

[CMRS] September Newsletter

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Tue 9/1/2020 4:20 PM

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September Newsletter

In the Age of Covid: Postponements, Cancellations, Yet Still Much Hope

There is no getting around it. This has been a strange year. Usually at this time, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is bustling with activity, sponsoring long lists of lectures, colloquia, seminars, meetings, and conferences. This year, our doors are open only a day or two each week. We are still busy, although much of that activity is now on Zoom. So, let's catch up on how the Center is navigating these unusual times.

Although the **Eight Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance**

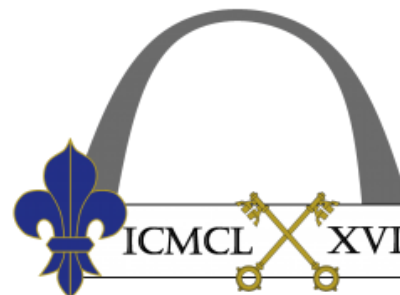


Studies attracted a record-breaking number of papers and sessions, the pandemic and lock downs forced us to cancel the event and refund all registration fees. We have let all participants know that submissions accepted by the Advisory Board for 2020 will automatically be accepted for

2021. Our plenary speakers for 2020 - **David Abulafia** (Cambridge University) and **Barbara Rosenwein** (Loyola University, Chicago) - have

agreed to deliver their lectures at the 2021 meeting. Plans for the **Ninth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies** are well underway. The new Call for Papers has been mailed out worldwide and the website is being updated. The dates for the meeting are **June 21-23, 2021**. The deadline for proposals is December 31, 2020. For more information, see the website at smrs-slu.org.

The other major postponement this past summer was that of the **Sixteenth International Congress of Medieval Canon Law**. The prestigious conference, which is sponsored by ICMAC (Iuris Canonici Medii Aevi



Consociatio/International Society of Medieval Canon Law), was to take place on campus July 19-25, 2020. **It has been rescheduled for July 18-24, 2021**. More information is available on the website at icmcl2020.org.

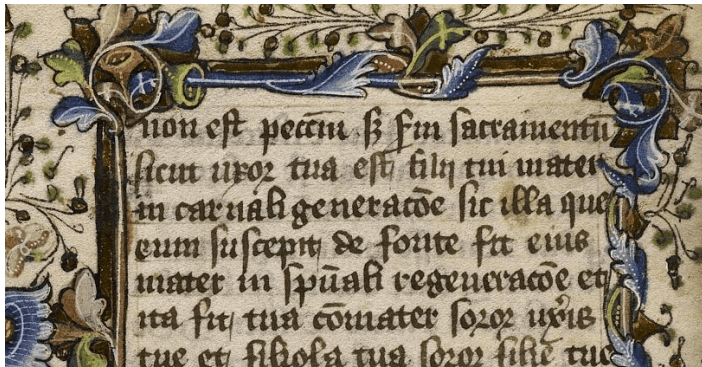
Plenty of other CMRS-sponsored activities will continue this semester, although many will be held via Zoom. The Crusades Studies Forum has organized its Fall meetings around virtual discussions and roundtables. The Pre-Modern Seminar is also planning several events. And, of course, there is always Latin! (See below.)

So, what is cancelled? Unfortunately, our NEH Fellowships that bring scholars to SLU from around the world have been cancelled for this semester, and perhaps the entire academic year. The CMRS Annual Lecture, which has been renamed the **Gavitt Lecture** in honor of our founding director Dr. Phillip Gavitt, who recently passed away, has also been cancelled. The weekly CMRS Happy Hours are also on hold until further notice.

Medieval Latin Reading Group is Rested and Ready to Read

The CMRS is once again sponsoring the Medieval Latin Reading Group, which is presided over by Fr. Steve Schoenig, S.J., our Associate Director.

The principles of the MLRG are:



- Guilt-free: come when you can make it, don't come when you can't.
- No prep: we do sight-reading, so no advance preparation is necessary unless you want to.
- Fun-filled: we choose texts that are light, interesting, funny, or bizarre.
- Crutches welcome: bring your favorite Latin dictionary, and expect to use it a lot.
- Frequent turns: depending on the group size, we go sentence by sentence, so no one gets bored waiting for his or her turn.
- Weekly: we meet once a week, which is often enough to be effective, but not too often to be burdensome.
- Brown-bag: we tend to meet at lunchtime, so bring your lunch and kill two birds with one stone.

Although it is likely that the MLRG will begin online, we are hopeful that we can find a place with sufficient space to socially distance while we work through our texts. To join the group, drop an email to Fr. Schoenig at steven.shoenig@slu.edu.

CMRS Now Accepting Applications for Newberry Library Research Funds

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies funds Saint Louis University's membership in the Newberry Library Consortium. One of the many benefits of that membership is the opportunity for faculty and students at SLU to request funding to conduct research, attend seminars, or take part in workshops at the Newberry in Chicago. Although the pandemic has made travel more difficult, the Newberry Library also offers many online seminars and lectures, as well.



Affiliated faculty and students who would like to apply for funds to offset

expenses regarding the Newberry Library (or the Folger Shakespeare Library) should contact Teresa Harvey in the CMRS Office (Adorjan Hall 140) or at harvey@slu.edu for details on the application process.

Crusades Studies Forum Announces Fall 2020 Schedule

Now in its 17th year, the Crusades Studies Forum at Saint Louis University is an international venue for the presentation of current research, the discussion of recent scholarship, and the exploration of new direction in topics relating to the Crusades. As a result of the pandemic, all of the CSF meetings this semester will be online. The link for the meetings is <https://slu.zoom.us/j/94527209672>.



At the first meeting of the CSF participants will discuss the study by M. Cecilia Gaposchkin, "The Pre-Battle Processions of the First Crusade and the Creation of Militant Christian communitas." For a copy of the article, email CSF Executive Committee Member Thomas Morin at thomas.morin@slu.edu. The meeting will take place on September 4 at 3:00 pm.

On September 18 at 3:00 pm the CSF will meet to discuss an article by Cathleen Fleck entitled, "The Crusader Loss of Jerusalem in the Eyes of a Thirteenth-Century Virtual Pilgrim." That article will also be available as the date approaches.