

Mirabile dictu!

The Newsletter of the Center for Medieval and Early Modern
Studies (CMEMS) at the University of Colorado



Festum omnium sanctorum: The Feast of All Saints

by Professor Scott G. Bruce

Mirabile dictu!

Modern academics are creatures of seasonal routine. Whatever our personal research habits, most of us lead our lives according to the rhythms of the academic calendar: in late summer we face the start of the new semester with a combination of anticipation and dread; by autumn, we have been worn down by the failed expectations of midterms

and faculty meetings; and by December most of us are ready for a well-deserved break from the weekly grind of lecturing. In January, it begins again, as we follow a similar cycle until the promise of summer, which beckons us with unstructured research time,

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*Help us welcome this semester's
CMEMS Front Range Speaker.*

On November 7, Professor Lisa Hunt (Wyoming) speaks on late medieval Flemish manuscripts.

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*CMEMS Executive Committee
Member Reports from Chicago*

Professor Anne E. Lester (History) represented CMEMS at this year's CARA meeting.

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*Call for Papers for the RMMRA
Meeting in Denver (June 2014)*

"Pilgrimage" in its many guises is the theme of the 46th annual meeting of the RMMRA.

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SPEAKER PROFILE: Elizabeth Moore Hunt

Elizabeth “Lisa” Moore Hunt is Associate Professor of Medieval Art History in the Department of Art at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY. She is a specialist on late medieval book illumination. Her first book was *Illuminating the Borders of Northern French and Flemish Manuscripts, ca. 1270-1310* (Routledge, 2007). She has published numerous articles and catalogue entries on topics in medieval art history. She is currently at work on two related book projects: *The Count's (Im)Pious Prayers: The Psalter of Guy of Dampierre, Count of Flanders (1280-1305)* (Royal Library of Belgium, MS 10607), under contract with Brepols; and *Naked Camelot: The Gendered Margins of an Illuminated Vulgate Arthur from Flanders* (BNF, français 95, and Yale MS 229).

Elizabeth Moore Hunt is Associate Professor of Medieval Art History at the University of Wyoming and an authority on late medieval manuscripts.

Professor Elizabeth “Lisa” Moore Hunt earned her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2004, where she completed her thesis under the direction of Professor Anne Rudloff Stanton. She has taught medieval art history at the University of Wyoming since 2005. Professor Hunt’s current research project investigates the intersection of the illuminated codex and audience reception through the marginal images of manuscripts produced in Flanders during the late thirteenth century. One family of manuscripts in particular has been connected to the House of Dampierre, the Counts of Flanders, through the appearance of heraldic devices. This family

of surviving books includes at least ten psalters, an antiphonary, a *Trésor* by Brunetto Latini, and three romances. The marginal drolleries that appear throughout their folios demonstrably highlight concerns and values expressed in the text that would offer reflective mirrors to the socio-political circumstances of the Count of Flanders and his extended family alliances. Hunt’s talk will focus on the problems of heraldry in identifying clients in the Flemish court, then propose ways in which the marginalia in one of the most richly illuminated copies of Arthurian romance can assist in understanding the historical reception of the text by its intended audience.

On November 7, Elizabeth Moore Hunt will present her new research on late medieval manuscripts as the CMEMS Fall Semester Front Range Speaker.

Every semester, CMEMS invites a distinguished premodern scholar from the Front Range (broadly interpreted as the eastern Rocky Mountains that stretch from Wyoming down to Colorado and the adjoining High Plains of Nebraska and Kansas) to present their current research to our students and faculty. Please join us for the CMEMS Front Range Speaker Series on Thursday November 7 at 5pm, when Professor Elizabeth Hunt will give a public lecture entitled “Manuscript Marginalia and its Courtly Audience in Medieval Flanders.” The talk will take place in HUMN 1B90. Everyone is welcome to attend!



