ELECTIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD
At the back of this issue you will find a ballot to vote on the nominees to the Advisory Board. The board really determines the agenda and immediate activities of the Society, so please do make your voice heard in the selection process. SMFS has a large and varied membership, so it's important to keep a balance of disciplines represented in the Board. Thank you for voting!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2001
In 2001 five members rotate off the Advisory Board, and we would like to ask you to submit nominations for colleagues to replace them. The chair of our nominations committee is Barbara Weissberger, and you may submit nominations to her at these addresses: Barbara F. Weissberger, Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529-0085; E-mail: bweissbe@odu.edu

By getting these nominations to Barbara early you guarantee that your nominees will have time to prepare a statement regarding their goals for the organization. Please include a full name, field, affiliation and mailing and / or E-mail address. Members are also welcome to nominate themselves!

CALL FOR PAPERS: MFF 30 and 31
Maternal Legacies: Female Medieval Scholars and the Academy

An upcoming issue of Medieval Feminist Forum will be devoted to essays and biographical sketches that take as their focus the professional life-stories and legacies of female medieval scholars, both in the 19th and 20th centuries. Particularly welcomed are biographical articles and memoirs about "off-ladder" female medieval scholars as well as "on-ladder" medievalists who have made significant contributions to professional opportunities for women in our field. We are also interested in essays, theoretical or statistical, that address the politics of citation: who gets cited, and by whom. How does gender play a role in citational pressures? Deadline for submissions for fall issue: Sept. 15, 2000 and for spring: April 1, 2001. Send to Sarah Stanbury, Department of English, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA 01610, or query sstanbury@holycross.edu.

Contributions on other topics of interest to readers of MFF are also welcomed.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: NEW SMFS SUBSIDIA SERIES
In May 1999 the advisory board of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship approved the launching of an occasional series, christened Subsidia. Subsidia issues will be produced and marketed in the same way as regular issues.
(obviously appearing less regularly). Proposals to edit individual issues of the series should be made by a member of SMFS to the Editors and Advisory Board in consultation with the Managing Editor and Book Review Editor.

We hope that the Subsidia series will meet various needs of the membership, allowing a forum for scholarship on focussed topics that are of a scope too substantial for an article and too short for a full-sized book.

If you would like to propose a Subsidia volume, please submit your proposal to Regina Psaki, Managing Editor, Medieval Feminist Forum, CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. She will forward it to the Advisory Board. Send queries to rpsaki@oregon.uoregon.edu or mff@oregon.uoregon.edu.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

Medieval Jewish Women in History, Literature, Law and Art: A Bibliography

According to some Jewish tradition, the place of a Jewish women is in the home, at the service of her family. If this is proclaimed in modern times, how much more so in medieval. This bibliography lists many sources that reflect a very different situation, women playing effective roles in the economic, social, and religious activities of their communities as well as those of their families. The wealth of these women's experiences can be seen through their participation in all phases of the history and their reflections in the literature and art of their eras.

The original stimulus for the preparation of the bibliography, Medieval Jewish Women in History, Literature, Law and Art: A Bibliography by Cheryl Tallan, ctallan@chass.utoronto.ca, was the desire to provide data for those who would like to add information about Jewish women to their courses in medieval women's history and to supply material for other courses that deal with medieval women. Parts of it were previously published in MFN 4(1987): 9-10; 5(1988): 28; and 6(1988): 24-25.

The bibliography consists of annotated entries of books and articles which contain material dealing with European Jewish women (though a few contain information on women in the middle east and northern Africa), from @1000 C.E. to @1600 C.E., written mainly in English with some in Hebrew, German, French, Spanish and Italian.

The bibliography, containing items available up to March, 2000, has been published by The Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University. It can be downoaded from their web site, www.brandeis.edu/hirijw, or ordered at a cost of $5 (U.S.) from the Program Administrator, (781) 736-2064 (phone), (781) 2078 (fax), hirijw@brandeis.edu (E-mail), or Mailstop 079, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA 02454-9111 U.S.A. (U.S. mail).
CONFERENCE REPORT
“Secrets, Confessions and Revelations,” October 16–17, University of Oregon

This was the fifth annual conference of the Medieval and Early Modern Student Organization of the Pacific. The small, international conference, entitled “Secrets, Confessions and Revelations,” drew participants from across North America.

Panel presentations ranged from Old Icelandic studies to sixteenth-century Spanish studies. The first session on Saturday, “Secrets, Confessions and History,” explored espionage in early modern France and confession manuals in late colonial New Spain. The second panel, “Revealing Spenser,” dealt with gender and poetics in Spenser’s Faerie Queen. The first panel during the second session, “Secular Revelations,” contained papers on Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, while the second, “Revealing Romance,” explored both Middle English and Old French romances.

The conference featured two keynote speakers, who skillfully wove the conference theme of secrecy, confession and revelations into their respective work on sixteenth-century British and twelfth-century French literature. The first keynote speaker on Saturday morning was Professor Lisa Freinkel (University of Oregon), who presented “Veiled Threats: Allegory and Revelation in The Merchant of Venice.” Freinkel’s engrossing lecture explored Shakespeare’s poetics thorough the history of Christian notions of allegory and figuration.

During the afternoon sessions, the papers during the third session, “Revealing Inwardness,” explored personal revelations in both medieval and early modern religious texts. During the fourth session, “Dramatizing the Self,” panel participants explored representations of the self in both medieval and early modern English drama. The fifth session, the final series of panels for the day, include a panel entitled “Veiling Privacy/Privacy as Veil,” during which participants presented papers on early modern English identity and the metaphysical poets. The second panel, “Reading Revelation,” explored issues in both the Roman de la Rose and Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde.

The Saturday events concluded with a presentation by the second keynote speaker, Professor Karma Lochrie (Indiana University). Her lively presentation, “Hints from Heloise: The Secrets of Female Desire and Medieval Scholarship,” explored the nature of female desire in Heloise’s Order of the Paraclete. She suggested that previous medieval scholars have been curiously blind to implications of same-sex desire among female monastics.

Session Six began early Sunday morning. The first panel, “Secrecy and Subjectivity” explored issues of un-masking and game-playing in both Middle English and French romance. The second panel, “Seeking the Self,” addressed
self-knowledge and subjectivity in the sonnets of Petrarch and Mary Wroth. The final session of the conference contained the panel, “Revealing the Past,” during which the use of Anglo-Saxon poetics was explored in such later poets as Wordsworth and Pound. The second panel, “Hidden Possibilities,” explored secret languages in both Old French and Old Icelandic literature.

The conference was a great success, due in great part to numerous interested graduate students and strong faculty support. The conference was sponsored by several academic departments at the University of Oregon, including English, Comparative Literature, Romance Languages, History and the Medieval Studies Program. The Humanities Center and the Center for the Study of Women in Society were also generous sponsors of the event.

Erin Mullally
University of Oregon

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