Dear Members and Friends of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association,

Greetings! At the conclusion of the RMMRA Board Meeting at this year’s annual conference, I became the organization’s president, and it is a leadership role I accept with considerable enthusiasm. As an historian, I am trained to reflect on the past, and it strikes me that such an effort would be appropriate here. The members of the RMMRA embraced me with collegiality as a young scholar a dozen years ago, rewarding my early efforts with the Allen D. Breck Award in 2004. Six years later, I won the RMMRA’s other major paper honor, the Delno C. West Award. In between I began my long association with the RMMRA’s journal, Quidditas, under the tutelage of Editor Jim Forse. Quidditas has been and continues to be an important venue for my scholarship, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with other scholars, both developing and established, as they ready papers for publication (please see page 4 for the journal’s new CFP). My own work has benefitted over the years from inquisitive and thoughtful responses by RMMRA conference audiences in such diverse locations as Durango, Salt Lake City, Cedar City, Pocatello, and Denver. Besides the rather obvious professional opportunities provided by the RMMRA, I have also benefitted from the mentorship of longtime members (my predecessor Tom Klein, Jeff Taylor, Mike Walton, and Charles Smith, in particular) and look forward each year to seeing my RMMRA friends at our yearly conference. It is both an honor and a privilege, then, to serve as president of a collection of such an accomplished group of scholars and friends, and I look forward to this opportunity to give back to an organization that has played an integral role in my development as a teacher-scholar.

After my comments above about the value of our annual conference, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to plug next summer’s meeting. I hope you will consider joining me at the upcoming RMMRA meeting in Albuquerque, 16-18 June 2016. Tim Graham and his team at the University of New Mexico are preparing what promises to be an excellent conference. It is both an honor and a privilege, then, to serve as president of a collection of such an accomplished group of scholars and friends, and I look forward to this opportunity to give back to an organization that has played an integral role in my development as a teacher-scholar.

Finally, I would like to provide an update on the RMMRA website, currently under construction by the RMMRA Promotion Committee. We are in the process of moving to a new domain, so please update your bookmarks to reflect our new location: www.rmmra.org. I also want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks on behalf of the organization to Past President Jeff Taylor for his diligent work as the Society’s Webmaster in recent years.

Best wishes for a happy and productive 2016, and I hope to see you in Albuquerque!

—Jennifer McNabb

FALL/WINTER 2015

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POINTS OF INTEREST

• Abstracts for the 2016 RMMRA are due February 15, 2016.
• The new volume of our journal is now available online: Quidditas
CALL FOR PAPERS — RMMRA 2016

“THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE TEXTS”

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE, JUNE 16–18, 2016

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites paper and panel proposals for its 2016 conference, to take place on the campus of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, June 16–18, 2016. The conference theme, “The Past, Present, and Future of Medieval and Renaissance Texts,” invites proposals that address any aspect of textual culture, including how medieval and Renaissance authors composed their texts; how texts were affected by their manuscript or early printed context; how works of art could function as visual texts; how texts were received by their intended and unintended audiences; how texts have been transmitted across the centuries; how editorial practice and literary theory have helped form modern approaches to medieval and Renaissance texts; and how advances in digital technology are shaping future directions in the presentation and analysis of texts. As always, while paper and panel proposals that address the conference theme will receive special consideration, proposals in any area of Medieval and Renaissance Studies will be welcome.

The conference will feature two keynote presentations by leading scholars: Sian Echard (University of British Columbia), “‘Examin’d with Original’: Facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts in the Post-Medieval World”; and Adam Zucker (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), “‘Duller Parts’: Comic Stupidity and Difficult Texts.”

Paper and panel proposals should be directed to the RMMRA Program Committee via email to Timothy Graham (tgraham@unm.edu). Proposals are due by February 15, 2016. A proposal should include:

- Name of presenter
- Participant category (faculty/graduate student/independent scholar)
- Institutional affiliation
- Preferred mailing address
- Email address
- An abstract of the proposed paper/panel in about 250 words
- Audiovisual requirements and any other specific requests

The Program Committee will notify participants if their proposals have been accepted by March 5, 2016. Note that all presenters at the conference must be active members of RMMRA who have paid their annual subscription of $25 by the time of the conference.
JOINT MEETING OF THE RMMRA AND WOODEN O SYMPOSIUM, CEDAR CITY, UT, AUGUST 3-5, 2015

After a successful joint conference in 2010, the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association teamed up again with the Wooden O Symposium for a conference this past August held on the beautiful campus of Southern Utah University in Cedar City and in conjunction with the Utah Shakespeare Association.

