

MEMS | PROGRAM IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

September 2018 Newsletter

Director's Foreword

Tania String (Art History) was honored to step into the role of Acting Director of MEMS while Jessica Wolfe undertook a year of research as the O.B. Hardison Jr. Fellow at the Folger Institute. Dr. String was grateful for Professor Wolfe's long-distance involvement in MEMS and for the help of MEMS assistant Peter Raleigh, who, happily, is continuing in that role for a second year. Peter is an advanced doctoral student in the History department, working on his dissertation, so his meticulous administration of MEMS goes above and beyond.

Thanks to the exceptional forward planning of Jessica Wolfe, there was a flurry of activity to kick off the 2017-18 MEMS calendar. In September, we welcomed Marisa Bass (History of Art, Yale) and Karla Mallette (Italian, University of Michigan); Mallette not only delivered a paper, but served as the discussant for a Dorothy Ford Wiley New Book Colloquium on *The Medieval Invention of Travel* by Shayne Legassie (English). In November, Rachel Koopmans (History, York University, Toronto) and Martin Foys (English, University of Wisconsin, Madison) gave Dorothy Ford Wiley Crossroads Lectures. In addition to MEMS programming, UNC also welcomed the first of five iterations of the Haskins Society annual conference. In the spring, MEMS hosted Zachary Lesser (English, University of Pennsylvania) and Martin Nesvig (History, University of Miami).



With continued support from the College of Arts and Sciences and Sara Malone, MEMS was pleased to award travel grants to thirteen UNC graduate students. The students presented papers in major academic conferences in the US and abroad and many travelled for research in Europe.

DOROTHY FORD WILEY COMPACT SEMINARS

The highlight of our scholarly programming each year is the Dorothy Ford Wiley Compact Seminar.

The 2018 Dorothy Ford Wiley Compact Seminar, entitled *Imagin(in)g The Apocalypse: Pre-modern Apocalypticism and the Digital Humanities*, took place at Hyde Hall on February 15-17. This three-day event assembled a team of experts and advanced graduate students to present work-in-progress and brainstorm about future scholarship in the field of apocalyptic studies. From biblical times to the present, the Christian apocalyptic imagination has offered compelling, disturbing, politically charged ideas and images about the meaning and purpose of history. Speculation about the “end of days” has contributed to amazing creativity in historical thinking and sometimes violent calls to action, ranging from the crusades to popular peasant uprisings, from learned circles of erudite theologians to preachers in the streets.

This seminar explored the literary, historical, and artistic dynamics of premodern apocalypticism. It also engaged with the potential of digital humanities to revolutionize how scholars study and teach apocalypticism in premodern and modern traditions. Particular attention was devoted to a collaborative DH project between faculty at UNC Chapel Hill and UT Knoxville, involving a digital-interactive version of the *Book of Figures (Liber figurarum)*, a collection of apocalyptic imagery produced by the famous medieval apocalyptic impresario Joachim of Fiore (1132-1202) and his later medieval followers.

The attendees included Mayte Green-Mercado (Rutgers University Newark), Robert Bast (UT Knoxville), Jakub Kabala (Davidson College), Matthew Gabriele (Virginia Tech), Laura Smoller (University of Rochester), Katherine Calvin (UNC Chapel Hill), Jay Rubenstein (UT Knoxville), Tatum Tullis (UNC Chapel Hill), Anna Lukanyova (UNC Chapel Hill), and the seminar organizer, Brett Whalen (UNC Chapel Hill).

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As always, the seminar began with a public lecture, delivered on Thursday evening by Jay Rubenstein (Professor of History, University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a MacArthur Fellow), on “Crusade, Islam, and the Middle Ages’ Greatest Prophet, Joachim of Fiore.” In this talk, Rubenstein focused on how Joachim’s apocalyptic views shaped his attitude toward the Muslim world, above all on relation to the crusades and struggle for control of Jerusalem. A lively discussion followed.

