NOTE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Elaine Treharne and Kathryn Starkey
Since we took over as Co-Directors three years ago, we have strategically developed provision in, and the promotion of, Medieval Studies at Stanford. We have designed a Minor for undergraduates; established a regular roster of graduate core courses in Medieval Studies; founded the highly successful annual Stanford Primary Source Symposium; organized a regular Wednesday lunch seminar and lecture series; taken over the organization of the very popular Medieval Matters Lectures; become a regular presence at the International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University; worked closely with our outstanding colleagues in the Library; and continually supported and enhanced the important and innovative work that faculty, staff, and students are doing here at Stanford in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. It has been an honor and a pleasure to direct CMEMS. We are now very pleased that Fiona Griffiths and Marisa Galvez will take up the leadership of CMEMS and continue to shape and develop it in new ways.

STANFORD PRIMARY SOURCE SYMPOSIUM

2015: THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF THE SOURCE

Attendees listen as Klären Wigen (History) talks about Stanford’s giant Omi Kuni-ezu map, which measures 345 by 504 centimeters (approximately 11.5 by 16.5 feet). The map may be viewed online in the Stanford Libraries Digital Repository (https://purl.stanford.edu/hv63tg4177). Photo by Martin Foys.

Ömi Kuni-ezu, detail. Image from the Branner Earth Science Library and Map Collections.

2016: REFORMATIONS

Kathryn Starkey
The 2016 Primary Source Symposium will take place November 10-12 at the Stanford Humanities Center. It will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the so-called Protestant Reformation by reflecting broadly on social, institutional, political, and intellectual re-formations from 600-1600 and across the world. We look forward to papers that focus on untapped sources and address the topics of marginality, the concept of reformation, materiality, and globalism. The keynote speakers are Brad S. Gregory (History, Notre Dame) and Susan E. Schreiner (Divinity School, Chicago).
WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

Björn Buschbeck
Over the course of the three quarters of the 2015/16 academic year, the CMEMS Workshop met on a weekly basis, providing a friendly interdisciplinary forum for Stanford’s growing community of medievalists and early modernists. Each Wednesday at noon, a diverse group of graduate students, faculty members and guests convened in Pigott Hall’s German library to present current research projects to each other and discuss them over lunch.

Organized by Prof. Elaine Treharne (English) and Prof. Kathryn Starkey (German), this year’s workshop assembled students and scholars from disciplines ranging from Art History to English Literature, from Religious Studies to Digital Humanities. Mirroring this variety of the workshop’s participants, the topics of the weekly presentations and discussions gave a good example of the multifacetedness of the field of Medieval Studies: to name just a few topics, the workshop participants spoke about the genesis of English place names in the Anglo-Saxon period, as well as about literary accounts of late medieval mystical dancing, learned about the connection of wartime propaganda and meat production in early modern Italy, discussed the possibilities of using digital tools in the study of manuscript books and were presented with new research findings on topics ranging from Chartier’s La Belle Dame sans Merci to the geographical location of the battle of Crécy 1346. Apart from Stanford faculty and graduate students, the 2015/16 workshop also featured many presentations by guests and visiting scholars from academic institutions all over the world.

In Fall 2016/17, the CMEMS Workshop will continue to be a weekly opportunity for academic exchange about all things medieval and early modern. We will again be meeting every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:15 pm in Building 260, Room 252. New faces are always welcome!

MEDIEVAL JOURNEYS: A CMEMS CORE COURSE

Bill Whobrey
Starting with an “orientation” to medieval mappae mundi, this course covers different aspects of medieval mobility including pilgrimage, exploration, trade, and crusade. We read the classics of medieval travel literature, including Mandeville, Ahmad Ibn Fadlan, Benjamin of Tudela, and Marco Polo, but the course goes well beyond these descriptive narratives to imagined journeys and travels of the mind in works such as Guillaume de Deguilville’s allegory Pilgrimage of Human Life and Brendan’s Navigatio. Arthurian romance and quest provide another window into journeys as narratives of ethical and moral actualization. With pilgrimage as a major theme, the class took a field trip to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco for a tour and the experience of sacred space as destination, which also included the Chartres labyrinth. We also spent a day at Special Collections, where students had the opportunity to view and actually touch a wide range of manuscripts and early printed books. The creative projects that students used to engage the topic included several original musical compositions, manuscript illuminations, and games, all of them critical interpretations of some aspect of travel in the Middle Ages.

MEDIEVAL MATTERS LECTURE SERIES

Dan Kim
Medieval Matters is a quarterly lecture series that examines the relevance of medieval ideas in our modern world. In 2015-2016, we hosted three speakers: Professors David Nirenberg (Dean of Social Sciences and the Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Professor of Social Thought, University of Chicago); Fiona Griffiths (Professor of History, Stanford University); and Kelly DeVries (Professor of History, Loyola University Maryland, and Honorary Historical Consultant, Royal Armouries, U.K.). In the fall, Professor Nirenberg explored the complex interfaith landscape of medieval Europe by tracing the history of conversations, conversions, and violence in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. In the winter, Professor Fiona Griffiths discussed the spiritual and authoritative roles of medieval women as “Brides” of Christ and “Lords” of men. In the spring, Professor DeVries used the Battle of Hastings (1066) — 2016 marks its 950th anniversary — as a starting point to explore the military rivalry between the English and French throughout the Middle Ages. The Medieval Matters Lecture series is co-sponsored by CMEMS, Stanford Continuing Studies, the Office for Religious Life, and the Sarum Seminar.
Jeanie Abbott and Jonathan Quick
Our members presented and participated in many lively sessions at the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University. This year CMEMS sponsored three sessions: a two-part panel on “Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts,” organized by Fiona Griffiths and Kathryn Starkey, as well as a panel on “Digital Manuscripts: Engaging the Public(s),” organized by Fiona Griffiths.

CMEMS caught up with Jonathan Quick (English) after the conference, who had this to say about his experience: “The International Congress on Medieval Studies continues to be one of the highlights of my year as a medievalist. This year I felt that CMEMS had an especially strong presence in Kalamazoo, and the papers from colleagues I was able to see were enjoyable and well received.

Kenny and I shared a panel with Bridget Whearty and Erik Kwakkel, whose presentations discussed strategies on how to engage various public audiences through social media with content derived from their own work as medieval scholars. Bridget (Ph.D. Stanford and CMEMS alum) delivered a fascinating paper on her experiences with tweeting John Lydgate’s The Fall of Princes—no small task! She shared some particularly interesting moments when her tweeting of the poem corresponded with current events and how she was able to translate those into meaningful conversations about the Middle Ages with her students. Erik’s presentation offered guidelines and advice on sharing academic work to a largely non-academic audience through social media. His evaluation of his own methods for engaging the public through digital means was both inspiring and practical to scholars hoping to carve out a digital presence and share some of their work to non-specialists.”
One notable acquisition is the first book printed with Anglo-Saxon type, Aelfric Grammaticus’ *A Testimonie of Antiquitie, shewing the auncient faith in the Church of England...*, which was printed in London by John Day in 1566. Matthew Parker, the Archbishop of Canterbury under Elizabeth I, prepared this edition of Aelfric’s *Testimonie* to demonstrate how Protestant doctrine reflected the early English church teachings, and he specifically directed John Day to create a type that imitated Old English script. The book is bound in a fragment of a twelfth-century manuscript of the Acts of the Apostles, making this work a fascinating object of study for those interested in studying interactions and interventions between manuscript and print culture.

Other new additions to the Stanford collections include a psalter for Dominican use that was created in 1473 for Brigitta Stromerin, a Dominican nun in Nuremberg; printed works on topics such as battle formations and Italian sumptuary law; the first collection of poetry by Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, printed in 1653; six Latin charters for estates in England from 1300, 1303, 1405, 1406, 1410 and 1479, which offer rare glimpses into the lives of lesser-known figures such as William Wattys of Ipswich (listed as a seller of wine and ale, and also a coroner); and a collection of medieval theological writings from the 13th and 14th centuries on love, the soul, and confession, including Hugh of St. Victor’s *Sollilioquium*; Paul of Hungary’s *De confessione*; the pseudo St. Bernard of Clairvaux’s *Meditationes piisime*; Honorius of Autun’s *Elucidarium*; extracts from St. Augustine, Anselm, St. Jerome, and others, with one contemplative text of unknown authorship.

