24th February 2010

Dear Members of PMRG,

Welcome back to PMRG for 2011! We kickstarted this year’s public lecture series last night with a paper from Associate Professor Jaroslav Miller, and were delighted to see that some of you could make it along. Our next public lecture is on the 14th March at 6pm, when Professor Alistair Minnis, the Douglas Tracy Smith Professor of English at Yale University, will deliver a paper titled: Medieval Edens: Gender, Power and Death in Paradise’. He has kindly provided the following abstract:

This lecture considers what some of the greatest minds of the Middle Ages imagined life would have been like if the Fall from Eden had not occurred, and what those imaginations told them about life in their present existence. This harking-back to Paradise was essentially a search for origins: by finding the starting-points of forms of behaviour, ideals, institutions and sacraments, the rationale of God’s creation could, it was believed, be better understood. Beginning with the views of the controversial John Wyclif, I shall investigate what several major schoolmen thought the Eden narrative meant for three crucial aspects of the human condition: gender, death and power.

This lecture is scheduled to take place in Arts Lecture Room 5 (G.61). Professor Minnis is a leading scholar in the field of medieval literature and literary theory. His latest monograph, Translations of Authority in Medieval English Literature: Valuing the Vernacular was published by Cambridge University Press in 2009.

It’s also almost time again for our AGM, so please book the date in your diaries. It will be held this year on Wednesday 30 March at 7pm in ALR 6. The meeting will be followed by a public lecture at 7.30pm, when guest speaker Dr Claire Bolton will deliver a paper on the topic: “Imperfect Impressions – Fifteenth-Century Printing Methods”. Dr Bolton has previously worked as a letterpress printer with Alembic Press. She then decided to put this practice into theory with a PhD thesis on fifteenth-century printing practices. Her thesis is due to be published shortly by the Oxford Bibliographical Society, and she is currently researching the links between fifteenth-century printers and binders.

At the AGM we will be seeking nominations for new committee members. The president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary have agreed to accept nominations for re-election. Being on the committee is not arduous, and is a great way of keeping in touch with what is going on in the field of Medieval and Early Modern studies. So, if you are at all interested, come along and nominate yourself as a member for 2011.

As in previous years, the programme for the year is shared with and largely administered by the UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs...
Pam Bond, CMEMS’s administrator, for all the hard work she has put into organising events over the past year. I enclose a calendar of events to date for 2011, but keep in mind that it is in its early stages, and will be updated as we confirm dates and times with a number of other speakers who have offered to deliver public lectures in 2011. Details will also be made available online at: http://sponsored.uwa.edu.au/pmrg/2011_programme. The main event for this semester is, of course, the annual conference on "Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World", to be held at The University Club, The University of Western Australia, Perth, 9-11 June 2011. This conference will be co-sponsored by PMRG, the UWA Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies and also the new UWA Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. Again we have secured an impressive line-up of keynote speakers. This year they will include Indira Ghose from the Universite de Fribourg, Susan Karant-Nunn from The University of Arizona, Barbara Rosenwein from the Loyola University of Chicago and Peter Stearns from George Mason University. Registrations for the conference are now open, so do check out the details on the website (http://www.mems.arts.uwa.edu.au/news/2011_conference_emotions) and take advantage of the discounted PMRG Members rate and also the early bird rate that will apply until 1 May 2011.

Finally, subscriptions for 2011 are now also due. The success of PMRG in the past year has enabled us to keep subscription rates at the same low rate of $20 for full priced membership, and $10 for concession rate membership. Subscriptions can be paid at the AGM, or mailed to our current Treasurer, Jennifer Hole. We look forward to seeing you all at our 2011 lectures and events!

Joanne McEwan, General Secretary.