On Friday and Saturday, the seminar participants met in a series of panels to hear about and engage with topics ranging from sixteenth-century Ottoman ideas about the end of the world to Reformation-era prophets in Germany to William Blake’s views of history. Among other successes, the seminar laid the groundwork for future collaboration between UNC Chapel Hill and UT Knoxville on the *Digital Joachim of Fiore* project.

2017-2018 Highlights

On February 8, 2018 Professor Zachary Lesser (University of Pennsylvania) delivered a fascinating lecture on “Shakespeare’s Ghosts: Rethinking Shakespeare’s ‘False Folio.’” This richly illustrated talk explored the printing history of early modern books and examined the importance of noting ‘ghost images’, where ink from one leaf has left a trace on the next, and the value in understanding how stab stitch holes and rips can illuminate, or complicate, that history.

The following afternoon, Professor Lesser ran a well-attended workshop for MEMS graduate students in the Wilson Library with Rare Books Librarian Liz Ott. The workshop, entitled “Reading What’s Not There,” provided hands-on training to identify precisely the sorts of ghost images, holes and rips that Lesser discussed the previous evening. Numerous books from the Wilson Rare Books collection were displayed to show just how prevalent these incidences are, once we read the invisible or barely visible.



Professor Zachary Lesser discusses Shakespeare’s false folio followed by a workshop with at the Wilson Library.

New MEMS Faculty

New faculty member Professor Helen Cushman arrived at UNC in spring 2018 and is already a valued and active member of MEMS.

Professor Cushman works on late medieval and early modern literary and cultural history with special interests in drama, religion, and epistemology. Before coming to UNC, Helen did her graduate work at Harvard University and her undergraduate work at the University of Virginia. This year, with Taylor Cowdery and Jessica Wolfe, she is co-organizing the Med-Ren Colloquium, a new speaker series featuring work by scholars of medieval and early-modern literature.



Professor Cushman

New Med-Ren Colloquium

MEMS and the Department of English and Comparative Literature are excited to introduce a new speaker series, the UNC Med-Ren Colloquium. The Colloquium is an interdisciplinary speaker series dedicated to the study of premodern literary culture in all of its forms. Talks will take place on Thursdays at 5:00 PM, roughly six times per semester; it is organized by Taylor Cowdery (cowdery@email.unc.edu), Helen Cushman (hcush@email.unc.edu), and Jessica Wolfe (wolfej@unc.edu). Please feel free to contact them with questions as they arise. This fall's schedule and details are available at <http://mems.unc.edu/colloquium/>.

The Med-Ren Colloquium acknowledges the generous support of the School of Arts and Sciences, MEMS @ UNC, the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, and Honors Carolina.

Thursday 20 September

Katherine Walker (UNC): "Sidereal Improvisation in All's Well that Ends Well"
5:00 PM; Graham Memorial Hall 213

Thursday 27 September

James Simpson (Harvard): "Charming: Magic, Performance and Performativity in Late Medieval and Early Modern Theater"
5:00 PM; Greenlaw Hall 223 (Donovan Lounge)

Thursday 4 October

Vance Smith (Princeton): Title to be determined
*Co-sponsored with the MEMS Dorothy Ford Wiley Speaker Series
5:00 PM; Graham Memorial Hall 213

All events below will be held at 5:00 PM; location TBD.

Thursday 11 October

Roundtable on the Premodern Job Market, featuring Taylor Cowdery (UNC), Helen Cushman (UNC), Katie Walker (UNC), and Julianne Werlin (Duke).