CMEMS Executive Committee Member Anne E. Lester Reports on October's Meeting of CARA

On October 5-6, Professor Anne E. Lester attended the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America's Committee on Centers and Regional Associations (CARA) in Chicago, IL, as a representative of CMEMS. Here is her report about her experiences at the meeting:

"This was the first time that someone from CMEMS had attended CARA in well over a decade. And I am delighted to report that it was one of the most useful meetings that I have been to in quite some time. CARA's mission is to promote centers for medieval studies and one of the ways it does this is by gathering together representatives from programs across the United States and Canada to discuss challenges facing organizations both large and small, and to share strategies for growth. Three major themes ran through our discussions: global studies, digital humanities, and outreach.

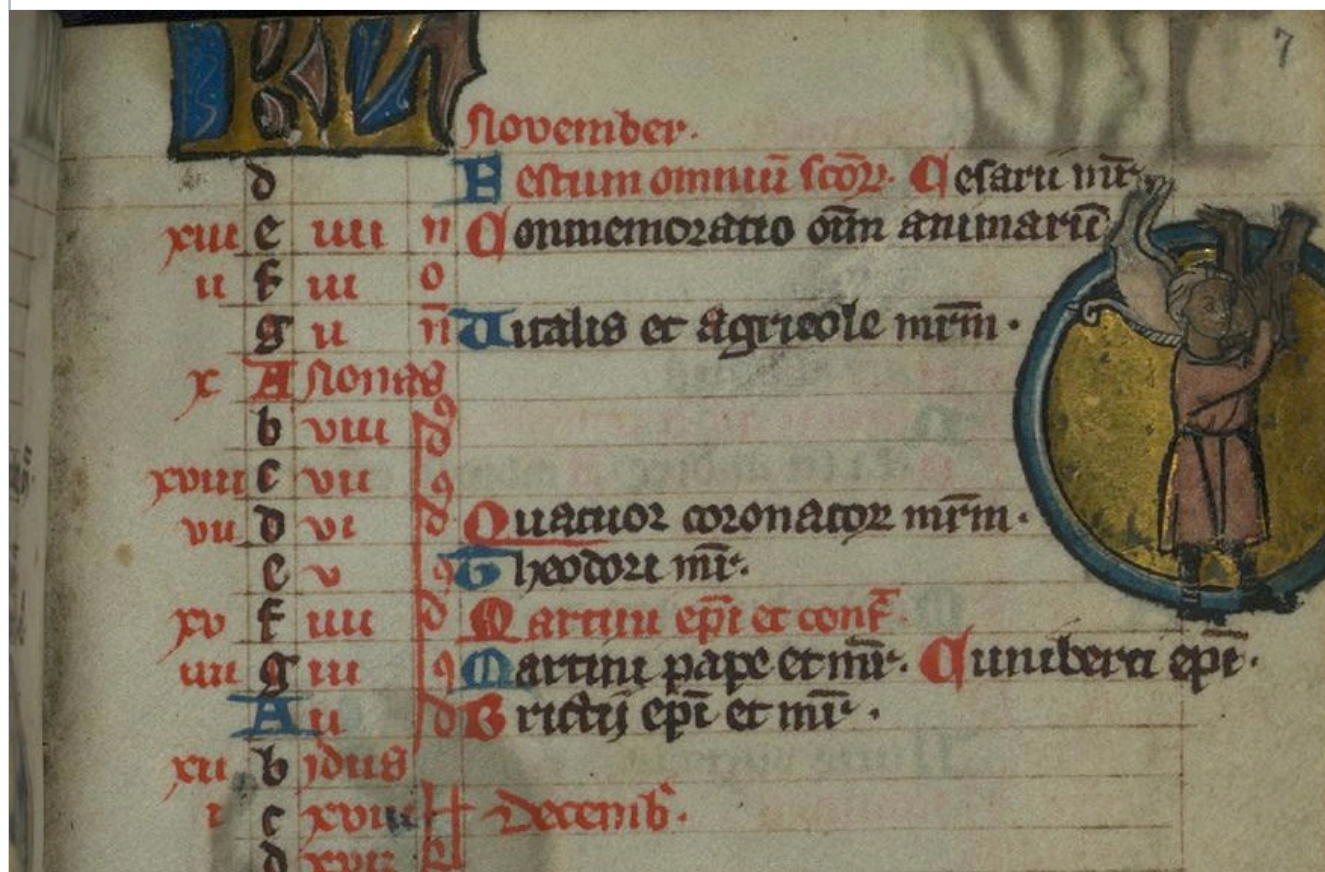
Many programs have taken up the theme of the Global Middle Ages in conferences, seminars, and publications. The Newberry Library consortium, for example, has focused on Global and World seminars and there is a new journal called *The Global Middle Ages*, edited by Carol Symes. This topic has encouraged medievalists to cast our work in a broader context and to reflect on interconnections across time and space during the long period of medieval history.



