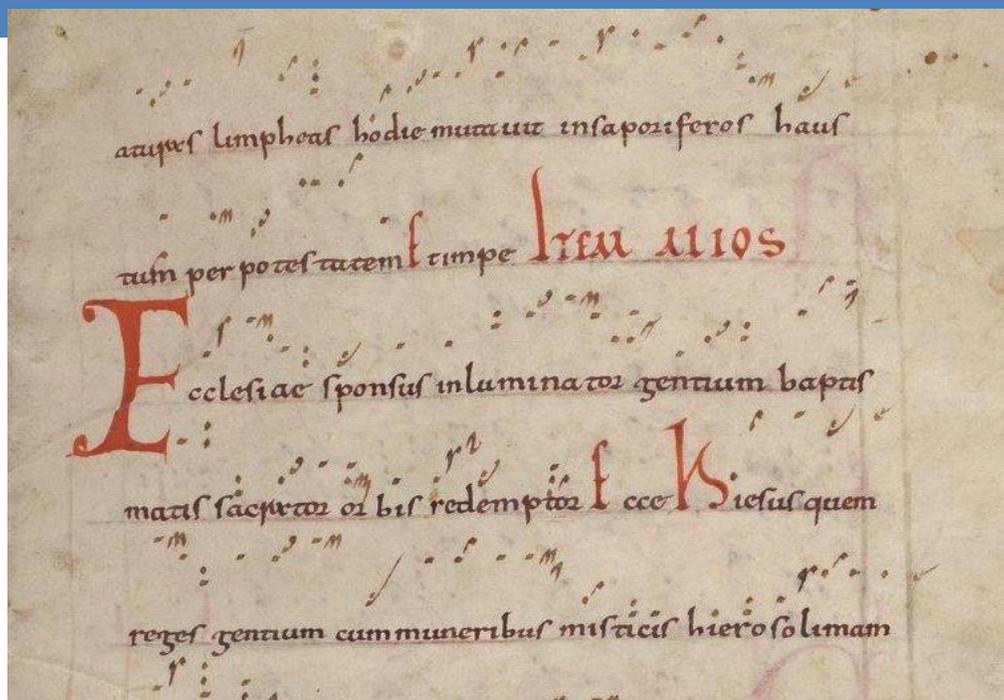


Mirabile dictu!

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



Stockholm University's *Ars Edendi* Program

by Dr. Erika Kihlman

Mirabile dictu!

This issue of *Mirabile dictu!* will be our last one for the 2013-2014 academic year. I can think of no better way to herald the summer months than with exciting news from Stockholm University about the *Ars Edendi* Program. And who better to share the news than Dr. Erika Kihlman, who is assistant director of the program? Dr. Kihlman is well-known to medieval Latinists for her research on medieval

sequence commentaries as well as her work on editing methods and textual criticism. In this guest editorial, she has generously offered to tell us the story of the origin and aims of the *Ars Edendi* Program, which has made Stockholm University one of the most vibrant centers for the study of medieval Latin and Greek texts. Read on!

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2013-2014 in Review: Reflecting on the First Year of CMEMS

Looking back on the first year of the new CMEMS and looking ahead to the future!

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Presenting the CMEMS Fall 2014 Event Calendar

Mark your calendars now! You will not want to miss any of our exciting events this fall!

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Muslims in Medieval Latin Christendom. c. 1050-1614

A pioneering new book on Muslim minorities in medieval Europe by Brian A. Catlos.

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2013-2014 in Review: Reflecting on the First Year of CMEMS

A Busy Year for CMEMS!

It is hard to believe that the 2013-2014 academic year is almost over. This time last year we had just finished planning our new event calendar and we were feeling nervous about what the year would bring. As the spring semester comes to a close, we look back with great satisfaction on everything we accomplished this year and with immense gratitude to all of the scholars, faculty and students who participated in our events.

It seems like only yesterday that we gathered in the UMC on a hot August afternoon to hear Professor Kirk Ambrose's work-in-progress talk on "Saints and Ex-Convicts as Artistic Collaborators." Then came the September rains and the great flood of 2013, which cancelled Professor Renee Trilling's paper. The month of October brought drier weather and the First Annual James Field Willard Lecture by Professor William Chester Jordan, a moving talk on political exiles in the High Middle Ages. A host of other speakers followed: Lisa Hunt, Tiffany Beechy, Rebecca Maloy, Pascale Bermon, Matthew Gerber, Sarah Pessin, Bruce Holsinger, Jason Beduhn, and Eric Rebillard. Our warm thanks to all of them for sharing their fascinating research with us!

A New Year, A New Page

In 2014-2015, CMEMS will bring even more premodern scholars to our campus, almost 50 in fact! In the fall semester, we will continue our tradition of hosting CU Faculty Work-in-Progress talks twice a semester, but this year we will embrace an unusual theme: Medieval America! We will also host some of the best and brightest premodern scholars in the country in our Invited Speakers Series and welcome local scholars as participants in our Front Range Speaker Series.

