

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Society's activities
including the Annual Accounts
for the Calendar Year 2011
and presented to
the Society's Annual General Meeting
on
19th May 2012

c/o History Faculty, George Street, Oxford, OX1 2RL.
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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

(Registered Charity, no. 1130022)

c/o History Faculty, George Street, Oxford, OX1 2RL

Members of the Executive Committee and Trustees of the Society:

Dr Anthony Lappin (University of Manchester), Hon. President and Monographs Editor
Dr Mishtooni Bose (Christ Church, Oxford), Vice-President, elected until 12th April 2011 and subsequently co-opted
Dr Helen Swift (St Hilda's College, Oxford), Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer
Dr Simon Horobin (Magdalen College, Oxford), Hon. Secretary
Prof. John Hines (Cardiff University), elected on 12th April 2011
Prof. Nigel F. Palmer (St Edmund Hall, Oxford), Editor
Prof. C. J. Saunders (Durham University), Editor
Prof. S. Huot (Pembroke College, Cambridge), Editor
Dr Kenneth P. Clarke (Pembroke College, Cambridge), elected member until appointed Monographs Editor on 5th February 2011
Prof. Dame Jinty Nelson (King's College, London)
Prof. Jane Roberts (Institute of English Studies, London)
Dr Magnus Ryan (Peterhouse, Cambridge)
Dr Sethina Watson (University of York)

This Annual Report was accepted by the Trustees of the Society at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 25th February 2012. It is recommended to the Society at its Annual General Meeting on 19th May 2012.

The Report includes the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2010, which have been independently examined by Mr Mark Luntley, CPFA.

All queries about this Annual Report or enquiries about the Society should be directed to the Executive Officer: ssmll@history.ox.ac.uk

Overview of activities in 2011

The Society built on the expansion of the previous two years in 2011. Those activities which are its traditional core – publication of the journal and of monographs – flourished, while the more recent emphasis on other forms of support for medieval studies, through conferences, grants to individual scholars and promotion of the constituent disciplines continued to gain momentum.

Membership

There was further substantial increase in the membership of the Society: the end-of-year figure reported in the last but one Annual Report was 190; for 2010, it was 233; for this year, the equivalent figure stands at 258. Of these, 68 are graduate students who receive membership for two years for the price of one. In 2011, the membership rate remained as in the preceding years: £16.50 / \$35.50 / €21 (£16 / \$35 if joining by Standing Order). As reported last year, there is now the category of institutional membership, available for libraries or societies, at £25 / \$48 / €35; to date, only two organisations have taken up this possibility.

Journal

The eightieth volume of *Medium Aevum* appeared in 2011 in its customary two issues, appearing in July and November; the first of these was later than had been hoped, because of delays at the mailing company.

The editorial team continued, without change: Prof.s Sylvia Huot, Nigel F. Palmer and Corinne Saunders, ably assisted by Jackie Pritchard. Publication arrangements also remained the same with Oxbow Books typesetting and arranging printing and distribution.

Subscriptions to the journal remained healthy, but with a net decrease of just under 5%.

Monographs

In contrast to 2010, when there was no monograph published, 2011 proved a busy year. One volume appeared in the year: Monograph XXVII is *The Anglo-Norman *Amyse e Amilioun*: the text of Karlsrube MS. 345 (Durlac 38)*, edited by John Ford. At the same time, two others were seen to the press: a further Anglo-Norman text, the *Estoire de l'Evangile (Dublin: Christ Church Cathedral, MS. C6.1.1)*, edited by Brent A. Pitts, and a wide-ranging discussion of biblical exegesis, Cornelia Linde's *How to Correct the Sacra Scriptura? Textual Criticism of the Bible between the Twelfth and Fifteenth Century*. As is now established practice, the aim is to provide hard-back volumes at a reasonable price, each retailing for £30 / \$45, with a reduction of up to 50% for members of the Society.

The work of editing these monographs was shouldered by Dr Anthony J. Lappin. During 2011, it was decided to appoint a further Monographs Editor, with Dr Kenneth P. Clarke taking on that role, with special responsibility for essay collections.

Conferences

In 2011, the Society organised one conference, was heavily involved in another and sponsored several more. On 15th October, the Society was hosted by the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Liverpool, for the third Society one-day conference, with the theme being 'Bibles'. Thanks are due to Drs Harald Braun and Damien Kempf for their part in the organisation of a successful day, from which a volume of papers is anticipated.