To celebrate USF’s summer performance schedule of *King Lear*, *Henry IV Part Two*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*, the RMMRA conference theme for this year’s meeting was “The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family.”

In addition to the fifteen panels of papers, this year’s conference offered participants a variety of supplementary activities, including a *King Lear* show, included with conference registration. Ian Doescher, author of the popular *William Shakespeare’s Star Wars* book series, provided one of two excellent keynote addresses. Doescher’s address, given in SUU’s magnificent Great Hall, was titled, “The Bard Side of the Force.” The other keynote speaker, Dr. Aden Ross, offered a fresh take on one of the Festival plays: “#kinglear: Shakespeare’s Most Contemporary Play.” The USF actors were generous with their time throughout the Festival, with an Actors’ Panel during the conference, a Q&A at the conference banquet, and a post-*King Lear* reception with conference attendees.

The conference represented the coordinated efforts of a number of people, and I would like to offer my particular thanks to RMMRA Past President Tom Klein and to Utah Shakespeare Festival Education Director Michael Bahr for their work in bringing the two organizations together. RMMRA Board Members Ginger Smoak and Abby Lagemann assisted me on the RMMRA Program Committee to assemble the nine RMMRA panels. Thanks to all participants for your contributions to a stimulating and fun annual conference!

RMMRA PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to those members of the RMMRA who won prizes at this year’s annual meeting in Cedar City.

This conference marked the first year with graduate student attendees supported by the new Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Student Travel Grant. This year’s winners were Sheyanne Lang of the University of Northern Colorado, Lisa Myers of the University of New Mexico, and Jacob Thomas of Idaho State University. Heartfelt congratulations are due to the winners, and sincere thanks are extended to all of the generous donors who helped bring this award to fruition. The travel grant is a fitting tribute to two wonderful supporters of the RMMRA, and it was a delight to see Phyllis in attendance in Cedar City.

The winner of this year’s Allen D. Breck Award for outstanding paper by a junior scholar is Alaina Bupp, a Ph.D. student in the Department of English at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Alaina’s award-winning paper was titled, “I am I: The Allegorical Bastard in Shakespeare’s *King John*.” You can read Alaina’s paper in the current volume of *Quidditas*.

The winner of this year’s Delno C. West Award for outstanding paper by a scholar at the rank of Associate Professor or above is Elizabeth Dolly Weber, Associate Clinical Professor of French at the University of Illinois at Chicago. An expanded version of Professor Weber’s paper, “The Sinner: Confession and Ingestion in *The Romance of Renard*,” is also available in the recently published 2015 volume of *Quidditas*.

Congratulations, all!
CALL FOR PAPERS — QUIDDITAS

Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association

http://humanities.byu.edu/rmmra

Quidditas, the annual, online journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites submissions from all aspects of medieval and Renaissance or early modern disciplines: literature, history, art, music, philosophy, religion, languages, rhetoric, Islamic and New World cultures, global regions and comparative and interdisciplinary studies. Articles appearing in Quidditas are abstracted and indexed in MLA, Historical Abstracts, Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index, America: History and Life, EBSCOhost, and Oxbridge Standard Periodical Directory, and Ex Libris has designated Quidditas as a peer-reviewed journal in its SFX Knowledgebase. Our online format enables us to publish extensive illustrations. Since there is no subscription fee, the journal is easily available from any computer. Authors will be informed about the disposition of all manuscripts within three months of receipt.

Quidditas features a “Notes” section for short articles pertaining to factual research, bibliographical and/or archival matters, corrections and suggestions, pedagogy and other matters pertaining to the research and teaching of Medieval and Renaissance disciplines. Our “Reviews” section seeks longer Review of Literature essays and short “Texts and Teaching” reviews of individual textbooks and other published materials that instructors have found especially valuable in teaching courses in Medieval and Renaissance disciplines.

Membership in the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association is not required for submission or publication.

Guidelines for Submission

Please submit your article, note, or review electronically in MS Word (.doc or .docx) to the appropriate editor below. Use The Chicago Manual of Style (16th ed.). The author’s name must not appear within the text. All articles and Notes and Reviews must include a short abstract (200 words maximum) before the main text, and a bibliography of works cited at the end. A cover letter with the author’s name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and manuscript title must accompany all submissions.

Documentation: Quidditas uses footnotes. No endnotes or parenthetical citations, please.

