

## UPCOMING CONFERENCE



The following constitutes an announcement of the first attempt by the North Carolina Research Group on Medieval and Early Modern Women to host a local conference. Limited resources dictated the need to start small, with only a modest number of invited speakers. If this small conference is successful, we hope eventually to attempt another for which open submissions would be possible.

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### STUDYING THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE RENAISSANCE: WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES GENDER MAKE?

A Conference sponsored by the Joint Program in Medieval And Renaissance Studies at Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University  
and

The North Carolina Research Group on Medieval and Early Modern Women  
October 27-29, 1995  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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Plenary Speakers: Carol Clover, Constance Jordan, Pamela Sheingorn

Opening Roundtable: "Working Across the Disciplines: What Difference Does Gender Make in the Way We Use Sources?"

Kathleen Ashley, Dyan Elliott, Ruth Mazo Karras, Roberta L. Krueger

SESSION TOPICS: I. Single Women: A Different Gender? II. What Difference Does History Make in Studying Gender? III. How Does the State Regulate Gender? IV. Refiguring Courtly Culture V. Legal Interrogations of Gender VI. To Speak in the Vernacular: Gender and the Translations of Medical Writing

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE: Sharon Farmer, Monica Chojnacka, Amy Froide, Maryanne Kowaleski, Gillian Overing, Clare Lees, Sarah Beckwith, Susan Crane, Kathryn Gravdal, Theodore Evergates, Madeleine Caviness, Ingrid Kasten, Jacqueline Cerquiglino-Toulet, Montserrat Cabré, Luke Demaitre, Ron Barkai, Martha Howell, JoAnn McNamara, Elizabeth Robertson, Barbara Hanawalt, Alison Weber, Karen Sullivan, and others.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (No fee for graduate students)

For information about conference registration and hotel accommodations contact Elaine Cooper, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Box 90584, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706, phone (919) 681-8883; or Karen Thompson, Women's Studies, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3135, phone (919) 962-3908.

## CALL FOR PAPERS



The Center for Medieval Studies of Fordham University invites abstracts for its XV Annual Conference, March 22-23, 1996 (at *The Lincoln Center Campus*), on the topic: **LEARNING, LITERACY AND GENDER IN THE MIDDLE AGES.**

We encourage multidisciplinary approaches to topics such as: literary and artistic representation, theories of education, household manuals, *laymen* and Latin, the politics of literacy, women as literary consumers, scribal and notarial culture, manuscript production and readership, old texts and new readers, institutional policy and debate, and personal libraries in the Middle Ages. We are especially interested in papers that rethink linguistic and socio-linguistic aspects of gender/Latin/vernacular/oral-written discourse.

Send two-page abstracts with cover information to H. Wayne Storey, Director of Medieval Studies, Keating 107, Fordham University, Bronx, NY 10458-5162. Fax: (718) 295-0366; Information: (718) 817-4655. **DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS: OCTOBER 27, 1995.**

## COMMENTARY: FEMINIST MEDIEVAL GRADUATE STUDIES AND THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION



The following brief comments continue a dialogue on graduate student concerns that was featured in *MFN* 18 (Fall 1994). We hope that these remarks will be useful not only to graduate students and the faculty who teach them, but to medievalists more generally who might be in a position to advise or mentor undergraduates interested in pursuing graduate work in feminist medieval studies.

## WE'RE HERE. . . GET USED TO IT



It is troubling to me that feminist medieval studies is still engaged in an identity struggle of its own making. In the Fall 1994 issue of the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* devoted to a dialogue between Graduate Students and faculty on the current state of feminist medieval studies and the job market, the main issue seems to be representing feminist medieval studies to medieval studies. We are still endeavoring to justify feminist and gender studies to medieval studies at large, to worry about the antipathetic relationship between feminism and medieval studies, and theory and traditional methodologies, and to argue the legitimacy of feminist approaches to the Middle Ages pedagogically. The titles of some of the articles circulate around these major concerns of identity and self-representation: "How to be a Feminist Medievalist on the Job Market Today," "The Medievalist and Feminist Theory: Prejudices and Problems," and "Feminist Studies: Bridging the Gap Between Job Markets and Intellectual Excellence?"

Eight years and 18 issues after the *Medieval Feminist Newsletter* was founded, we are still worrying and interrogating our identities as scholars and our reception in the larger community of medieval studies. This is a peculiar state of affairs—one that is not paralleled in other areas of feminist studies, such as Early Modern feminist scholarship.