

University of Sydney

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Centre for Medieval Studies

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Annual Report 2002

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(Originally compiled by the Director of the Centre, Professor Margaret Clunies Ross, then edited and completed by the Acting Director.)

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The Board of the Centre for Medieval Studies is able to report on a very busy and successful year in 2002. The Board for 2002 comprised Professor Margaret Clunies Ross (Director), Associate Professors Geraldine Barnes and John Pryor (Associate Directors), Associate Professor John Clifton-Everest, Ms Vanessa Crosby (undergraduate student member), Dr. Carole Cusack, Professor Rif Ebied, Associate Professor Helen Fulton, Dr. Antonina Harbus, Dr. Jane Hardie, Ms Rosella Herbert (undergraduate student member), Mr. Peter Hupfauf (postgraduate student member), Dr. Andrew Gillett (Macquarie University), Ms Kim Selling (postgraduate student member), Dr. John Ward.

As in 2001, the Board is deeply indebted to the voluntary administrative services provided by Ms Catherine Cowan, and also to the help of the General Office staff in the John Woolley Building, especially Ms Pat Ricketts. We would also like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Bonner, who undertook to look after the catering for our monthly lecture series; her help has been very much appreciated.

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**I: Highlights of 2002**

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In 2002, the Centre has been active in numerous areas including our undergraduate teaching programmes, our Honours teaching and supervision and in postgraduate research supervision. As in previous years, the teaching duties in Medieval Studies have been shared among members of staff who are members of the Centre, and the Board wishes to thank them very much for the work they do, in most cases in addition to their departmental teaching loads. We also draw on the expertise of our Honorary Research Associates in the teaching programme, and are much indebted to them for their services. We offered MDST 2001, The written record of the Middle Ages in Semester 1 and MDST 2007, Medieval literary and artistic modes, in Semester 2.

There are three Honours students in 2002, of which two are expected to complete the degree this year. There are currently four full-time Medieval Studies postgraduates enrolled for the PhD, all on scholarships.

2002 has also been memorable for the fact that the Centre sponsored two very successful though very different conferences, and reports on these appear below. The Centre has had two visiting scholars in 2002, Professor Christopher Given-Wilson, a medieval historian from the University of St. Andrews, who visited us in January-April, and Dr. Judy Quinn, from the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Studies at the University of Cambridge (and formerly of this university), who is visiting in November 2002-early January 2003. Both visitors presented papers in our regular lecture series, Chris in March and Judy in November. Another achievement was the award of an Australian Research Council postdoctoral fellowship to Dr. Juanita Ruys for a project on Literary self-awareness and parental love: challenging alterity in contemporary medieval studies. She will take up her fellowship in Medieval Studies in early 2003. Finally, the General Editors of the Centre's publication series, Making the Middle Ages, are pleased to report the publication of two volumes in the series during 2002. Details of these publications are given below.

## II: Undergraduate teaching

### MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages

The class this year was initially the largest we have ever had. There were 36 pre-enrolments. For whatever reason, only around 25 of these eventuated and at the end there were 28 enrolments, of which 7 ended up as absent fails. Of the rest, there were 6 Distinctions, 7 Credits, and 8 Passes. The class was interested and competent, but lacked the real "high-flyers" that we have had in previous years.

The semester was also rather "messy" as a result of a need to reschedule the order of classes because of John Ward's being overseas at the appropriate time, by a need to swap two other weeks around twice because of members of staff needing to leave Sydney, and by Anzac Day being on a Thursday, which meant that Anglo-Saxon had to be left out this year.

Still, as always, I thoroughly enjoyed listening to my colleagues and look forward to it again next year.

