

Newsletter of the Department of Medieval Studies

Medieval News

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- *Fifteen Years of Medieval Studies*
- *Centre and Periphery in the Age of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos: from De caerimoniis to De administrando imperio (International Symposium)*

Two years have gone by since I took over the direction of our department for the second time in 2005, having been the first Head between 1992 and 1997. I made a detailed description of the situation after the successful work of institution building by **József Laszlovszky**, my predecessor. We were on the verge of a period of transformation where we would have to learn to do without the valuable contributions of **János M. Bak** (who became Prof. Emeritus in 2006) and, temporarily, the work **István Perczel**, who has been engaged in an important research project documenting and saving Syriac Christian Manuscripts in India, sponsored by Tübingen University, which will occupy him for at least two more years. In the light of these changes and the changing situation of CEU in a transformed East Central Europe, now partly in the EU, and more open to "global" contacts with the whole world, we had to rethink how our curriculum on medieval Europe could be situated in a more global context.

The prospective changes also included the process of renewing the accreditation of our program according to Hungarian accreditation criteria, which are currently introducing the so-called Bologna model. According to this model, we agreed to plan a two-year MA program, jointly organized with the Department of History, where, after a general first-year curriculum offered jointly for medievalists and modernists, the curriculum of the current one-year Interdisciplinary Medieval Studies MA (which will be retained) would be integrated into the second year in the planned two-year History MA.

Beyond our daily routine, courses, excursions, workshops, MA and PhD defenses, and selection processes, the two years of my mandate were filled with the organization necessary to cope with these new tasks. We had long and fruitful discussions on our renewed core curriculum and prepared tons of self-documentation CVs, syllabi, charts, and curricular plans. In addition to the successful renewed accreditation of the Doctoral School of History (in June 2007) where

the two programs of History and Medieval Studies were associated in a larger unit according to Hungarian accreditation formats and the two year MA project submitted to both Hungarian and American accreditation boards, we developed four fields of possible non-degree specialization: Religious Studies, Urban History, Cultural Heritage Study and Policy, and Environmental and Landscape History. These specializations, offered in cooperation with the Department of History, will add further color to our interdisciplinary offerings. I hope these projects (now still in the phase of adjudication at the Hungarian and American accreditation boards) have elaborated good frameworks for our future work.

Another aspect of our planning was recruiting new colleagues to join our work. **Aziz Alazmeh**, (recruited in 2004) offers us an opportunity to broaden our perspective on the medieval Near East and Islam. We had a long series of initiatives to recruit a new Byzantinist. In 2004 we first recruited **Johannes Niehoff Panagiotidis**, and when he decided to leave in 2006 we had **Stephanos Efthymiadis** (University of Cyprus) as a Guest Associate Professor for a year. As a result of another international search we now have **Niels Gaul** (via Bonn and Oxford) with us. Two more international searches confirmed our longtime colleagues **Alice Choyke** and **Béla Zsolt Szakács** in their positions as Associate Professors of archaeology and art history. We secured the work of one of our talented recent PhDs, **Cristian Gaspar** (MA '98, PhD '06), as Instructor of Ancient Languages, and yet another international search made it possible for our colleague, **György Geréby**, who has been with us since the first years of the department as Visiting Associate Professor (while teaching full time at ELTE University), to come to CEU full time. His recruitment as full-time faculty, beyond improving our offerings in philosophy and patristics, offered yet another important opportunity: he could take over the direction of the department on October 1, 2008.

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C E U CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



(continued from page 1)

I am confident that he will bring new energy to our work, and secure our continuing successful work, preserving the good community of students, faculty, and staff within the department as well as our wide pool of worldwide contacts: alumni, friends, colleagues. I wish him success and remain committed to our common enterprise.

Gábor Klaniczay

First of all I have to admit that I took over the directorship of our department from Gábor with due awe and trepidation. I am conscious that I follow in the footsteps of illustrious and energetic Heads, whose imaginative skills have shaped a department of truly unique character. It is a tall order to live up to the example Gábor, János and Jóska have set! Their example, however, will have to be adapted to meet new challenges following the first fifteen years — the years of adolescence, so to speak. As to recent events, in his farewell report Gábor described in detail the important matters that had arisen last year. I consider it my task to add something about the plans for the future, when we will have to display the same resourcefulness in meeting new dilemmas.

First, about the academic year 2007/8. We had a successful series of MA defenses, chaired by Patrick Geary, Marianne D. Birnbaum and Piotr Górecki. The Zvetlana Tănasă Prize went to **Seda Erkoç** (Turkey) and to **Tanja Tolar** (Slovenia). The field trip to Silesia in April was a great success (thanks to our organizer-in-chief, **József Laszlovszky**), a true success story in the history of the Department. This occasion was also exceptional because we were joined by 15 students from the Fernuniversität Hagen, escorted by our faithful friend, Prof. Felicitas Schmieder. The two groups mixed very well and we had a rewarding time at various historic sites in this important area of medieval Central Europe.

Two successful Summer University Courses were held this year. **József Laszlovszky** organized one on the Crusader period, entitled *From Holy War to Peaceful Co-habitation. Diversity of Crusading and the Military Orders*. The Religious Studies Program organized the other,

a well-attended course directed by Jürgen Gebhardt and Matthias Riedl. The subject was *Religion and Politics: The Presence of Sacred and Secular Traditions in Europe and the Middle East*. Both courses attracted a large number of excellent students from around the world.

Coming to future plans, the good news is that the Department continues to expand in line with the new policy of the President and Rector, **Yehuda Elkana**. CEU granted the Department permission not only to advertise a position in Eastern European History, but another position is being offered for Late Antiquity. Two joint appointments are also being filled, one in Ottoman Studies with the History Department and another with the Jewish Studies Program. There is good news for bookworms as well. The library has installed 100 meters of new shelves, which will allow housing about three thousand volumes more than before. We hope this will give us some breathing space for our dynamic little library for a couple of years. The library continues to be envied all around the Hungarian academic scene, and it might set an example for other successful co-operative library efforts. From the next academic year, however, we can properly start our Hungarian-accredited two-year MA program. As to future plans, the planned curriculum reform will have a broad impact. It has become a major concern of the Department to promote a more personalized way of teaching, coupled with an increased student role in research and aiding the participation of advanced students in academic life. Indeed, an intensive graduate Department should allow more time for the independent study required by the original projects it fosters. Designing a scheme so as to reduce contact hours while increasing the amount of quality supervision, research projects, and academic teamwork will be the task of the recently formed Departmental Content Committee, as decided in a day-long departmental retreat devoted to strategy building. We will have to go further in analyzing our strengths and weaknesses and design our specific profile accordingly. And finally, we are proud to celebrate the 15th year of our existence on 6-7 March 2009, for which a little festivity will be held with the participation of our former alumnae/i.

György Geréby

Events

PUBLIC LECTURES

2006/2007

17 October 2006

Gerhard Strasser

(Pennsylvania State University)

The Lingua Universalis in the Early Modern Period

3, 6, 8 November 2006

Natalie Zemon Davis Annual Lectureship Series

Lynn Hunt (University of California Los Angeles)

Is Time Historical?

1. *The Time of Historians*
2. *Modernity and History*
3. *Post-times, or the Future of the Past*

15 November 2006

Andrew J. Prescott (University of Sheffield)

Freemasonry and Radical Traditions in England

21 November 2006

Michael Grünbart (Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik)

An Introduction to the Study of Byzantine Epistolography

6 December 2006

Dr. Aleks Pluskowski (University of Cambridge)

Exploiting Animals at Malbork Castle, Poland: Towards an Environmental Archaeology of Crusading

29 January 2007

Ian Wood (University of Leeds)

Barbarians, Historians and the Construction of National Identities



27 February 2007

Felicitas Schmieder (Fernuniversität Hagen)
One and Several Antichrists: Apocalypticism and Politics in the 13th and 14th Centuries

20 March 2007

Paul Freedman (Yale University)
The Demand for Spices in the Middle Ages

16 May 2007

Dr. Alan V. Murray (University of Leeds)
Women Behaving Badly? Illicit Sex in the Armies of the First Crusade (1096-1099)

29 May 2007

Nina Chichinadze (Ilia Chavchavadze State University, Tbilisi)
Re-interpreting the Precious Adornment of Painted Images. Medieval Georgian Icons with Reproussée Revêtements

2007/2008

18 October 2007

Elena Sergejeva (Novgorod State University, Russia)
Late Antiquity in Russia: From Rostovtzeff to Batkin

20, 21, 23 November 2007

Panorama of Medieval Studies Lectures in the framework of the Hungarian Science Festival

1. **József Laszlovszky** (CEU, Budapest)
Medieval Landscapes of Power
2. **György Geréby** (CEU, Budapest)
Questions and Issues in Comparative Religion
3. **Katalin Szende** (CEU, Budapest)
The Emergence of Medieval Towns in Central Europe

23, 26, 28 November 2007

Natalie Zemon Davis Annual Lectureship Series
Miri Rubin (Professor of European History, University of London)
Mary: Tasks and Themes in the Study of European Culture

1. *The Global Middle Ages?*
2. *Mary, the Muslim and the Jew*
3. *Emotion and Devotion*

17 April 2008

Piotr Górecki (University of California, Riverside)
Ambiguities of the Frontier: Two Case Studies

6 May 2008

Matthew Bennett (Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK)
Practical Chivalry in England, France and Burgundy c. 1350 – c. 1475

2008/2009

18 September, 2008

Ralph Cleminson (University of Portsmouth)
Relics of St John the Baptist in the Topkapý Sarayı

6 November, 2008

István Perczel (CEU, Budapest)
The History of South Indian Christianity on the Basis of Newly Found Documents – Methodological Challenges and Possible Answers

21, 25, 26 November, 2008

Annual Natalie Zemon Davis Lecture Series

Eva Österberg (Lund University)

- Friendship and Sexuality in Premodern European Ethics and Politics
1. *Challenging the Private and Public Dichotomy: Friendship in Medieval and Modern Society*
 2. *Me and My Friends: Individualism and Autobiographies from Saint Augustine to Rousseau*
 3. *God, Sin and Sexuality: The Politics of Heteronormativity in Reformation Scandinavia*

27 November, 2008

Péter Szabó (Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Ecology, Brno)
Of Trees and Men: Ancient Woodland Management in Central Europe

8 December, 2008

Menachem Lorberbaum (Tel-Aviv University)
Spinoza's Theological-Political Problem

25 February, 2009

Pavel Lukin (Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences)
The Political Culture of Old Rus': a Comparative Approach

WHAT HAPPENED?

CEU, 11 -13 March 2007

The Supernatural and Its Visual Representation in the Middle Ages

Interdisciplinary Workshop

In co-operation with the CEU Program of Religious Studies, our department organized its annual interdisciplinary workshop from 11 to 13 March 2007 on "The Supernatural and Its Visual Representation." Specialists from eight countries discussed the important role that supernatural phenomena and causalities played in medieval society. Particular emphasis was placed on images and the way in which they

were used to visualise the miraculous intervention of saints or other divine agents, the wondrous realities beyond understanding, and the manifestations of magic attributed to diabolic forces. One of the main targets was to compare such manifestations in Latin and Eastern Christianity, as well as in Arabic and Jewish cultures, and to combine the insights of art history, theology, the history of religion, historical anthropology, and the history of mentalities. Selected papers of the meeting will be published in the *CEU Medievalia* series.