*NEW STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS*
TEXTUAL ORIENTATIONS

This DLCL Research Group draws together scholars working on medieval material across linguistic, cultural, and geographic boundaries to examine, on the one hand, the ways in which medieval texts are framed by their material remains, and on the other, the ways in which readers, medieval and modern, must orient themselves to texts in order to engage with them. Medieval literature cannot be divorced from its material context. Each codex, scroll, or inscribed document is a unique manifestation of a text that at once provides us with a particular and historical interpretation of a text, and raises the questions how can we understand a text’s intellectual, social, and historical context, and how do we re-situate it in our present day? The questions that this research group explores are not specific to medieval studies, but they are central to working with medieval materials.

Our presenters this year were Ron Egan (East Asian Languages and Cultures), Alexander Key (Comparative Literature), Benjamin Albritton (Stanford University Libraries), and Jesse Rodin (Music).

GLOBAL CURRENTS

Elaine Trehan

Stanford Global Currents (https://globalcurrents.stanford.edu/) is an international research project funded by the NEH from 2014-16, in partnership with McGill University, ETS Montreal, and the University of Groningen. We use machine learning to determine how medieval manuscripts designers provided visual cues to readers for the retrieval of information. The Stanford team—Elaine Trehan, Ben Albritton, Mark Algee-Hewitt and Celena Allen—has worked with undergraduate research assistants (currently led by Liz Fischer and Clare Tandy) to hierarchize features of a page’s layout: large embellished initials, small capitals, rubrics and intertextual space. Working with Mohammed Cheriet’s lab at ETS, we’ve designed an algorithm that allows a computer to extrapolate these key information retrieval tools. Our online galleries facilitate swift analysis of thousands of features, which we’re now using to answer key issues of dating of manuscripts, changes in layout techniques, methods of manuscript page design, and more.

RENAISSANCES FOCAL GROUP

Hannah Smith-Drellich

After three years of the series "Nodes, Networks, Names: Recovering, Understanding, Representing," we have launched a new format. The Renaissances Graduate Research Series began in the autumn of 2015. Each event, one advanced Ph.D. candidate is given the opportunity to invite a scholar from his or her field and engage that scholar in conversation. During the two-hour evening event, the professor and the student present their research for 15-20 minutes, each introducing a pre-circulated work, before we open the floor to discussion. We are excited to create a platform that fosters conversation on scholarship that is still in progress, allowing graduate students to engage with scholars in their field and contextualize their research.

Our three events for the 2015-16 year have been:

November 2015: Early Modern Food: Desire, Theory, and Innovation
Molly Taylor-Poleskey (History, Stanford) and Ken Albala (History and Food Studies, University of the Pacific) in conversation about Taylor-Poleskey’s project, “Dietary Theory and Practice at the Court of Brandenburg-Prussia.”

April 2016: History and Formalism
Jessica Beckman (English, Stanford) and Molly Murray (English and Comparative Literature, Columbia) in conversation about Beckman’s project, “The Mind’s Eye: Vision, Text, and Thought in Early Modern English Print.”

May 2016: Race and Translation
Caroline Egan (Comparative Literature, Stanford) and Larissa Brewer-Garcia (Latin American Literature, Chicago) in conversation about Egan’s project, “Blood and Milk: New World Orality in the Comentarios reales.”
MANUSCRIPT NETWORKS OF THE RAGUSAN REPUBLIC (1358-1808)

Ivan Lupić
This project aims to make possible digitally assisted interdisciplinary study of the manuscript tradition of the Ragusan Republic (1358-1808) that directly informed and continuously sustained the rich, multilingual, and distinctly cosmopolitan cultural life of this city-state over several centuries and, from the fifteenth century onward, alongside the technology of print. One of the goals of the project is to contribute as concretely as possible to the ongoing conversation about what constitutes best practice when it comes to the presentation, manipulation, and study of manuscripts in a digital environment.

The manuscript tradition of the Ragusan Republic is especially worthy of study because the City of Dubrovnik, the administrative center of the Republic, did not allow a printing press inside its walls until the late eighteenth century thus creating, in European terms at least, a somewhat atypical cultural situation in which the medium of manuscript remained central for centuries after the invention of print technology. Using manuscript technologies, the small and thriving trading community, positioned between the Christian West and the Ottoman East and therefore oriented both toward the Adriatic Sea and the Balkan hinterland, kept abreast of the global political events and cultural developments while also producing its own distinct literary culture that deserves to be better known in the world of Renaissance studies.