John Pryor (Convenor)

### MDST 2007 Medieval Literary and Artistic Modes

At the end of Semester 1 2002 the number of student enrolments in this unit of study stood at 19, and on that basis I decided to go ahead with teaching it and preparing the Course Reader. However, disappointingly, by the end of the July the number had reduced to 14 and by the third week of semester to 9. Eight students completed the unit. As things stand, and given the opportunities students have to vary their enrolments over a long period, it is virtually impossible to avoid situations such as this, but it nevertheless represents a large expenditure of staff time, most of which, for this

unit, was given over and above individuals' departmental responsibilities. I thank all staff who participated in the unit for their work: Geraldine Barnes; Carole Cusack; Antonina Harbus; Jane Hardie; Louise Marshall; Nerida Newbigin; Margaret Rogerson; Craig Ronalds; Diane Speed and Max Walkley.

For the most part, those students who took the unit were involved and enthusiastic and presented good quality work. However, several took advantage of the fact that Medieval Studies currently has no penalty for late work, and submitted their work very late without excuse. I recommend that, from 2003, all Medieval Studies units adopt a late penalty system and inform the students about it.

Margaret Clunies Ross (Convenor)

Post Script

Increasingly strict guidelines being handed down from "on high" will mean that we will have to formulate policy on a range of issues, not only on late work. Extensions, reconsiderations and appeals, the composition of Course Guides, etc., etc., etc.

I will try to bring the Guides for MDST2001 and MDST2008 for 2003 up to par for the use of others in the future.

John Pryor

III: Lecture Series

The Centre's lectures continued in 2002 with a very successful and well-attended series of presentations in both semesters of the year by visiting scholars and local medievalists. Because the university's Staff Club, where we used to meet, was closed down at the end of 2001, we have now moved our venue to the Common Room of the John Woolley Building, and this has proved reasonably satisfactory, though some aspects of the facilities could be improved (lighting, acoustics). The location change has certainly enabled us to save money on both the catering (thanks to Elizabeth Bonner) and room hire.

The programme of lectures in 2002 was as follows:

Thursday 14 March: Professor Chris Given-Wilson, Department of Medieval History, University of St. Andrews

**The Writing of History in Late Medieval England.**

**Thursday 11 April: Professor Jean-Michel Mehl, Department of History, Université Marc-Bloch de Strasbourg**

**Les jeux populaires dans la France médiévale**

**Tuesday 7 May: (joint with Department of English Research Seminar) Dr. Rosalind Field, Department of English, Royal Holloway College, University of London**

**Resistance to Arthur in the Romances of Medieval England**

**Thursday 13 June: Dr. Tarrin Wills, Research Associate, Department of English**

**A brief history runology**

**Thursday 29 August: Dr. David Scott-Macnab, independent scholar**

**The 'J. B. Treatise' &ndash; A sportsman's lexicon or a fifteenth-century 'bluffer's guide'?**

**Thursday 26 September: Associate Professor Andrew Lynch, Department of English, University of Western Australia**

**Buffets before bedtime: The children's Morte Darthur.**

**Thursday 24 October: Dr. Lyn Olson, Department of History, University of Sydney**

**Dol-de-Bretagne as a Religious, Political and Cultural Centre, to 1199 AD.**

**Thursday 21 November: Dr. Judy Quinn, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic Studies, University of Cambridge**

**The representation of masculinity in the eddic mythological poems &ndash; heroic and divine?**

**Note that the November lecture originally scheduled to be give by Dr. Elizabeth Bonner on The Discovery of some previously unknown Scottish Seals in French Archives: the Dowry Document of Marie de Gueldres, 1450 has been postponed to a date in 2003 to be announced.**

**IV: Conferences**

**The Centre sponsored two conferences in 2002, both held Semester 2. The first was a one-day symposium on Fantastic fictions: medieval and modern organised by postgraduate student members Kim Selling and Lilla Smee and held on Friday 27 September; the second, which followed hard upon the first, was a five-day workshop on The logistics of Crusading and related military activities, organised by Associate Director John Pryor. Both were extremely successful and the Board**

congratulates the organisers for their excellent work, which took a great deal of time and effort, but certainly paid off.