For more information see:
<http://medstud.ceu.hu/index?id=10&cikk=306>

Gerhard Jaritz



Inaugural meeting of CARMEN

The Medieval Studies Department hosted the first meeting of the recently established CARMEN Network (Cooperative for the Advancement of Research through a Medieval European Network) in March 2007. The main aim of this new initiative was to promote the submission of common research projects to the European Union's Seventh Framework Program and European Science Foundation. In addition to international medievalist organizations (e.g., the Consortium of European Research Libraries, Fédération Internationale des Instituts d'Études Médiévales, Mediävistenverband, the Medieval Academy of America, and the Nordic Centre for Medieval Studies) many national associations, medieval centers, and departments sent delegates to the meeting, representing sixteen European and four non-European countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the USA). The program of the inaugural meeting was introduced by the address of **Gábor Klaniczay** entitled "Medieval Studies at the Central European University and the Idea of Europe." The sessions and the round table discussions were moderated by D. E. H. de Boer (Groningen) and Simon Forde. The different centers and associations also had the opportunity to introduce themselves. The delegates worked on outlining possible research projects in smaller work-group discussions. The CEU Medieval Studies Department was represented by several faculty members: **János M. Bak**, **Gerhard Jaritz**, **József**

Laszlovszky, **György Geréby**, **Gábor Klaniczay**, **Balázs Nagy**, **Judith Rasson**, and younger colleagues: **Előd Nemerkenyi** (MA'98 PhD'04)—OTKA, Budapest, **Ottó Gecser** (MA'00, PhD'07)—Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, **Cristian Gaspar** (MA'98, PhD'06)—CEU, Budapest, also contributed to the success of the meeting.

The delegates were entertained with a concert by the vocal ensemble *Voces Aequales* and welcomed at a reception in the Collegium Budapest research institute. As a closing program, **József Laszlovszky** and **Balázs Nagy** guided the interested participants on a tour of Buda Castle.

Since the first meeting in Budapest, CARMEN has organized several follow-up gatherings of medievalist organizations and centres. A roundtable discussion was held at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, 12 July 2007. The CEU Medieval Studies Department was represented by **Balázs Nagy** at the first regular annual meeting in Prato, 28-30 September 2007, and by **Niels Gaul** at the second meeting in Poitiers, 19-21 September 2008. Future meetings will be held in Krems (2009) and Tallin (2010).

For more information see:

<http://carmen.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/root/activ/meet/inaugbuda/>

Balázs Nagy

Kalamazoo, Western Michigan University, 10-13 May 2007

42nd International Congress of Medieval Studies

The Department sponsored a session on "Physical Violence and the Late Medieval Clergy" that was organized by **Gerhard Jaritz**. In this session, our PhD student **Robert Kurelić** (MA '05) read a paper on: "When Might Makes Right: The Violent Takeover of the Parish of Tuhelj in 1390."

Gerhard Jaritz delivered a paper on: "Bodily Defect and Ecclesiastical Career" in a session organized by Torstein Jørgensen from the Bergen Centre of Medieval Studies, which dealt with possibilities for

and impediments to ecclesiastical careers in the late Middle Ages. The congress also offered the opportunity to meet a number of our alumni, like **Ildar Garipzanov** (MA '98)—Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Bergen, **Annamária Kovács** (MA'97, PhD '00)—independent scholar, Irving, TX, **Kiril Petkov** (MA '94)—University of Wisconsin- Falls River, and **Stefan Stanchev** (MA '02)—University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

For more information see:

<http://imss.net/congress/42nd-international-congress-on-medieval-studies>

Gerhard Jaritz

CEU, 18-20 May 2007

New Histories of Politics Topics, Theories, and Methods in the History of Politics beyond Great Events and Great Men

First conference of the Graduate Conferences in European History

In May 2007 CEU hosted the first of four annual conferences in the series Graduate Conferences in European History (GRACEH), organized by Central European University, Budapest (Department of Medieval Studies; History Department), the European University Institute, Florence (Department of History and Civilization) and

the *Berliner Kolleg für Vergleichende Geschichte Europas*, Berlin and the *European Review of History/Revue européenne d'histoire*, a refereed journal published by Routledge, which, together with the *East Central Europe/L'Europe du Centre-Est. Eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift* (ECE), have also expressed an interest in publishing some of the best papers to emerge from the planned conferences. The Advisory board was made up of: **Gábor Klaniczay** (Head, CEU Department of Medieval Studies), **László Kontler** (Acting Head, CEU History Department), **Arnd Bauerkämper** (Director, BKVGE) and **Heinz-Gerhard Haupt** (Head, Department of History and Civilization, EUI). The event was enhanced by the three Keynote Speakers: **Bertrand Taithe**, **Heinz-Gerhard Haupt**, **István Rév** and the participation of PhD students coming from CEU, EUI, BKVGE, Sciences PO - Paris, Oxford University, Humboldt University - Berlin, University of Bucharest, University of Oxford, Babes-Bolyai University - Cluj-Napoca, University of Naples - "Federico II", Donetsk National University, Russian State University for the Humanities - Moscow, Ruhr University - Bochum, Columbia University, University of Cambridge, Bilkent University - Ankara, Frankfurt University, National University of Arts - Bucharest, ELTE



University - Budapest, University of Tübingen, Middle East Technical University - Ankara, University of Nova Gorica, Boğaziçi University - Istanbul, Pompeu Fabra University - Barcelona, University of Bielefeld, Pais Vasco University - Bilbao, UCL SSEES - London. GRACEH is the collaboration of three partner European graduate schools in history, namely the CEU, EUI and BKVGE - conceived as trendsetters in European historical studies - and other institutional partners in launching and managing a series of annual conferences, with the aim of promoting the professional training of young historians through a regular forum of trans-national and inter-generational discussion on some of the most pertinent topics in contemporary historical studies. The events in the GRACEH series are organized to build a new network of early stage researchers and enhance trans-national and inter-generational dialogue among historians across

Europe. Thus, the call was specifically addressed to PhD candidates. The initiative of GRACEH is envisaged as a 'bottom-up' scheme, involving different generations of PhD students working together and transmitting their organizing experience to their colleagues while receiving support from established senior researchers in the field. Doctoral students from the three institutions control and are responsible for the initiative. The topics defined by the committee tried to accommodate a broad chronological span and to facilitate dialogue among scholars working in disparate fields.

For more information see: www.hist.ceu.hu/conferences/graceh

Cristian Daniel (MA '05, doctoral student)

Leeds, 9-12 July 2007

International Medieval Congress

Last year, medieval cities were the focus of the International Medieval Congress, remembering the 800-year anniversary of the foundation of the borough of Leeds. Several sessions were organized by faculty members, former or present students working in this field. **Katalin Szende**, **Judit Majorossy** (MA '96, PhD '06) — Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, **Gerhard Jaritz**, and **Károly Goda** (MA '06) — Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest were among them. A good number of professors (**Neven Budak**, **Alice M. Choyke**, **József Laszlovszky** and **Balázs Nagy**), six doctoral students: **Péter Bokody** (MA '06), **Zsófia Buda** (MA '05), **Ágnes Flóra** (MA '03), **Ana Maria Gruia** (MA '04), **Lovro**

Kunčević (MA '03) and **Judit Sebő** (MA '04) also attended the congress and read papers in different sessions. The CEU-connected delegates continued the tradition founded in 2006 of a reunion of all former and current students, professors, and friends of the CEU, which attracted the interest of many participants. Between the sessions numerous congress delegates visited the CEU bookstall at the book exhibition and we were able to sell many publications of the CEU Press and volumes of the *CEU Medievalia* series.

For more information see: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007.html>

Balázs Nagy

Szeged-CEU-Visegrád, 13-16 September 2007

Diplomacy in the Countries of the Angevin Dynasty in the Thirteenth-Fourteenth Centuries

International Conference

Diplomatic relations were surveyed and analyzed for the regions that were under Angevin rule during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in the first Angevin conference series held in East Central Europe. The overall goal of this scholarly meeting of almost thirty scholars from seven European countries (Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Serbia) was to explore itineraries connected to contemporary foreign relations, different channels of interaction, written and oral forms of communication, characteristics of diplomatic literacy, the careers of envoys and ambassadors, formal protocol, and representation related to diplomatic connections.

The first part of the conference was hosted by the József Attila Study and Information Centre (JATIK) at the University of Szeged, where the participants delivered their papers in English and French (abstracts are available at the website of the conference http://www.staff.u-szeged.hu/~capitul/anjou/Anjou_resume.pdf). During the Szeged sessions, two exhibitions were opened. The first was a book exhibition presenting the two-decade work of the editorial board of the Angevin Charter series and the work of its late editor-in-chief, Gyula Kristó. The other exhibition was a joint project with the Fekete Ház division of the Ferenc Móra Museum

(Szeged), which allowed participants to see the collection of coins and charters of the Angevin period in Hungary (1301–1387) for the first time, partly from the collections of the Szeged Museum and the Archbishopric of Veszprém. The events in Szeged ended with a sightseeing walk and a wine-tasting.

The second part of the conference started with a field trip to the National Memorial Park at Ópusztaszer and was followed by a visit to the former Premonstratensian friary (today a Protestant church) in Ócsa. The professional part of the conference continued in Visegrád under the auspices of the King Matthias Museum. Besides the scholarly lectures delivered by the experts in the field, the participants visited the royal palace and a temporary exhibition presenting the most recent findings of the on-going excavations. The Visegrád stay ended with the inauguration of the newly reconstructed staircase of the former royal residence and a reception at the Renaissance Restaurant nearby.

The closing part of the conference was held at Central European University (Budapest), where members of the Department of Medieval Studies presented their projects related to the Angevin period. The Head of the department made the concluding remarks, which were followed by a farewell reception.

The conference was organized by the Department of Medieval and Early Modern Hungarian History at the University of Szeged, the Research Group for Hungarian Medieval Studies (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Szeged), the Department of Medieval Studies at the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and the Université



d'Angers (Angers, France) under the patronage of the President of Hungary and the rectors of the organizing universities.

It is to be hoped that the scholarly achievements of the conference will soon be made available to the wider public. Its proceedings will be published by the Presses Universitaires de Rennes (PUR) in the near future.

