imagination, books and community in medieval Europe

A conference at the State Library of Victoria
29–31 May 2008
This international conference will examine the role of the manuscript book in nurturing both the imagination and a sense of community in medieval Europe, focusing on continuities between medieval and early modern visual, intellectual and religious culture.

Join distinguished international and Australian authorities to examine the art, impact and associations of the manuscript book in medieval Europe.

The conference coincides with the spectacular exhibition *The Medieval Imagination: Illuminated manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand* appearing exclusively at the State Library of Victoria (28 March–15 June). This landmark exhibition will showcase over 90 manuscripts from the 8th to the 16th centuries, from the collections of the University of Cambridge and from Australian and New Zealand collections.

For further information about the conference and exhibition, please visit slv.vic.gov.au/goto/medieval.

**Conference program**

**THURSDAY 29 MAY**

3–7PM: REGISTRATION

7–8PM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Openings**

Professor Jeffrey Hamburger, Kuno Francke Professor of German Art and Culture, Sackler Museum, Harvard University, USA

In an age of mechanical – and now virtual – reproduction, we have lost sight of the basic visual unit that structures our experience of the medieval book: the opening. In contrast to the scrolls used in antiquity, the confrontation of the verso and recto provided the visual field within which scribes and illuminators had to operate, also making possible the visible elaboration of the word with figurated initials, frames and full-page miniatures. Jeffrey Hamburger will explore the complex semantics and literally revelatory possibilities of this new medium as it developed over the medieval millennium.

(Introduced by Shane Carmody, State Library of Victoria.)
FRIDAY 30 MAY

8.30–9.30AM: REGISTRATION

9.30–9.40AM: WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OPENING BY ANNE-MARIE SCHWIRTLICH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STATE LIBRARIAN

9.40–10.30AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Re-inventing the book in the late Middle Ages: Flamboyant design in Netherlandish illuminated manuscripts of the 15th and 16th centuries

Emeritus Professor James H Marrow, Professor Emeritus of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University, USA

Throughout the Middle Ages, the makers of medieval manuscripts experimented, sometimes flamboyantly, with all the components of their design, reconfiguring the book in startlingly original ways. James Marrow will demonstrate that such changes display more than mere aesthetic exuberance; that fundamental innovations in medieval book design are also invariably about meaning; and that books and prominent elements of book design define and articulate some of the most profound concerns and beliefs of their patrons, makers and users. (Introduced by Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, State Library of Victoria.)

10.30–11AM: MORNING TEA (PROVIDED)

11AM–12.30PM: PAPERS
Words and images in Northern Europe

Jan Fox (University of Melbourne), Dr Megan Cassidy-Welch (University of Melbourne) and Professor Charles Zika (University of Melbourne) will discuss the use and meaning of words and images in manuscripts in Northern Europe. Chaired by Dr Judith Collard (University of Otago).

12.30–2PM: LUNCH BREAK

2–3.30PM: PAPERS
Devotion and saints in Italy

Dr Louise Marshall (University of Sydney), Dr Claire Renkin (Melbourne College of Divinity) and Dr Bronwyn Stocks (Monash University) will discuss the culture of devotion and saints in Italy and how manuscripts were created and used in this context. Chaired by Dr Ursula Betka (La Trobe University).

3.30–4PM: AFTERNOON TEA (PROVIDED)
4–5.30PM: PAPERS
Music and prayer
Professor John Griffiths (University of Melbourne), Dr Ursula Betka (La Trobe University) and Dr Jane Morlet Hardie (University of Sydney) will discuss the interaction between manuscripts, music, performance and worship. Chaired by Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion AO (University of Melbourne).

5.30–7PM: Private viewing of the exhibition The Medieval Imagination; drinks will be served

SATURDAY 31 MAY

8.30–9.30AM: REGISTRATION

9.30–10.30AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Keep it in the family:
Researching women and their books of devotion

Professor Alexandra Barratt, Professor of English, University of Waikato, New Zealand
Alexandra Barratt will discuss the movement of books of devotion between female family members, focusing on the Carew-Poyntz book of hours and on Anne Bulkeley’s book (British Library MS Harley 494). Anne, sister-in-law of Elizabeth Poyntz, probably passed on her own more modest prayer book to her daughter, a nun at Amesbury Priory. (Introduced by Anne Scott, University of Western Australia.)

10.30–11AM: MORNING TEA (PROVIDED)

11AM–12.30PM: PAPERS
Transitions and translations

Professor Constant Mews (Monash University), Dr Hilary Maddocks (University of Melbourne) and Associate Professor Andrew Lynch (University of Western Australia) will examine ideas around transition and translation – of relics, of words and of ideas. Chaired by Dr Patrick Greene (Museum Victoria).

12.30–2PM: LUNCH BREAK

2–3.30PM: PAPERS
Manuscripts and their stories

Professor Rodney Thomson (University of Tasmania), Professor Bill Kent (Monash University) and Professor Sasha Grishin (Australian National University) will shed light on the fascinating stories behind some extraordinary manuscripts. Chaired by Dr Claire Renkin (Melbourne College of Divinity).