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**Fantastic fictions: medieval and modern**

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**Fantastic fictions:medieval and modern** was a one-day symposium held at Women's College, University of Sydney, on Friday 27 September 2002. It was a resounding success. The symposium sought to fill a need in the academic milieu for a serious and informed look at fantastic fictions, particularly genre fantasy and science fiction, which has hitherto been largely ignored in Australia despite the presence of many world-class scholars and writers in this area. It is clear from the massively enthusiastic responses to the event that there is a real thirst in the Australian reading public for sensible discussions and analyses of the fantastic, which, given the Harry Potter craze and blockbuster film adaptations of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, shows no sign of abating in the near future. At a total of 97, attendance at the symposium was far beyond what was expected, the audience comprising not only academics but also fans, authors and members of the publishing community.

The symposium's plenary speaker, Professor Brian Attebery of the University of Idaho, was both challenging and highly entertaining, and set a fabulous tone for the rest of the day. His paper, *Exploding the monomyth: myth and fantasy in a postmodern world*, may be broadcast on ABC Radio National later in the year, and may also be available on the Fantastic Fictions website (Error! Bookmark not defined.). The rest of the programme was also excellent and showcased the work of published academics as well as postgraduate students and significant authors of fantasy and science fiction. A number of organisations and individuals gave support to the symposium and helped to make it a success. The Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (RIHSS) gave both resource and organisational help, and the Centre and symposium organisers are particularly grateful for this; Galaxy Books, the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, Harper Collins Publishers and Random House Australia also supported the event in various ways.

**Kim Selling**

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**The Logistics of Crusading and related military activities**

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The Centre's Workshop on the Logistics of Crusading and related military activities met at St Paul's College from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October under the chairmanship of John Pryor. Invited participants included Professor Reuven Amitai (Jerusalem), Professor Bernard Bachrach (Minnesota), Professor John Dotson (Southern Illinois), Mr Charles Glasheen (Northern Florida), Professor John France (Wales, Swansea), Dr Ruthi Gertwagen (Haifa), Professor John Haldon (Birmingham), Professor Benjamin Kedar (Jerusalem), Professor Yaacov Lev (Bar Ilan), Professor Tom Madden (St Louis), Mr Todd Mason (Melbourne), Dr Alan Murray (Leeds), and Professor Richard Unger (British Columbia). In addition, numerous local people attended various sessions, including Dr. E. Bonner, Professor M. Clunies Ross, Mr T. Dawson, Dr M. Nelson, Professor R. Macleod, Dr B. L. Olson, and Dr J. O. Ward. The Public Lecture on the evening of the opening day was attended by well over 50 people.

The original Budget for the Workshop granted by the University was \$30,000. In addition to that John Pryor obtained further private sponsorship to the amount of \$6,000, some of the invited participants contributed towards their air fares or accomodation, and \$1,045 was raised from local people attending the Workshop.

The concept of the Workshop proved to be an outstanding success. Everyone who attended has subsequently emailed me saying how much they enjoyed it, and how much they learned from it, and how much superior to the normal format of academic conferences it was. In fact it proved to be remarkably dynamic and, I have to say, I was exhausted by the end of it. All participants came remarkably well prepared and also prepared to engage with each other. In discussion there were the disagreements that one would always expect (and, indeed, hope for), but the degree of consensus on many of the major issues raised across numerous of the presentations was unexpected. Even when there were disagreements on points of detail, there was almost invariably agreement on parameters. There is no doubt that what came out of the Workshop was important and dynamic and that it will generate great interest around the world.

I think that just how successful this format of Workshop was should be communicated to the current Pro Vice-Chancellor for research. Such Workshops are expensive to arrange; however, if we may judge from this one, they are worth every dollar. Out of it the University and the Centre will gain a highly prestigious volume which is going to make all historians of Crusading, Byzantine, and medieval Muslim warfare think again. It will help to put Sydney "on the map". I sincerely hope that this initiative of Professor Siddell's for funding for Areas of Research Strength, will be repeated.

