

PREFACE

With this first volume of MAM Proceedings, I look forward to the continued growth of The Medieval Association of the Midwest, of its annual conference, and of its publications. Selecting papers from the past six years was most difficult. Though a great number of the papers given at the MAM conferences from 1985-1990 have already been published in journals and as parts of books, many need still to be available to a wider audience than those attending the conference. It is, then, with pleasure and satisfaction that MAM offers these papers in its first volume. Papers from each of the first three host institutions--Iowa State, Cleveland State, and The Newberry Library--are included.

Unlike the idea for an annual conference for the Medieval Association of the Midwest, the idea for the Proceedings seemed long in coming to fruition. The conference itself, though a long-time dream of Merle Fifiield, was the result of a spontaneous statement after the General Meeting of MAM at Kalamazoo in 1984: in a discussion of ways to expand the Association objective of encouraging scholars and teachers of medieval literature, I suggested a conference; the response was immediate. With the help of Merle Fifiield, Robert Kindrick, Graduate Dean Daniel Zaffarano of Iowa State University, the late Aubrey Galyon, Edmund Taft, Marilyn Butler, and far too many others to name, the First Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest was held at Iowa State University on September 28, 1985.

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The theme was "The Bible in Medieval and Early Renaissance Art and Thought." From over sixty submissions thirty-six papers were selected and presented; approximately sixty people attended. Appropriately as one of the founders of MAM, Karl Morrison, author of History of Visual Art in the Twelfth-Century Renaissance and then Ahmanson-Murphy Chair of Medieval and Renaissance History at the University of Kansas, presented the keynote address, "Participation as a Way to Holiness," at the first conference. Musica Antiqua of Ames [Iowa], a professional musical group sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and directed by Dr. Carl Bleyle, concluded the day with a concert: "The Seven Deadly Sins."

At that first conference I promised the participants that I would do all in my power to see that selected papers were published. With this publication, I am at last able to fulfill that promise: three of the papers in this volume were presented at the first conference. One of them is by the late Peter Braeger, a young man who died of cancer in 1988 and whose life and work showed great promise.

Iowa State hosted the Second Annual MAM Conference on September 27, 1986; the theme was "Heroism and Villainy in Medieval and Early Renaissance Art and Thought." Professor Burton Drexler, Producer and Director, opened the conference with an original and effective production of "A Mery Play Betwene Johan Johan the Husbande, Tyb His Wife, and Syr Johan the Preest." Forty-five papers were presented, and the plenary speaker, Professor David C. Fowler of the University of Washington, author of The Bible in Early English Literature and The Bible in Middle English Literature, spoke on "Malory's Balin: Hero or Villain?" and then presided over an enthusiastic discussion. Musica Antiqua

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ended the day with the concern "Heroism and Villainy." Over seventy-five people attended.

Thanks are due many people for help with this volume, especially to the members of the Editorial Board--Robert Kindrick, Ruth Hamilton, and Earl Anderson--and to the readers who helped select these essays. I am grateful to Susan Yager, my colleague, for her invaluable assistance; to Linda Verrips and Don Payne for designing the cover; and to Norma Garrey, the English Department secretary who in actuality served as co-editor.

John McCully, Editor
Conference Convener
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MAM AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY CLEVELAND, OHIO, 1987-1988

The Medieval Association of the Midwest met at Cleveland State University on October 2-3, 1987, and again on October 7-8, 1988. The conference theme for 1987 was "Teaching the Middle Ages: The Roots of Medieval Culture." The keynote speaker, Professor Alain Renoir of the University of California, Berkeley, challenged medievalists to preserve and guard the culture which they profess through their interdisciplinary studies. Workshops focused on demonstrations of audiovisual aids for teaching Beowulf and Chaucer, and modern ways of teaching medieval music and history. Conference sessions addressed a rich diversity of other topics: oriental themes in Byzantine literature, the iconography of Mary Magdalene, the Magi in

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sculpture and drama, and others. Special sessions on computer applications in the humanities were held in the editorial offices of The Spenser Encyclopedia, which was nearing completion at that time and has since been published.

The conference theme for 1988 was "The Middle Ages East and West." The keynote speaker, Professor V. A. Kolve of Stanford University, presented an illustrated lecture on "Church versus Synagogue: A Re-interpretation of the Feast of Fools." The conference "kick-off" was an informal evening session on "Smut in the Middle Ages" in the ballroom of the Main Street Cafe. Another highlight was an opportunity to attend the world premiere of a new English-language version of Garcia Lorca's Blood Wedding at the Ohio Theater. Thanks to the generosity of Professor Alain Renoir and the Cleveland State University Graduate College, MAM was able to award \$700 in prize money to graduate students presenting papers of distinction.

Earl Anderson
Conference Convener
Professor of English
Associate Dean of Graduate College

MAM AT THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 1989-90

The Newberry Library was pleased to host the fifth and sixth annual MAM conferences 21-22 September 1989 and 29-30 September 1990. "Chivalry and Courtly Love" was the theme of the 1989 conference. Larry Benson, professor of

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English at Harvard University and author of seminal works on Malory and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, provided an appropriately chivalric keynote address. For the first time the conference lasted two days, with fourteen sessions and one panel discussion. Approximately one hundred people attended. Professor James J. Murphy of the University of California at Davis, author of Rhetoric in the Middle Ages, provided the theme of the 1990 conference, "Reading and Rhetoric." The keynote address, "Toward a History of Medieval Literary Theory," provoked discussion and controversy. One hundred and twenty people attended 18 sessions and three roundtable discussions, spread over two days. Conference participants also found time to take in an exhibit of Newberry Library medieval manuscripts, "500 Years of Scribal Culture." Considered together, these two conferences were a testament to the vitality, diversity, and quality of MAM. Once again I thank all who participated and made them a success.

Ruth Hamilton
Conference Convener
Assistant Director,
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