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

As winter wanes and we find our global community in the midst of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, I want to wish you all good health and hope that you’re following best practices with respect to CDC guidelines (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) and staying sure-footed in a rapidly changing environment that’s sure to effect those of us in academe and every level of public and private education.

Turning to matters specifically RMMRA, our 2019 meeting in Denver, Colorado, I’m pleased to announce that it was one of the most well-attended conferences in our organization’s history (p. 2)! We’re hopeful that our upcoming 2020 meeting in August will enjoy similar success and that we’ll see many of you making the journey to participate in the festivities at Southern Utah University, where our 52nd annual meeting will take place on August 10th-12th and be co-organized with the Wooden O Symposium. (N.b., the conference is still scheduled, but, given the rapidly changing developments with respect to the Coronavirus outbreak, we will continue to monitor the situation with Wooden O and update immediately if the situation changes.) The RMMRA theme is “Antique Modes of Thought, Romantic Traditions, and Legendary Storytelling in the Middle Ages and Renaissance,” and you’ll find the Call for Papers and Travel Information on Page 6. Whether presenting a paper, organizing a roundtable, or simply attending to enjoy the exchange of interdisciplinary ideas, I remind you that a foundational aspect of our mission is to encourage young scholarship — so, please do spread the word about our 2020 conference, post the CFP on your department bulletin boards, and especially inform the grad students and untenured faculty of our endowed Walton and Rosenberg travel scholarships (p. 3)!

As many of you may also be experiencing, I just received notice from the universities where I teach that we’ll be switching to online teaching very soon. I wish you all well in the remaining weeks of the semester as you adapt to these rapidly changing circumstances. In my case, the lecture classes “Dark Ages: Medieval Europe, 400-1000” and “Medieval Europe” courses at CU Boulder and MSU Denver should be pliable to an online transition, although I’m going to have spend this weekend immersing myself in all things “Zoom!” I must say that — ironically, now, as a shift looms in going online — after so much time spent as an independent scholar, it’s been a joy for me to return to institutional teaching over the last four years. It may be unconventional for someone who enjoys research and writing, but I do really enjoy the part of the historian’s craft that obligates me to teach core curriculum courses. Yes, that means a lot of hours prepping and delivering lectures to an audience of often-exhausted undergraduate students, but in addition to offering some global perspectives on history that they’ll need to fulfill a bachelor’s degree requirement, I find the give-and-take interactions with those students invigorating. Be it delivering lectures in both ancient and modern sections of World History and the Medieval World at Metro State or last semester’s Crusades class at CU Boulder, I’m excited by all the changes that are occurring in the universities as we seriously engage global histories in the classroom and find students receptive and eager to learn a daunting amount of material in only a semester’s worth of time.

The challenge before us now in this very unique semester is to ensure that we can somehow convey that pedagogical excitement “remotely” to students and “virtually connect” in an online classroom environment with those who very much will be looking to the professoriate for guidance and support.

Good luck in all your endeavors, be well, and I look forward (hopefully) to seeing you in August!

— Todd P. Upton, Ph.D., President, RMMRA
With over a hundred attendees and seven concurrent sessions, the 2019 meeting of the RMMRA offered plenty of opportunities for socializing and intellectual engagement! Many thanks to our organizing committee led by Kristin Bezio and Samantha Dressel (including Alaina Bupp, Charles Smith, and Ginger Smoak), Metropolitan State University of Denver for hosting (with onsite faculty Kim Klimek and Todd Upton), and Springhill Suites for serving as the conference site.

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Nicholas Jones (Bucknell University), delivered an excellent Keynote Address — “Black Matter: On the Materiality of Blackness in Early Modern Iberia” — which “assessed material iconography and visual representation of black Africans in the early modern period [suggesting] that long before both Spain and later England gained a foothold in the Atlantic slave trade, black Africans played an important role in the symbolic economy of elite culture.”

Besides providing a fantastic keynote address, Professor Jones’s subject matter and analytical approach also serendipitously aligned with an idea that’s been discussed by board and regular RMMRA members—that is, the possibility of putting together a diversity resource database. In the interest of promoting and supporting a diversity of scholars and students — and the attendant wider perspectives, intercultural experiences, and global traditions that may inform different academic approaches — it is the intent of some of the members of the RMMRA to make a database of works (articles, monographs, etc.) by scholars of diverse backgrounds with the purpose of making the fields of medieval and early modern studies (broadly speaking) more inclusive and accessible. Those interested in contributing to this database should email Kristin Bezio (kbezio@richmond.edu) with suggested works or authors.