For more information see:
http://www.staff.u-szeged.hu/~capitul/anjou/index_e.htm

Zsolt Hunyadi (MA'96, PhD'04)—Szeged University

CEU, 26-27 October 2007

International Workshop on Trends in the Research and Teaching of Historical Ecology in Central Europe

International workshop

Sponsored by the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office, Brno, Czech Republic, an international workshop on historical ecology and environmental history was held at the Department. Apart from our Department, other organisers were the Department of Ecology of the Botanical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, and the Centre for Environmental History at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

The workshop featured altogether twenty-seven presentations by Czech, Austrian, and Hungarian researchers as well as graduate and undergraduate students. Topics ranged from the history of calcareous grassland through the aesthetics of natural beauty to historical

climate studies, palaeoenvironmental research, and woodland history. This great diversity had a positive impact on communication and lively debates developed after most presentations. Perhaps the greatest challenge we faced was integrating the knowledge and methods of the humanities and natural sciences. We also organised a session on teaching and curriculum development, the lessons of which will be utilised when designing the Department's new Environmental and Landscape History specialisation.

When preparing this workshop, our aim was to provide a common platform for historical ecologists and environmental historians in Central Europe, to learn about each other's work (in both a disciplinary and a national sense), and to create a network where future co-operation can develop. As a next step, we plan to publish the proceedings of the workshop and at the next similar event we hope to set up a web-based forum.

Péter Szabó (MA'98 PhD'03)—Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno

CEU, 17-19 March 2008

Fauna and Urban Space (Animals as Material Culture in the Middle Ages 4)

Interdisciplinary workshop

The annual interdisciplinary workshop, organized by **Alice Choyke** and **Gerhard Jaritz**, was concerned with the range of factors influencing the bilateral relationship between humans and the animals that surrounded them within the space created by people in towns and their hinterland. It was entitled Fauna and Urban Space. Two days of papers and discussions took place at CEU with a final day at the King Mathias Museum in Visegrád. The workshop was the fourth in a conference series aimed at exploring the use of animals as material culture in medieval Europe. These conferences aim to

create a forum for pan-European dialogue between archaeologists, historians and art historians working with human-animal relations in the Middle Ages. The workshop was also intended to complement and showcase the MAD data network, another on-going project addressing the interdisciplinary study of medieval animals.

The first two days of the workshop were dedicated primarily to purely historical and art historical aspects of animals in urban contexts. Paper topics on the third day addressed the same themes from the perspective of medieval zooarchaeological material.

For more information see:
<http://medstud.ceu.hu/index?id=1051&cikk=329>

Alice Choyke



On the Road to Reconstructing the Past

Conference

The 36th Annual Conference on Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology was organized by the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, the Hungarian National Museum, the Budapest Historical Museum, Central European University, the Archaeolingua Foundation, and the Research Institute for Visualisation, Architecture and Archaeology. The main theme of the conference was the use of computer applications and quantitative methods in two fields, namely, at large-scale (rescue) excavations that usually precede infrastructural investments and construction work, and during processing and analyzing the huge amounts of data from such excavations.

Two special sessions were organized with the active participation of the CEU Department of Medieval Studies. One of them focused on the problem of authenticity in computer-aided reconstructions, the other on "Landscape archaeology and the new emerging landscape of the

digital world." Landscape archaeology has experienced a spectacular development worldwide during the last two decades. From a relatively limited methodological approach within archaeology it has quickly developed to an independent field as well as a crucial framework of interpretation for all periods of archaeology. Significant elements of this development can be attributed to the growing importance of new data-collection techniques and new analytical schemes. Remote sensing technologies, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and digital landscape modeling have transformed landscape archaeology from the point of view of methods and approaches. At the same time, historical concepts connected to past landscapes (landscapes of memory, landscapes of power, sacred landscapes, monastic landscapes, etc.) have started to dominate the interpretation and evaluation of publications on landscape archaeology. The papers of this session presented and discussed new methodological approaches in this field, while a round-table discussion explored the theoretical and practical issues deriving from recent development trends in the frameworks of interpretations. The dichotomy between the increasingly technical issues connected to data collection and the traditional historical interpretations of landscapes was one of the key problems discussed.

For more information see: <http://www.caa2008.org>

József Laszlovszky

April 22-28, 2008

Field trip to Silesia

CEU Medieval Studies' usual Spring Field Trip went to Moravia, Silesia, Lausitz, and Bohemia in 2008. On this occasion, for the first time in the history of departmental field trips, the CEU group was joined by a group of German university students, led by Felicitas Schmieder (Fernuniversität, Hagen).

With our master bus driver, Gyula Jánszky, we set out from Budapest on 22 April. The first major stop was in Mikulčice, Moravia (Czech Republic), where the group visited the Great Moravian Center exhibitions and we had the first student presentations, a function which became a recurrent academic exercise in the coming days.

From Mikulčice we moved to Brno, where several more participants joined the group. After that we proceeded to Olomouc, the Moravian capital, where we spent the first night. In the early evening we visited the Palacký University, where our alumnus **Antonín Kalous** (MA'00) received us and over glasses of Hungarian wine we had a meeting with students and former CEU rector, Jozef Jařab, now the head of the American Studies Department of Palacký University.

The following day offered us cultural immersion in Olomouc, where we visited the Town Hall, the Franciscan Friary (with an amazing mural commemorating the 1456 siege of Nándorfehérvár - Belgrade, and the Bishop's Palace, a stunning set of medieval buildings and a collection of medieval frescoes and statues.

While driving toward the Polish border, we took a break at Sternberk Castle, admiring the medieval and Renaissance parts of this aristocratic center and enjoying the inspired explanations of our young guide. The way to Poland was long and winding so it was late afternoon by the time we arrived in Nysa, once a rich medieval town, but sadly destroyed during WWII. Nevertheless, seeing the beautifully reconstructed Gothic cathedral was worth the stop. We arrived in Wrocław late in the evening.



Group picture during our Silesian trip

The next day was devoted to Wrocław (once Breslau or Boroszló), a truly international town since the Middle Ages. In Wrocław, Silesian culture can be seen at its best; witnesses to this are Cathedral Island, the gorgeous medieval collection of the Silesian National Museum, and the magnificent St. Elizabeth Church next to the even more elaborate Town Hall.

On April 25 we first looked around in Środa Śląska, a medieval market town near Wrocław, where our three day lodging was booked. The small town's large Gothic church and the town hall-turned-museum were a good start for the day. From there we drove to the overwhelming Baroque Cistercian monastery of Lubiąż, just to have a taste of the exuberance of the 17th century. The next stop was in Trzebnica, another monumental Cistercian monastery, originally founded by Queen (St.) Jadwiga, wife of Henry I. In the now-Baroque building is the tomb of the queen (created in the 1670s), under which there is a museum collection of medieval remains. The evening's highlight was the banquet we had in a cozy restaurant in Środa Śląska. That was a good moment to thank Wojciech Kozłowski, MA student, for his enthusiastic assistance in managing the Polish segment of the journey.



The next day we returned to Legnica to visit the battlefield where the Polish-Silesian-German army led by Henry II suffered defeat by the Mongol invaders on April 9, 1241. Next to the actual battlefield is the Baroque Benedictine abbey as well as an old church now converted to a museum of the battle of Legnica.

From medieval warfare we moved to the religious strivings of the Reformation: in Jawor we visited the Church of Peace. This huge wooden building was erected after the Thirty Years War when the peace treaty allowed the Lutherans to build three churches in Catholic territory, made only of wood (1656). After this moving visit we proceeded from Silesia to Lausitz, ex-DDR, today's Germany. Our two stops there, in Görlitz and Bautzen, followed the footsteps of King Matthias Corvinus, whose influence was visible on various monuments in the two cities.

Returning from Germany we headed toward the Czech Republic and spent the night in Jičín, a picturesque Baroque merchant town. After

enjoying Bohemian *knedli* again, in the morning we started in high spirits in the direction of Kutná Hora. In this medieval gem of a city we only had time to visit the splendid St. Barbara Church, a fine example of Central European High Gothic.

From there our journey became a little melancholic because we knew the end of the trip was quickly approaching. We still listened to a few presentations on the bus, emptied the last bottles of *pálinka*, and had a final *knedli* in Brno, but soon we had to say goodbye to our new German friends. Amid farewells we were already speculating: where shall we go next year?

This year's excursion would not have been possible without a generous donation from the Stiftung Schlesisches Museum zu Görlitz.

György E. Szőnyi

Kalamazoo, 8-11 May 2008

43rd International Medieval Congress

Our Department sponsored a session on "The Meaning, Role, and Construction of *Scandalum*," which was organized by **Gerhard Jaritz** and chaired by our recurrent visiting professor **Nancy van Deusen**—Claremont Graduate University. The contributors in the session were Lindsay Bryan—Memorial University of Newfoundland, one of the most acknowledged specialists internationally on the theology of scandal ("From Stumbling Block to Deadly Sin: The Theology of Scandal"), our alumna **Elena Lemeneva** (PhD'05)—Wilfried Laurier University ("Scandalizing One's Brother: A Pattern in Medieval Sermon Literature"), and **Gerhard Jaritz** ("The Varieties of *Scandalum*"). **Gábor Klaniczay** was invited to a session on "Healed and Healing Saints" and spoke on "Healing with Certain Conditions: The Pedagogy of Late Medieval Miracles."

It was, as always, a great pleasure to meet alumni of the Department at the congress, who also gave well-received papers: **Rossina Kostova** (MA'05, PhD'02)—SS. Cyril and Methodius University, Veliko Tŕrnovo, **Pawel Kras** (MA'93)—Catholic Univ. of Lublin, **Annamária Kovács** (MA'97, PhD'00)—independent scholar, **Russ Mitchell** (MA'97)—Mountainview College, **Alexander Nikolov** (MA'96)—St. Kliment Okhridski University, **Zsuzsanna Papp** (MA'04)—University of Leeds, and **Kiril Petkov** (MA'94)—University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

At the Kalamazoo Congress of 2009 our department will sponsor a session on "Male Garrulity," again organized by **Gerhard Jaritz**.

For more information see: <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/>

Gerhard Jaritz

Split, 28-31 May 2008

Identity and Alterity in the Making and Practice of Cults

Conference

Hagiotheca, the Croatian Hagiography Society, organized its second conference in Split, the city of the Emperor Diocletian, the greatest maker of Christian saints. Who is a saint? How does a saint identify him/herself and who identifies the saint as such? Scholars from all over the world sought to define, in interdisciplinary perspective, how sanctity was defined and perceived in Europe from the third to the twentieth century, from "Perpetua of Carthage's Struggle Against Rome" to "The Russian Revolution for an Anglo-Saxon Saint: The Modern Cult of St. Edward the Martyr," from "Absolute Alterity: Saint Nobody," to saintly monsters, or necromancers and black magic in the cult of the saints. No stone was left unturned when discussing the construction of the cult of martyrs in fourth-century Rome, in medieval literature, where even pagan Hungarians could end up as saints, in the art of the Italian city republics, where combmakers were



entitled to achieve holiness if they produced trustworthy combs, and in Buda, where the Jesuits played the largest role in cultivating the memory of a Turkish holy dervish, *Gül Baba*.

Walking within the precincts of Diocletian's Palace under the expert guidance of Goran Nikšić, the head of Split's Monument Protection Office, we learned of a new hypothesis about the origins of Spalato: the retirement palace of the emperor might have been built originally as a textile factory. A book presentation complemented the conference (see Students & Alumni/Publications), and an excursion to Solin/Salona and Trogir/Trau enhanced our understanding of medieval



sainthood, particularly with regard to the sainted sausage maker on Trogir cathedral's portal.

