

MSN

Medieval Studies Newsletter

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MEST MOURNS THE LOSS OF PEGRAM HARRISON

As all of you are aware, Pegram Harrison recently passed away. Pegram was a great friend to the institute, and she will be sorely missed. As a token of our esteem for her, we have asked Samuel N. Rosenberg, David Brakke, Karma Lochrie, and, of course, Larry Clopper to contribute the following remembrances.

Shortly after Pegram arrived at IU, she decided to major in medieval architecture. It wasn't until she had done a lot of course work that she began to wonder whether she should be in a field that didn't have a lot of architectural remains in the US. By then

she had gotten really interested in contemporary art and moved into that area. Nevertheless, she retained an interest in the art of the Middle Ages (which was good when we went abroad) and always enjoyed having medievalists to dinner and to the annual party. She thought the medievalists she met were wonderfully engaging and interesting to be with. She never complained about my "obligations"; rather, she welcomed them.

-Larry Clopper

When I think of Pegram Harrison, I think of casual elegance and charming hospitality, easy sophistication as

compatible with Bloomington as with a world-class city. She had style and she had warmth. She wore glasses that were retro when retro was still avant-garde. She wore her dedication to art with an unpretentious lightness that only underlined the seriousness of the commitment.

I remember when Pegram, in my perception, stepped out of the crowd and became a real and interesting person in her own right. It was a number of years ago, at a MEST pitch-in dinner in one of those drab AI houses along Atwater, a house with many occupants that evening and no place for anyone to sit down. Both trapped

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NEWBERRY OFFERS MEDIEVAL SEMINARS

This fall and winter, the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies will be offering three seminars focusing on the Middle Ages. These seminars take place on Friday afternoons, allowing interested IU students enough time to make the trip up to Chicago. The following are abbreviated course descriptions from the Newberry's catalogue:

Indulgences and Medieval Pilgrimage

Prof. Theresa Gross-Diaz (Loyola U. Chicago)
Fridays, 9/24- 12/3/2004, 2-5 pm.

The seminar will focus on the role of indulgences in the development of pilgrimage. Students will explore the role of pilgrimage in the development of concepts of sin and forgiveness, especially the instrument of the indulgence, over the course of several centuries. The course will implement two manuscripts from the Newberry's collection: MS 3, compiled in the 11th

century and MS 6, compiled in the 12th. These manuscripts hold several works revealing much about attitudes towards the absolution of sin. Assignments will comprise three short studies of primary sources, of which one will ask students to assess materials in MS 3 and MS 6. Each participant will also summarize and present, at the appropriate point in the seminar, one book or two articles in a language other than English. In addition, graduate students taking the course for credit will write a short (10-12 page) research paper on a topic to be cleared with the instructor. Participants should possess language proficiency in one language other than English.

Revisions of an Old Institution: Controversial Takes on Marriage in Late Medieval England

Prof. Eve Salisbury (Western Michigan U.)
Fridays, 1/7-3/11/2005, 2-5 pm.

This course will consider questions

about marriage, such as: Who should marry? Under what circumstances should they marry? How is marriage validated? And why is it necessary? The course will begin by examining the long and controversial history of marriage in order to identify and understand how the tensions between the process of idealization and social praxis evolve over time. Students will look at a variety of texts from time periods ranging from ancient Greece to the late middle ages. Close readings of exemplary texts recently made available to students in the Middle English Text Series from a range of genres in Middle English—satire, fabliau, didactic treatise, homily, drama, and romance—written by canonical as well as non-canonical authors will constitute some of the primary course material. Students will have the opportunity to make use of the Newberry's collection, particularly texts

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Pegram Continued...

against the same wall, we began talking about little matters of immediate relevance but soon drifted from medieval studies into the subject that was then engaging Pegram's enthusiasm: the art of Helen Frankenthaler. She told me about her contacts with the artist, her study of her printmaking, her own project of a catalogue raisonné of Frankenthaler's creative output. Pegram glowed with interest as she spoke and I think we both forgot how tiring it was to go on standing in that bare, art-deprived room.

That's when Pegram Harrison became a whole person to me, a woman of depth and individuality. It was an important moment, which I remember now with sadness and with thanks.

-Samuel N. Rosenberg

The monks of late ancient Egypt and medieval Europe understood the moral seriousness of the virtue of hospitality, without which community

cannot exist and few people ever experience grace. I do not presume to call myself a friend of Pegram Harrison, and I had only a few interactions with her in her professional identity as an art impresario (including a memorable afternoon at a huge exhibition on the Navy Pier in Chicago). But like many in the Medieval Studies community, I frequently experienced Pegram's hospitality, that is, her gift for making people feel at home and enabling professors and students to form a community. For example, I recall a small dinner party that she gave a decade ago for the illustrious Peter Brown: as a green assistant professor of religious studies I arrived in fear and trembling but soon found myself at ease, thanks to Pegram, who inexplicably seemed to find me as interesting as her famous guest of honor. Then there were the large fall parties, the highlights of several Septembers. As a hosting team Pegram and Larry Clopper were formidable: no matter how shy an

academic you were, it was impossible not to have a good time as they introduced you around and supplied you with delicious food and drink. Pegram was a lot like Bloomington—a little bit Southern, very smart, aesthetically sophisticated yet unpretentious, and totally fun. It is in part thanks to the hospitality of Pegram Harrison that Medieval Studies at IU is not just a collection of courses, but a genuine community.