Thursday 25 October

Margaret Simon (NC State): "Textual Multi-Materiality in Aemilia Lanyer's *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*"

Thursday 8 November

Jenny C. Mann (Cornell): "Orpheus on Trial: Renaissance Poetics and the History of Knowledge"

Thursday 15 November

Patrick O'Neill (UNC): Title to be determined

Thursday 29 November

Katherine Landers (UNC): "Sartorial Politics: Power and Dress in the Writings of Margaret Cavendish and Anne Clifford"

Haskins Society Annual Conference

On 3-5 November 2017 we welcomed the 36th International Conference of the Haskins Society, the first such of a five-year tenure during which UNC will host this annual event. The Haskins Society is one of the leading scholarly organizations in North America and Europe devoted to the history of the Middle Ages. To have the Haskins Society conference come to Chapel Hill represents a gratifying recognition of UNC's status as a center of excellence for medieval studies and of MEMS's importance in achieving that status. In addition to 10 panels, featuring 29 speakers, there were three invited lectures, by Constance Bouchard (Akron), Sarah Hamilton (Exeter) and William Purkis (Birmingham). More than 80 delegates attended the three-day event. The conference was organized by Marcus Bull (History) with the invaluable assistance of Peter Raleigh (History).

This year's 37th International Conference of the Haskins Society will take place on October 26-28 2018. Marcus Bull (History) is Conference Director, assisted by Peter Raleigh (History). The invited speakers are Theodore Evergates (McDaniel College), William Jordan (Princeton) and Alice Rio (King's College, London). Registration is free for all graduate students as well as for UNC faculty members. Further details are available on the Haskins Society website. MEMS will be hosting two complementary events immediately before the conference, on Thursday 25th.

In the afternoon there will be a Dorothy Ford Wiley dissertation workshop devoted to a chapter of Peter Raleigh's forthcoming PhD dissertation on English historical writing in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries, led by our invited respondent Michael Staunton (University College,

Dublin). And in the early evening Katherine Smith (Puget Sound) will give a Dorothy Ford Wiley Crossroads Lecture on "The Road to Babylon: The First Crusade as Moral Performance." Both events will take place in Hamilton 569.



Recent and Upcoming Events

This coming year, MEMS is, as always, sponsoring a rich array of speakers and events. Here is a preview of upcoming events as well as more information on events that took place in September.

Dorothy Ford Wiley Compact Seminar

Raleigh 400: A Conference on Sir Walter Raleigh 400 Years After His Death

September 6-8, 2018

<https://library.unc.edu/raleigh-400/>

Dorothy Ford Wiley Dissertation Workshop

Michael Staunton (History, University College, Dublin)

A seminar for graduate students on the subject of medieval historical writing. Specifically, the seminar will discuss various of the issues raised by one of the chapters in Peter Raleigh's (UNC Chapel Hill) forthcoming doctoral dissertation on historical writing in England in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. Details of how this chapter will be circulated in advance will be supplied in due course.

October 26, 2018 3:00 pm

Hamilton Hall, 569

Dorothy Ford Wiley Crossroads Lecture

Katherine Smith (History, University of Puget Sound)

"The Road to Babylon: The First Crusade as Moral Performance"

October 26, 2018 5:30 pm

Hamilton Hall, 569

Dorothy Ford Wiley Lecture

Andrea Pearson (Art History, American University)

"Seeing/Reading Gender in the Medieval 'Housebook'"

November 5, 2018 5:30 pm

Hanes Art Center, 218

Grants and Fellowships

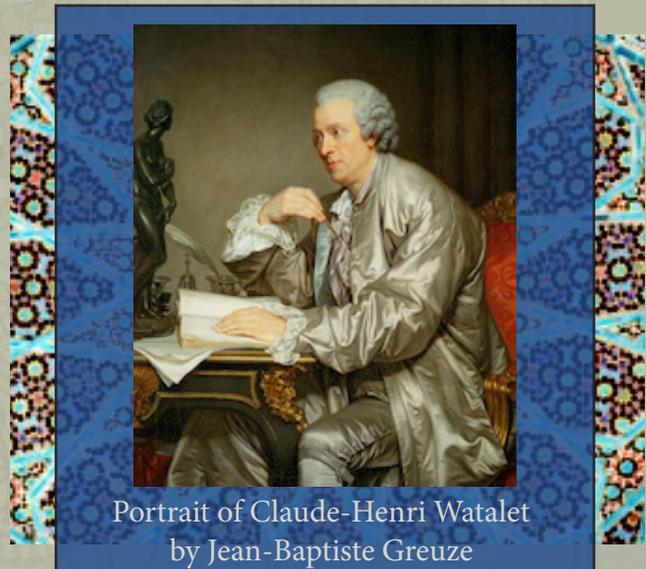
The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies is very grateful to our generous donors, including the Dorothy Ford Wiley fund, Sara Malone, Donald Gilman, Professor Emeritus of French literature at Ball State University who earned his Ph.D. in French and Comparative Literature from UNC, and the Ryan-Headley Fund. We are also grateful to have the continued support of the office of the Dean in the UNC College of Arts and Sciences, which helps us support the research of an extremely talented and intellectually variegated cohort of doctoral students and faculty.