As the attached picture shows, CEU Medieval Studies were well represented at the conference by professors: **Neven Budak**, **Gerhard Jaritz**, **Marianne SÁghy**, and alumni: **Ildikó Csepregi** (MA'01, PhD'08), **Lucie Doležalová** (MA'01, PhD'05)—Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, **Dávid Falvay** (MA'01)—Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest,

Elena Irimescu-Firea, **Carmen Florea** (MA'98)—Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, **Marina Miladinov** (MA'96, PhD'03)—Faculty of Theology "Matthias Flacius Illyricus," Zagreb, and the doctoral students: **Ana Marinković** (MA'01), and **Trpimir Vedriš** (MA'04).

For more information see:
<http://www.historiografija.hr/news.php?id=11>
Marianne SÁghy

Leeds, July 7-10, 2008

International Medieval Congress

The main topic of this year, "The Natural World," attracted the attention of a good number of faculty members, doctoral students and alumni. **Alice M. Choyke**, **Gerhard Jaritz** and **Balázs Nagy** were among the session organisers, and **Niels Gaul** was also an active participant in different sessions. This year **Krisztina Arany** (MA'05), **Péter Bokody** (MA'06), **Mariana Goina** (MA'99), **Julia Jedamski** (MA'06), **Darko Karačić**, **Robert Kurelić** (MA'05) and **Svetlana Tsonkova** (MA'06), all doctoral students of the department, read papers at different sessions. Besides the great variety of topics and sessions, the usual book fair offered some additional interest for all participants. The book stall of the CEU Press offered a wide selection of publications for sale. The Annual Medieval Academy Lecture was

delivered by Patrick Geary, recurrent visiting professor at CEU. We were fortunate enough to have the possibility to invite a number of present and former students, colleagues and friends of the Department to an informal reunion held at the Weetwood Center.

In 2009, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the launch of the Albigensian Crusade, the International Medieval Congress is to be held between 13 and 16 July with the special thematic focus of, "Heresy and Orthodoxy."

For more information see: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2008.html>

Balázs Nagy

CEU, 14 - 25 July 2008

From Holy War to Peaceful Co-habitation. Diversity of Crusading and the Military Orders

Summer University Course

Course director: József Laszlovszky

This two-week course explored many different aspects of the Crusades, which, together with the emergence of the medieval military orders can be seen as one of the most debated historical issues in the last century. Historical, archaeological, and religious studies were dedicated to this problem, and political, economic and military explanations were put forward to highlight and explain the relatively fast development of the concept of a new type of holy war and the emergence of new power centres (the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Latin Empire, etc.). The transformation of the early medieval political and religious systems in the *Mediterraneum* is one of the key historical issues in this context, and the religious confrontations of the Christian and Muslim worlds have been interpreted in many fundamentally different ways since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Recently, major international conferences and monographic studies have reinterpreted the whole period and proposed fundamentally new concepts for the explanation of this religious and military conflict. They represent an extremely wide range of modern ideas of reinterpretation and many complex issues concerning the concept of holy war as a new type of warfare and interaction between Christian and Muslim societies, regional development patterns in the Holy Land and other crusader states, and the very general concept the clashes of cultures. These important new historical works were also compared with contempo-

rary political events and with the most recent religious and military conflicts between the Western world and Islam. 09/11 and the fundamentalist Islamic movement convinced the scholars dealing with the problem of crusades and the military orders that their research agenda is not simply an academic problem, but one of the most difficult political and religious issues of our world.

Based on recent studies and the discussions and debates they generated the summer course wanted to focus on these questions and was planned to offer an interdisciplinary approach for scholars. Therefore, it was our goal to present a wide range of topics and to offer an interdisciplinary program, thus we invited nine resource persons: Jochen Burgdorf—California State University, Fullerton, **Mária Dobozy**—University of Utah, Ronnie Ellenblum—Hebrew University, Jerusalem, John France—University of Wales, Swansea, **Zsolt Hunyadi** (MA'96, PhD'04)—University of Szeged, Janus Moller Jensen—University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Hugh Kennedy—SOAS, University of London, and Alan V. Murray—Leeds University.

As expected, the participant body was as varied as the topics of the course. From some 40 applicants we selected 18. The participants represented 13 countries, among others, Israel, Croatia, Slovakia, the UK, Ukraine, Cyprus, Finland, the Russian Federation, Canada and the US. Their research interests were also very diverse.

The structure of the course was a combination of lectures and seminars together with roundtable sessions. In addition, we held an international workshop with the title "From Holy War to Peaceful Co-habitation. Diversity of Crusading and the Military Orders" on 17-20 July with the participation of a further thirteen prominent scholars of the field: **Attila Bárány** (MA'95)—University of Debrecen, Matthew Bennett—Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Peter Edbury—Cardiff University, Kurt Villards Jensen—University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Anthony Luttrell—United Kingdom, Balázs Major—Pázmány Péter Catholic

University, Piliscsaba, Benjamin Michaudel—French Institute of the Near East, Damascus, Alex Pluskowi—University of Reading, Denys Pringle—Cardiff University, Micaela Sinibaldi—University of Florence, Italy, László Veszprémy—Institute of Military History, Budapest, and Niels Gaul for CEU Medieval Studies Department. During the workshop we had a field trip to Esztergom and Visegrád, where a session on military architecture took place with a visit to a related exhibition.

An integral part of the course was the preparation of a research paper by each participant. Before the course, each one had to send a short research proposal, which we discussed together in special sessions. These discussions turned out to be so rewarding that - upon the request of the resource persons and participants - we slightly modified the course structure and inserted two more seminars dedicated to the research proposals. These were usually followed by more intensive small group discussions or personal consultations with the resource persons. The main topics of the smaller groups were: the crusades in general and the early crusades, warfare, logistics and military orders, the many views on the crusades, military orders, and the late crusades.

We also selected several lectures and advertised these as public lectures for a wider audience. Important leading scholars, CEU students and alumni came to these meetings and this also created a very good atmosphere for further discussions with other scholars and students from different research fields. One of the events of this kind was the panel discussion on "Confrontation or Co-habitation. Past and Present in the Near East" with the contribution of Alan V. Murray, Mária Dobozy, József Laszlovszky, Hugh Kennedy, and Jürgen Gebhardt.

As a further result of the course, a publication plan can be mentioned. Resource persons agreed to publish a selection of their lectures in a volume dedicated to the topic of the course. The basic structure of this volume was worked out with the help of the participants, and this volume will be published in the *CEU Medievalia* series, as a follow-up to the previous crusader volume.

József Laszlovszky – Péter Bokody (MA '06)

Szeged, July 2008

European Iconography East and West: The Iconology of Law and Order

International conference

The Institute of English and American Studies and the Research Group for Cultural Iconology and Semiology of the University of

Szeged organized their fourth international conference. From CEU's School of Interdisciplinary Historical Studies several members of the faculty and PhD students participated: Péter Bokody (MA '06, Doctoral Student), DeLloyd Guth, Cristian Gaspar (MA '98, PhD '06), Ádám Mestyán, Noel Putnik (MA '07), György E. Szőnyi (who was one of the organizers of the conference), Jeff Taylor, and Zsuzsanna Török.

György E. Szőnyi

Cluj-Napoca, October 23-26, 2008

Between Worlds: Matthias Corvinus and His Time

A number of exhibitions and scholarly conferences were organized this year to commemorate the enthronement of King Matthias Corvinus in 1458. In Hungary, a so-called Renaissance Year (<http://www.reneszanszev.hu/en>) was the central concept behind several academic programs and other events. The last major scholarly event of the year was held in Cluj (Koloszvár/Klausenburg), Romania, where Matthias was born. This was an academic conference titled "Between Worlds: Matthias Corvinus and his Time." The organizers, Ioan-Aurel Pop, Enikő Rűsz-Fogarasi, and Alexandru Simon from Babeş-Bolyai University, convened speakers from fifteen different countries. The conference program was arranged around three main strands: (A) Images: Propaganda, Culture and Arts, (B) Lands: Social

and Economic Patterns and Careers, and (C) Cross and King: Christian and Muslim Politics and Warfare.

More than a hundred participants attended the conference, a good number of them previously or currently affiliated with CEU. Emőke Nagy (MA '06) was a member of the local organizing team. Those who presented papers included CEU Medieval Department alumni: Castilia-Luminița Manea-Grgin (MA '94)—University of Zagreb, Borislav Grgin (MA '94)—University of Zagreb, Ivan Jurković (MA '95)—University of Pula, and Radu Lupescu (MA '99)—Sapientia University, Cluj-Napoca, Mária Lupescu-Makó (MA '99), Zsolt Simon (MA '03), Ana-Maria Gruia (MA '04), Szidonia Weisz (MA '07), and Tamás Pálosfalvi, along with faculty members László Veszprémy and Balázs Nagy.

For more information see: <http://www.matiacorvin.ro>

Balázs Nagy

International Workshop on Monastic Landscape: Spiritual and Physical

March 5-7, 2009

For more information see: <http://medstud.ceu.hu>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

for applicants to the

- one-year MA program in Medieval Studies and the
 - two-year MA program in Historical Studies with a focus on Medieval Studies
- has been extended until 15 April, 2009.**

For more details see: <http://www.ceu.hu/admissions>



CEU, 6-8 March 2009

Fifteen Years of Medieval Studies

Established in 1993-94, CEU's Department of Medieval Studies has revitalized the study of the Middle Ages in East Central Europe. By promoting interdisciplinarity and encouraging international cooperation, the Department has institutionalized innovation and triggered a profound mental change in approaching the medieval world.

Fifteenth-anniversary celebrations will take place in March 2009. Following a special alumni session at the conference on "Monastic Landscapes: Spiritual and Physical," alumni will discuss "Quo Vadis, Medieval Studies? Tradition and Innovation in Medieval Research" at

a Saturday afternoon meeting with world-famous medievalists. The Department has maintained excellent contacts with most of our alumni, for we are very interested in how our former students have fared. Many of them have become scholars working at universities, archives, and research institutes, while others are engaged in writing, cultural affairs, or politics. The alumni meeting will end with an evocation of the good old times on a Sunday excursion to Pannonhalma.