-David Brakke

I first met Pegram in January of 1999 during one of those so-called job dinners, a rite of passage for every job candidate, one that tests her ability to socialize even as she continues to be interviewed—to discuss her next book project in between appetizers. The job dinner hosted by Pegram and Larry Clopper was different. Instead of the usual pleasantries about Bloomington

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M503 MEDIEVAL LIT.: PETRARCH AND PETRARCHISM

PETRARCH'S CANZONIERE AND THE FORMATION OF THE SELF -REFLEXIVE LYRIC MODE

This fall, Professor Julia Bondanella (FRIT) will be teaching FRIT M503, an in-depth introduction to Petrarch's *Rime sparse* (or *Canzoniere*). Petrarch's poetry stands as a bridge between earlier and later lyric traditions, the primary lyric and narrative source for six centuries of lyric and love poetry. The course will explore the moral, literary, technical and architectural tasks Petrarch confronted in composing his songbook; the development of an introspective voice and lyric persona that could be adapted beyond the male-centered tradition; the re-invention of the literary language or rhetoric of love; the formation of a lyric songbook; the function of mythological types and figurative language (imagery, oxymora, conceits); the depiction of women as object and icon; issues of inter-textuality; themes or *topoi*, including *innamoramento*,

dreaming and vision, memory, time and fame, solitude and nature, endless desire and unrequited love, the body and chastity of the beloved, and the lover's ecstasy; psychological dynamics, including anxiety, pain, disease, and melancholy; images of cruelty, hunting, killing and resurrection; political and cultural references; neoplatonism; genre and lyric theory.

Although the course will focus on Petrarch, students will also examine the context of the *Canzoniere*, including the lyrics of Ovid, Occitan poetry, the poetry of Renaissance Europe, and some sample lyrics of modern pop music. (Was Petrarch himself a "pop icon"?) Students will also explore basic lyrical forms, metrics, and fundamental elements of Petrarchan poetics. Selections from Petrarch's other works, the *Secretum* in its entirety, and Augustine's *Confessions* will be required along with a variety of

secondary materials.

Professor Bondanella received her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. She is a Former Associate Dean of the Honors College; former Secretary of the American Association of Italian Studies; former President of the National Collegiate Honors Council; and former Assistant Chair for Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Professor Bondanella has also received the Students' Choice Teaching Award, and the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award. Her books, editions, and translations include: *Petrarch's Visions and Their Renaissance Analogs*; *The Dictionary of Italian Literature* (2nd rev. ed.); *Rousseau's Political Works: A Norton Critical Edition*; *The Italian Renaissance Reader*; Giorgio Vasari's *The Lives of the Artists*; Roberto Ridolfi's *Life of Titian*; and Cellini's *My Life*.

FACULTY NEWS

Christopher Atwood (Central Eurasian Studies) gave two papers: "Ulus Emirs, Seals, Marriage Partners, and Keshig Shifts: the Evolution of a Classic Mongol Institution," at the International Symposium on Inner Asian Statecraft and Technologies of Governance. Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K., March 18, 2004, and "The Secret History of the Mongols: A View from the Veritable Records" at the Central Eurasian Studies Departmental Colloquium, Bloomington, IN., March 10, 2004. He also served as a consultant and was interviewed for the TV program "The Mongols" aired on the History Channel, 9-10 pm Eastern Time, January 20, 2004, and was interviewed for the Mongolian website "Mongol tuurgatny tsahim urtuu suljee," February 1, 2004.

Diane Reilly (History of Art) has won an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship to the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto, for the school year 2004-2005.

STUDENT NEWS

Gina Brandolino (English) received the English Department's Associate Instructor Teaching Portfolio Award.

Sigrid Danielson (History of Art) received a tenure track job at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI, teaching Art History.

David Marshall (English) received the Culbertson Outstanding Teacher Award from the English Department. Also, David and his wife welcomed a new

addition to their family, Samuel Castle (Castle is a family name), born on April 1st, 2004.

MIDDLE HIGH GERMAN READING GROUP

Thursdays, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
Ballantine 664

HAVE ANY NEWS?

Share your news with the Medieval Studies community by submitting it to the newsletter. Submissions can be made via campus mail or by emailing us at mest@indiana.edu.

Pegram Continued...

(it's a separate species from the state in which it resides), IU (have you heard about the music school?), and the English Department (here, the comments sometimes become inaudible), this dinner was actually lively, even raucous at times. If the medievalists are like this—and we all know how understated medievalists can be—what must the rest of the department be like, I wondered.

