Salvete, members and friends of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association! Si valetis, valeo.

The winter holiday season, with all its beauty and busyness, is fast approaching. But here’s a breath of springtime!

Call for Papers

RMMRA Annual Meeting
June 8-10, 2006 Rexburg, ID

“Interpreting Cultures: Reception and Interpretation of the Middle Ages and Renaissance”

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites submission of abstracts for its annual meeting. The conference is being hosted by Darin Merrill and Brigham Young University—Idaho, at the Best Western Cottontree Inn and Conference Center in Rexburg, ID.¹

¹ http://www.bestwesterncottontreeinn.com/rexburg/
The theme for the conference will be “Interpreting Cultures: Reception and Interpretation of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.” This theme invites a wide range of papers relative to the perception of the Medieval and Renaissance periods by both contemporary audiences and authors as well as later antiquarians, authors, and audiences. University faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students are invited to attend. Time will be reserved on Saturday, June 10th, for panels of advanced undergraduates, if there is sufficient interest and pending approval of the program review committee. Please submit proposals for sessions and 250 word abstracts for papers by February 17, 2006, in either paper or electronic form, to:

Darin Merrill  
Department of English  
Brigham Young University—Idaho  
SA 123  
Rexburg, ID 83460  
e-mail: merrilld@byui.edu

The plenary speaker will be Robert Bjork, Professor of Medieval Literature at Arizona State University, and Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Text Society. Professor Bjork is currently co-editing with colleagues from Wisconsin and Indiana the 4th edition of Fr. Klaeber's *Beowulf and the Fight at Finnsburg*, and he is General Editor of the forthcoming 4-volume *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. He has served as General Editor of *Modern Scandinavian Literature in Translation* for the University of Nebraska Press, and from 1993 to 2001, he was Co-General Editor (with George C. Schoolfield of Yale University) of *Studies in Scandinavian Literature and Culture* for Camden House / Boydell & Brewer. His book (with John D. Niles), *A Beowulf Handbook* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997) is one of the staples of *Beowulf* and Old English classes.

Professor Bjork, I’m told, plans to speak on antiquarianism in the eighteenth century and some “irascible” antiquarians’ perspectives on extant ancient texts. Please plan now to join us in the Tetons!

**Jackson Hole, Wyoming – June 2-5, 2005**

RMMRA members gathered in scenic Jackson Hole for the 2005 conference, “Frontiers and Borders,” sponsored by the University of Wyoming and organized by Professors Susan Frye and Susan Aronstein. Kevin J. Harty of La Salle University and Steven Orgel of Stanford presented intriguing and well received plenary papers. Complementing the plenary sessions were approximately seventy scholarly papers presented by RMMRA members, a “Reading Chaucer” workshop, glorious views from the mountain-top barbeque (banquet), and much stimulating intellectual fellowship.
Delno C. West Award—Susan Stakel of the University of Denver was awarded the 2005 West award for her paper, “The Miracles of Nostre Dame pas parsonages: Saints and Sinners on the Stage,” judged the best paper presented at the conference by a senior scholar. The selection committee, chaired by Professor Elspeth Whitney, complimented Dr. Stakel’s “engaging style,” and her “persuasive demonstration that the playwrights of these little-studied fourteenth-century hagiographic plays successfully reworked their source, the Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine, both to make the stories more effective as drama and to teach a new spiritual lesson.” Dr. Stakel, who reported feeling “very honored,” will be presented with a commemorative plaque at the 2006 conference; don’t wait until then to offer her your congratulations!

Allen D. Breck Award—Bradley Greenburg of Northeastern Illinois University was awarded the 2005 Breck award for his paper, “Romancing the Chronicles: I Henry IV and the Rewriting of Medieval History,” judged the best paper presented at the conference by a younger scholar. Professor Katherine Clark and her selection committee noted the paper’s “cutting-edge scholarship” and its “smart and original observations on an often-studied text,” particularly its suggestion that I Henry IV “offered a public and dynamic working out of cultural clashes and identity politics in an era of aggressive English statebuilding.” When notified of the award (which carries a $300 stipend), Brad responded graciously: “... the RMMRA conference was one of the very best I’ve ever been to. So many smart, nice people doing excellent work and with the most generous sense of the profession that I’ve encountered in a long time. I came away from that weekend energized and enthused.” Thank you, Brad.

Thank you, also, to the many other presenters who submitted their fine papers for award consideration, and to the members of the selection committees who donated their time and expertise to this important task.

Congratulations and thanks also go to Isabel Moreira and Sharon Beehler, who have “retired” as association secretary and Quidditas editor, respectively; to our new secretary, Kimberly Johnson; to Executive Board members beginning a three-year term, Jolyon Hughes, Isabel Moreira, Katherine Clark, Andrea Knox, and Jean MacIntyre; and to new Quidditas editor, James Forse. E-mail addresses for these colleagues, as well as for continuing officers and members of the Board, may be found on the association’s website, http://www.uni.edu/~swan/rmmra/rocky.htm, maintained by webmaster Jesse Swan.

Quidditas

Editor James Forse reports that Volume 24 (2003) is receiving its finishing touches, and that Volume 25 (2004) is about ready to be shipped off to production editor Kathryn Brammall for editing. Our transition from a “paper” to an on-line journal remains a work in progress. While Professor Forse and his assistants work on volumes 24 and 25, Paul Thomas, along with his colleagues and graduate students at BYU, is working steadily to make all previously published volumes (of JRRMA and Quidditas) available on-line also,
for the benefit of scholars worldwide. Currently, Volumes 20-23 (1999-2002), in PDF format, may be accessed at:

http://humanities.byu.edu/rmmra/index.html

Later, in “stage two” of the process, these on-line volumes will be encoded into XML format. Both formats, I’m told, “index quite thoroughly.” Formal arrangements will be made between the RMMRA and BYU to ensure permanent maintenance of and access to this site. Please forward comments, suggestions, and offers of assistance to Professors Thomas and Forse.

In Memoriam

We note with regret the death of Sylvia Bowerbank, former Executive Board and long-time RMMRA member. The association sent a donation to the McMaster University (Ontario) memorial (a student award) established in her name.

Contributions to RMMRA

As you begin to think about your tax liability for the year 2005, remember that donations to RMMRA are completely tax deductible, and will be noted in Quidditas (Benefactors: $200 and more; Patrons: $100-199; Sponsors: $50-99; Contributors: up to $50). The contribution form (below) should be printed off and mailed with your donation to: Phyllis Walton, RMMRA Treasurer, 3031 South 500 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84106. Thank you for your interest in and support of the RMMRA!

Jane Woodruff, President

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