CONFERENCES:

The Columbia Medieval Guild is sponsoring a one day conference for graduate students and recent Ph.D. recipients on Saturday, 3 March 1990, in Philosophy Hall at Columbia University. The morning plenary session will be a round-table discussion on the current status of medieval studies with special attention paid to issues of contemporary theory and feminist theory in relation to medieval texts. Participants include Professors Robert W. Hanning, H. Marshall Leicester, Jr., Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, Christopher Baswell, and Sandra Pierson Prior. Concurrent afternoon sessions include one devoted to Feminist Approaches to Medieval Literature and another on Medieval Women Writers. For registration information write: Laura Howes, Columbia Medieval Guild, 602 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027.

The Fordham University Center for Medieval Studies will be sponsoring a conference, Gender and Society II: Men in the Middle Ages, March 9-10, 1990 at Fordham's Lincoln Center Campus. The conference is organized by Thelma Fenster and Joann McNamara. For information, please write to Thelma Fenster, Medieval Studies Center, Fordham University, Bronx, New York 10458.

The second conference on Gender and Medieval Studies took place at Warwick University on September 25-26th 1989. The conference included workshops on Women, Property and Land Transactions, Iconography, Teaching, Women as Patrons, Women as Subjects. We hope to receive a report from our English correspondent, Lesley Johnson, soon.

The MFN would like to thank Nancy Kovacic for her help with this issue of MFN.

SUBSCRIBER UPDATE

Useful Publications:

Because many of you mentioned the same books as recent publications you have found useful, I have gathered the names here rather than listing books after each name. Full bibliographical information is available in the MFN bibliographies. I have included comments if they were provided. Some references came in too late to be included or were illegible. Please feel free to resubmit names that might have been missed for inclusion in the next issue. A regular bibliography will appear in the next issue.


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De Lauretis. Technologies of Gender. (film theory.)
Duby, Georges. A History of Private Life; The Knight, the Lady and the Priest.
Fisher, Sheila and Janet Halley. Seeking the Woman in Late Medieval and Renaissance Texts.
Foucault, Michel. History of Sexuality.
Huot, Sylvia. From Song to Book.
Jacobus, Mary. Reading Woman. (not medieval, but useful for application.)
Johnson, Barbara. A World of Difference.
LaCapra, Dominick. Rethinking Intellectual History. (not strictly medieval, but useful for theory)
Lerer, Seth. Boethius and Dialogue.
Maclean, Ian. The Renaissance Notion of Woman. (includes several dense chapters on medieval.)
Miles, Margaret. Image as Insight.
Moi, Toril. Sexual/Textual Politics (useful introduction to French feminism) and The Kristeva Reader.
Mulvy, Laura. Visual and Other Pleasures. (not medieval, but useful for theories of specularity.)
Nelson and Grossbey, eds. Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture.
Ozment, S. When Fathers Ruled.
Petroff, Elizabeth. Medieval Visionary Writers.
Robertson, Elizabeth. Early English Devotional Prose and the Female Audience. (forthcoming, spring)
Sargent, Michael G., ed. De Cella in Saeculum.
Schor, Naomi. Reading in Detail (not medieval, but useful for application to M.A.).
Shahar, Shulamith. The Fourth Estate.
Shank, Lillian and John Nichols, ed. Distant Echoes (Medieval Women Series, Kalamazoo, 1984.)
Spivak, Gyatri. Other Worlds.
Vance, Merelous Signals.
Wasserman and Roney. Sign, Sentence, Discourse.
Lexicon des Mittelalters. 1980-86. Articles and Journals:

Cultural Critique; Speculum; Studies in the Age of Chaucer; Signs (especially Winter 1988 special issue: Speaking of Gender); Representations; Medieval Sermons Newsletter; Medieval English Theater.


Reissert, Robert. "Der siebenkammerige Uterus" (Wurburger medizinhistorische Forschungen, 39).

Essays by Fernand Braudel.


"Religion and Social Obligation" Susan Brigden in Past & Present


Bloch debate in MFN.

MFN essays on feminist theory.

Problems Subscribers would like to see discussed in the MFN include the following. The most commonly named one was how do we apply feminist theory of modern literature or of films to medieval works without being anachronistic or without distorting the past.

The second most common question was how can we improve the dialogue between historians and literary critics in the MFN. How can we integrate history and literature?

Also asked were: how can we use French feminism usefully in discussing medieval texts?

Can we become more interdisciplinary?

How do we avoid binary oppositional thinking?

How to theorize about the feminist voice when there are so few?

How can we integrate feminism and Marxism? and Foucault?

How do we read a canonical (male) author in the light of feminist theory?

Can we bring anthropology into the debate?

Women and property should be discussed in more detail.

How do we identify and edit unpublished women's works?

How do we overcome student resistance to feminism?

How do we discuss class and gender?

Will gender studies eclipse feminism?

How has feminism changed medieval studies?

If anyone would like to write a commentary on any one of these topics for the newsletter commentary column please feel free to do so and send your comments to Elizabeth Robertson by March 1, 1989. If you would like to see a full issue devoted to one of these problems please let me know.

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