Related to the idea of connections and networks is the growing presence of Digital Humanities initiatives across university campuses. The Digital Humanities grows out of digital tools for research and teaching that include things like the Medieval Internet Sourcebook, the French of Outremer Project, many different paleographical tools, and other digital forums for collaborative work. Digital Humanities projects are also changing the way we conduct research and write. Many research tools are now available online (one thinks of the profound utility of open access initiatives, the ACLS digital book projects, the Saint Gall Project, and the many archival collections in North America and Europe that are now accessible online) as are an increasing number of publishing venues (both e-journals and book review forums).

Finally, the importance of outreach for thriving medieval studies programs is apparent to all, that is, how programs establish a public presence and participate in their communities. Outreach initiatives are related to two needs: teaching and fund-raising. Many centers incorporate outreach programs like film series, volunteer activities, the cultivation of medieval gardens, etc.) as aspects of dynamic courses, while others viewed outreach as a fundamental way of connecting their universities with the local community through public events like invited lectures and thematic investigations of topics of interest to the university and the community. What is clear is that commitment to outreach encourages programs to interact with their students and communities in a much more engaged and thoughtful way with positive benefits accruing for all."

We are pleased to announce that Professor Lester was elected to the CARA Executive Committee for a three-year term.



(continued from p. 1)

the excitement of travel abroad to libraries and archives that feel like homes away from home, or simply the freedom to sleep in. But unfortunately we are often so caught up in our own routines that we forget that premodern people marked the passing of time differently than we do. It is worth taking note of these differences and pointing them out to our students. The month of November boasted several liturgical feast days freighted with religious and social significance that no premodern person would ever take for granted.

All Saints (November 1)

The origin of the Feast of All Saints on the first of November remains obscure. In the early church, liturgical celebrations honoring all of the saints took place on several different dates.

Some sources identify May 13 as a date for the feast; others specify the first Sunday after Pentecost. The former date may have been significant because it coincided with the *Lemuralia* (May 9-13), the Roman rite of appeasing the restless dead with offerings of food. It was allegedly on the last day of the *Lemuralia* in 609 or 610 that Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary and all of the martyrs and some scholars regard this event as the origin of the Feast of All Souls.

By the Carolingian period, however, November 1 seems to have become the accepted date on which to honor all of the saints of Christendom. In 835, at the request of Pope Gregory IV, Louis the Pious required all of the churches of his realm to adopt this date for the feast.

This standardization seems to have met with little resistance; many ninth-century liturgical books mark November 1 with the words *Natale omnium sanctorum*. The celebration of the Feast of All Saints by medieval people not only acknowledged the sanctity of the heroes of the faith, but also provided an important opportunity to petition their intercession on behalf of sinful Christians. According to Thomas Aquinas: “[W]e celebrate the feasts of the saints who have already attained happiness so that we may be helped by their favors and may be built up by their examples and stimulated by their rewards.”