Since submissions must include a full bibliography, footnotes, including the first footnote reference, should use abbreviated author, title, and page. For example:


First and subsequent footnotes—Nirenberg, Communities of Violence, 22-24.

Do not use ibid. Subsequent references to the same work should continue the use of abbreviated author, title and page number.

Please send submissions for Articles and Notes to: Professor James H. Forse, Editor
quidditas_editor@yahoo.com

Please send submissions for Reviews section to: Professor Jennifer McNabb, Associate Editor
JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu
WALTON TRAVEL AWARD

This award has been established to honor the many years of support, service, and enthusiasm for the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association of Michael T. Walton and Phyllis J. Walton. Over the twenty-seven years he was with us, Michael Walton gave twenty-four papers, some joint with his companion in life and scholarship, his wife Phyllis. He organized two of our conferences (2000 and 2011); he drafted our Constitution; he helped guide our transition from a hard-copy to an electronic journal; and from 1996-2013, he brought continuity to our Board. Phyllis Walton has likewise served the RMMRA in many different and essential capacities, including as treasurer, and with Michael wrote four distinguished monographs. This award is meant to recognize the particular informal support both Waltons have given to junior scholars at the RMMRA conferences and elsewhere.

The Michael and Phyllis Walton Awards will be available to graduate students in any medieval or Renaissance field of study who are presenting papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference and who have not defended their degree-granting projects at the time of the meeting. There will be a maximum of four awards for each conference: $250, which will be sent out in check form before the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees.

Applications

The deadline for applications will be six weeks prior to each year’s conference. Applicants should submit the following:

- a one-page abstract of the paper to be presented
- a one-paragraph reflection on the expected educational and/or professional benefits of attendance
- a complete copy of the paper to be presented, which may not exceed 12 pages, double-spaced
- a curriculum vitae

Applicants will send materials by email to the RMMRA president. For the 2016 meeting, please send applications to Jennifer McNabb (JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu).

The applications will be judged by the RMMRA president and an appointed committee from the Executive Council, using professionalism, academic quality of paper, and benefit from attendance as general criteria. The president and committee should recuse themselves in instances of potential conflicts of interest. Graduate student members of the Executive Council may apply, but in cases of equally qualified applicants, preference will be given to non-Council members. If possible, the awards will be advertised on the conference call-for-papers and RMMRA website and publicized to conference participants. The award amounts and number of awards may be adjusted according to the state of RMMRA finances; the deadline may also be shifted if appropriate.

For those who would like to make a financial contribution to the Walton Award Fund, please detach this section & remit payment (payable to “RMMRA”) to:

ATTN: Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Award

c/o Todd P. Upton, Ph.D./Treasurer, RMMRA
P.O. Box 270813
Littleton, CO 80127

Donation Amt. $_______

Date ____________

Check # ____________

RMMRA @ ICMS

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association sponsored two well-attended and lively sessions at the 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI in May 2015. The sessions were inspired by a panel at the 2014 RMMRA in Denver.

The six participants in the two ICMS panels represented junior and senior scholars from the United States and the UK and were drawn from the disciplines of History and Literature.

“Evidence of Bodies in Medieval and Renaissance England: Wombs, Wounds, and Words I” featured Alyxandra Mattison of the University of Sheffield and RMMRA Board Members Jennifer McNabb (Western Illinois University) and Abby Lagemann (University of Colorado at Boulder).

“Evidence of Bodies in Medieval and Renaissance England: Wombs, Wounds, and Words II” featured Rachel Levinson-Emley of the University of California-Santa Barbara and Samantha Demmerle of Indiana University-Bloomington as well as RMMRA Board Member Ginger Smoak (University of Utah).

The relationship between the RMMRA and ICMS continues. In May 2016 the RMMRA, under the leadership of Past President Thomas Klein, will be sponsoring a session inspired by the 2015 RMMRA conference theme, “The Functions and Dysfunctions of the Medieval and Renaissance Family.” If you attend the 2016 ICMS in Kalamazoo, please support the RMMRA session.
MEMBERSHIP FORM / ANNUAL DUES 2016

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Dues Category:  

- $25.00  Individual Member  
- $30.00  Joint Membership for Civilly Acknowledged Couples

Your partner's name: ____________________________

Remit this form with your check to:

Todd P. Upton, Ph.D.  
Treasurer, RMMRA  
P.O. Box 270813  
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION

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Website: www.rmmra.org