The conference in which the Society was heavily involved was the old friend of the Graduate Conference, in 2011 held in Lincoln College, Oxford on 12th and 13th April, with the Society's AGM and Annual Lecture, given by Dr Sarah Medlam of the Victoria & Albert Museum, incorporated into proceedings. The Conference's theme of 'Sleep' inspired, by all accounts, a very lively event.

The Society sponsored events through the year in Cambridge, Cork, Lausanne and Oxford.

Support for Medieval Studies

The Society also continued to work to promote its support for medieval studies through its awards of grants and its prize-giving. It was decided to increase the number of Travel Bursaries by having two rounds in the year, with the deadline being the second Thursday in March and in September. As a result, the following awards were made:

Approved 21st May 2011

Name	Status	Proposal
Hartigan, Caitlin	D.Phil. student, Oxford	Manuscripts and incunables of <i>Le Roman de la Rose</i>
Johnston, Cynthia	Ph.D. student, London	Thirteenth-century Oxford liturgical manuscripts

Approved 22nd October 2011

Name	Status	Proposal
Bourassa, Kristin	Ph.D. student (York)	Mirror for Princes for Charles VI of France
Flood, Victoria	Unfunded Ph.D. student (York)	Political Prophecy in the British Isles
Stone, Zachary	Between degrees	A Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts of Wadham College, Oxford

At the Society's AGM, it was also possible to announce the winner of the 2010 Essay Prize: it was awarded to Jennifer Jahner (University of Pennsylvania) for her submission, '*Altera Natura*: Conduct, Craft and Nature in *The Owl and the Nightingale*'.

Promotion of Medieval Studies

The Society sees its website as a significant method of assisting medievalists, providing an increasing amount of information of use to them. For instance, in 2011, a section was added which began to provide a listing of funding available from sources other than the Society. The relevant page can be viewed at: http://mediumaevum.modhist.ox.ac.uk/links_support.shtml

In addition, the Society has continued to take note of matters of concern to the medievalist community in Britain and, when appropriate, made representations intended to be constructive in support of the continuing provision of medieval studies in the United Kingdom.

Governance of the Society

The Constitution establishes the governing body of the Society as its Executive Committee, which is required to meet at least twice a year. In 2011, as in previous years, it met on three occasions; the President was in the Chair for the first two of these meetings and, in his absence, Dr Mishtooni Bose took the Chair for the third. The Committee, in its meetings, oversaw the activities of the Society in line with the Constitution and the established Policies of the Society.

The Constitution provides for the election of members of the Executive Committee at the Society's Annual General Meeting. It also sets the electoral term as five years, at the end of which a member is not eligible for immediate re-election. However, the Constitution does also provide for co-option of up to two members of the Committee and, in addition, a scholar serving as an Editor of either the Journal or Monographs is *ex officio* a member of the Committee.

In line with the Constitution's provisions, at the AGM held on 12th April 2011, John Hines (Cardiff University) was elected to the Committee. At the same time, Mishtooni Bose stood down as an elected member; she was subsequently co-opted in order to continue her work on the Committee. As previously noted, there was a further change, not of membership of the Committee but of role, with Kenneth P. Clarke moving into an *ex officio* position as one of the Monographs Editors.

The day-to-day running of the Society continued to be the duty of the Executive Officer, Dr David Rundle. However, for the period of his absence on research leave, an Executive Assistant was appointed: Robert Avis, one of the organisers of the Graduate Conference, who was highly efficient and attentive in the role of Assistant.

Financial Review

The summary accounts of the Society, which have been independently examined, are appended to this Report. They show the Society's finances holding steady, with a slight and expected increase in losses incurred in pursuit of its charitable purposes. As forewarned last year, the main change in accounting figures was the inclusion, in-year, of the costs of office space, which has previously been recorded as a one-off amount, paid in 2008. This was off-set by the pleasing increase in membership and by a decrease in other costs; in particular, expenses (all of which were paid to Trustees) stood at £534.02.

Receipts from monograph sales were substantially increased, but costs also rose. The journal remained the main source of income for the Society; commercial subscriptions brought in just above 95% of the

income they provided last year. The accounts show a reduction in back sales and permissions; this is not expected to be a developing pattern.

