NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Members of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship can look forward to a healthy representation of their concerns on the program at Kalamazoo this year. As many of you will have noticed, all four of the sessions proposed by the Society were accepted by the Medieval Institute:

(1) Roundtable: Feminists in Dialogue
(organized by Anne Clark Bartlett)
"Medieval Religious Women: A Neglected Force in History," Jane Tibbets Schulenberg
"Gendering Men," Jo Ann McNamara
"Changing the Subject," Anne Clark Bartlett
"The Ambivalences of a Queer Feminist," Glenn Burger
"Feminisms and Other Discontents," Clare A. Lees
"Dialogue and Power in Feminist Criticism," Laurie A. Finke

(2) Dressing and Undressing Women: Cloth, Clothing, and Class in Medieval Culture
(organized by E. Jane Burns)
"Dressing the Dead: Gertrude of Nivelle's Burial and the Visual Representation of Power and Belief in Merovingian Sepulchers," Bonnie Effros
"The V/virgin and the Spindle: Iconographic and Literary Models of Femininty in Medieval France," Nancy A. Jones
"Lavish Dress and Unruly Households: Women's Regulation of Dress and Control of Servants in Medieval French Conduct Books," Roberta L. Krueger
"'The Fay made a cloth which covers the faithless ladies': Women's Work from Profane to Sacred," Thérèse Saint-Paul

(3) Rewriting Texts: The Hazards of Translating Medieval Women's Works
(organized by Judith Laird)
"Changing Voices, Elusive Pronouns: Translating Hadewijch of Antwerp's 'Mengeldicht,'" Mary Suydam
"Translating Genders," Ann Hollywood
"On Translating Christine de Pisan," Thelma Fenster
"'As in so much else, I am a martyr in this matter': Translating Maria de San Jose's Twelve Volumes of Suffering," Amanda Powell

(4) 'Medieval'/'Renaissance': Feminists Rethink Canonicity and Periodization
(organized by Jennifer Summit)
"On the Margins: Women in the Middle Ages," Jennifer Summit
"Crossing the Great Divide: Theoretical Problems Arising From the Continuity in Women's Prophetic Experience," Diane Watt
"Louise Labé and Medieval/Renaissance Literary Continuity," Phyllis R. Brown

These sessions promise to pick up on several of the issues that engaged so many participants at Kalamazoo last year. And if the organizers of the conference are able to meet our request that all these sessions take place in Fetzer auditorium, we may be a great deal more comfortable than we were at some of those tightly packed gatherings. I hope members and prospective members will also come to the annual business meeting and cash bar ready to express ideas about how the Society can best serve them and foster both a range of needs and a sense of common purpose.

Not everyone will be at Kalamazoo, of course, and no matter how many sessions we sponsor or how many people actively participate in the discussion they stimulate, everyone's ideas cannot be heard and advanced at one conference. There are and can be numerous ways in which medieval feminist scholars collaborate and debate with each other, and it seems to me that the Society should seek to develop as many alternatives to the Medieval Institute as possible. Let me repeat here that everyone is invited not only to come to our sponsored sessions and meetings and speak up, but also to participate in other ways. If you do plan to attend Kalamazoo regularly and also wish to stand for election to the Advisory Board or become an Officer of the Society, please contact me or a member of the nominating committee (Maggie Schleissner, Ann Matter, and Gina Psaki). If you wish to work with people interested in sponsoring sessions at other conferences and establishing links with other Medieval societies, contact Ann Matter. If you wish to help organize the Society's own conference at some future point, contact Chris Africa. If you are interested in working to foster a network among graduate students, contact Jennifer Summit. If you have any other ideas about what the Society could do (or do better) for you and with you, please be in touch with me or any other member of the Advisory Board.

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President, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship