Exempt Status for the Association**—Through Professor Charles Smith’s efforts, RMMRA has been granted ongoing tax–exempt status by the IRS. At the end of this newsletter is a form for members who might want to donate a gift to the Association. Donors are acknowledged in *Quidditas* each year.

**2003 Annual Conference**—Carol Neel of the Department of History and Regula Evitt of the Department of English at Colorado College chaired the 35th annual meeting at Colorado Springs. The theme of the meeting was “Representations and Realities of Medieval and Renaissance Experience.” With the help of other members of the College staff, Professors Neel and Evitt planned a richly varied conference that featured almost 60 papers as well as a concert by Colorado College’s Collegium Musicum, a medieval and Renaissance performance group, and an illustrated slide lecture by Professor Dale Kinney of Bryn Mawr College. This plenary lecture
was entitled “The Arts and the Church in Twelfth–Century Rome” and led to a good deal of
discussion with Professor Kinney before and during the luncheon that followed. The Saturday
afternoon roundtable sessions centered on two topics that focused on both undergraduate college
teaching and secondary teaching: *Electronic and Library Resources for Teaching
Undergraduates* (Hoyt Duggan (University of Virginia), Mark Darby (Temple University),
Richard Harp (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), and Charlene Kellsey (University of Colorado,
Boulder)) and *The Middle Ages in the Secondary–School World History Classroom* (Jack
Betterly (Albuquerque, NM), Paul Kim (Fountain Valley School), Troy Gedack (Manitou
Springs Middle School), Thaddeus Romansky (Palmer High School), and Mark Johnson
(Colorado College). The focus on improving pedagogy in schools and colleges has been an
ongoing tradition of many of the RMMRA Conferences. Conference–goers enjoyed a visit to the
nearby Garden of the Gods and experienced Carol Neel’s wonderful hospitality. Again, our
thanks to all at Colorado College who made our meeting so memorable in 2003.

2003 Annual Conference Luncheon—Members attending the Colorado Springs Conference
luncheon elected unanimously four member of the Executive Board whose terms expire in 2006: Charlene Kellsey
(University of Colorado, Boulder), Charles and Elspeth Whitney (a couple filling one place on the Board—University of Nevada at Las Vegas), Margaret Harp (University of Nevada at Las Vegas), and Michael Walton (Independent Scholar, Salt Lake City). We are very
grateful for the service of those whose terms expired in 2003, including Sylvia Bowerbank
(McMaster University), Tom Eckenrode (Ft. Lewis College), and the Whitneys (UNLV), who have been elected for another term. We are grateful to members of the Association who freely
give their time and effort to serve on the Board. In addition, special thanks is due to Charles
Owen, who has maintained the Board’s list for easier communication and Jesse Swan, who has
been our RMMRA website administrator.

Congratulations too to the West Award winner for 2002, Professor James H. Forse, Professor of
History and Theatre at Bowling Green State University, who was acknowledged at the luncheon.

The Database—As new members join the Association and as former members return, would
you please notify our secretary, Professor Isabel Moreira, with your areas of research interest?
This new database is particularly helpful to Professor Lowell Gallagher to find book reviewers
for *Quidditas*. Please contact Professor Moreira at isabel.moreira@m.cc.utah.edu or at her
departmental address: Department of History, 380 South 1400 East, Room 211, University of
Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

Benefactors, Patrons, Sponsors, and Contributors—Please consider making a donation to the
future of the RMMRA. All donations are tax–deductible in the following categories:
Benefactors: $200 and more; Patrons: $100–199; Sponsors: $50–99; Contributors: anything up to
$50. A form for donations and a form for renewing membership in or joining the Association for
the first time are included on the next page. Thanks to all of you for your interest in the
RMMRA.
RMMRA Contribution Form

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Amount Enclosed: $

Return this form with your tax–deductible contribution to Susan Aronstein, RMMRA Treasurer, Dept. of English, P.O. Box 3353, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070–0001

RMMRA Annual Dues Form

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Preferred Mailing Address:

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Dues Categories: Check the correct box—$25 (graduate students, independent scholars, adjunct faculty, retired faculty)_______; $35 (Assistant Professors)_______; $40 (Associate Professors)_______; $45 (Full Professors)_______

Return this form with your tax–deductible contribution to Susan Aronstein, RMMRA Treasurer, Dept. of English, P.O. Box 3353, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82070–0001