In terms of support provided by the Society, the level of requests and thus of grants to conferences was reduced in comparison to the previous year; similarly, the change of accounting so that the finances of the Graduate Conference are run completely through the Society coincided in a reduction in the loss incurred from it. While neither of these reductions is expected to be repeated, the substantial increase in the amount provided in travel bursaries is expected to continue in 2012.

It will be noted that reserves remain high and interest low; the Trustees will continue to consider how best to deal with both these issues.

Outlook for 2012

The Committee has already ensured that a range of stimulating events and activities is in place for the calendar year 2012. March sees the first in a series of planned workshops described as 'Medievalists and Classicists in Conversation', intended to bring together scholars from the different chronological periods to consider issues of shared interest – the theme for the first is 'Epic'. The year also sees a new format for the Annual General Meeting, separating it from the Graduate Conference which continues to be supported (including by providing a Society Lecturer), and having a stand-alone event with the Annual Lecture. The explicit intention is to move this event around the country, as part of the Society's commitment to supporting medieval studies across the British Isles. Also already arranged is the first of three workshops co-sponsored by the British School at Rome and focussing on 'The Medieval Mediterranean City'; the first event will take place in St Andrews on the theme of 'Space'.

The most exciting new initiative for 2012 will be the launch of a new database, 'Theses in Medieval Studies', the purpose of which is to provide more detailed information about relevant dissertations than available elsewhere, as well as giving authors the possibility of updating information. Members of the Society will, of course, be kept informed of the development of this and of all the Society's other activities.

In short, the year under review saw healthy performance in a difficult economic climate – performance which provides the basis for yet further development in the year ahead.

Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature
(registered charity no. 1130022)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for CALENDAR YEAR 2011

Summary of Accounts	2011 £	2010 £
Balance by Activity		
<i>Medium Aevum</i>	8,642.47	10,043.11
Monographs	465.65	264.60
Conferences and Events	-2,540.71	-4,396.55
Society	-10,599.14	-9,156.16
Interest	1,253.78	1,346.00
Surplus to Reserves	-2,777.95	-1,899.00
Accumulated funds		
Carried forward	146,358.83	148,257.83
Surplus for year	-2777.95	-1,899.00
Total to carry forward	143,580.88	146,358.83
Represented by:		
National Savings Income Bond	50,000.00	50,000.00
National Savings Investment (designated funds)	81,095.12	80,852.56
At Bank	12,485.76	15,506.27
	143,580.88	146,358.83
Individual Activities		
<i>Medium Aevum</i>		
Receipts		
Subscriptions to <i>ME</i>	17,786.43	18,683.68
Sales of back copies		144.90
Electronic Royalties	3,753.04	4,141.55
Adverts and Permissions		540.88
Total	21,539.47	23,511.01
Payments		
Production	-8,255.09	-8,791.94
Postage	-901.91	-555.96
Assistant Editor	-3,120.00	-3,120.00
Editorial help	-620.00	-1,000.00
Total	-12,897.00	-13,467.90
Surplus	8,642.47	10,043.11

	2011	2010
	£	£
Monographs		
Receipts		
Sales	1,836.61	326.95
Credit from uncashed cheques		107.65
Total	1,836.61	434.60
Payments		
Readers		-150.00
Postage / Production Costs	-1,370.96	-20.00
Total	-1,370.96	-170.00
Surplus	465.65	264.60
Conferences and Events		
Payments		
Sponsorship of Events	-1,500.00	-2,893.95
Graduate Conference	-309.77	-947.44
Net Cost of Library Conference		-555.16
Net Cost of Bibles Conference	-730.94	
Total	-2,540.71	-4,396.55
Surplus	-2,540.71	-4,396.55
Society		
Receipts		
Membership	3,748.02	3,293.58
Total	3,748.02	3,293.58
Payments		
Expenses to Trustees	-534.02	-583.05
Expenses to non-trustees		-529.90
Charitable Donation		-100.00
Executive Officer & Executive Assistant	-7,310.00	-8,512.00
Office Costs	-3,983.54	-1,027.24
Essay prize	-250.00	-433.50
Publicity	-439.60	-264.05
Travel Bursaries	-1,830.00	-1,000.00
Total	-14,347.16	-12,449.74
Surplus	-10,599.14	-9,156.16