We are very proud that Professor Caroline Walker Bynum will deliver the Second Annual James Field Willard Lecture on 22 October 2014. This lecture will serve as the keynote for an exciting interdisciplinary conference on Medieval Materiality that will take place on 23-24 October on the CU campus. This conference will feature three plenary speakers (Aden Kumler, Jessica Brantley and Daniel Lord Smail) as well as 30 speakers chosen from 70+ proposals that we received. This promises to be a major intellectual event with dozens of stimulating papers!

Mirabile dictu! and You

We are so pleased that so many people read *Mirabile dictu!* In addition to our email mailing list, we reach over 100 people a month in over 20 countries on academia.edu! Beginning with our January issue, we have invited scholars to write guest editorials for *Mirabile dictu!* on topics of broad interest both to the academic community at CU Boulder and also to the global readership of our newsletter. I am grateful to Carol Symes, Anne E. Lester and Erika Kihlman for contributing to the pages of *Mirabile dictu!*

In 2014-2015, it is my hope that every other issue of *Mirabile dictu!* will feature a guest editorial by a scholar, researcher, librarian or administrator with a project to promote, a research center to tell us more about, an intriguing manuscript to share, or a story to relate about your work in the archives, at home or abroad. We welcome all of your ideas for possible editorial topics. Please send us your thoughts and inquiries to our CMEMS email address: cmems@colorado.edu.



The CMEMS Fall 2014 Event Calendar

We are very pleased to announce the CMEMS Fall 2014 Event Calendar, which features our Second Annual James Field Willard Lecture, a major international conference on *Medieval Materiality*, as well as invited speakers and CU faculty work-in-progress talks. All events are one-hour long, except for the Willard Lecture, which is followed by a reception, and the *Medieval Materiality* conference, which will take place over two full days. Please check our website in August for details about all of these events and a full program and logistical information regarding the *Medieval Materiality* conference (cmems.colorado.edu).

[Friday 29 August at 12 noon]

CMEMS Faculty Work-in-Progress Talk

Peter H. Wood (Department of History)

"Before Huck's Raft: Life on the Medieval Mississippi in the Lost Age of Dugout Canoes"

[Thursday 18 September at 5pm]

CMEMS Invited Speaker Series

Karl Shoemaker (Department of History, University of Wisconsin at Madison)

"When the Devil Retained a Lawyer: Law, Theology and Salvation in the Middle Ages"

[Thursday 25 September at 5pm]

CMEMS Front Range Speaker Series

Brian Duvick (Department of History, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs)

"Saving the Empire: Christian, Hellenic and Barbarian Dynastic Intrigues in Fifth-Century Rome"

[Thursday 23 October at 5pm]

The Second Annual James Field Willard Lecture in Medieval History

Caroline Walker Bynum (Professor of History *emerita*, IAS Princeton and Columbia University)

"The 'Indifference' of Things: Do Objects Change Our Understanding of Chronology?"

[Friday and Saturday 24-25 October]

Medieval Materiality: A Conference on the Life and Afterlife of Things

This CMEMS-sponsored event will feature three plenary speakers (Professors Aden Kumler, Jessica Brantley and Daniel Lord Smail) and over thirty interdisciplinary papers on the topic of medieval materiality.

[Thursday 13 November at 5pm]

CMEMS Invited Speaker Series

Michelle Karnes (Department of English, Stanford University)

"Marvels in the Medieval Imagination"

[Friday 21 November at 12 noon]

CMEMS Faculty Work-in-Progress Talk

Ann M. Carlos (Department of Economics)

"Living on the Brink of Starvation: Native American Strategies"

(continued from p. 1)

Sometimes dreams actually do come true. For a group of Greek and Latin scholars at Stockholm University, this happened in October 2007 when news arrived from the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation regarding our application for funding. The Tercentenary Foundation is one of the largest funding bodies for humanistic research in Sweden and besides supporting a large number of smaller, three-year-projects, each year they sponsor one or two larger “programs” for a longer period. For the years 2008 to 2015 they had decided to give their support to a program wholly devoted to editorial methodology concerning certain genres of medieval Latin and Greek texts: the *Ars edendi* program.

There were several motivations for our application. First, we sensed a general marginalization of classical philology at the beginning of the millennium, with university chairs in Classics being withdrawn and teaching in paleography and manuscript studies being discontinued. Second, we felt a common need for theoretical and methodological discussions regarding the editing of certain types of medieval texts that challenge stemmatological and traditional methods. As a consequence, we saw a need for a handbook discussing editorial methods aimed specifically at such texts.

The *Ars edendi* program centers on texts representing four different areas: commentaries, anthologies, liturgical texts, and model sermons. We have thus

chosen to focus on “utility texts,” that is, texts composed for special uses, for example, in the schools and monasteries or in the liturgy. They were not usually written by famous medieval scholars but are usually non-authorial, anonymous works, extant in many versions and with wide dissemination. These characteristics demand specialized and sometimes unconventional editorial methods when transferring the texts into a form suitable for the modern-day reader but still true to the textual tradition and the work in question.

Many of the texts studied in the program are multilevel compositions, transmitted together with music or images, or referring to or incorporating other texts. Many also exist in a bewildering number of versions, all with their own cultural and “authorial” contexts. This becomes especially apparent with the tropes to the *Gloria* chant edited by the program director, Professor Gunilla Iversen. These poetic compositions appear as new variants in almost every liturgical setting, while still being intimately related to and intertwined with other versions. As a consequence, each variant can be judged as authorial, that is, a version that functioned and was used in the Mass. An edition of such texts needs both to account for the relations between the versions and the trope verses in their own setting.

As with the tropes, commentary texts can be altered and rewritten by users in order to adapt them to their own cultural context and teaching needs. Of

the three commentary works studied within *Ars edendi* -- the *Glossa ordinaria* to the Bible, a Greek illuminated commentary on the Psalms, and commentaries to sequences and hymns -- such adaptations are a salient feature of the latter. The *Glossa ordinaria* is a more authorial text and therefore quite stable, but its extremely wide transmission creates other challenges. Commentaries can also exist in a unique form as the illuminated catena commentary on the psalter, preserved in a Greek manuscript now in the Vatican library. For a comprehensive understanding of such a work, both the pictorial and the textual elements need to be accommodated at the same time.

Model sermons were composed for the purpose of being altered and adapted, and they are often found in a large number of manuscripts. As part of *Ars edendi* one such collection is being edited with a method designed to be both critical and time-saving, crucial aspects for editing lengthy and widely disseminated medieval texts.

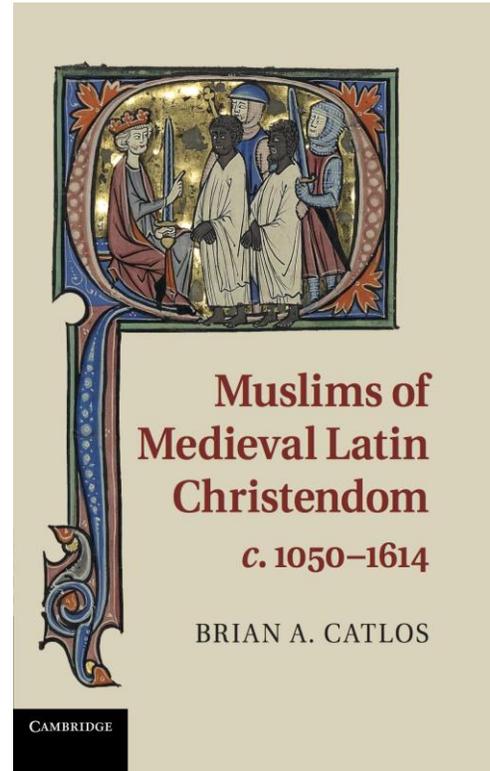
Many medieval works are heavily indebted to other texts, a characteristic which used to deem them unoriginal and therefore less interesting. In recent years, however, attitudes have shifted; with reception studies and a focus on the formations of cultural and scholarly communities such texts are now receiving more attention. In *Ars edendi* the Greek gnomologies related to the *Gnomologium Vaticanum* and

Continued...

Muslims in Medieval Latin Christendom
A New Book by Brian A. Catlos
Professor of Religious Studies

Cambridge University Press announces a new book by Brian A. Catlos, professor of Religious Studies at CU Boulder: "Through crusades and expulsions, Muslim communities survived for over 500 years, thriving in medieval Europe. This comprehensive new study explores how the presence of Islamic minorities transformed Europe in everything from architecture to cooking, literature to science, and served as a stimulus for Christian society to define itself. This is a pioneering new narrative of the history of medieval and early modern Europe from the perspective of Islamic minorities; one which is not, as might first assume, driven by ideology, isolation and decline, but instead one in which successful communities persisted because they remained actively integrated within the larger Christian and Jewish societies in which they lived."

You can order your copy directly from Cambridge University Press (www.cambridge.org) or on Amazon.com.



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IMAGE SOURCES:

The manuscript pages on pp. 1 and 5 are from an early eleventh-century troparium from Saint-Martial de Limoges (MS Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, Latin 1121, fols. 9r and 8v, respectively).

The snail on p. 2 graces the Luttrell Psalter (British Library, Add. MS 42130).

The photograph of the African Pigny hedgehog to the right was taken by Richard Austin at Pennywell Farm in Buckfastleigh in Devon, England.

Postscriptum: This is our last issue of *Mirabile dictu!* for the 2013-2014 academic year. We are grateful to all of the wonderful speakers who visited the CU Boulder campus this year and to all of our faculty members and students who attended CMEMS events and worked behind the scenes to make it all happen. Thank you as well to the CU College of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Western Civilization, the Department of Classics and the CU Mediterranean Group for financial support. We wish you all a safe and productive summer, at home and in the archives. Stay tuned for our next issue during the first week of August!

