Lectures in Fall

Thursday, October 9th at 3:30 p.m.
Frick Fine Arts Building, Room 203

COLUM HOURIHANE
(Princeton University)

“Quid est Veritas? Trying to Disentangle the Real from the Mythical Pilate”


Monday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m.
Cathedral of Learning Room 501

MAURO PERANI (University of Bologna)
“What is the ‘European Genizah’? A Survey of Hebrew Manuscript Discoveries in Italy and Spain and their Importance for Jewish Studies”

University of Bologna Professor Perani is currently a Padnos Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies (University of Michigan). He has been Director of The Italian Genizah Project since 1992, and his recent publications include *Talmudic and Midrashic Fragments from the ‘Italian Genizah’: Reunification of Manuscripts and Catalogue* (Giuntina, 2004).

*Co-Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of French and Italian*

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November 6th and 7th

**JULIA REINHARD LUPTON**
(University of California, Irvine)

*Thursday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m.*
Cathedral of Learning Room G24
Public Lecture
“Mrs. Polonius Goes to Italy: An Intimate Guide to Shakespeare's Europe”

*Friday, November 7th, 1:30 p.m.*
Cathedral of Learning Room 362
Seminar for Faculty and Graduate Students
“Shakespeare and Italy: Enter through Theory”

Julia Reinhard Lupton is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. Her publications include *Citizen-Saints: Shakespeare and Political Theology* (Chicago, 2005) and *Afterlives of the Saints: Hagiography, Typology, and Renaissance Literature* (Stanford, 1996). She has written extensively on Shakespeare, religion, and psychoanalysis.

*Co-Sponsored by the Department of French and Italian*

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**News from the Departments**

We welcome **Hannah Johnson** (English) as the new Acting Director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program.

*English*
Marianne Novy presented a paper, “Revenge and Prejudice in *Twelfth Night*,” at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America and also spoke in connection with Quantum's production of *Cymbeline*. Professor Novy’s review of *Marian Moments in Early Modern British Drama* (Regina Buccola and Lisa Hopkins, eds.) was published in *Shakespeare Quarterly* 59 (No. 2, Summer 2008), 222-224.

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**French and Italian**

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski received an ACLS grant for 2008 and is spending the year as a visiting fellow at Princeton University working on several projects that grew out of her 2006 book, *Poets, Saints, and Visionaries of the Great Schism, 1378-1417* (Penn State University Press). Her major project deals with the many texts of Philippe de Mézières (1327-1405), a crusade propagandist, politician, and spiritual writer on whom she is also organizing, with Kiril Petkov of the University of Wisconsin, an international conference to be held on Cyprus in June 2009. In September, she delivered a lecture at Princeton University called “Philippe de Mézières’ *Life of Saint Pierre de Thomas* (1366): Constructing a crusader saint in the late Middle Ages.” She will return to Pitt in January 2009 and offer a graduate seminar “Autour du *Roman de la Rose*.”


Abolitionist and Nationalist” at Dante and the 19th Century: Reception, Canonicty, Popularization, at the University of York, UK (2008), and “Parva sed apta mihi: A reconsideration of Ariosto’s Latin poetry” at the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting (2007).


History of Art and Architecture

**Alison Stones** accompanied John Williams and Pitt grad students to Santiago in May for 10 days of intensive looking at the Cathedral; she talked on the Codex Calixtinus and its copies at the University of Santiago. She gave several papers: “La musique dans les marges des manuscrits gothiques,” at the Misericordia conference in Paris in June; “Les débuts de l’illustration du Lancelot-Graal” at the International Arthurian Conference at Rennes in July, where she also chaired a Round Table (appropriately enough) on digitizing, in which the Pitt Lancelot-Grail Project also featured. In September she talked on “Valenciennes, BM 396-397 and Images of teaching and learning in Thirteenth-Century France” at the Colloque international de paléographie latine in London, and gave a brief presentation on the Lancelot-Grail Project there as well.

Professor Stones has been invited to consult on the Nottingham University Manuscripts Catalogue (MSS formerly on loan from Lord Middleton have recently been acquired by the University): included are a copy of the Estoire del saint Graal and an important literary miscellany—the earliest illustrated French literary manuscript. She took a preliminary look and the serious work will take place next summer. She consulted for the Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels, on a pen-flourished manuscript in their collections and is consulting for the Bibliothèque nationale de France on their forthcoming Arthurian exhibition to be held in 2010. Her (very short) essay for the Rennes Arthurian Exhibition, *Le Roi Arthur*, was published in July. Other publications are her essay on the “Illustrations of the Mort Artu in Yale 229: Formats, Choices, Comparisons,” in *The Mort Artu in Yale 229*, ed. Elizabeth Willingham, published by Brepols in June, and “Amigotus and his collaborators,” published in the essays of the last palaeography conference by the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Vienna, in July. Since the appearance of the last MRS Newsletter the collaborative volume edited by Kathy M. Krause and Alison Stones, *Gautier de Coinci, Miracles, Music, and Manuscripts*, was published by Brepols (with a 2006 date). This project began as a conference held at Pitt in 2004 and co-sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program.

Alumna Kate Dimitrova (Ph.D. in HAA Spring 2008) is teaching this year in the History of Art Department at the University of California, San Diego.

Library

Jonathon Erlen, History of Medicine Librarian, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh, has been a contributing editor for the ITER database, based at the University of Toronto, for the past five years.

Religious Studies


Adam Shear’s book, The Kuzari and the Shaping of Jewish Identity, 1167–1900, appeared this fall from Cambridge University Press. This work was awarded a Cahnman Foundation Subvention Grant from the Association for Jewish Studies in 2007. Other recent publications include “The Italian and Berlin Haskalah’ revisited” Simon-Dubnow-Institute Jahrbuch-Yearbook 6 (2007); and “The role of Judah Halevi's Sefer ha-Kuzari in Ashkenaz: A case study in the transmission of cultural knowledge,” in Sepharad in Ashkenaz: Medieval Knowledge and Eighteenth-Century Enlightened Jewish Discourse, ed. Irene Zwiep et al. (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2007). Professor Shear also edited the English translation of The Historical Writings of Joseph of Rosheim: Leader of Jewry in Early Modern Germany (Brill, 2006). In the last few years, he has spoken at conferences in Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Jerusalem, Leipzig, and Leiden on his current research on the transmission of medieval Jewish philosophy in the early modern period. In 2005, he was a fellow at the