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

When I say that I hope this newsletter finds you well, please understand how sincerely I mean it. It can be easy to open our emails these days with wishes of good health and safety, but every time I write those words I reflect on how deeply important are things such as health, safety, and the good will of our friends and colleagues. So, I hope that you and all those you hold dear are safe, healthy, and happy. Indeed, as I reflect on the last two years, the thing that stands out most to me is the importance of human connections and communities despite the barriers of lockdowns and the challenges of technology. Whether holding zoom happy hours with distant friends, finding ways to connect with our students in the classroom or online, or—as we in RMMRA have experienced over these last two years—in virtual conferences and workshops, I think we are all learning that nothing is more sustaining in these trying times than making space for community.

In light of this focus on celebrating human connections, smaller organizations like RMMRA have an important role to play within academia. We can connect with each other and share our work and interests in a variety ways that at times can feel more personal than larger organizations. And I am delighted to note that I think we have been doing a wonderful job at this over these last, quite trying, months. From our virtual work-in-progress workshop early in lockdown, to our most recent all-online conference in June, we have continued to meet, exchange ideas, and share our research despite the obstacles. Thank you all!

We are actively preparing for next year’s annual conference, at which we hope to return to in-person conviviality and intellectual exchange, which have always been hallmarks of our annual conferences. We will also continue to offer remote options for enhanced accessibility. The 2022 conference will be held June 16-18 in Salt Lake City, UT on the campus of University of Utah. Our keynote speaker will be Roger Martínez-Dávila, who will speak about his work in digital humanities and the recreation of lost medieval spaces through virtual reality programs. See more below on p. 6.

Please also watch for updates about the 2023 conference, which is being planned for the Spring at Colorado State University, Fort Collins. In 2024 we plan to join the Wooden O for our semi-regular August joint conference with the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Let us all hope for the best as we plan for these upcoming events. Please plan to submit your proposals so that we can share our work with each other—I look forward to seeing you all in person or on zoom! Until then, I hope that you have a safe and happy new year.

All my best, Sarah
Dear Members of the RMMRA,

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy as we approach the new year. On behalf of the RMMRA Board, I ask you to please renew your RMMRA membership if your circumstances permit. We would also greatly appreciate any donations to our support funds for early career or untenured scholars (Breck, Walton, and Rosenberg funds). Your generosity has helped us maintain those funds, and even grow them, during the pandemic.

We hope that this year's conference will be held safely in person, and your continued membership in and support of RMMRA will help us facilitate that goal. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again in person when it is safe, and your continued support helps us to keep conference costs low.

The RMMRA prides itself on its commitment to collegiality and mentorship; your continuing contribution will help support these goals now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Samantha Dressel, RMMRA Treasurer

The 53rd annual meeting of the RMMRA was held digitally on June 25-26, 2021. While we all certainly would have loved to gather in person, the event was a resounding success nonetheless! Six concurrent sessions of research and pedagogy talks, work-in-progress panels, and a break-out session of professionalism chats (on subjects like publishing, work/life balance, and supporting marginalized colleagues within academia) were all capped with a virtual happy hour. Our tiny avatars mixed and mingled in a virtual library, giving us time to chat and laugh via video. Thanks to Kristin Bezo and Sam Dressel for their hard work in organizing such a successful virtual conference!
Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's online conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association in June 2021! A special thanks go to all who submitted papers for consideration for one of our two annual paper awards, the Delno C. West award and the Allen DuPont Breck award. The winners of those two awards, which will be formally presented at next year's conference in Salt Lake City (see p. 6), are the following:

The West is awarded to Catherine Loomis for the paper, "What’s Hecuba to him?: Grieving Parents On and Off the Early Modern Stage."

The Breck is awarded to Jessie Bonafede for the paper, "The Good, the Bad, and the Monstrous: Analyzing Heroic Displacement and Transgression through Beowulf and the Grendel Quest."

Both papers were published in this year’s volume of Quidditas (see below p. 7 for full Table of Contents). These were very robust competitions, so please join me in congratulating the winners and thanking all who participated (including the award committees). I look forward to congratulating the winners in person next year at the 2022 RMMRA conference!

Delno C. West Award

This award was established to honor the memory of Delno C. West, professor of history at Northern Arizona University, and one of the most dedicated early members of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. Professor West, who was Chair of the Department of history at Northern Arizona and Director of the Honor’s Program, was a president of the Association and the general coordinator of three annual meetings that were held in Flagstaff and at the Grand Canyon. His teaching centered on medieval Europe and he published widely on the history of Christianity. His numerous books and articles include The Librio de las Profecías of Christopher Columbus (1991). He was a fine scholar and a good friend of the Association.

The Delno C. West Award is given for the best paper given by a senior scholar (associate professors, professors, and other long-standing scholars). The West award includes recognition at the following year’s awards ceremony, a handsome plaque, and the option of publication in the Association’s journal Quidditas.

