

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW OFFICERS IN THE SOCIETY FOR MEDIEVAL FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP



Beginning July 1, 1995, former Vice-president Pamela Sheingorn, Art History (Baruch College, CUNY) will take over as President of the Society for a two-year term of office.

Regina Psaki (Romance Languages, Univ. of Oregon) will become the new Vice-President and Anne Clark Bartlett (English, DePaul Univ.) will serve as Secretary-Treasurer (both voted into office at the 1995 Business Meeting at Kalamazoo). If you are interested in becoming an officer in the Society, consult the Bylaws for procedures (*MFN* 14, Fall 1992) or contact a current member of the Advisory Board.

ELECTION OF NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



Since the balloting for a new member of the Advisory Board for the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship produced such a close vote, the Board decided to declare both Mary Suydam (History, Kenyon College) and Susan Aronstein (English, Univ. of Wyoming) winners. We welcome both of them to the Board. Their terms will expire in July, 1998. Many thanks to outgoing Board members Joan Cadden, H. Marshall Leicester and Margaret Schleissner for their work over the years.

We now need to elect a new graduate student representative to begin service on the Board as of July 1, 1995 and five additional new members for three-year terms (July 1, 1996-1999). PLEASE VOTE using the ballot provided at the back of this issue and return to Margaret Schleissner. Our thanks to Jennifer Summit who has done a fabulous job as graduate student representative!

Anyone wishing to run for election on the Advisory Board should contact a current member of the Advisory Board.

ROTATION OF *MFN* EDITORS



As of July 1, 1995, Margaret Schleissner (German, Rider College) will join the editorial board of *MFN*. The editors extend a warm welcome to her!

The four editors of *MFN* rotate according to a process outlined in the Bylaws of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship as follows, "One new editor per year will be elected by the Advisory Board, as one editor per year finishes his/her term" (see *MFN* 14, Fall 1992 for a copy of the Bylaws). Editors of *MFN* are elected from the membership of the Advisory Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

†

The following information was shared with Advisory Board members at our May 1995 meeting.

Balance 7/1/94	3,998.52
Receipts (memberships) (7/1-4/30/95)	+3,571.50
Expenses*	-2,667.98
Balance 4/30/95	4,902.04

* Includes production and mailing of MFN 18 (Fall 1994), extra mailing to membership, miscellaneous expenses.

MFN 20 AND 21: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

†

Our Fall 1995 issue (MFN 20) will contain the long-awaited Directory of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, which will provide names, addresses and research interests of over 700 members. Because of the Directory's length, we will delay our planned issue on "Gender and Violence" until Spring 1996. MFN 20 will also publish brief reports from the Round Table on "Women Scholars and Professional Mentoring" organized by Bonnie Wheeler at Kalamazoo this May, as well as selected notes and announcements. Materials must be sent by September 1 to Roberta Krueger, Department of Romance Languages, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY 13323 or posted to rkrueger@hamilton.edu.

The Spring 1996 issue (21) will feature short essays, queries and bibliography on "Gender and Violence." We eagerly await your news of work being done on the following: women and war, domestic violence, rape and sexual violence, representations of violence against women in art and literature, education and corporal punishment, discipline and punishment in law and custom, violence in religion, theoretical approaches/problems, relevant work in other fields, as well as other areas of interest.

Please send inquiries or short contributions (300-500 words) to Roberta Krueger (coordinates above) by May 1, 1996 or post to rkrueger@hamilton.edu. A few lines now indicating your willingness to send something later would be much appreciated!

KALAMAZOO 1996

†

The Society has proposed the following sessions for Kalamazoo 1996, based on a vote taken at the annual business meeting at Kalamazoo:

1. "Representations of Masculinity in Female-Authoring Texts."

Organizer: Judith Laird, Department of English, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666

This session will explore the ways in which medieval women writers depicted men and masculinity in their works. Some of the issues to be addressed might include: the representation of male characters or the quotation—and potential manipulation of—

male authorities; the relationship between male-authored texts and female-authored revisions of these works; and the expression of women's attitudes toward men and masculinity.

2. "Gender and Life Cycles in the Middle Ages."