The rest of the department was, as it turned out, like most other English departments in this country, but Pegram and Larry were the exceptions. Pegram's style and spirit defined her to a great extent. In a culture not particularly well known for either, she stood out like bright metal on sullen ground. If there is anything that said "Pegram" for me, it was her shoes, and I mean this in the least frivolous sense possible. Pegram's shoes were so fanciful, dramatic, and plain adventurous that I always looked first at her feet when I saw her. Her pink slip-on pumps, immortalized in the photo sported on the front of "Pegram Turns 50" birthday invitation, not only were all the rage in Paris, as she told me, but they captured her flair and her sheer capacity for fun. At many Larry-

and-Pegram dinner parties after the first one in 1999, I continued to enjoy their liveliness and affection for the unexpected.

Pegram's style was not confined to her shoes or her dinner parties. In late 2001 I was diagnosed with melanoma, a condition that can be fatal but was not, luckily, in my case. Most people who knew about it were sympathetic and concerned, but Pegram seemed to be genuinely upset, even though she and I did not know each other personally beyond the dinner parties. I was touched by the depth of her concern for me at that time and her insistence on—what else?—a dinner party to celebrate the good news of my cancer-free diagnosis after surgery.

A child who lived down the street from Larry and Pegram, I learned later, called Pegram the woman with the butterfly glasses. Obviously, I was not the only one to notice or appreciate her fanciful style or to see in that fancifulness a rare sense of living that was both artistic and generous.

-Karma Lochrie

Interested in a Medieval Studies Minor?

Graduate Opportunities

Medieval Studies offers a Graduate Area Certificate and Minor. The Ph.D. Minor is designed for students who seek additional training in medieval studies beyond their own department, but desire a less intensive course of study than the Area Certificate. The Area Certificate allows doctoral students to pursue interdisciplinary work in medieval studies and to develop the basic skills required to do advanced research.

Undergraduate Opportunities

The Medieval Studies Institute offers a Minor and an Undergraduate Certificate to be completed from the wide range of medieval courses available every semester at IU. Both the Minor and the Certificate enable students to take courses in various departments so that they can experience a variety of approaches and topics while expanding their knowledge of the Middle Ages.

For more information, see: <http://www.indiana.edu/~medieval/>

**CALL FOR PAPERS:
INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL
CONGRESS**

The International Medieval Congress will be held July 11-14, 2005, in Leeds. The theme for the conference is "Youth and Age," although the congress welcomes papers on all aspects of Medieval Studies. The deadline for submissions of abstracts is August 31, 2004. The deadline for submissions of sessions is September 30, 2004. The IMC seeks 20-minute individual papers or sessions including three 20- minute papers.

The conference will attempt to examine and synthesize many years of scholarship dealing with the medieval sociological reality of the stages in human life, but also how these topics operated within the mental, conceptual, and cultural world of medieval people. For more information about the IMC, please visit: www.leeds.ac.uk/imi/imc/imc.htm. Abstracts and session proposals can be submitted to:

Axel E. Müller
International Medieval Congress
Parkinson 1.03
University of Leeds
LEEDS, LS2 9JT
IMC@leeds.ac.uk

Newberry Continued...

on cannon law. Some knowledge of Latin is necessary, as well as experience with Middle English. A final research paper of about 20 pages and two informal classroom presentations will be required.

The Discovery and Invention of Old English Literature

Prof. John D. Niles (U. of Wisconsin-Madison)
Fridays, 1/7-3/11, 2005, from 2-5 pm

The title of this seminar plays on the Latin word *inventio*, a term whose meaning ranges from "discovery" to "invention." During the first two-thirds of each seminar meeting, students will be translating (and to some extent "discovering") Old English texts with precise attention to their grammar, style, lexicon, and thematic content. During the rest of each meeting students will examine rare books in which those texts were first presented to a post-medieval reading public, thereby promoting their discovery by an unintended audience while also inventing them as modern

artifacts. Texts will cover a wide range: Old English Gospels, law codes, poetic texts, early dictionaries and grammars. The course aims to develop students' knowledge of Old English as well as sharpening their awareness of the degree to which Old English Literature, as it has been presented to the modern reading public, is the creation of successive generations of scholars building on one another's work. Students must have at least one full term of Old English. Students will write a term paper of a length appropriate to their individual level of training. All students will make one relatively informal presentation to the class.

For more information on any of these courses, see: www.newberry.org/nl/renaissance/L3renaissance.html. To register, call 312.255.3514, or email renaissance@newberry.org. Indiana University students should consult with their department chairs for information about receiving credit for these courses.

MEST SUMMER COURSES

First Session

CLAS L300 Inten. Intro. to Clas/
Medieval Latin
FINA A101 Ancient and Medieval Art
HIST H213 The Black Death

Second Session

CLAS L400 Intensive Literary Latin
ENG E301 Literatures in English to
1600

*The MEST Newsletter is now available on-line:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~medieval>*

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