Before the Workshop convened, participants had been asked to post drafts of their presentation on a Web site created by the Arts IT Unit. This proved to be an outstanding success and I would like to have the Centre's appreciation conveyed to the creator, Mr Charles Humblet. Since the Workshop ended, all the drafts have been removed but stored for safekeeping and the participants are now asked to post their presentations as they gave them. All of the tape-recorded discussions after each presentation have been transcribed and added to the various participants' sites, as well as the text of my own Public Lecture.

At the "wrap-up" session, the participants volunteered to prepare final versions of their papers for delivery to me by 1 April 2003. That will, hopefully, make it possible for me to edit the volume in time to get it to Ashgate Publishing in time for them to be able to table it at the next meeting of the Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East in Istanbul in July 2004.

John Pryor

V: Publications

(a) Making the Middle Ages

Two volumes of the Centre's series Making the Middle Ages (General Editors Geraldine Barnes and Margaret Clunies Ross) have been published in 2002. Volume 4 in the series, Margaret Clunies Ross's The Old Norse Poetic Translations of Thomas Percy appeared in March 2002, though with a

2001 publication date, and Volume 3, Richard Utz's *Chaucer and the Discourse of German Philology: A history of Critical Reception and an Annotated Bibliography of Studies 1792-1948*, was published in October 2002.

To date 4 volumes have been published in the series. A further 4 volumes have been accepted and are in varying stages of preparation. The General Editors are pleased with the progress and appearance of the series so far, and are especially indebted to Simon French (layout and copy editing) and Peter Hupfauf (artwork and cover design), as well as to Brepols for the financial support which makes possible the editorial work undertaken in Sydney.

**(b) Other Publications**

Selected papers from the 2001 Conference on "Travel and Cartography in the Middle Ages" have now been sent to an overseas reader. In-house publication of these papers in what will be the Centre's first publication of its own is in train.

**VI: Publications of some members of the Centre in 2002 (as conveyed to John Pryor by 11/12/2002)**

**(a) Margaret Clunies Ross**

1.. "'Saint" Ásólftr', in Bela Brogyanyi ed., with Thomas Krömmelbein, *Germanisches Altertum und christliches Mittelalter. Festschrift für Heinz Klingenberg zum 65. Geburtstag* (Freiburg); 29-49

2.. 'Reading \_rymskvi\_a', in Paul Acker and Carolyne Larrington eds., *The Poetic Edda: Essays on Old Norse mythology* (New York and London); 180-94.

3.. 'Närvaron och frånvaron av ritual i norrön-isländska medeltida texter' ('Ritual and its absences in Old Norse-Icelandic texts of the Middle Ages'), translated by Marianne Thormählen, in Kristina Jennbert, Anders Andrén and Catharina Raudvere eds., *Plats och praxis. Arkeologiska och religionshistoriska studier av nordisk förkristen ritual. Vägar till Midgård 2.* (Lund); 13-32.

4.. *Skaldic poetry of the Scandinavian Middle Ages: Editors' manual*, 2nd. rev. ed., Diana Whaley, Margaret Clunies Ross, Kari Gade, Edith Marold, Gu\_rún Nordal and Tarrin Wills. Sydney.

5.. *Old Norse myths, literature and society*, ed. Margaret Clunies Ross (The Viking Collection, 14) (Odense); forthcoming December 2002.

6.. 'Realism and the fantastic in the Old Icelandic sagas', *Scandinavian Studies*, December 2002, 1-12.

**(b) Jennifer Carpenter**

1.. "The Communities of a Thirteenth-Century Holy Woman, Ida of Nivelles", in B. Brookes and D. Page, eds, *Communities of women: historical perspectives* (Dunedin, 2002), 27-38.

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(c) Helen Fulton

1.. "Orality and literacy in early Welsh literature" in A. Price, ed., *Chwileniwm: Technoleg a Llenyddiaeth* (Millennium: technology and literature) (Cardiff); 17-35

2.. "Mercantile ideology in Chaucer's Shipman's Tale", *Chaucer Review*, 36.4 (2002), 311-323

3.. "Individual and society in Owain/Yvain and Gereint/Erec", in *The individual in Celtic literatures*, ed. J. Nagy (Dublin, 2001), 15-50.