3.30–4PM: AFTERNOON TEA (PROVIDED)
4–5.20pm: Keynote address

Reading the medieval book: Imagination, memory and creative association

Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion AO, Professorial Fellow in Art History, University of Melbourne, Australia

Taking a range of examples from the manuscripts and genres seen in the exhibition The Medieval Imagination, Margaret Manion will demonstrate how the medieval book mediated meaning through its stimulation of the imagination as well as the intellect; and how its visual aspects helped in the acquisition of knowledge, by generating creative associations that both prompted communal memories and aroused the mind to further enquiry. (Introduced by Dr Gerard Vaughan, National Gallery of Victoria.)

5.20–5.30pm

Closing remarks

Short responses to the conference program, by Professor Alexandra Barratt, Professor Jeffrey Hamburger, Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion AO, Professor Emeritus James Marrow and Conference Committee Chair Professor Constant Mews.

Keynote speakers

Professor Alexandra Barratt was educated at the universities of Cambridge and Toronto and has been at the University of Waikato for 30 years. She has published widely on Middle English texts written by and for women, and is completing a study of Harley 494, Anne Bulkeley and Her Book: Fashioning Female Piety in Early Tudor England.

Professor Jeffrey Hamburger’s teaching and research focus is on the art of the high and later Middle Ages. Among his areas of special interest are medieval manuscript illumination; text-image issues; the history of attitudes towards imagery and, more broadly, visual experience; and German vernacular religious writing of the Middle Ages, especially in the context of mysticism.

Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion AO is an art historian specialising in medieval and Renaissance art history. At present she is completing a book on the Italian illuminated choir book and is contributing to the updating of catalogues of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts in Australia and New Zealand. Preparation for the exhibition The Medieval Imagination, which she curated, has brought to light considerable new information on a number of these manuscripts.

James H Marrow is Professor Emeritus of Art History at Princeton University and Honorary Keeper of Illuminated Manuscripts at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (UK). A specialist in Northern European art of the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance, he has published extensively on manuscript illumination, religious iconography and early Netherlandish painting.
Conference venue

All conference sessions will be held at the Village Roadshow Theatrette (Entry 3, La Trobe Street), State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Australia.

Accommodation

The State Library of Victoria, in conjunction with The Sebel Melbourne and Citigate Melbourne, is offering special accommodation packages for conference delegates. For further information about accommodation, as well as other venue, location, travel and transport information, please visit slv.vic.gov.au/goto/medieval.

Registration

Registration fees
Full registration: $120
Discount registration: $100*
Student registration: $80

* Discount registration is available only to members of NEER and the State Library of Victoria Foundation.

Registration entitlements
All conference delegates will receive:
- Entry to all conference sessions
- Delegate information pack
- Morning and afternoon tea on Friday and Saturday
- Entry to the exhibition viewing and drinks on Friday evening

NEER bursaries
The ARC Network for Early European Research (NEER) is pleased to offer a limited number of bursaries for eligible postgraduate and ECR NEER participants to attend the conference. Funding is capped at $500 for those travelling from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and $250 for those from Victoria, New South Wales, the ACT and South Australia. For details, visit neer.arts.uwa.edu.au/postgraduates/subsidies.

How to register
Complete the registration form in this brochure (or a photocopy of it) and mail it to: Event Bookings Officer, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia.

Or fax the form to +61 3 9639 2978 (credit card payment only).

Or scan the form and email it to bookings@slv.vic.gov.au (credit card payment only).
Information and registration desk  
For all registration inquiries, call +61 3 8664 7016 or email bookings@slv.vic.gov.au.

The conference information and registration desk will be open at the following times:

Thursday 29 May: 3–7pm
Friday 30 May: 8.30am–5.30pm
Saturday 31 May: 8.30am–5.30pm

Registration conditions

• Places are limited and registrations will be processed strictly in the order in which they are received. Please register early to avoid disappointment.

• Registration forms and payment must be received by Wednesday 28 May 2008.

• To reserve a place at the keynote address on Thursday 29 May and the exhibition viewing and drinks on Friday 30 May, you must indicate your intention to attend on the registration form.

• Registration forms without complete information or payment will not be processed until these have been received. Conference organisers will endeavour to contact you if your registration is incomplete.

• A confirmation letter will be sent to you when your registration has been processed. In the event that all places are filled, you will be notified as soon as possible.

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Indemnification for this exhibition is provided by the Victorian Government.


Registration form

Contact details

Given name ___________________________ Family name ___________________________

Title/Position

Department

Institution

Address

Postcode

Telephone (bus. hours)

Mobile ___________________________ Fax ___________________________

Email ___________________________

Special dietary requirements

Registration details

Please tick whichever applies:

☐ Full registration ($120)
☐ Discount registration ($100)*
☐ Student registration ($80)

* Discount registration is available only to members of NEER and the State Library of Victoria Foundation.

☐ YES, I will attend the opening keynote address on Thursday 29 May.
☐ YES, I will attend the exhibition viewing and drinks on Friday 30 May.

Payment details

☐ I have enclosed my cheque for $______________________________

(made payable to the State Library of Victoria)

OR

☐ Please charge $ ___________________________ to my credit card.

Card type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card number: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

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This form acts as a Tax Invoice upon payment (State Library of Victoria ABN: 73 190 237 854)