Happy Fall RMMRA Members!

It’s that time again—a new semester and time to start thinking about next year’s RMMRA conference, now that the CFP for our conference in Denver next April 11-13 has been published! Thanks go to all of you who attended last year’s 50th Anniversary Conference in Las Vegas. I thank Margaret Harp and our friends at UNLV for hosting. Jointly held with the Medieval Association of the Pacific, it was a particularly well-attended and festive conference, complete with a Past-President Roundup at our awards banquet. I’m happy to report that we had eight past RMMRA presidents! Furthermore, we had a wonderful opening reception in honor of Mike Walton, sponsored by Phyllis Walton, in true Walton style!

I am also happy to report that next year’s conference’s theme is “Sapere videre, Knowing How to See.” Medievalists see the world from many different angles and perspectives and, honoring the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci’s death, we will explore these in our papers, presentations, and roundtables. Please join me in Denver—an easy conference venue in a wonderful Rocky Mountain City as we begin our next 50 years as an organization.

As the leaves begin to turn, we are reminded that the best way of navigating change is by having a clear understanding of the past, through our history and literature. Best wishes for an exciting and productive Fall and I’m looking forward to seeing you all in April!

Ginger Smoak
President, RMMRA
This year’s tremendously successful joint Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association/Medieval Association of the Pacific conference was hosted by Margaret Harp and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The program boasted 34 panel presentations, one Roundtable, and one Workshop exploring this year’s theme, “Memory and Remembrance in the Middle Ages and Renaissance” in honor of the 50th anniversary of the RMMRA. Two outstanding plenary speakers offered thoughtful explorations of the conference theme: Bronwen Wilson provided the Friday plenary, “Stone Matters: Botticelli’s Drawings for Dante’s Inferno”; and Seeta Chaganti concluded the conference at Saturday’s plenary, “The Westward Middle Ages: Roundups and Remembrance.” Attendees enjoyed opportunities to socialize with friends old and new at the Opening Cocktail Reception held to honor Michael T. Walton, and the Closing Reception, which featured a Roundtable of Past RMMRA Presidents.

It was particularly nice to meet jointly with MAP and warmest thanks goes to president Leslie K. Arnovick and Secretary Anne Laskaya for their help in making this a collegial and intellectually stimulating meeting.

The conference represented the dedicated efforts of a number of people, and I would like to offer my particular thanks to Margaret Harp and her Program Committee (Chair Sarah Davis-Scord, Jonathan Davis-Scord, Kristin Bezio, Kim Klimek, Samantha Dressel, Leslie K. Arnovick, and Ann Laskaya). On behalf of the Association, I also offer thanks to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Office, Special Collections, Lied Library, Phyllis Walton and Robert Fineman, and Departments of English, World Languages & Cultures, and History for their generous support of the 2018 meeting.

Thanks to all participants for your contributions to a stimulating and fun annual conference, and watch for announcements concerning next summer’s meeting in Colorado!
NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

In 2019 the Rocky Mountain and Medieval Renaissance Association will continue its tradition of contributing to the robust program of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, hosted by Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. May’s conference will mark the 54th annual meeting of medievalists from around the globe at ICMS and offered participants an array of exciting sessions, speakers, and activities.

The Association is sponsoring two sessions at next year’s ICMS: “Reading Materiality and Ornamentation in Early Modern Texts,” and “History and Drama in Medieval and Early Modern Times.”

It is my pleasure to announce that the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Student Travel Award has become an Endowed Grant thanks to a very generous donation by longtime RMMRA member and former President Jane Woodruff. Our sincere thanks go out to Jane!

And finally, it is with regret that I announce the death of one of the Association’s founders, past president Boyd H. Hill, Jr. on July 2 in Longmont, Colorado. We will miss him.

RMMRA 2018
PRIZE WINNERS AND AWARD COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to those members of the RMMRA who won travel grants to present at this year’s annual meeting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. This conference marked the fourth year with a graduate student attendee supported by the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Graduate Student Travel Grant. This year’s winners were Maia Farrar and Spencer Wooley. Hearty congratulations are due to the winners and sincere thanks are extended to all of the generous donors who helped bring the award to fruition again this year; please contact Treasurer Kim Klimek for information on how to donate to the Walton Travel Grant fund: klimek@msudenver.edu.

The winners of this year’s Allen D. Breck and Delno C. West Awards are Alani Hicks-Bartlett for her paper, “Disintegration, Adynata, and the Failures of Memory in Petrarch’s Canzoniere,” and Anna Harrison for her paper “Where Have You Vanished: Where Have You Gone?” The former recognizes the most outstanding paper by a junior scholar presented at the annual meeting, while the latter recognizes the outstanding paper by a scholar at the rank of Associate Professor or above. The winning papers will be published in Quidditas.
The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites proposals for papers and panels at Annual Conference to be held April 11-13 in downtown Denver, Colorado, at the SpringHill Suites Marriott adjacent to the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

In addition to welcoming all paper and session proposals related to Medieval and Renaissance studies across all disciplines, the organizers will be creating a series of panels specifically focused on papers encoding Leonardo da Vinci’s belief in the essentiality of sapere videre on this the 500th anniversary of his death (1452-1519). Walter Isaacson, a recent biographer of Leonardo da Vinci, described Leonardo as the “epitome of the universal mind, one who sought to understand all of creation, including how we fit into it.”

In memory of the great polymath and his many interests in the arts and sciences, we hope to see presented at this conference the widest possible variety of inquiries—historical, artistic, literary, scientific, philosophical, medical, archaeological, pedagogical, scientific, anthropological—that lead participants toward knowing how to see and to understand the period 400-1700, including paper, panel, and roundtable proposals which focus on the process and/or pedagogy of Medieval and Renaissance studies both within and outside of the academy.

The RMMRA is dedicated to creating an inclusive scholarly community. We encourage papers from scholars regardless of race, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, political views, military status, (dis)ability, and career paths. Our organization is committed to providing a safe, accessible, harassment-free, and collegial conference experience for all attendees. The RMMRA recognizes and supports the inclusion of diverse scholars from across the academy.

Proposals for panels or abstracts should be submitted through our online portal using MemberPlanet (http://www.memberplanet.com/s/rmmra/proposalfor2019rmmracfp). Questions about the call for proposals or the conference should be directed to RMMRA2019@gmail.com.

Abstracts are due January 31, 2019. A preliminary schedule will be available via email on 28 February 2019.

Keynote Speaker: TBD
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Remit this form with your check to:
Kim Klimek, Ph.D.
Treasurer, RMMRA
History Department | School of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Campus Box 27, P.O. Box 173362
Denver CO 80217-3362

Rocky Mountain
Medieval and
Renaissance
Association
Ginger L. Smoak
Associate Professor Lecturer
Honors College
University of Utah
1975 DeTrobiand, Bldg. 619
Fort Douglas
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

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