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St. Martin's Day (November 15)

Unlike the Feast of All Saints, Saint Martin's Day on the fifteenth of November was a time of harvest celebration, similar in some respects to American Thanksgiving. It marked the end of the agrarian year with the completion of the autumn wheat seeding and the beginning of the harvest, when the slaughter of fattened cattle produced the beef of Martinmas, new wine was ready for drinking and the bounty of the harvest made its way into the hands of tax collectors. In the Middle Ages, it also heralded a forty-day fast, the *Quadragesima Sancti Martini*, which prepared Christians for the solemnities of the Christmas season. In the medieval mind, the arrival of St. Martin's Day was synonymous with the onset of winter.

Looking Ahead to December

Winter is coming! In our December issue of *Mirabile dictu!* we will profile the research of Anglo-Saxonist Professor Tiffany Beechy (Department of English). She will present our second Faculty Work-in-Progress Talk of the semester on 5 December. We will also highlight a new book on letter writing in early medieval China by our colleague Antje Richter (*Asia Languages and Civilizations*) and unveil our Spring Event Calendar. Last but not least (and just in time for Christmas!), next month's editorial will look at the renewed interest in medieval themes in recent LEGO and Playmobile sets.

Servus,
SGB

About the Director: Professor Scott G. Bruce, Department of History



Scott G. Bruce earned his B.A. in History and Latin *summa cum laude* (1994) at York University in Toronto, Canada. He pursued his M.A. (1996) and Ph.D. (2000) in History at Princeton University, where he concentrated on topics in religion and culture in the early Middle Ages and wrote his dissertation under the supervision of Professor Giles Constable.

A specialist on the history of the abbey of Cluny, SGB has published widely on many aspects of medieval monastic culture and literature. He also serves as an editor of *The Medieval Review* (TMR) and plays an active role in the Medieval Academy of America (MAA). For more information, including a complete list of publications, please visit: www.colorado.academia.edu/ScottBruce

Call for Papers for the 46th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association

The 46th annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association (RMMRA) will take place on June 12-14, 2014 at SpringHill Suites in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the conference is "*Peregrinatio pro amore Dei: Aspects of Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.*" The organizers are now accepting paper abstracts and session proposals. The deadline for both is November 15, 2013. Please submit your paper abstracts or session proposals to either Kim Klimek (klimekk@msudenver.edu) or Todd Upton (tj_upton@icloud.com). You can learn more about the RMMRA and their annual conference by reading their formal CFP here: rowdy.msudenver.edu/~tayljeff/RMMRA/RMMRA2014.pdf



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IMAGE SOURCES:

Fra Angelico's Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs (c. 1423) adorns p. 1.

The mounted knight on p. 2 is from Royal Library of Belgium, MS 10607, fol. 110v.

The illumination of Jesus creating the world on p. 3 is the fourteenth-century Bible Historiale of John the Good (British Library, MS Royal 19 D II, fol. 3v).

The manuscript page on p. 4 depicts the month of November with an illumination of a man carrying a slaughtered hog. It is from a liturgical book for a Franciscan community near Cologne in the late 13th century (Walters Art Museum W.41.7r).

The feast on p. 5 shows Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, Lord of the Manor of Irnham in Lincolnshire eating with his family. It appears on fol. 208 of the splendid Luttrell Psalter (British Library, Add. MS 42130), which was written and illustrated around 1330.

The thirteenth-century depiction of pilgrims executed in stained glass on p. 6 (above) is from a window in Canterbury Cathedral.

Postscriptum: The eminent French medievalist Jacques Le Goff has written a wonderful new book that captures the rhythms of the medieval liturgical calendar through an analysis of Jacques de Voragine's *Legenda Aurea*, entitled *A la recherche du temps sacré: Jacques de Voragine et la Légende dorée* (Perrin, 2011). An English translation is forthcoming in 2014 from Princeton University Press.

Jacques Le Goff



A la recherche
du temps sacré

Jacques de Voragine
et la *Légende dorée*

POUR L'HISTOIRE
PERRIN