The support of the Roberta Bowman Denning Fund for the Humanities will be used for the first phase of this larger project.

MEDIEVAL SOURCE BOOK

Mae Lyons-Penner
In Winter Quarter 2015/16, Professor Kathryn Starkey (German) founded a Middle High German reading group, bringing together faculty and graduate students from different departments of the DLCL to translate previously untranslated texts into English. Out of our lively meetings emerged the idea for an online Medieval Source Book which would present transcriptions and parallel English translations of previously untranslated short texts, along with commentaries, audio recordings, and links to the digitised manuscripts (where available). Quickly expanding our ambitions beyond medieval German, we developed a plan for a growing corpus of texts from a wide range of medieval languages, in genres ranging from poems and prayers to letters, sermons, songs and short stories. We hope that this variety will make our resource of interest and use to scholars and students across a number of disciplines. Having successfully secured funding through the Denning Grant, we are now expanding our corpus of transcriptions and translations and building our website. We hope to officially launch the project in the coming academic year.

BEOWULF BY ALL

Elaine Trehane
In January 2016, Anglo-Saxon Studies came under tremendous pressure from the unprofessional and divisive words and actions of some scholars in the field (see http://chronicle.com/article/Prominent-Medieval-Scholar-s/235014). One response was Beowulf By All, a multi-authored translation of Beowulf, which seeks to bring all scholars and students together in an effort to produce one united community’s interpretation of the poem. There are almost two-hundred contributors, and the translation will be published alongside Kevin Kiernan’s Open Access E-Beowulf, later this summer.
SUMMER COURSE: WHO WERE THE VIKINGS?

Chris Hutchinson
This undergraduate summer course explores Viking life, mythology, literature, art and archaeology as well as modern adaptations of Viking culture in music, literature, film and television. We will read some of the great works of Viking literature - tales of Odin and Thor, of magic and monsters, of adventures across the seas - and examine Viking artifacts and settlements in Europe and North America. By the end of the course, students will produce a creative work, adapting Viking culture for the modern era.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Luz Tur-Sinai Gozal, Senior in English, has been awarded the Department of English’s Rosenberg Award for an outstanding Honors thesis, entitled “The Phantom Jewess: Depictions of Jewish Women in Medieval English Literature,” advised by Elaine Trehanne and Charlotte Fonrobert.

Ben Diego, Senior in English, has been awarded the Department of English’s Golden Award for the best Honors thesis and the School of Humanities’ Kennedy Award for the best Honors thesis in Humanities. Ben’s work was a sophisticated and original analysis of the Architextuality of Early Medieval Gospelbooks.

Jeanie Abbott has been chosen to attend the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on “Teaching ‘Beowulf’ in the Context of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature” at Western Michigan University, directed by Professor Jana Schulman.

Jessica Beckman received a Francis Bacon Foundation Fellowship in Renaissance Studies from the Huntington Library.

Alexander Key will be a Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center next year. Working title: “Ragib al-Isfahani: His Poetics, His Life, His Works, and the Times.”

Matthew H. Sommer published a new book, *Polyandry and Wife-Selling in Qing Dynasty China: Survival Strategies and Judicial Interventions* (University of California Press, 2015), and was promoted to full professor.

Michelle Karnes received a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship for 2016-17.

Hannah Marcus was hired as an assistant professor in Harvard’s History of Science department, starting in Fall 2017.

Kathryn Dickason received a Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship this year and also published an article: “Sealed in Skin: Scarification as Sigilography in the Late Middle Ages,” *Culture: The Graduate Journal of Harvard Divinity School* 10 (Fall 2015): 13-37.

Stephen Spiess will have an essay, “Puzzling Embodiment: Proclamation, *La Pucelle*, and The first Part of Henry VI” appearing in *A Handbook of Shakespeare and Embodiment: Gender, Sexuality, Race*, ed. Valerie Traub (Oxford UP, 2016), while another work, “Turning Chaste: Narrative, Embodiment, and the Conversion of English Curtezans” was selected for the publication in the forthcoming *Conversion Machines: Apparatus, Artifice, Body*, eds. Bronwen Wilson and Paul Yachnin. This May, he will participate in a research seminar on “Theatre and Conversion in Early Modern Europe,” funded by the Early Modern Conversions project at McGill University.

