

MEDIEVAL HISTORY SEMINAR 2005

Seminar at the Deutsches Studienzentrum, Venice, October 20–22, 2005. Conveners: Michael Borgolte (Humboldt University, Berlin), Johannes Fried (University of Frankfurt), Patrick J. Geary (University of California, Los Angeles), Christof Mauch (GHI), Barbara Rosenwein (Loyola University, Chicago), Jonathan Skolnik (GHI). Co-sponsored by the Deutsches Studienzentrum, Venice.

The GHI's fourth Medieval History Seminar brought together fourteen graduate students and recent postdocs from Germany and the United States under the mentorship of four senior scholars. The group discussed research papers by the fourteen students, largely taken from their dissertations, in an effort to gain a better understanding of current directions in medieval scholarship in the two countries. At the bilingual seminar, each pre-circulated paper was briefly introduced by the author, followed by a commentary by a student from across the Atlantic, and then an open discussion with the other students and mentors.

The seminar did not focus on the history of any one country or region. To emphasize the breadth of interest, the program began with a lecture by Daniela Rando of the University of Pavia, "La mer gothique: Venedigs Mittelalter in der Moderne." Rando presented a panorama of nineteenth-century visions of Venice in British, German, and French historical and literary traditions. The seminar papers themselves spanned a broad spectrum of research areas and interests, reflecting current directions in medieval scholarship.

The current interest in textuality and problems of textual mediation was particularly prominent in a number of papers. Michael Brauer examined possible approaches to interpreting reports of "pagan" goat worship in sixteenth-century Prussia. Matthew Wranovix presented a detailed examination of books owned by parish priests in fifteenth-century Eichstätt in order to pose questions about the lower clergy's interaction with the written word. Damien Kempf's paper examined how a late-eighteenth-century account of the earliest bishops of Metz was transformed into a life of the first, mythical bishop of that city. Thomas Cramer provided a careful reading of *De Virginitate*, a seventh-century text, as both a carefully crafted work intended for the edification of women and, at the same time, a defense of religious institutions containing both men and women. Alex Novikoff argued for a twelfth-century convergence between the ancient tradition of the literary dialogue, revived in the eleventh century, and the scholastic tradition of the *disputatio*, which resulted in a transformation of intellectual learning.

A second theme that linked many presentations was the study of symbols and images. Christoph Weber's paper examined how different circumstances led to the adoption of a similar heraldic device by several Italian communes, and how these reveal the unique horizon of meaning that symbols played in each city's identity. Anja Lutz discussed the ideological construction of the image of King Louis IX in the context of fourteenth-century claims to the French throne.

Memory and its transformation formed a third thematic strand. Alizah Holstein considered the role of memory and urban identity in the narration of events in Rome during the absence of the papacy. Jennifer Edwards explored how distant memories of disputed elections of abbesses were instrumental in the progression of a complex disputed election in thirteenth-century Poitiers. Barbara Schlieben examined how a negative image of Alfonso X created in the fourteenth century resulted from the presentist concerns of chroniclers.

New directions in the study of space were evident in both Sara Ritchey's examination of images of trees and private gardens in Carthusian monastic spirituality and in Miriam Czock's study, which looked at the sacrality of churches through relics, consecrations, rights of asylum, and immunity in the Merovingian and Carolingian periods.

A final theme that emerged in the seminar was socialization and power. Mirko Breitenstein presented an analysis of the social processes of monastic formation. Florian Hartmann argued for the importance of changing access to economic resources as a key to understanding the pontificate of Pope Hadrian I.

In the lively discussions of each paper, in informal discussions during breaks and meals, or wandering through the narrow streets of Venice, the participants found that German and American historical studies are converging, perhaps more so today than in many decades.

Patrick J. Geary

Participants and Their Topics

MICHAEL BRAUER, Humboldt University, Berlin, "Die Reformation in Preußen und der heilige Bock"

MIRKO BREITENSTEIN, University of Dresden, "Das Noviziat bei Cluniensern, Cisterziensern und Franziskanern"

THOMAS CRAMER, University of Washington, "Defending the Double Monastery: Aldhelm of Malmesbury and the De Virginitate"

MIRIAM CZOCK, University of Bochum, "Schutz und Schändung von Kirchen im frühen Mittelalter unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Werke Gregors von Tours"

JENNIFER C. EDWARDS, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "Choosing Isabelle: A Thirteenth-Century Dispute in the Abbey of Sainte-Croix, Poitiers"

FLORIAN HARTMANN, University of Bonn, "Hadrian I. (772–795): Frühmittelalterliches Adelspapsttum und die Geburt des Kirchenstaates"

ALIZAH HOLSTEIN, Cornell University, "Myth and Memory in the Roman Trecento: Sciarra Colonna's Imperial Connections"

DAMIEN KEMPF, Johns Hopkins University, "A True Détournement: From Paul the Deacon's *Liber de episcopis Mettensibus* to the *Vita Clementis*"

ANJA LUTZ, University of Hamburg, "'Image': Ein Konzept zwischen Geschichte und Kunstgeschichte am Beispiel der Manuskripte BnF, Ms. fr. 5716, Ms. fr. 13568 und Ms. n. a. lat. 3145"

ALEX NOVIKOFF, University of Pennsylvania, "Dialogue and Disputation in the Twelfth-Century Renaissance"

SARA RITCHEY, University of Chicago, "The Spiritual Significance of Late Medieval Carthusian Gardens"

BARBARA SCHLIEBEN, University of Frankfurt am Main, "Der Hof Alfons' X. im Bild des 14. Jahrhunderts"

CHRISTOPH WEBER, University of Münster, "Heraldische Symbolik in italienischen Stadtkommunen des Mittelalters: Eine eigene Sprache der Politik"

MATT WRANOVIX, Yale University, "Parish Priests and their Books in the Fifteenth-Century Diocese of Eichstätt"