14th February 2012

Dear PMRG Members,

The PMRG Committee was saddened to learn of the death of Dr Val Casey on February 13. Val, with her husband John, was a staunch supporter and committee member of PMRG from its beginning, and a friend to many of us, who maintained her warm, encouraging presence at PMRG meetings and functions as long as her health permitted. Val gained her PhD at UWA in the 1990s on the icon ‘Truth is the daughter of Time’ in Shakespeare’s late romances. She was also honoured as the first Life Member of PMRG, with special recognition as the designer and calligrapher of the group’s splendid posters and tee-shirts. Val will be dearly remembered and very much missed. Our deepest sympathies go to John and the family.

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It is time again for our Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, 21 February. The meeting will commence at 7pm in Arts Lecture Room 6 (Ground Floor, G.62), and nominations will be open for all positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer). We will also be seeking nominations for new committee members, and I’d like to take this opportunity to mention that being on the committee is not an arduous job, especially when we have a group of active members who share the workload of organising events. It is a rewarding way to ensure that Medieval and Early Modern Studies maintains a good profile and also that there are lots of interesting medieval and early modern events taking place. So, if you’re interested in joining the committee, please do come along and nominate yourself as a 2012 member! It also seems timely, in light of the upcoming changes to the committee, to extend a vote of thanks to the 2011 committee members for the time and effort they’ve all put into PMRG over the last year. Special thanks must go to Mrs Deborah Chapman, CMEMS’s administrator. As in previous years, the programme for 2011 was shared with and largely administered by the UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and Debbie did a great job of organising events and fielding enquiries.

The AGM on Tuesday will be followed with a public lecture by Professor Christopher Wortham at 7.30pm. Chris will kick off our 2012 Public Lecture series with a paper on the topical debate: “Shakespeare: Anonymous or Synonymous?” We also have a number of other exciting public lectures lined up for Semester 1. The next of these will be on Tuesday, 13 March at 6pm in Arts Lecture Room 10 (1.61 - upstairs), when Dr Spencer Young will present a paper titled “The Usurer's Alms: Theologians, Society and the Emergence of the University of Paris”. Spencer has recently arrived in WA as a Postdoctoral Fellow of the Centre for the History of Emotions. His area of specialty is the intellectual,
educational and religious history of medieval Europe, and he is particularly interested in the history of universities and the seven deadly sins. On Wednesday 21 March, Jane-Heloise Nancarrow will deliver a lecture on “The re-use of Roman material culture in the Anglo-Norman world” in Arts Lecture Room 6 (G.62 – downstairs) at 7.30pm. Jane-Heloise is a doctoral student at The University of York, and a graduate of the MEMS Master’s programme at UWA. On Thursday 29 March another of our recent MEMS graduates, Deborah Seiler, will present on her research into masculine emotional identity in four Middle English romances: King Horn, Sir Launfal, Sire Orfeo & Sir Cleges. In April, Dr Christa Knellwolf, who will be visiting UWA from the University of Vienna, will deliver a paper on "The conflict between the representation of imperial power and the struggle for emotional maturity and self-realisation in the Tempest", and we will also hear from Dr Natalie Tomas (Monash University) on Tuesday 17 April and one of our UWA doctoral candidates, James Smith, on Monday, 31 April. In May, we can look forward to papers by Professor Andrew Lynch and Dr Toby Burrows. A list of these upcoming lectures is attached for your convenience, but do check the PMRG website (http://www.pmrg.arts.uwa.edu.au/2012_programme) or keep an eye out for our email notifications about any changes and/or additions to the programme throughout the coming months.

One of the highlights of the Calendar of Events is our annual conference, which this year will again be co-hosted by PMRG and the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The theme of the conference is “Receptions: Medieval and Early Modern Cultural Appropriations”, which we hope will attract a range of diverse and exciting papers that explore various cultural appropriations in, by and of the medieval and early modern world. The conference will be held from 17-18 August at St Catherine’s College, with Professor David Konstan from Brown University, Professor Jacqueline Van Gent from UWA and Associate Professor Louise D’Arcens from the University of Wollongong as our keynote plenary speakers. The Call for Papers has been advertised, so if you’re interested in presenting a paper, have a look at the conference page on our website for details and get your 200 word abstract in by 16 March.

And, as is usual when the AGM comes around, it is also time for our PMRG membership subscriptions to be renewed. The dues remain $20 for full priced membership and $10 for concession rate membership. Subscriptions can be paid in person at the AGM, or mailed to our current Treasurer, Jennifer Hole, using the slip attached to the end of this email. Please do also make sure that you notify us of any changes to your contact details – particularly your email address – so that you continue to receive our updates and email notifications.

Finally, I’ve been made aware of a few upcoming events that PMRG members might be interested in. The first of these is a GRADS production of Shakespeare’s Love’s Labour’s Lost at the UWA New Fortune Theatre, which will run from 9-24 March. More information can be found on their website, http://www.grads.org.au or by calling 0438699623. The second is the Perth Medieval Fayre, which is hosted by WAMA (West Australian Medieval Alliance) in the Supreme Court Gardens and is always a bit of fun. It will take place this year on Saturday 17 March.

Best wishes, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2012!

Joanne McEwan, General Secretary
On Behalf of the PMRG Committee
PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP
Subscriptions for 2012 $20 Full, $10 Concession, to be submitted to Jennifer Hole, Discipline of History, School of Humanities, M208 UWA.
PMRG annual subscription:

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