For more information see: <http://medstud.ceu.hu>

Marianne Sághy

Budapest, 9-14 November Budapest, 2009

Centre and periphery in the age of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos: from De caerimoniis to De administrando imperio

CRC CALL FOR FALL TERM 2009

The splendid, 'imperial' age of Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos, although already explored in considerable depth, has often been discussed with a focus on Constantinople and the imperial court, leaving a wide variety of seemingly 'peripheral' questions unanswered and problems unsolved. From this background, CEU's Center for Hellenic Traditions encourages the development of curricula which will take into account both centre and periphery in equal amounts, systematically contrasting the imperial city of Constantinople with her hinterland and the empire's vast 'border regions', questioning the very notions of centre and periphery. The focus should be on the constant *circulation* – of ideas and manpower, of all professions and all strata of society – as well as the constant *exchanges* – cultural, spiritual, diplomatic, ritual, economical, military – which sustained Constantine VII's, as well as his predecessors and successors', empire: in short, the constant *crossing of borders* of all sorts.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend and, if they so wish, present a 15-minute communication at a major international symposium which the Center for Hellenic Traditions will host jointly with the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences during the Fall Term CRC session, 12-14 November 2009. Emphasizing the

ideas of circulation, exchange and border-crossing, the symposium will focus on a large variety of archaeological, art historical, historical, literary – in short, cultural historical – topics and include sections on: (I) Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos and the "Macedonian Renaissance" as historiographical concepts; (II) *De caerimoniis* – Constantinople: city and court; (III) *De thematibus* – Administrative and cultural exchanges, I; (IV) *De administrando imperio* – Administrative and cultural exchanges, II; (V) On campaign – Military encounters; (VI) Travelling bishops, monks, and relics – Spiritual exchanges; (VII) Precious metals, coins, and luxury goods – Material, diplomatic, and ritual exchanges; (VIII) Regional perspectives: Asia Minor, the Balkans, around the Black Sea (Caucasus).

To this date, confirmed speakers include: Archibald Dunn—Birmingham; Michael Grünbart—Münster; James Howard-Johnston—Oxford; Christopher Lightfoot—New York; Paul Magdalino—St. Andrews/Koç University; Leonora Neville—Washington, DC; Athanasios Markopoulos—Athens; **István Perczel**—CEU; Alessandra Ricci—Istanbul; Peter Schreiner—Cologne/Munich; Claudia Sode—Cologne.

Successful applicants will be expected to come to Budapest for the week 9-14 November 2009. Proposals are welcome for the BA, MA and PhD levels; applications are particularly welcome from junior faculty and PhD candidates close to defending their theses and preparing for a career in academia, who are currently teaching or can prove that they will be teaching in their home institutions.

Applications are welcome from scholars working in any of the following fields: Byzantine studies, History of the Balkans, the Black sea/Caucasus regions, Anatolia and Syro-Palestine in the Middle Ages.

For more information see: <http://web.ceu.hu/crc/>,
<http://www.hellenic.hu>

CEU, 1-2, March 2010

Intricate Interfaith Networks: The Variety of Jewish-Christian Contacts in the Middle Ages

International Workshop in Medieval Studies

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organized by Effie Shoham-Steiner (BGU-Beersheba) and Gerhard Jaritz (CEU-Budapest)

Christians and Jews populated medieval Europe from the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean to the Baltic Sea and from the North Sea to the Mediterranean. Within these broad geographical limits groups and individuals set up an intricate network of commerce, trade, and finance as well as the exchange of professional knowledge from philosophical concepts to domestic medical know-how.



Recent scholarship has shown that the denominational divide, although ever present and at times even violently so, did not stop people from forming ties and expanding them in more intricate ways and forms than previously thought. At times these networks functioned with what seems to be a disregard for denominational and religious differences. This is by no means a simple and self-evident statement. The theological background regarding “other” faiths within each respective religion, strong social, religious and authoritative circles critiquing such contacts if not discouraging

them altogether, created a formidable opposition for these contacts and networks.

This workshop wishes to deal with this situation from various angles and disciplinary approaches and to suggest possible avenues for explaining the phenomenon. It will concentrate particularly on three areas and aspects:

1. Networks in Byzantium;
2. Western philosophical discourse (11th-13th c.)
3. Late medieval urban space.

Students & Alumni

PHD DEFENSES

The list below provides information on the defenses that took place between November, 2006, and February, 2009.

Ottó Gecser (Hungary)

Aspects of the Cult of St. Elizabeth of Hungary with a Special Emphasis on Preaching, 1231-c.1500

István Bodnár, Department of Philosophy, CEU (chair)
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Nicole Bériou, Université Lyon 2 (external reader)
Edit Madas, Hungarian Academy of Sciences- National Széchényi Library, Fragmenta Codicum Research Group (external reader)
József Laszlovszky, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Balázs Nagy, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU

Dóra Bobory (Hungary)

Boldizsár Batthyány (c.1542-1590). Erudition, Natural Sciences, Patronage and Friendship in the Life of a Sixteenth-century Hungarian Nobleman

László Kontler, Department of History, CEU (chair)
Katalin Szende, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
István Monok, National Széchényi Library (external reader)
György Endre Szőnyi, Department of History, CEU
Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Sachiko Kusukawa, University of Cambridge (external reader)

Olha Kozubaska-Andrusiv (Ukraine)

Urban Development and German Law in Galician Rus' during the Thirteenth - Fifteenth Centuries

Judit Bodnár, Sociology and Social Anthropology and History departments, CEU (chair)
József Laszlovszky, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Katalin Szende, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
DeLloyd Guth, University of Manitoba
Peter Johaneck, Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte a.d. Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität Münster
Balázs Nagy, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
István Petrovics, Department of History, University of Szeged
Anngret Simms, University College, Dublin (external reader)
Piotr Górecki, University of California Riverside (external reader)

Ildikó Csepregi (Hungary)

The Compositional History of Greek Christian Incubation Miracle Collections: Saint Thecla, Saint Cosmas, and Damian, Saint Cyrus, and John, Saint Artemios

István Bodnár, Department of Philosophy, CEU (chair)
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
István Perczel, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Marianne Ságghy, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Elena Muñiz Grijalvo, University of Pablo de Olavide, Seville (external reader)
Evelyne Patlagean, Paris X (external reader)
Stephanos Efthymiadis, University of Ioannina (external reader)

Emese Sarkadi-Nagy (Romania)

Produced for Transylvania – Local Workshops and Foreign Connections – Studies of Late Medieval Altarpieces in Transylvania

László Kontler, Department of History, CEU (chair)
Marcell Sebők, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Imre Takács, Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest (external supervisor)
Ernő Marosi, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Katalin Szende, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Robert Suckale, Prof. Emeritus of Art History, Technische Universität, Berlin (external reader)
András Kovács, Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj (external reader)

Réka Forrai (Romania)

The Interpreter of the Popes. The Translation Project of Anastasius Bibliothecarius.

Ferenc Huoranszki, Department of Philosophy, CEU (chair)
György Geréby, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Niels Gaul, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Marcell Sebők, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Péter Lautner, Institute of Philosophy - Pázmány Péter Catholic University
Paolo Chiesa, University of Milan (external reader)
Bronwen Neil, Australian Catholic University (external reader)



Yuriy Zazulyak (Ukraine)

Enmity, Dispute and Noble Community in the Late Medieval Kingdom of Poland in the Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries. Evidence from the Rus' Palatinate

Károly Bárd, Legal Studies Department, CEU (chair)
János M. Bak, Medieval Studies Department, CEU (supervisor)
Patrick J. Geary, University of California, Los Angeles (external reader)
Piotr Górecki, University of California, Riverside (external reader)
József Laszlovsky, Medieval Studies Department, CEU
Katalin Szende, Medieval Studies Department, CEU

Dóra Sallay (Hungary)

Early Sieneese Paintings in Hungarian Collections, 1420–1520

László Kontler, Department of History, CEU (chair)
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Vilmos Tátrai, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest (external supervisor)
Wolfgang Loseries, Kunsthistorisches Institut – Max-Planck-Institut, Florence (external supervisor)
Béla Zsolt Szakács, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
József Laszlovsky, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Alessandro Angelini, Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena (external reader)
Keith Christiansen, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (external reader)



50th doctoral defense in the history of the Department: Etleva Lala (Albania)
Regnum Albaniae and the Papal Curia

Viktor Karády, Department of History, CEU (chair)
Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Felicitas Schmieder, Geschichte und Gegenwart Alteleuropas Historisches Institut, Fernuniversität in Hagen
Katalin Szende, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Gábor Klaniczay, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
József Laszlovsky, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Pellumb Xhufi, University of Tirana (external reader)

Jurgita Kunsmanaite (Lithuania)

Provisions for Widowhood in the Legal Sources of Sixteenth-Century Lithuania

Lajos Rácz, Department of History, CEU (chair)
Katalin Szende, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU (supervisor)
Grethe Jacobsen, The Royal Library, Copenhagen (external reader)
Giedre Mickunaite, Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts (external reader)
János M. Bak, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Gerhard Jaritz, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU
Judith A. Rasson, Department of Medieval Studies, CEU

NEWS

Dóra Bobory (MA'02, PhD'07) has been awarded the following scholarships: July 2006 - June 2007 Gerda Henkel Stiftung Doctoral Grant; March - June 2008 Hungarian Eötvös Scholarship to Siena, Italy; September 2008 - January 2009 Roy. G. Neville Fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation; March - June 2009 Mellon Fellowship at the Villa I Tatti, Florence, Italy

Réka Forrai (MA'01, PhD'08) has been awarded the following scholarships: July-August, 2008 Dumbarton Oaks Summer Fellowship; December 2008 - March, 2009 Mellon Fellowship, American Academy in Rome, Italy.

Dóra Sallay (MA'99, PhD'08) has moved from the Christian Museum, Esztergom, to the Old Masters' Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest.

Ottó Gecser's (MA'00, PhD'07) PhD dissertation, entitled "Aspects of the Cult of St. Elizabeth of Hungary with a Special Emphasis on Preaching, 1235–1500," defended in January 2007, which received the Best Dissertation Award at CEU in June 2007, has attracted yet another valuable distinction.

The Società internazionale di studi francescani, Assisi, founded in 1902 by Paul Sabatier, the great researcher of Saint Francis, has awarded an annual prize for the last six years to the best dissertation on Franciscan topics. This year **Ottó Gecser** was the winner of this prize *ex aequo* with an Italian dissertation. The prize was sponsored this year by Prof. Edith Pásztor, emeritus professor of Università La Sapienza (Rome) and dedicated to the memory of her husband, Lajos Pásztor, chief archivist of the Vatican Library. As part of the award, the Società will publish the dissertation in book form.

Nada Zečević (MA'98, PhD'04), has recently been appointed Program Coordinator in the Scholarship Division of the European office of the Institute of International Education (IIE), located in Budapest. An independent non-profit organization founded in 1919, the Institute of International Education (IIE) is among the world's largest and most experienced international education and training organizations. It works to create mutual understanding, develop leaders, educate global citizens, advance social justice, rescue threatened scholars, build human capacity, and internationalize higher education. In the hope of fruitful future cooperation, we congratulate Nada for this appointment and wish her success in her new position. Nada can be contacted at the following coordinates: Institute of International Education (IIE), European Office, Vigyázó Ferenc u. 4, 1051 Budapest, tel.: (+36-1) 472 22 83, fax: (+36-1) 472 22 55, e-mail: nzecevic@iie.eu.