We are pleased to feature some of our fellowship winners from the 2017-18 year.

Katherine Calvin, PhD candidate in Art History, received a Sara Malone Conference Travel Grant from MEMS and was able to use the funding to travel to the annual conference for the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) in Orlando. There, she presented a paper about the *amateur* French artist Claude-Henri Watelet and his connections to new theories of philosophical materialism in the eighteenth century. The paper won the Graduate Student Essay Prize awarded by the Southeastern American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS); Katherine is currently revising it to submit for publication as an article.

Katherine also received a Predoctoral Fellowship at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in conjunction with the UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies, which she will use this October and November.

Tessa Bullington is a PhD Candidate in Italian Studies in the Department of Romance Studies and a member of the Royster Society of Fellows. In spring 2018, with support from a MEMS Research Travel Grant, she completed a six-week research trip to the Archivio Gonzaga and Biblioteca Teresiana in Mantua. Her time in Mantua was spent working with records, manuscripts and rare



Portrait of Claude-Henri Watelet
by Jean-Baptiste Greuze

documents relating to Federico Gonzaga II's art patronage and the illness from which he suffered. The results of this research have contributed significantly to her final project, and have provided her with multiple avenues for future study and elaboration. Tessa's work in 2018-19 is being supported through the Lovick P. Corn Dissertation Completion Fellowship. This semester, she will travel to the University of Alabama at Birmingham through the UAB Reynolds Finley Medical History Library Fellowship, where she will spend two weeks working with documents related to sixteenth-century syphilis, and the poetry of Girolamo Fracastoro.

Margaret Maurer, a doctoral candidate in English, was awarded a MEMS Research and Conference travel grant, which allowed her to visit England this May. She presented “Shakespeare, Star Trek, and Intertextual Narratives in *Station Eleven*” at the BSA’s “[Shakespeare and Science Fiction](#)” conference, which was held at Anglia Ruskin’s Centre for Science Fiction and Fantasy. She also had the opportunity to spend a week at the British Library’s Manuscripts Reading Room, examining a wide range of texts, from early modern recipe books to Ripley Scrolls. The British Library’s collection holds three Ripley Scrolls, each of which measures between 14 and 17 feet long and lavishly illustrates George Ripley’s *Compound of Alchemy*. For anyone who is curious, one scroll is [fully digitized](#), and she has included some photos of the other two scrolls.

Ashley Bruckbauer, PhD candidate in Art History, received a MEMS Conference Travel Grant which allowed her to present her paper “Artful Ambassadors and Diplomatic Deceptions in Eighteenth-Century French Art” at the 2018 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual meeting in Orlando. Additionally, her essay “Ambassadors à la turque: Assimilation and Dissimulation in Eighteenth-Century Images of French-Ottoman Diplomacy,” was recently published in Tara Zanardi and Lynda Klich, eds., *Visual Typologies from the Early Modern to the Contemporary: Local Contexts and Global Practices* (New York: Routledge, 2018). This academic year, Ashley will be finishing the dissertation with the support of a 2018-19 Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School.



Detail of Ripley Scroll

Faculty News

Marcus Bull (History, Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor of Medieval and Early Modern Studies) published *Eyewitness and Crusade Narrative: Perception and Narration in Accounts of the Second, Third and Fourth Crusades* (Boydell & Brewer: Woodbridge, 2018), the culmination of a project largely undertaken while he was a Fellow at the National Humanities Center in 2014-15.

Kathleen DuVal (History) received a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2018-19. Her project, tentatively titled *Masters of the Continent: How Indians Ruled North America into the Nineteenth Century*, begins in the eleventh century and shows that American Indians both changed over time and continued to be most of the population and hold most of the power in North America long past what is usually called the “colonial period.” Each chapter focuses on a particular Native nation at a particular time over this vast period, and it makes connections with Native sovereignty in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to show how and why Native Americans continue to be members of Native nations today. For details from the official site:

<https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/kathleen-duval/>

A Kenan Senior Faculty Research Leave enabled Professor Robert Babcock to make significant progress on his next book, a facing page Latin – English edition of the complete works of ‘the Sappho of Saxony’, a tenth-century nun named Hrotsvitha (also called Roswita) of Gandersheim. It will appear in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series. He undertook research in Brussels in May to look at early manuscripts of Terence of the sort she would have read. Professor Babcock was awarded an Alumni Distinguished Professor-

ship this year, and also won a Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching this spring.

Siegfried Wenzel’s recent publications include: *The Sermons of William Peraldus: An Appraisal. Sermo 13*. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2017

“Preaching the Ordo iudicii,” in *From Learning to Love. Schools, Law, and Pastoral Care in the Middle Ages. Essays in Honour of Joseph W. Goering*, ed. Tristan Sharp with Isabelle Cochelin, Greti Dinkova-Bruun, Abigail Firey, and Giulio Silano. Papers in Mediaeval Studies 20 (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2017), pp. 458-470.

“The Popularity of Robert Holcot’s Sermons: *Dic vt lapides isti panes fiant*,” *Mediaeval Studies* 79 (2017): 67-129.

Another piece will come out in *Traditio* later this year.

Professor Wenzel also wrote the memorial for our former colleague Richard Pfaff, for the Medieval Academy. And another small contribution to a memorial volume for a former student who got her MA in English here years ago.

Jaroslav Folda published “The Crusader Church of the Holy Sepulchre: Design, Depiction and the Pilgrim Church of Compostela,” in *Tomb and Temple: Re-imagining the Sacred Buildings of Jerusalem*, ed. Robin Griffith-Jones and Eric Fernie, Woodbridge and Rochester: Boydell and Brewer, 2018. He also gave a lecture at Belmont Abbey entitled “The Book of Kells: A Masterpiece of Irish Medieval Art” in March, 2018.

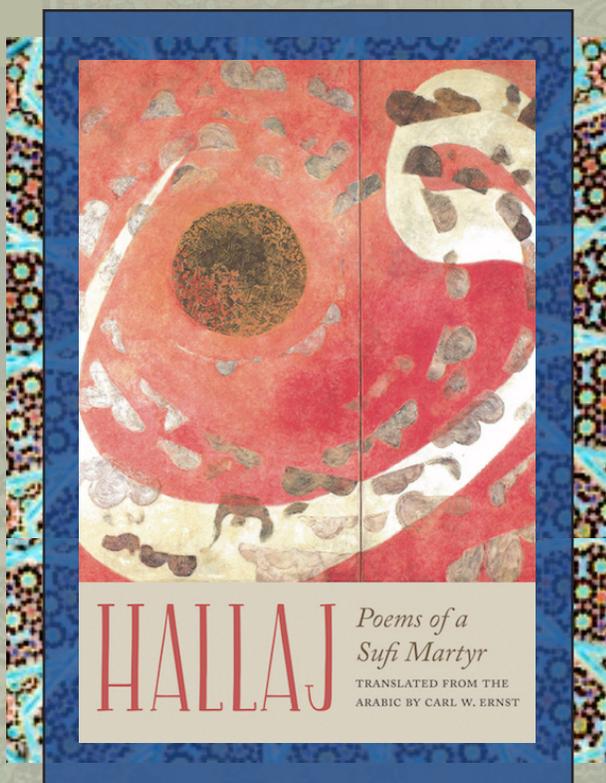
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Jodi Bilinkoff (History, UNCG) has been named Audrey Lumsden-Kouvel and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Newberry Library of Chicago. She will spend the fall 2018 semester working on her book project, "John of the Cross (1542-1591): The History, Mystery, and Memory of a Spanish Saint."