Lastly, the RMMRA Board meeting saw a transfer of the presidency and treasurer offices, and introduced proposals for new Affiliations and Membership officers that will will enable the RMMRA to grow and sustain this exciting period of growth into the new decade!
RMMRA 2020 TRAVEL AWARDS

Michael T. Walton and Phyllis J. Walton Travel Award for Graduate Students

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.

Harry Rosenberg Travel Award for Untenured Scholars

The RMMRA Travel Award for Untenured Scholars will be available to postgraduate medieval and Renaissance scholars with insufficient institutional funding working in any field of study who are presenting papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference and who have completed a doctorate but have not been granted tenure prior to the time of the meeting.

There will be a maximum of four $250 awards for each conference, sent out in check form before the conference to defray the costs of travel to and lodging at the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees. Note: graduate students are not eligible for this award because of the RMMRA award dedicated to supporting graduate students at the annual meeting, the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Award.

Those interested in applying for the Walton or Rosenberg Awards for the 2020 conference should visit the RMMRA website at www.rmmra.org. (And continued gratitude from the RMMRA for the very generous donations from members such as Jane Woodruff that make it possible to support and maintain these awards!)
**Allen DuPont Breck Award**

The Allen DuPont Breck Award is for the best paper delivered at the conference by a junior scholar (from graduate students to assistant professors), and comes with a $300 prize, inclusion in the year’s volume of *Quidditas*, and recognition at the RMMRA luncheon at the next year’s meeting. (See [http://www.rmmra.org/allen-dupont-breck-award/](http://www.rmmra.org/allen-dupont-breck-award/) for additional details.)

For 2019, Bretton Rodriguez’s “Embellishing the Past: Fernando del Pulgar and the Role of History in Medieval Spain” was the winning entry this year for our Breck Award … Congratulations, Bretton!

**Delno C. West Award**

The Delno C. West Award is for the best submitted paper delivered at the conference by a senior scholar (associate professors, professors, and other long-standing scholars), and includes recognition at the next year's business luncheon, a handsome plaque, and inclusion in the year’s volume of *Quidditas*. (See [http://www.rmmra.org/delno-c-west-award/](http://www.rmmra.org/delno-c-west-award/) for additional details.)

For 2019, Corinne Wieben’s “Stricken by Terror: Seeing and Knowing in Late Medieval Criminal Case Records” won the contest for the West Award … Congratulations, Corinne!

The judging committee thanks all the entrants for these contests and hope that all will consider submitting a proposal for next year’s conference in Cedar City, Utah, which will be a joint conference with the Wooden O Symposium’s Utah Shakespeare Festival. (See Page 6 for CFP and details.) Again, congratulations to our RMMRA scholars for presenting such interesting topics at the meeting and making into them into publishable articles!

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**Applications**

Applications for the Breck and West Awards are due several weeks following each year’s conference according to the date set by the RMMRA president.

Applicants should submit the paper as presented at the conference (i.e., not substantially revised for publication) to the RMMRA president. The applications will be judged by the RMMRA president and an appointed committee from the Executive Council, using the academic quality of the paper as the essential criterion.

The president and committee should recuse themselves in instances of potential conflicts of interest.

Members of the Executive Council may apply, as may winners of the Walton Travel Grant. Winners may be asked to revise their paper.
**Quidditas**

*Quidditas* is a Latin legal term that originally meant “the essential nature of a thing.” In fourteenth-century French the word became “quiddite.” In the early modern period, the English adaptation, “quiddity,” meant “logical subtleties” or “a captious nicety in argument” (OED), and is so used in *Hamlet* (“Why may not that be the skull of a lawyer? Where be his quiddities now, his quillets, his cases, his tenures, and his tricks?” (Act V.i 95–97)). Thus, the original Latin meaning, together with the later implied notions of intense scrutiny, systematic reasoning, and witty wordplay, is well suited as the title of the journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association.

*Quidditas* is the annual, on-line journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. The journal’s content is eclectic, publishing articles focused on medieval and early modern topics from all disciplines. The journal also accepts “Notes” for short articles pertaining to factual research, bibliographical and/or archival matters, corrections and suggestions, pedagogy and other matters pertaining to research and teaching. The journal welcomes contributions to “Texts and Teaching,” a section that seeks reviews of literature, articles on teaching approaches and other aspects of pedagogy, and short reviews of individual textbooks and other published materials that instructors have found especially useful in teaching courses in medieval and early modern disciplines. These features furnish readers and contributors venues not available in other scholarly journals.


