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

From the golden aspens of the Rockies to the fiery red maples of Missouri (or wherever you are this fall), a scholar’s thoughts should be turning to our upcoming 2007 conference! Come one, come all, for scholarship, fellowship, and an escape from winter’s chill!

When: 15-17 February 2007
Where: Fiesta Inn Resort, Tempe, AZ, in conjunction with the 13th Annual Conference of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Theme: Masculinities and Femininities in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
Keynote Speaker: Valerie Traub, Professor of English and Women’s Studies, Director of the Women’s Studies Program at the University of Michigan, and author of numerous publications
Pre-conference Workshop on Manuscript Studies: Timothy C. Graham, Director of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of New Mexico

The deadline for submission of abstracts is approaching rapidly—5:00 p.m. MST on October 15, 2006. RMMRA’s local conference organizer, Retha Warnicke, reports that proposals are arriving daily at http://link.library.utoronto.ca/acmrs/conference/, but more are welcome. If you’ve been waiting for a reminder, this is it! For additional information, visit the conference website at: http://www.asu.edu/clas/acmrs/conferences.html, or contact ACMRS directly at acmrs@asu.edu. See you in Tempe!
Rexburg, Idaho—June 8-11, 2006

RMMRA members gathered in Rexburg, “just across the Tetons” from Jackson Hole (site of our 2005 conference) for the 2006 conference, “Interpreting Cultures: Reception and Interpretation of the Middle Ages and Renaissance,” sponsored by Brigham Young University—Idaho and organized by Professor Darin Merrill with the able assistance of Professor John Young, other BYUI colleagues, and their students. Robert Bjork, Director of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, presented a very well received plenary paper (“N.F.S. Grundtvig’s Danishing of Old English Poems”) after Friday evening’s banquet, bracketed by sixteen paper sessions comprising approximately fifty scholarly papers, a recital by BYUI faculty and students featuring music of the baroque era, a tour of the Spori Gallery of Art, a planetarium show, and pre- and post-conference trips to Mesa Falls and other scenic spots—all in very good company!

Delno C. West Award—Margaret Harp of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas was awarded the 2006 West Award for her paper, “Twentieth-Century Illustrators’ Interpretations of the Works of Rabelais,” judged the best paper presented at the conference by a senior scholar. The selection committee, chaired by Professor Carol Neel, lauded Dr. Harp’s “bringing together Renaissance and recent past to illuminate both periods” in a “lively and fruitful scholarly initiative.” Dr. Harp’s response: “I am most grateful to members of the West Award committee, given the excellence of the other presentations in Rexburg. I am truly shocked but could not be more appreciative.” A commemorative plaque will be presented to Dr. Harp at the 2007 conference in Tempe.

Allen D. Breck Award—Kimberly Johnson of Brigham Young University was awarded the 2006 Breck Award for her paper, “Temples of Caesar: The Politics of Renaissance Georgics Translations,” judged the best paper presented at the conference by a younger scholar. Professor Isabel Moreira and her committee noted the paper’s focus on a few lines, “narrow enough to be articulated well in a few pages, but compellingly [offering] a larger suggestion about politics,” and praised its successful accomplishing of “the difficult task of relating how . . . a short but significant passage in the poetic work connects to larger issues of Elizabethan political allegiances and statecraft ,” and its “admirable clarity and sophistication.” When notified of her award and its $300 stipend, Dr. Johnson responded (after an prefatory “WOOHOO!”) with “How delighted I am to be honored by an organization whose membership I have come to regard as my far-flung academic family. I appreciate the wide range of scholarly interests, and look forward to learning from you all.” The guild’s future is in good hands, Kim.

Thank you, also, to the 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 Executive Board members beginning a three-year term, Alice Blackwell, Charlene Kellsey, Charles Whitney, and Elspeth
Whitney, and to Darin Merrill, our new President-Elect. 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.

At the 2007 conference’s Business Meeting, we will need to elect at least three new Board members (as we do each year) and a new Treasurer as well, since Phyllis Walton is completing her term of office. Anyone interested in being considered for one of these positions should contact the President or any Board member.

Quidditas

Volumes 24 (2003) and 25 (2004) have joined their predecessors, on-line at

http://humanities.byu.edu/rmmra

Your comments (and congratulations!) should be directed to the Editor, Jim Forse, at: quidditas_editor@yahoo.com. Professor Forse hopes to have Volumes 26 and 27, perhaps in a special double issue, ready before the end of this year. Watch for some new features in our journal, approved by RMMRA’s Executive Board at the Rexburg meeting.

Additional Highlights from the 2006 Executive Board meeting:

- Treasurer Phyllis Walton reported that the RMMRA “has a comfortable cushion to meet obligations for the next several years,” chiefly due to Quidditas’ transition from a print to an on-line journal, and to Editor Jim Forse’s willingness to take on additional pre-publishing responsibilities.
- RMMRA dues for 2007 will, in consequence, be only $25.00. Note that, for most members, this is a significant decrease from recent years’ dues. We expect that this cost reduction will help the RMMRA retain more of its members from year to year, and perhaps even regain some lapsed members.
- The Board authorized further exploration of a proposal to initiate a monograph series under RMMRA imprimatur, possibly in a publishing-on-demand format. This series would support members’ scholarly works, of types such as translations or shorter monographs, not sought out by large scholarly presses.

Contributions to RMMRA

As you begin to think about your tax liability for the year 2006 (and the money you’ll be saving on RMMRA dues next year!) remember that donations to RMMRA are completely tax deductible. 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
NAME:

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