Cristian-Nicolae Daniel (MA'05, doctoral student) has been awarded the following scholarships: March - September 2007 Erasmus Grant at the University of Crete, Greece; October 2007 - February 2008 Marie Curie Fellowship (European Doctorate) at the Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy; May - August 2008 Bertha-Heraeus and Kathinka Plathhoff Stiftung Doctoral Grant at the University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Florin Leonte (MA'06, doctoral student) won a highly competitive and prestigious full-year junior fellowship at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center and Library, Washington, DC, for the academic year 2009/10. Florin, currently writing his dissertation on the late Byzantine emperor Manuel II Palaiologos, will be the first PhD candidate affiliated with CEU to spend a whole year in Harvard University's renowned research institution for Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden & Landscape Studies.



CEU Awards for Advanced Doctoral Students

2008/2009: Péter Bokody (MA '06), Ana-Maria Gruia (MA'04), Florin Leonte (MA'06)
 2006/2007: Stanislava Kuzmova (MA'03), Petra Mutlova (MA'01) and Trpimir Vedriš (MA'04)
 2007/2008: Zsófia Buda (MA'05), András Németh (MA'04), Krisztina Arany (MA'05).

CEU Academic Achievement Award for First-Year Doctoral Students

2008/2009: Dóra Mérai (MA'07)
 2007/2008: Péter Bokody (MA'06)
 2006/2007: Krisztina Arany (MA'05)

CEU Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for MA Students

2007/2008: Divna Manolova
 2006/2007: Noel Putnik

CEU Provost/Academic Pro-Rector's Excellence Award for MA students

2007/2008: Silviu Ghegoiu
 2006/2007: Noel Putnik

CEU Best Dissertation Awards

2005/2006: Ottó Gecser (MA'00), Cristian Gaşpar (MA'98)

Grants from the Zvetlana Mihaela Tănăsă Fund were awarded

At the end of the academic year 2006/2007:
 Ezgi Dikici for perseverance, independence, and clarity in her studies
 Dóra Mérai for her excellent MA thesis

At the end of the academic year 2007/2008:
 Seda Erkoç for excellence in moving from an uncertain start to an excellent and creative thesis
 Tanja Tolar for leadership and courage in representing, supporting, and defending her classmates and herself

PUBLICATIONS



Lucie Doležalová (MA'01, PhD'05)—Charles University
Reception and its Varieties. Reading, Re-Writing, and Understanding Cena Cypriani in the Middle Ages
 Bochumer Altertumswissenschaftliches Colloquium, Band 75
 Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, Trier 2007

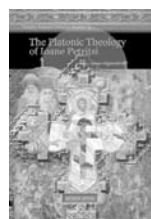
Cena Cypriani (Cyprian's Feast), a very amusing but obscure Latin (probably Late Classical) opuscle, has attracted the attention of M. Bakhtin, U. Eco, and many others, but there has been no consensus regarding its meaning or purpose. This study, gathering a rich and so far mostly unnoticed source material, reveals the exciting and frequently surprising specific contexts and details of the ways it was read and perceived during the Middle Ages. Besides offering a particular case study of reception, the book is also useful for those interested in reception in general.



Gábor Virágos (MA'97, PhD'02)—Field Service for Cultural Heritage, Budapest
The Social Archaeology of Residential Sites. Hungarian Noble Residences and their Social Context in the Thirteenth through the Sixteenth Century: An Outline for Methodology
 Archaeolingua & BAR Central European Series 1
 Archaeolingua, Budapest 2006

The principal aim of this volume is to discover new sources that might help to solve the problem of Hungarian medieval noble residences, that is, what kind of *curia*, *castellum*, or *castrum* (terms known from the written evidence) belonged to certain levels of noble society and how these building types looked. This volume, therefore, reveals new perspectives for the study of noble sites in their social contexts. It also surveys the possibilities of using archaeology to study noble society from the point of view of living standards and the functions of residences. The main body of the book covers the complete investigation of three archaeological sites – Pomáz, Kisdána, and Nyírbátor – with a historical study of the owner families (including genealogies) of these noble residences, followed by a collection of methods designed to be complete. This intends to summarise what can be known about the functions of and lifestyle in residential sites and to explain how archaeology can contribute to the study of their social contexts. The question of how

medieval noblemen lived has mainly been investigated in the case of fortified sites. Although examples (like the manor of Pomáz or the site at Nyírbátor) provide evidence that even aristocratic families could have their residence in non-fortified buildings, scholars have only gradually realised the existence and importance of such noble dwellings.



Levan Gigineishvili (MA'95, PhD'00)—Tbilisi State University
The Platonic Theology of Ioane Petritsi
 Series: Gorgias Eastern Christian Studies 4
 Gorgias Press LLC, 2007

Ioane Petritsi was a twelfth-century Georgian philosopher, a student of the Constantinopolitan philosophical school run first by Michael Psellus and later by John Italus. Having returned to his homeland, Georgia, Petritsi aspired to initiate Neoplatonic studies at the Gelati monastic school established by the enlightened King David IV the Builder. For that reason Petritsi translated and commented on Proclus' *Elements of Theology*, a comprehensive exposition of the entire Neoplatonic ontological system.

This is the first complete translation of the *Elements of Theology* from the Greek, approximately 100 years earlier than the first Latin translation by William Moerbeke commissioned by St. Thomas Aquinas. The translation needed the creation of a language of philosophy — a medium for transmitting the extravagant philosophic ideas into Georgian — which Petritsi effectively achieved. In his original commentaries, Petritsi both explains the intricacies of Proclus' thought and tries to prove the basic affinity between the Platonic and the biblical traditions. Levan Gigineishvili's work, sets the entire system of Petritsi's thought against a background of the ideas of Proclus, other Neoplatonists, and the Church Fathers.

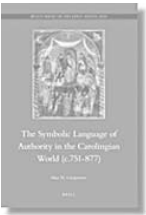


Benedek Láng (MA'99, PhD'03)—University of Technical and Economics Studies, Budapest
Mágia a középkorban [Magic in the Middle Ages]
 Typotex, Budapest 2007.

How can we create a cow out of bees? How can we occupy a castle by magical means? How can we summon angels with a crystal ball? and How can



we separate lovers with a talisman? How can we master all university subjects in a few weeks with the help of prayers? and Why is it good for our health to consume snakes and frogs? Why did medieval intellectuals, university professors, courtiers, and monks read about such strange things, and how could they take all that seriously? Was it their fault, or should we rather make more effort to understand them? Magic, as a subject of such disciplines as the history of religions, the history of science, and sociology, has become a full-fledged topic of historical research, a field that has its own leading researchers, societies, publications, and journals, as well as international conferences. In this book, the author (assistant professor at the Department of Philosophy and History of Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics) offers an overview in Hungarian for the wider public on current research on medieval magic texts and the results of his own research.



Ildar H. Garipzanov (MA'98)—University of Bergen
The Symbolic Language of Authority in the Carolingian World (c.751-877)
Brill's Series on the Early Middle Ages, 16
Brill, 2006

This book is not a conventional political narrative of Carolingian history shaped by narrative sources, capitularies, and charter material. It is structured, instead, by numismatic, diplomatic, liturgical, and iconographic sources and deals with political signs, images, and fixed formulas in them as interconnected elements in a symbolic language that was used in the indirect negotiation and maintenance of Carolingian authority. Building on a comprehensive analysis of royal liturgy, intitulation, iconography, and graphic signs and responding to recent interpretations of early

medieval politics, this book offers a fresh view of Carolingian political culture and of corresponding roles that royal/imperial courts, larger monasteries, and human agents played there.

Also published:

Giedrė Mickunaitė's book (MA'97, PhD'02)—Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts: *Vytautas Didysis. Valdovo įvaizdis* (Vytrautas the Great: the Ruler's Image) was published in Vilnius by the Vilnius Academy of Arts Press in 2008.



Catalina Soloveanu's (MA '05) book: *Madness in Yvain Re-Considered: A Comparative Study of Yvain ou le Chevalier au Lion by Chrétien de Troyes and its Medieval Translations* was published in Saarbrücken by Vdm Verlag Dr. Müller in 2008.

Monica Ann Walker Vadillo's (MA'06) book: *Bathsheba in Late Medieval French Manuscript Illumination: Innocent Object of Desire or Agent of Sin?* was published by Edwin Mellen Press in 2008.

Mária Pakucs Willocks' book (MA'97, PhD'04)—Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, Bucharest: *Sibiu - Hermannstadt. Oriental Trade in Sixteenth century Transylvania* was published in Cologne by Böhlau-Verlag in 2008.

Zorabê Budî Aloian's books (MA'94)—Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg: *Cultural Context of Islamic Pandemonium and Religious and Philosophical Ideas of Shaikh 'Adi b. Musafir. The History of Yezidi Kurds in the Eleventh-Twelfth Centuries* were published in Stockholm by APEC in 2007.

News

Research into the manuscript collections of the Saint Thomas Christians in India

Since the year 2000 I have been conducting a project for the exploration and preservation of the manuscripts of the Saint Thomas Christians, or Syrian Christians, of India. These manuscripts are mainly written in Syriac and Malayalam (Kerala's local language), to a lesser extent in Tamil, Latin, Portuguese and English. The project started at CEU, but was taken over by the Oriental Institute of Tübingen University, which, in 2004, received a grant from the German Research Foundation for this work. CEU, namely, its Center for Hellenic Traditions, remains an important partner in this international venture. In 2007 another institution, the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) in Collegetown (Minnesota), joined the consortium. HMML is a co-funder of the fieldwork and hosts, archives, and will distribute the material to scholars. In 2008 an Indian NGO was founded to carry on the field

work, called the Association for the Preservation of the Saint Thomas Christian Heritage. Now, in India, the project provides constant work for two scholars and three technicians digitising and cataloguing the manuscripts, while the European team consists of an IT technician, a photographer, and myself.

Our effort, sustained for many years, aims at discovering and preserving the manuscript heritage of this community. We are photographing and cataloguing manuscripts written on paper or on palm leaves, in Syriac, Malayalam, and Tamil. We are also collecting data on the local Christians' traditional architecture and art, which display a unique blend of Christian and Hindu traditions. I am also working on the rich epigraphic material. All this material is greatly endangered, its individual items, sometimes entire manuscript collections and old monuments, disappear on a daily basis due to the climatic conditions, negligence, and theft, the almost complete lack of appreciation for anything that is old, and sometimes even ideological differences.



The work, during which we have photographed hundreds of Syriac manuscripts and thousands of Syriac and Malayalam archival documents as well as Malayalam manuscripts written on palm leaves or paper, has yielded many a splendid discovery. This material gradually unveils this otherwise so-little-known segment of history, which, from its inception, is a story about how East meets West (*pace* Kipling). According to my plans when I return to

my teaching duties at CEU in 2010, I would like to launch another project involving Syriacist and Malayalee students to process and publish the material collected.

István Perczel

Report of the Center for Hellenic Traditions

After four successful consecutive years the CHT has reached a crucial junction. Generous funding support provided by CEU's President and Rector over an initial three-year period (2008-2011) and close cooperation with Greek public institutions and private foundations will allow the CHT to launch a number of initiatives. A primary concern at this stage is the further improvement of CEU's rich research community in Hellenic Studies. With the beginning of the current academic year the CHT invited CEU's postgraduate students to participate more fully, with an increased level of responsibility, in its activities. With presently some twenty PhD candidates from twelve countries pursuing research on Hellenic topics, CEU can legitimately claim to be a regional hub. Several new schemes constitute a significant step forward in consolidating this "critical mass" of a graduate research community. Research seminars and discussion groups will facilitate frequent and informal exchange and a newly introduced travel grant competition will increase the visibility of CHT students at international conferences. We are particularly looking forward to hosting CEU's first international Hellenic Studies Graduate Student Day in early June 2009. The event will be organized by Cristian-Nicolae Daniel and Florin Leonte and is expected to attract a large number of young researchers to Budapest and will feature keynote speakers; Dr. Ruth Macrides, a distinguished researcher of late Byzantine history at the University of Birmingham, has already accepted our invitation. The introduction, the academic year 2009/2010, of a "Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (LABS)" specialisation will help refine our recruitment strategies by targeting high-achieving students already at the Master's level and being able to offer them the prospect of becoming part of a Hellenic Studies research community. Many of these developments would not be possible without CEU's strong and unique dedication to investing in new faculty with expertise in the CHT's target periods and regions. Commencing with the academic year 2009/2010 we are looking forward to welcoming new colleagues in the fields of Late Antique Studies, with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean, from Ottoman Studies and Jewish Studies, whose presence will allow us to emphasize the importance of the "margins" of Hellenic culture(s) and place them at the centre of research and teaching. An instructor in Modern Greek, expected to be appointed by the Greek Ministry of Education, will expand the CHT's expertise into the modern period. From its conception the CHT has cooperated with a number of local and international bodies and institutions. It is crucial that these strategic partnerships continue and expand. Capitalizing on its senior fellows' strong expertise in Hellenic philosophy, the CHT works in close cooperation with the South-East European Association for Ancient Philosophy, meetings and workshops of which have been hosted by the CHT. For the later periods, in the framework of its outreach to East European, Caucasian, and Central Asian scholarly networks, the CHT is running an MA program in the History of Late Antique and Medieval Philosophy, jointly organized with, and located at, Tbilisi State University's Department of Philosophy. We hope to expand on this in a three-year HESP project commencing January 2010. For the

academic year, 2008/2009, the CHT has been running a "Curriculum Development Competition" call for "Processes of cultural translation along the northern/eastern fringes of the 'Byzantine Commonwealth'." Exploiting its faculty's expertise in manuscript studies and exploring the borders of the "Hellenic" world, the CHT is participating – together with the Oriental Institute at Tübingen University, the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML), and the Indian Association for Preserving the Saint Thomas Christian Heritage – in a collaborative project for preserving, cataloguing and valorizing the manuscript heritage of the Saint Thomas (or Syrian) Christians of South India. Additionally, in cooperation with HMML, it is conducting an analogous project on Central European Slavic manuscripts of Serbian origin. On the local level the CHT is excited about the prospect of co-hosting, together with the Archaeological Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, an international conference commemorating the achievements of the pre-eminent Hungarian Byzantinist, Gyula Moravcsik, in November 2009 (for further information please see the CRC call for papers on p. 11): The CHT has been very fortunate in his academic program coordinators, Dr. Réka Forrai (MA'01, PhD'08) and Cristian-Nicolae Daniel (MA'05, doctoral student), who deserve every thanks for their great work and initiative.

The series of *Hellenic Colloquia* provided and continues to provide the chance to draw on scholarly expertise not presently available at CEU, late antique and Byzantine art and archaeology most urgently at this stage, as will the newly introduced *Hellenic Studies Spring Session Seminars*. During winter term and spring session the CHT is expecting a series of distinguished guest speakers: Dr Matthew Savage—Vienna, Prof. John Cooper—Princeton, Professors Elizabeth and Michael Jeffreys—Oxford, and Dr. Alexander Metcalfe—Lancaster will present *Hellenic Colloquia* lectures; Professor Claudia Rapp—UCLA/Oxford will teach the spring session seminar offering a valuable "sneak-preview" on "Spiritual relationships in Byzantium."

Over the past two academic years the CHT organized a diverse series of conferences and workshops: *Aristotle's Physics II 4–6* was organized together with the South-East European Association for Ancient Philosophy (SEAAP) (9 July–3 August, 2006); *Hellenism: Alien or Germane Wisdom?* was an ESF Exploratory Workshop with the contribution of CEU's Special and Extension Programs (23–25 November 2007); *Charismatic Authority, Spiritual Friendship: Comparative Approaches to Networks of Learning, Byzantine East and Latin West, c.1000–c.1200* was organized in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics in Pre-Modern and Modern Societies," Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster/Project C5 "Heresy and Politics" and the British Academy "Medieval Friendships Network" Project (30 & 31 May 2008); and, most recently, *Theophrastus' Metaphysics* was organized together with the South-East European Association for Ancient Philosophy (SEAAP) (26–28 June 2008).

For more information see: <http://www.hellenic.hu/>



OBITUARY

Bronisław Geremek (1932–2008)

When Bronisław Geremek died in a car crash on 13 June, 2008, not only those in Poland mourned but also those in the whole of Europe beyond: medievalists, historians, former activists related to *Solidarność*, the democratic opposition elsewhere in ex-Communist countries, and public intellectuals operating in European or the worldwide cultural sphere. Obituaries have recalled his greatest historical merits – leading the group of Polish critical intellectuals who joined the workers on strike in Gdańsk in 1980 (taking the risk of being jailed for that afterwards), being the mastermind behind the roundtable talks in 1989 which led to the change of the system in Poland, working intensively in government—for a while as Minister of Foreign Affairs, later as a European Parliament member. “You were the greatest Pole, the greatest patriot,” said Lech Wałęsa at his funeral. “Without Geremek there would have been no road to freedom or to Europe,” declared Adam Michnik.

These achievements were also put in the perspective of an extraordinary life: surviving the Holocaust as a teenager, escaping from the Warsaw ghetto, losing his father at Auschwitz, becoming a Communist after the war, then a critic of the party, leaving in



(and because of) 1968. At the same time he promoted intellectual contacts with French medievalists (his immediate interest was the social history of medieval Paris). His friendship and cooperation with Jacques Le Goff, Georges Duby, and Fernand Braudel dating from the 1960s was instrumental in linking Polish and East European historiography to a European network and also making them part of the methodological renewal related to the circle of the *Annales*. His chosen topic, the history of the poor and outcasts, was a true combination of a sophisticated intellectual experimenting with historical anthropology and a committed militant fighting for social justice in the present.

He was also involved in the foundation of CEU (and honored in 2001 with the Open Society Prize). We tried to get him to come to teach at our Department for some time in vain – he was too much absorbed in politics in the past two decades. But when he came to Hungary for other reasons he came to meet the students here and was very interested in this new generation of CEU medievalists. We remember his perceptive, penetrating look, always with a hint of a smile, critical commitment, and encouragement. We will miss him.

Gábor Klaniczay

Peter Meller (1923–2008)

In 1941, the young boys of the Budapest Piarist *Gymnasium* did not have to spend much time on the Latin translation of the *Matura*. Some lines from Virgil's *Georgics*, a poem which took seven years for the poet to write, were not a difficult task for these secondary-school boys in their last year, as they had studied Latin for eight years with excellent teachers. After an hour, almost all of them had left the classroom, since a text such as *Felix, qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas, atque metus omnis et inexorabile fatum subiecit pedibus strepitumque Acherontis avari* did not offer a great challenge. It was only the young Peter Meller, one of the best students in Latin in his class, who was still working on the text hours later, because he had translated it into Hungarian as a poem, casting the text in the proper poetic rhythmic structure. This maximalist approach of an eighteen-year old student remained, perhaps, the most characteristic attribute of the art historian Peter Meller, an excellent scholar of the art and culture of the Renaissance. In 1944, during the last weeks of the World War II, he was hiding from time to time at the ongoing excavations of the Visegrád royal palace. This was a site which became an important scholarly work for him, and many decades later a site he returned to, in a personal and in the aca-

dem sense, when the new exhibition and the full size replica of the Renaissance masterpiece, the Hercules fountain, was inaugurated in 2000. Peter Meller wrote one of the earliest and the most fascinating studies on this monument after the red marble fragments came to light during the archaeological excavations, placing it in the widest possible cultural milieu of Italian Renaissance culture. Between these two times he worked as a very fine scholar of art history, in Italy, in Germany, in Santa Barbara, California, and, quite fortunately for us, twice at CEU. His academic life was also rather unusual. He did not publish many studies and articles (in the middle of his career, all his books, personal notes, and manuscripts were destroyed in a fire while he was moving to a new academic position), but all of them show the same maximalist approach of the boy who cast his translation of Virgil in proper hexameters. Those who had the opportunity to study with him or work with him will remember him as someone who had an excellent knowledge of fifteenth-century Italian art and also as someone who always pointed out how little we know about that period, too little to understand the people of that age.

József Laszlovszky

Dušan Třeštík (1933–2007)

More than a year ago we lost an old friend of the Department and a historian whose work was an example for the critical and world-open approach to Central European history that we would like to instill in our students. Třeštík studied history at Charles University in 1951–1956 as a student of František Graus. After 1958 he worked in the History Institute of the Academy of Science and Arts and was a co-founder of the new interdisciplinary Centre of Medieval Studies. He was our guest at



the very first departmental workshop in 1994 and consultant or supervisor of several theses in our program. His book on *Thinking History [Myslití dějiny]* (1999) best expressed his concerns: to confront unfounded historical constructs — such as “Great Moravia the first common state of Czechs and Slovaks” — by a close reading of the sources. Many of us will miss his skeptical and ironic voice.

János M. Bak



OBITUARY

Evelyne Patlagean (1932–2008)

I have a vivid recollection of the morning in 1985 when I first saw Evelyne Patlagean, lecturing at the International Congress of Historians in Stuttgart. She was a strange mixture of a fragile, nervous beauty with grizzled curly hair and a clever grandma with thick eyeglasses and a sharp tongue. Introduced in a surprisingly respectful tone by the famous Ihor Ševčenko at the congress, she was presenting a highly polemic and innovative lecture on heretics in eleventh-century Byzantium. I (an unknown youngster from Hungary) made some comments and had a little debate with her after her talk and this is how our friendship began.

Subsequently she became one of my most important French partners in my research on hagiography, on medieval civilization in general, and on regional differences in medieval Europe as well as on anything related to her “Moyen Age grec,” i.e., Byzantium. She enthusiastically accepted becoming a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the CEU Medieval Studies Department in 1992; she engaged in passionate debate over how our department was to develop; she generously advised and supported several of our students who stayed in Paris; she gave detailed recommendations when the Center for Hellenic Traditions was founded in 2005; and



she came to lecture and teach in Budapest several times (the last time in June 2008).

Who was she? Her Jewish family emigrated from the Ukraine after World War I, she was born in France and became passionately French. Among French Byzantinists, she was the one who approached this field with the new methods of the *nouvelle histoire* of the *Annales*, her first big book was on “economic and social poverty” in early medieval Byzantium. Subsequently she worked her way upwards on the chronological scale, broadening her interest to the cult of saints, rulership, the history of illness, “feudal” relations, and trade in Byzantium; she published many studies, sharp polemical reviews, and several volumes collecting these studies. She was professor at Paris X-Nanterre until 2002 and an active organizer of the Italian Hagiography Association (AISCAA). In the last decade of her life she devoted all her energy to a synthetic presentation of Byzantine history, published as *Un Moyen Age grec* in 2008. She saw it published and celebrated, but this effort must have drained her energies.

Byzantinists, medievalists, hagiographers, and all who knew and loved her are deeply shattered by her loss.

Gábor Klaniczay

Medievalists in the Renaissance Year

2008 was declared the Renaissance Year in Hungary, celebrating the 550th anniversary of the election of Matthias Corvinus as king of Hungary and his accession to the throne. This slogan sets the framework for a wide range of events from entertaining concerts and street festivals to serious academic programs such as several conferences and dozens of exhibitions all over the country, displaying various aspects of the Renaissance, including, but not restricted to, art, food, and the rich Neo-Renaissance architectural heritage of Budapest. The most comprehensive historical display centered on the great ruler is the one arranged by the Budapest History Museum in a building on the site of the medieval royal Palace of Buda. The exhibition, entitled *Matthias Corvinus, the King. Tradition and Renewal in the Hungarian Royal Court, 1458–1490*, presents the king not only in his lavishly rebuilt residences, but also in the Central European context of his rule. This provided the opportunity for several students, alumni, and faculty members of the Department of Medieval Studies to contribute to the preparations and the lavishly illustrated Hungarian- and English-language catalogue of the exhibition. New research results by Radu Lupescu (MA'99, doctoral student)—Sapientia-EMTE University, Cluj on the

origins of the Hunyadi family and their residence at Vajdahunyad (Hunedoara) and Antonín Kalous (MA'00)—University of Olomouc on Bohemians and Moravians at Matthias' court, also had an impact on the selection of the exhibits. Contributions by Tamás Pálosfalvi (doctoral student), Enikő Békés (MA'03)—Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and Orsolya Réthelyi (MA'00, doctoral student)—Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest offer new insights into the king's army, iconography, and marriage policy, respectively. Among the faculty, Balázs Nagy presented a political panorama of Central Europe in the Matthias Era, and Katalin Szende, one of the academic advisors of the exhibition and co-editor of the catalogue, discussed Matthias' rule over Vienna. Other students and alumni of the Department provided descriptions of exhibits. This active presence, complemented by the intensive participation of students, faculty and many of our visiting professors at the most important international conference of the Renaissance Year, organized by the Eötvös Loránd University between 20 and 24 May 2008, testify to the far-reaching expertise of the academic network centered at the Department of Medieval Studies.

Katalin Szende

PUBLICATIONS BY OUR FACULTY

The Legacy of King Matthias. Late Renaissance Art in Hungary (16–17 C.) (Catalogue of the exhibition)

Ed. Árpád Mikó

Budapest: Art Box, Pauker Nyomda, MNG, 2008.

With the contribution of faculty members, students and alumni. See more about the exhibition in the article on *Medievalists in the Renaissance Year* by Katalin Szende.

Marianna D. Birnbaum

Gracia Mendes hosszú útja [The Long Journey of Gracia Mendes] Mikrotörténelem 2

Budapest: L'Hartman, 2008





The Sign Languages of Poverty

ed. **Gerhard Jaritz**

International Round Table-Discussion Krems an der Donau, October 10 and 11, 2005, Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2007

Medieval and early modern sources dealt regularly with the problem of “poverty.” The term poverty often referred to members of widely divergent groups in society. Various groups of objects, gestures, behaviours, and other cultural aspects were drawn on to express and characterise the “poverties” being described. Independent of the status of the persons or groups of people being described, those characteristics could, on the one hand, be identical to each other or based on similar patterns of argumentation; on the other hand, they also could be very different. Such questions were the topic of an international workshop held in the autumn of 2005 at the Institute for the Material Culture of the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Scholars from nine countries met to discuss the importance of the medieval “sign languages of poverty,” as well as patterns and differences therein, analysing them comparatively and critically. The interdisciplinary approach offered new insights with regard to these significant questions about medieval material life and its depiction in medieval sources. The publication contains the results of this meeting.

For more information see: <http://epub.oeaw.ac.at/3788-7>



Marcell Sebők

Humanista a határon: A késmárki Sebastian Ambrosius története. [Humanist on the Edge: the Story of Sebastian Ambrosius of Késmárk] (1554-1600)

Budapest: L'Harmattan, 2007, 398 pages

This book attempts to present a forgotten humanist preacher's life-story, Sebastian Ambrosius from the Upper Hungarian city of Késmárk. His active life is introduced in mixed layers of contexts: through local urban history, Protestant church history, humanist education, courtly culture, and the contemporary European intellectual network, the Republic of Letters. During the examination of certain periods of Ambrosius' life, one can see different roles he played and also different faces and attitudes at the same time: a concerted and changing, coherent and dismantled, self-conscious and perplexed individual. The book intends to place him and his contemporaries into the cluster of educated urban intelligentsia of whom only the “famous and great” personalities have been visible so far, in former scholarship. Better known humanists of the age, such as Albert Szenci Molnár or Bálint Balassi, appear on certain pages, but as equal colleagues of Ambrosius. The main role is played by Ambrosius and his generation: their presentation sheds light on the limits regional Protestant intellectuals had to face, the consequences of the lack of a local university, and the partial institutionalization of the theory and practice of humanism. Chapters of the book, as chains of microhistorical case studies, demonstrate intersections – the peregrination, calendar reform, religious debates, and communication techniques – which constitute new interpretative contexts for understanding his career. Therefore, Ambrosius' life-story, comprised of such interpretations, is an attempt at historical reconstruction, a sort of mosaic biography, but not a traditional memoir.

For more information see: <http://www.harmattan.hu/book.php?id=285>



... et usque ad ultimum terrae: The Apostolic Penitentiary in Local Contexts

CEU Medievalia 10

Ed. **Gerhard Jaritz**, Torstein Jørgensen, Kirsi Salonen
Budapest and Rome: Central European University Press and Hungarian Academy in Rome, 2007

This volume contains selected papers from an international workshop at the Hungarian Academy in Rome in 2005. They papers aim at investigating the registers of the fifteenth-century supplications to the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See and analyzing the contexts of the multiplicity of issues where the local needs of Western Christians met the central power of the pope.

The contributions make clear that local and individual factors and the practice of the Christian faith and religion must not be seen as separate from the global power of the Roman curia. The latter's influence could become directly important for any individual in any local space, even ... *et usque ad ultimum terrae* (Acts 1:8), on the utmost peripheries of the Christian world. Assistance by the Apostolic Penitentiary was indispensable in a large variety of cases; such cases were addressed in the local and regional space as well as in the globalized centre of the Holy See.

The global and local contexts that the registers of the Penitentiary point to are approached with particular reference to three areas: the field of “marriage and sexual conduct,” “vagrants and apostates,” and problems that church policy was confronted with in certain territories, that is, “local needs in threatened lands.” A variety of connections and interdependencies are shown in all of them.

For more information see:
<http://www.powells.com/biblio?isbn=9789637326837>



Witchcraft Mythologies and Persecutions

(Demons, Spirits, Witches, Volume III)

Ed. Éva Pócs & Gábor Klaniczay

Budapest: CEU Press, 2008

This third, concluding volume of the series publishes 14 studies and the transcription of a round-table discussion on Carlo Ginzburg's *Ecstasies*. The themes of the previous two volumes, *Communicating with the Spirits*, and *Christian Demonology and Popular Mythology*, are further expanded here both as regards their interdisciplinary approach and the wide range of regional comparisons. While the emphasis of the second volume was on current popular belief and folklore as seen in the context of the historical sources on demonology, this volume approaches its subject from the point of view of historical anthropology. The greatest recent advances of witchcraft research have occurred recently in two fields: (1) deciphering the variety of myths and the complexity of historical processes which led to the formation of the witches' Sabbath, and (2) the micro-historical analysis of the social, religious, legal and cultural milieu where witchcraft accusations and persecutions developed. These two themes are completed by further insights into the folklore of the regions concerned which still carries traces of the traumatic historical memories of witchcraft persecutions.

For more information see:
<http://www.ceupress.com/books/html/WitchcraftMythologies.htm>



Peter Robert Lamont Brown, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by CEU in 2005. has received the 2008 Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanities in a ceremony on December 10, 2008 at the Library of Congress.

For more details visit the following website: <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2008/08-225.html>

ABOUT OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

From October, 2007, **György Geréby** has been heading the Department. **Gábor Klaniczay** continues to lead the Doctoral School of History and **Gerhard Jaritz** continues to lead the Doctoral Program of the Medieval Studies Department.

During the 2007/08 academic year the following faculty members were on research leave:

Aziz Al-Azmeh, during the Winter Semester

István Perczel has been on research leave since the fall of 2007-2008.

Niels Gaul was appointed Associate Professor at the Department in September 2007. His fields of interest are Byzantine cultural and literary history, especially the twelfth to fourteenth centuries; Greek palaeography and codicology.

During the 2007/08 academic year the following visiting professors offered courses: **Marianna D. Birnbaum**—UCLA, **Stephanos Efthymiadis**—University of Ioannina, **Balázs Nagy**—Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, and **Anna Somfai**—independent scholar, **Béla Zsolt Szakács**—Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Piliscsaba.

A photo exhibition by **Csaba Dombóvári**, our former colleague at the department, entitled “Of Stone and Cross. The Art of the French Cathedrals” was held between April 8 and May 12, 2008 at CEU.

From 1 September to 31 October, 2007, Professor **Elena Sergejeva** (Veliky Novgorod, Novgorod State University, Russia) conducted

research in Budapest as a Special and Extension Programs/CEU Visiting Research Fellow connected to our department. Her research topic was: Christian Communities and Identities in North Africa before A.D. 325.

From 9 January to 8 March, 2009, Professor **Pavel Lukin** (Institute of Russian History, Russian Academy of Sciences) conducts research in Budapest as a Special and Extension Programs/CEU Visiting Research Fellow connected to our department. His research topic is: Medieval Political Assemblies of East and West Slavs: A Comparative Approach.

Katalin Szende was awarded the Bolyai Fellowship in 2008 and she is on research leave during the fall and winter semester of 2008-2009.

Cristian Gaşpar is on research leave between January and July 2009, when he holds an Early-Stage Research Fellowship at the Istituto di Studi Arantati, University of Bologna.

During the 2008/09 academic year the following visiting professors will offer courses: **Balázs Nagy** – Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, **Claudia Rapp**—UCLA, **Felicita Schmieder**—Fernuniversität, Hagen, **Anna Somfai**—independent scholar, **Francis Thomson**—University of Antwerpen, **László Veszprémy**—Institute of Military History, Budapest.

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