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**In Memoriam, Richard L. Harp (from Quidditas 40 [2019]), pp. 6-10**

This volume is dedicated to Professor Richard L. Harp who died at the age of 73 on 7 March 2019. Richard and his spouse Margaret Harp, Professor of French at UNLV have been active members of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. Richard served on the Association’s Executive Board, presented papers and chaired sessions at several conferences, and Margaret served as Treasurer, and organized RMMRA’s 2018 Las Vegas conference.

Richard was a prolific scholar, author and editor of seven books, and numerous articles. His special focus was Ben Jonson. Not only was he founder and co-editor of the *Ben Jonson Journal*, published by Edinburgh University Press, but also the editor of the Norton Critical Edition of *Ben Jonson’s Plays and Masques*. But Richard’s interests were diverse. His publications also include studies dealing with Shakespeare, Samuel Johnson, John Milton, John Donne, the modern Irish playwrights and authors Brian Friel and Frank O’Connor, and pedagogy.
CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION 2020
“Antique Modes of Thought, Romantic Traditions, and Legendary Storytelling in the Middle Ages and Renaissance”

The 52nd annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association will be held conjointly with the Wooden O Symposium at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, August 10-12, 2020. The Wooden O Symposium, sponsored by the Utah Shakespeare Festival and Southern Utah University, is a cross-disciplinary conference focusing on the text and performance of Shakespeare’s plays, and held in one of the most beautiful natural settings in the western U.S. The Utah Shakespeare Festival is also within a few miles of Zion and Bryce National Parks and not far from the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

This year’s Wooden O will feature Pericles, The Comedy of Errors, Richard III, Cymbeline, Shakespeare’s Worst!, Into the Breeches!, and Desperate Measures (a musical based on Measure for Measure), and the RMMRA always welcomes papers which include the year’s productions.

The RMMRA invites papers on any topic relating to the period 400-1700 and welcomes scholars in a broad range of disciplines including history, literature, art history, music, and gender studies with special consideration given to papers and proposals on this year’s theme, “Antique Modes of Thought, Romantic Traditions, and Legendary Storytelling in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.”

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.

Submissions should be directed through our online portal at www.memberplanet.com/s/rmmra/rmmra2020cfp. Questions about the conference or membership should be directed to rmmraconf@gmail.com.

Abstracts are due May 1, 2020.

Session chairs and individual presenters will be informed of acceptance no later than June 1. Please include 250-word abstracts or session proposals (including individual abstracts) and the following information:

- Name of presenter(s)
- Participant category (faculty, graduate student, undergraduate student, or independent scholar)
- College/university affiliation
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Audio/visual requirements and any other special requests

TRAVEL INFORMATION*

AIRLINE
CDC Cedar City Regional Airport (3.5 miles away)
SGU St. George Regional Airport (66 miles away)
LAS Las Vegas International (171 miles away)
SLC Salt Lake City Internat’l (257 miles away)

ST. GEORGE SHUTTLE
Stops in Salt Lake City, Cedar City, St. George, and Las Vegas https://www.stgshuttle.com/
Additionally, the Festival will run a shuttle from St. George to Cedar City

HOTELS
LOW END PRICES ARE AT $90/night
La Quinta Clarion Stratford Court
Best Western Town & Country

HIGH END PRICES ARE AT $150/night
Abbey Inn Holiday Inn Express El Rey Inn
Best Western Plus Marriott Courtyard Hampton Inn

* more details forthcoming in a separate emailing
# MEMBERSHIP

**Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association**

**Membership Form / Annual Dues**

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<th>Name:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Position/Affiliation (if applicable):</td>
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**Research Interests:**

**Dues Category**

- [ ] $25.00 Individual Member
- [ ] $30.00 Dual Membership for Civilly Acknowledged Couples

**Partner’s Name:**

**Research Interests:**

**Remit this form with your check made out to “RMMRA” to:**

**Samantha Dressel, Ph.D.**  
Treasurer, RMMRA  
Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences  
Department of English, Smith Hall 8F  
Chapman University  
One University Drive  
Orange, CA 92866
The Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association is a nonprofit academic society dedicated to the advancement of learning in Medieval and Renaissance studies. The Association especially promotes the interchange of ideas among various fields of specialization, such as literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, music, architecture, sociology, anthropology. The Association advances these purposes by sponsoring an annual conference, publishing a peer-reviewed journal, and cooperating with other relevant academic organizations.

Membership in the RMMRA is open to anyone interested in these endeavors by the payment of annual dues. Though focused in the Inter-Mountain region of western North America, the Association has members from many areas of the US, Canada, and other parts of the world. We welcome the world to join us in our beautiful region to explore our common interests in the cultures of the Medieval & Renaissance periods.

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**CONTACT:**
Email us at rmmraconf@gmail.com
(This address is checked year-round.)