Allen DuPont Breck Award

This award was established to honor the memory of Allen DuPont Breck, University of Denver history professor and founder of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. Extraordinarily gifted as a teacher, he was also creative in his vision, particularly in his idea that an organization of medievalists and Renaissance scholars was needed in this region. Accordingly, in 1966 he convened a meeting in his living room in which he proposed the founding of the RMMRA, as well as a corresponding scholarly journal. The fledgling organization held its first meeting at the University of Denver in 1968, organized around the theme of “The Bishop in Medieval and Renaissance Society.” The Association’s Bylaws were established in 1980 and published that year in the first issue of Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, along with Allen’s review of the history of the organization to that point. The RMMRA is grateful for his convivial vision of “a proper forum for the sharing of scholarly study of one of the most significant periods of human history.”

The Allen DuPont Breck Award is given for the best paper given by a junior scholar (from graduate students to assistant professors, including independent scholars and adjunct faculty at equivalent rank). The Breck award carries an award of $300, the option of publication in the Association’s journal Quidditas, and recognition at the annual awards ceremony.
The COVID-19 pandemic obviated the need for travel to our annual conference in 2021, but we hope to be able to award the Travel Awards for the 2022 conference in Salt Lake City. Scholars interested in financial support for travel expenses can apply for one of the RMMRA Walton or Rosenberg Awards.

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

This award was 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.

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 time of the meeting.

There are a maximum of four awards for each conference: $250 each, 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**

This award was established to honor one of RMMRA’s original founders, Harry Rosenberg. The RMMRA Travel Award for Untenured Scholars will be available to postgraduate medieval and Renaissance scholars with insufficient institutional funding. Scholars working in any field of study who are presenting 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 are encouraged to apply.

There are a maximum of four $250 awards for each conference, sent out in check form before the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees. **Note:** graduate students are not eligible for this award.

These awards exist because of the very generous donations from members. Donations made it possible to create the awards, and these funds rely on the continued financial support of the RMMRA and contributions from members and friends of the association. For information about these awards and how you can donate to them, please visit the following websites:

- Michael T. Walton and Phyllis J. Walton Travel Award for Graduate Students
- Harry Rosenberg Travel Award for Untenured Scholars
The RMMRA wants to provide resources for scholars, teachers, and students in order to help diversify and decolonize our classrooms and our research. In light of this desire, we have been working to create two databases of resources for our members.

**Database of Scholars of Color:** A list of articles, books, and reviews authored by scholars of color.

**Database of Period Authors & Artists of Color:** A list of primary works—literary, chronicle, sermons, accounts, etc.—by authors of color from the medieval and early modern periods around the globe. We are seeking citations from members to be submitted to our growing lists for inclusion in a more formal future database.

To contribute, or to utilize these resources, please visit one of the two Google Doc links ([Scholars of Color](#)) and ([Authors/Artists of Color](#)) and submit a citation (with a link, if there is an online version available).

You may also submit citations to rmmraconf@gmail.com. We will continue collecting these lists and will be working on creating a set of more formal databases.

**SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

We want to hear from you! Send us your good news! Have you published your research, successfully defended your dissertation, or won an award? We’d love to share your good news with our membership list via email, as we have been doing this Fall with occasional announcements. The plan is for regular digests of publication announcements, news, and other items of broad interest. We want to share coupon codes for purchasing members’ books, links to new publications, and anything else you think would interest the full membership. Please send your good news to rmmraconf@gmail.com and be on the lookout for these missives in your email inbox!
The 54th annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association is being cautiously but optimistically planned to take place live and in person in Salt Lake City, June 16-18, 2022. We hope to see you there!

The conference events will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Utah, with remote options available for those who cannot travel. Sessions and the keynote lecture will be held in the historical Fort Douglas Officer's Club. Other events will include a plenary session highlighting some of the Marriott Library's rare books and manuscripts, including three separate copies of Vesalius' *On the Fabric of the Human Body*, which will be available for participants to examine. We are excited to host a variety of events this year ranging from works-in-progress workshops and pedagogy panels to research presentations. The formal call for papers will be distributed in January, with proposals due March 1.

Our keynote speaker will be Roger L. Martínez-Dávila, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. He will be presenting on his exciting work in the field of digital global history, and his design of immersive virtual reality worlds in order to recreate vanished medieval environments. He will argue that the future of medieval and early modern studies requires an embrace of interdisciplinarity and more conscientious and thoughtful use and exploration of electronic tools and delivery platforms.

University of Utah’s Marriott Library, where some conference events will take place. See [here](#) for more on their holdings of manuscripts and incunabula.