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(d) Andrew Gillett

1.. Andrew Gillett, ed., *On barbarian identity: Critical approaches to ethnicity in the Early Middle Ages* (Studies in the Early Middle Ages, 4), (York/Turnhout); esp. Andrew's own two chapters: "Intoduction: ethnicity, history, and methodology" (1-18) and "Was ethnicity politicized in the earliest medieval kingdoms?" (85-121).

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(e) Antonina Harbus

1.. *Helena of Britain in medieval legend* (Cambridge).

2.. *Germanic texts and their Latin models: medieval reconstructions* (Germania Latina, IV), ed. K.E. Olsen, A. Harbus and T. Hofstra (Louvain, 2001).

3.. *The life of the mind in Old English poetry* (Amsterdam and New York).

4.. "The medieval concept of the self in Anglo-Saxon England", *Self and Identity*, 1 (2002) 77-97.

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(f) Jane Hardie

1.. "Lamentations chant in Spain before 1568", in *Fuentes musicales en la península Ibérica* (ca.1250ca.1550) (Lérida, 2002), 271-297.

2.. "Wanted, one maestro de capilla: a sixteenth-century job description", in *Encomium musicae: a festschrift for Robert J Snow* (New York, 2002) 269-284.

3.. "Circles of relationship: chant and polyphony in the Lamentations of Francisco de Peñalosa", in *Musical life at the collegiate churches in the Low Countries and Europe / The Di Martinelli Collection / Chant & Polyphony* [Alamire Foundation Yearbook, 4] (Leuven, 2000, pub. 2002), 465-474.

4.. "The past in the present: some liturgico-musical relationships between Toledo, Rome and Andalusia", *Studia musicologica Academiae scientiarum Hungaricae* (forthcoming 2002).

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(g) Louise Marshall

1.. "Reading the body of a plague saint: Narrative altarpieces and devotional images of St. Sebastian in Renaissance art", in *Reading texts and images: Essays on medieval and Renaissance art and patronage*, ed. B. Muir, (Exeter); 237-60.

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(h) Nerida Newbigin

1.. "I giornali di Ser Giusto Giusti d'Anghiari (1437-1482)", *Letteratura italiana antica*, 3 (2002), 41-246.

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(i) John Pryor

1.. "Types of ships and their performance capabilities", in R. Macrides, ed., *Travel in the Byzantine World: Papers from the thirty-fourth Spring Symposium of Byzantine studies, Birmingham, April 2000* (Aldershot), 33-58.

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(j) Margaret Rogerson

1.. "Rediscovering Richard Eurich's 'York Festival triptych' ", *Medieval English theatre*, 23 (2002), 3-16.

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(?) Kim Selling

'Imagining Alternatives: Fantasy, New Age & the 'cultic milieu'', in *Seeking the Centre, 2001 Australian International Religion Literature and the Arts. Conference Proceedings*, Edited by Colette Rayment & Mark Levon Byrne, RLA Press: Sydney, 2002, pp. 180-190.

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(k) Juanita Ruys

1.. "Planctus magis quam cantici: the generic significance of Abelard's Planctus", *Journal of plainsong and medieval music*, 11 (2002), 37-44.

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(l) John Ward

1.. " 'Decline' and 'new management' in medieval historiography during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (and beyond)", *Parergon*, n.s., 19 (2002), 19-75.

#### **VII: Statement of Accounts for 2002**

**This will be presented on a separate document and available at the AGM. In general the Centre's finances are in excellent shape and we thank Mr. Jay Chandra and Mr. David Thurairatnam for their help with our accounts.**

#### **VIII: Programmes and activities planned for 2003**

**In 2003, Margaret Clunies Ross, Director of the Centre, will be absent on a combination of Special Studies Leave and Special Duties Overseas. From 5 December 2002 to 9 February 2003 she will be on SDO in Berlin, and from 10 February 2003 to 10 February 2004 she will be on study leave. Part of that time will be spent as a Visiting Fellow of All Souls College Oxford, part at various conferences and meetings in Europe, and part back in Sydney. During her absence, John Pryor will be Acting Director.**

