

FOREWORD

The publication of this volume of Proceedings represents a landmark for the Medieval Association of the Midwest. Since the association was envisioned back in the mid 1970's, there has always been a desire for a Proceedings volume or larger publication of some sort. Nuntia has done an admirable job of keeping the membership informed about conferences and programs and other activities in Medieval Studies. Current plans to expand the publication will make it even more useful. However, simply because of size limitations Nuntia has not been able to serve as a forum for the scholarship in which members engage at our annual meetings. In the past, MAM has relied on the goodwill of other journals and periodicals to publish the scholarship of members of the association. We now have a vehicle for such publication ourselves.

Thus far in the history of the association, three institutions have provided both a setting and financial support for our meetings. Our conferences originated at Iowa State University under the sponsorship of John McCully. Our second group of conferences was held at Cleveland State University under the general direction of Earl Anderson. Our last two conferences have been held at the Newberry Library under the auspices of Ruth Hamilton. Each of these individuals with his or her efforts has made an exceptional contribution to the association in providing a "home" for our meetings and a forum where we can exchange ideas on our most recent scholarly interests. This volume contains an excellent representative sample of all papers presented at our conferences thus far. Fortunately, the volume

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includes papers going back to 1985 and including representation from conferences at all three sites. In that sense, the volume truly offers a distillation of the best of the Association's scholarly efforts.

This volume represents the energy and vision of a number of people. All three of the conference coordinators have been instrumental in insuring that contributions have been received and reviewed. Earl Anderson deserves special thanks for the contribution that Cleveland State University was able to make towards printing costs. John McCully originally generated the idea and has been a faithful editor in seeing it through to completion. Renewed impetus for the volume occurred during the term that Ruth Hamilton was President of the association. These three individuals have all made a double or triple contribution to the production of this volume of Proceedings. It is also important to express appreciation to Merle Fifield, former Executive Secretary of the association. The contribution that she received from Ball State University made possible her careful financial planning. Merle's meticulous attention to the fiscal health of the association provided the wherewithal necessary to ensure that the Proceedings could be printed and circulated free to current members. Many others, including immediate past President Robert Lovell of Central Missouri State University, have had a hand in the production of this volume.

The current volume provides an opportunity to pride ourselves on the accomplishments of our members. If it is sufficiently well received, there will be future volumes which will become a part of the regular membership benefits of the association. On behalf of the Council of the Medieval Association of the Midwest, I wish to

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express our thanks to all of our contributors to this volume and to our conferences during the years and to those individuals whose energy and vision have made this volume a reality.

Robert L. Kindrick
Executive Secretary
Medieval Association of the Midwest
Eastern Illinois University