Molly Taylor-Poleskey finished her PhD in the winter and will be leaving Stanford in August to take on the role of digital history professor at Middle Tennessee State University.
CATCHING UP WITH OUR MEMBERS

HANNAH MARCUS
Hannah Marcus will graduate from Stanford this year with a Ph.D. in History. Her dissertation, entitled “Banned Books: Medicine, Readers, and Censors in Early Modern Italy, 1559-1664,” examines the ways that many cutting-edge medical texts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were first prohibited, then expurgated, and finally permitted to certain readers with licenses. During her time at Stanford, she has been involved in the Mapping the Republic of Letters project, Humanities-Design, the Galileo Correspondence Project, and even has served as a CMEMS administrator. She will spend next year based at Princeton working as a postdoc on the Galileo Correspondence Project. In July 2017, she will begin her job as an assistant professor at Harvard University’s History of Science Department.

MOLLY TAYLOR-POLESKEY
Molly Taylor-Poleskey’s general scholarly interests are in cultural exchange, material culture, court culture, and the history of everyday life in early modern Europe. Her dissertation (completed in March 2016) explores the rise of the house of Brandenburg-Prussia in the 17th century through the lens of its food culture. Digital tools have featured prominently in her historical research at Stanford. In addition to her dissertation work, she has been a research assistant for the Mapping the Republic of Letters Project and worked on visualizing the intellectual networks of the Grand Tour to Italy in the eighteenth century. With the history department’s Academic Technology Specialist, Jason Heppler, she has also made digital charts of 17th-century food consumption data using D3 and an online historical mapping project. For more about her work, please visit her website (http://www.taylor-poleskey.net/). In August, she will take up the post of assistant professor of Digital History at Middle Tennessee State University.

Molly says of her time at Stanford, “I have so enjoyed learning about current medieval and early modern research through CMEMS during my eight years at Stanford. I am particularly grateful to have had the opportunity to debut my own graduate work to the community and to invite and host scholars I admire through the CMEMS series. I hope to continue as part of the CMEMS diaspora once I leave Stanford’s campus this summer.”

RUTH AHNERT
Ruth Ahnert joined us this year as an External Faculty Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. She is a Senior Lecturer in Renaissance Studies (equivalent to Associate Professor) at Queen Mary University of London, as well as Director of the Centre for Early Modern Mapping, News and Networks (cemmn.net). Her research focuses on Tudor literature and culture, with a specific emphasis on religious history, prison literature, and letter writing. She is the author of The Rise of Prison Literature in the Sixteenth Century (Cambridge University Press, 2013), as well as numerous articles and chapters in edited collections. Her current project, "Tudor Networks of Power," draws on network science and other quantitative methods to study the letters collected within the archive of Tudor State Papers and will culminate in a book and an online interactive visualization tool.

ROWAN DORIN
Rowan Dorin will join Stanford’s Department of History in Fall 2016 as an assistant professor. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2015 and has spent the last year as a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. His dissertation, “Banishing Usury: The Expulsion of Foreign Moneylenders in Medieval Europe, 1200-1450,” examined the repeated expulsions of foreign (mostly Christian) moneylenders during the late Middle Ages. He researches a broad range of topics—from Roman imperialism to Italian Romanesque to the practice of preaching in late medieval Europe—with a particular interest in economic history and the intersection of legal norms and social practices. His most recent publication, “Once the Jews have been Expelled: Intent and Interpretation in Late Medieval Canon Law,” appeared in Law and History Review (34.2; 2016) and, in his own words, “explores the interaction between legislative intent, legal interpretation, and the expulsion of Jews in the late Middle Ages.”

Please consider making a charitable contribution to the General Gift Fund for the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Your gift will provide resources and programs, such as the workshops and lectures described in this newsletter, above and beyond those made possible by University funding. Gifts may be made online by designating the CMEMS gift fund at Giving to Stanford (giving.stanford.edu) or by mail to Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, C/o Fiona Griffiths, Lane History Corner, room 113, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305