Organizer: Fiona Harris Stoertz, History Department, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8.

This session will examine the significance of gender in the life stages of medieval women and men. Papers will analyze topics including: the relevance of the medieval "The Ages of Man" model for the development of medieval women; the implications of variables such as social class, vocation, and geographical context on the life cycles of women and men; and the medical, philosophical, and literary sources of medieval ideas about life cycles.

3. "Entering the Public Space: Women and Politics in the Middle Ages."

Organizer: Miriam Shadis, 104 St. Augustine Center, Core Humanities Program, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085.

This session will examine the ways in which medieval women of various ages, social classes, religious vocation, and marital status participated in the public life of their communities. Some issues to be discussed include: the forms of public power available to women, the relationship between women's public roles and male-dominated institutions, issues of female dissent, and the limitations on women's access to the public sphere.

4. "Approaches to Teaching Medieval Women: Resources, Strategies and Disciplines."
Organizer: Anne Clark Bartlett, Department of English, DePaul University, Chicago, IL 60614-3214.

This session invites the widest possible cross-section of medievalists to reflect on how the recent explosion of scholarship on medieval studies has affected their teaching of medieval women. Topics to be explored include: neglected resources; problems and solutions in incorporating medieval women's perspectives into our courses; and what the new technologies (such as Labyrinth) offer for the teaching of medieval women.

KALAMAZOO 1997: PROCEDURE FOR PROPOSING SESSIONS

†

The following procedures were recommended by the Advisory Board of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship at its annual meeting at Kalamazoo, 1995:

Scholars who wish to propose a session at Kalamazoo to be sponsored by SMFS should send their proposals to the Board's program committee by April 15. In spring 1996, proposals for sessions in 1997 should go to Pam Sheingorn; the other members of the committee are Anne Clark Bartlett, E. Jane Burns and Ruth Mazo Karras. Each proposal should include a working session title; the name and address of the organizer; a description that clarifies the nature of the proposed topic and explains its importance, relevance and timeliness for the purposes of medieval feminist scholarship; an assessment of the potential size and composition of both the group of scholars who might submit papers and the audience for the session. If there are more proposals than the

committee members think can reasonably be included on a ballot, they will select proposals that are in their judgment clearly presented, likely to have broad appeal and are relevant and timely for medieval feminist scholarship. The committee will attempt to balance the representation of fields on the final ballot. The ballot will be distributed at the Business Meeting of SMFS at Kalamazoo. At that time, the Society may consider proposals from the floor, but with the new procedures in place, we hope that proposals from the floor will primarily express new ideas that have emerged in response to papers and discussions at the ongoing Kalamazoo meetings.

CHILD CARE AT KALAMAZOO



At our Spring 1995 SMFS Business Meeting in Kalamazoo, we discussed the regrettable lack of professional day care facilities at the Congress on Medieval Studies. A petition urging the Director of the Medieval Institute to make child care facilities available at cost to participants was signed by 45 conference participants and sent to the Medieval Institute.

In addition, SMFS members are urged to write personal letters to the Medieval Institute stating their belief that child care should be provided and explaining, when appropriate, their own need for such care now or in the past or future. Many other academic conferences contract for professional child care services. We hope that with a strong expression of need the Medieval Institute will make similar arrangements for the numerous female and male participants at the Medieval Congress who have pressing family responsibilities.

Please write to: Professor Paul E. Szarmach, Director, The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP ON FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP IN MEDIEVAL STUDIES



The Advisory Board of the Society is soliciting ideas from graduate students for a future workshop on feminist scholarship in medieval studies to be led by scholars in a variety of fields. Such a workshop could take place during the summer, last 4-5 days, depending on participation, and could consist of formal workshop sessions and informal exchange. Such a venture would require substantial organizational work, long-term planning and some fundraising. Therefore the Advisory Board needs to hear from Graduate Students about their interests, needs and willingness to share the organizational work. Give us feedback about what kind of workshops you would find useful, scholars and scholarship you are interested in working with, etc. and give us suggestions for locale, seasons(s), etc. you would find desirable. Send your feedback to the Advisory Board via Nancy Jones at jones2@radcliffe.harvard.edu.