##### **(a) Visit of Patrick Geary**

**As an indirect benefit to the Centre from the ANZAMEMS 2003 conference on Memory and Commemoration, to be held at the University of Melbourne from 5-8 February, one of the conference's plenary speakers will visit and present a lunch-hour seminar at the University of Sydney in February.**

**Patrick Geary, who is a Professor of History at the University of California Los Angeles, will visit Sydney from 12-14 February 2003. He is the author of a number of influential books in Medieval Studies, including *The Myth of Nations: the Medieval Origins of Europe* (2002), *Phantoms of Remembrance: Memory and Oblivion at the end of the first Millennium* (1994), *Living with the Dead in the Middle Ages* (1994) and *Furta Sacra: Thefts of Relics in the Central Middle Ages* (1978). He will give a seminar on Thursday 13 February 2003 at 1 pm in the Rogers Room (John Woolley Building Room N397) on 'Women in medieval origin myths'.**

**PS! I propose that we take Professor Geary off for "tunch" [p.m. equivalent of "brunch"] somewhere afterwards. Anyone who would like to come should let me know. (John Pryor)**

**(b) Visiting Scholars 2003**

**1 January &ndash; 30 June 2003: Professor Michael Carter, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Oslo**

**Mike Carter, who will be on study leave in the first half of 2003, will be finishing a book entitled A History of the Arabic Language.**

**Semester 2 2003: Dr. Louise D'Arcens, Department of English, University of Wollongong.**

**Details yet to be arranged.**

**IX: Undergraduate Teaching 2003**

**Semester 1: MDST 2001 The Written Record of the Middle Ages**

**This core unit of study in Medieval Studies (8 credit points, essential for a major in Medieval Studies) will be available again in Semester 1 2003, coordinated by John Pryor.**

**Pre-enrolments as of 04/12/2002: 16**

**Semester 2: MSDT 2008 The First Crusade**

**John Pryor will offer this unit of study (8 credit points) for the first time within Medieval Studies in second semester 2003.**

**Pre-enrolments as of 04/12/2002: 12**

**Medieval Studies IV Honours**

We will have two new IV-Honours students next year: Vanessa Crosby and Sarah Mathieson. In addition Hana Lewis will be completing the part-time candidature she began in 2002.

**X: Postgraduate Teaching 2003**

In 2003 two Doctoral students will be returning from a period of suspension: David Duchesne and Kim Selling. In addition to Deslee Campbell, Peter Hupfauf, Melanie Heyworth, and Matthew Sayles, that will mean that we will have six current Ph.D. candidates. There are no new candidatures for 2003; although, we have one keen enquiry for a mid-year commencement.

**XI: Additional Proposals for 2003/2004 (from John Pryor)**

Two additional suggestions have been made for the period of 2003/2004, which the AGM may like to consider. And the third could be taken in conjunction with them.

(a) Just to break up the regular pattern of lectures and to stimulate interest, perhaps a one-day symposium sometime in Semester II. Perhaps four papers by members of the Centre on a theme (or even not on a theme). Or perhaps an emulation of the History Department's end-of-year Research activities seminar in which people speak for just 10-15 minutes about what they are currently engaged upon and think is important in their research.

(b) To think about and discuss. A number of people have mentioned to me that since the demise of ANZAMRS and its incorporation into ANZAMEMS, the conferences of the new body have had increasingly less interest to medievalists. I also think this myself.

I wonder whether there may not be case for us funding and mounting our own Australasian conference for Medieval Studies, not in opposition to ANZAMEMS but rather complementary to it. We have the money and the summer of 2004 would seem to be a good time.

And, we have had "on the books" for a long time, proposals to facilitate our post-graduate and honours students to mount their own seminars. It is high time that we acted on that, I think, and that could be done by:

(c) Engaging them in either (a) or (b) above, or funding them to mount their own Seminar in a way that they thought suited them best.

**XII: Signed Off**

**Signed .....**

**Dated .....**