A leaf from a Flemish book of hours, date unknown. Marriott Library, Rare ND0363.A1 P24, fol. 1r.
Quidditas is the annual, peer-reviewed, open access 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.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE: Quidditas has a permanent archival home where you may find all volumes of the journal: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rmmra/

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Jesse Bonafede, The Good, the Bad, and the Violent: Analyzing Beowulf’s Heroic Displacement and Transgressive Violence during the Grendel Quest

Liam O. Purdon, Codex Exoniensis, fols. 123b-124b: An Old English Poetic Romano-British Arts Encomium

Harley Joyce Campbell, Hellish Indigestion: Consumption as Knowledge in Medieval Descensus Christi Accounts

Barrett L. Beer, Contemporary History in Early Tudor English Chronicles: 1485-1553

Ashley Jeanette Ecklund, Humorous Spaces and Serious Magic in William Baldwin’s Beware the Cat

Albrecht Classen, The Fable as a Global Genre: Marie de France, Ulrich Bonerius, Don Juan Manuel and Kalila and Dimna

Ian Borden & Sarah Borden, "There’s Rosemary, that’s for Remembrance:" Suicide Ideation and Portraying Ophelia’s Madness

Catherine Loomis, "What’s Hecuba to him?" Grieving Parents On and Off the Early Modern Stage

NOTES

Jessica C. Brown, The Birthplace of Saint Wulfthryth: An Unexamined Reference in Cambridge University Library Additional 2604

James D. Alsop, Sir John Cheke, Chamberlain of the Exchequer, 1552-53

TEXTS AND TEACHING

Lucy C. Barnhouse, Teaching Premodern Women and Gender

Hilary Rhodes, Premodern Pedagogies: Queer Medieval Materiality

Esther Liberan Cuenca, Visualizing Women: Teaching Modern Images and Medieval Texts about Pre-Modern Women

Jennifer McNabb, What She Said: Recovering Early Modern Women’s Experiences through Court Records
CALL FOR PAPERS: VOL. 43 (2022) OF QUIDDITAS
Articles in Quidditas are abstracted and indexed in MLA, Historical Abstracts, Feminac: 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 Knowledgeable. Quidditas includes 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 "Texts and Teaching" section seeks longer review of literature essays, articles on teaching approaches and other aspects of pedagogy, and short reviews of individual textbooks and other published materials that instructors have found especially valuable in teaching courses in medieval and early modern disciplines. Membership in RMMRA is not required for submission or publication.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION
Please send Articles and Notes to: James H. Forse, Editor quidditas_editor@yahoo.com
Please send submissions for Texts & Teaching to: Ginger Smoak, Associate Editor ginger.smoak@utah.edu

In memoriam Paul Thomas
We have learned with sadness of the passing of Paul R. Thomas, past President (2003-2005) and long-time member of RMMRA. Prof. Thomas taught in the Department of English at Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah until 2006 and was Co-Director of The Chaucer Studio from its inception in 1988. He was a much beloved professor at BYU and a friend and mentor to many. He was passionate about bringing Chaucer and other premodern literature alive for students, especially by means of spoken word recordings distributed through the Chaucer Studio and by sponsoring "Reading Chaucer Aloud" workshops at academic conferences. You can read about his work on the Chaucer Studio readings here: https://universe.byu.edu/1996/01/30/recordings-enliven-chaucerstudio18mproffessors-ta/ and about his work with the Canterbury Tales Project here: https://magazine.byu.edu/article/researchers- quests-to-solve-600-year-old-mystery/.

His obituary is found here: https://dailyutah.com/paul-roger-thomas-obituaries/

Our condolences to all who knew and loved Prof. Thomas. May he rest in peace.
MEMBERSHIP

Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association
Membership Form / Annual Dues
We use Member Planet for membership and dues. Please visit:
https://www.memberplanet.com/rmmra
If you wish to pay via US post, please fill out the membership form below (or here) and mail, along with a check, to the treasurer (see below).

Name:

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Remit this form with your check made out to “RMMRA” to: Samantha Dressel, Ph.D.
Treasurer, RMMRA
555 N. Glenrose Dr.
Orange, CA 92869

Dues Categories

- $27.00 Individual Member, Annual

- $32.00 Dual Membership, Annual: For dual household members, who wish to join RMMRA together. Please provide second member's name and field of interest:

  Partner's name:

  Partner's research interests:

- $130 Five-Year Active, Individual: One member's dues for a five-year period.

Membership Benefits:
- Association with a vibrant group of medieval and Renaissance scholars centered in the Western Mountain States that has served the West for almost 50 years.
- An annual conference where national and international scholars present new works.
- Sponsored sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo and the Renaissance Society of America.
- Awards and grants presented annually, including presentation of the Alan D. Breck and Delno C. West Awards, prizes given annually at our conference to a senior and a junior scholar.
- The RMMRA as a publisher of the online, open access journal, *Quidditas*, which publishes peer-reviewed articles, Notes, Review Essays, and a section on Texts & Teaching.
- An annual newsletter regarding conferences and events of interest to our members.
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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