Publication in Focus: Carl Ernst

Carl Ernst has published a new book containing his translations of 117 Arabic poems by Husayn ibn Mansur al-Hallaj (executed in Baghdad in 922). *Hallaj: Poems of a Sufi Martyr* was released on July 15 by Northwestern University Press; it is a recipient of the inaugural Global Humanities Translation Prize from the Buffett Institute at Northwestern University. <http://www.nupress.northwestern.edu/content/hallaj>



John Headley Archive

Michael McVaugh located a number of Professor John Headley's research materials after Professor Headley passed away in September 2017. Matthew Lubin (UNC Ph.D., 2012), who is interested in political and diplomatic history in early modern Italy and the Eastern Mediterranean, was asked to investigate and catalogue this group of micro-films and slides. The materials proved to be of a piece with Professor Headley's wide-ranging interests. The subjects range from people of whom Headley wrote studies (Mercurino de' Gattinara, Chancellor to Emperor Charles V, and Cardinal Carlo Borromeo of Milan) to Protestant polemics, an attack on Tommaso Campanella, the utopian author of *City of the Sun*, by a Cypriot-French scholar, and a defense of a prince of Transylvania for collaborating strategically with the Ottomans. Dates range from about 1500 to 1675. The brief catalog of these materials will be made available on the MEMS website.

News From Our Graduate Students & Alumni

Julie Mell (History/MEMS, 2007), Associate Professor of History, NC State published *The Myth of the Medieval Jewish Moneylender*, 2 vols., (Palgrave, 2017-18).

Brantly Hancock Moore (Art History) participated in a fascinating summer program entitled "Museum Objects as Evidence: Approaches to the Material World," a collaboration between the University of Amsterdam, the Rijksmuseum, and the Bard Graduate Center in which a select group of young scholars were led through a series of object-driven examinations of early modern

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material culture from the Rijksmuseum and other collections by a team of researchers, curators, conservators and scientists from the Rijksmuseum, the Conservation Department of the University of Amsterdam and the Bard Graduate Center (New York City). Observing material scientists' analyses of early modern textiles, metalwork, paintings, and more, participants gained first-hand information about the principles and the possibilities and limitations of technical analysis, enabling them to ask more profound questions about the circumstances of objects' production and use, and in turn about the persons who made and used them. Photographs courtesy of Thijs Gerbrandy.



Support MEMS!

The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) is grateful for the generosity of alumni and friends who have supported its students, faculty, and interdisciplinary program.

Private support enables MEMS to sustain and enhance its approach to fostering research and teaching in medieval and early modern studies across a wide variety of disciplines. Please consider making a gift to the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Fund to support the program's mission of education and outreach.

To make a gift online, please visit giving.unc.edu/gift/asf and search for fund number 107380. Gifts by check may be made payable to the Arts and Sciences Foundation with MEMS – 107380 in the memo line and mailed to:

The Arts and Sciences Foundation
134 E. Franklin Street
Chapel Hill NC 27514

MEMS emerged from Chapel Hill's traditional strengths in the study of the European Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and other early modern fields. From its inception, the program also embarked upon an innovative, global approach to medieval and early modern studies within and beyond the traditional borders of the European world, including Byzantine and Islamic lands, peoples and polities from Eastern and Southern Asia, as well as the Caribbean, Latin American, and North American territories of the "New World." The MEMS program thus gives our existing strengths in medieval and early modern studies a new impetus and global reach. Newsletter content is a collaborative effort of MEMS faculty, graduate students, and staff. This year's newsletter design is by doctoral candidate Ani Govjian. Thank you to all who contributed!