

The Contributors

Suzanne Conklin Akbari is Associate Professor of English and Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Her publications include *Seeing through the Veil: Optical Theory and Medieval Allegory* (2004), *Idols in the East: European Representations of Islam and the Orient, 1100-1450* (in press), and (co-ed.) *Marco Polo and the Encounter of East and West* (2008).

János M. Bak is Professor emeritus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver — where he made friends with Sheila — and of the Central European University, Budapest, where he had the pleasure of Sheila's visit. He usually writes about late medieval politics and law, but occasionally ventures into more recent times.

Lawrence Besserman is Professor of English at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His books include *The Legend of Job in the Middle Ages* (1978), *Chaucer and the Bible* (1988), and *Chaucer's Biblical Poetics* (1998), as well as several edited essay collections including, most recently, *Sacred and Secular in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures: New Essays* (2006). He remembers Sheila Delany from their New York City – Morning-side Heights days and has been an admirer of her creative and committed scholarship ever since.

Glenn Burger is Professor of English and Medieval Studies at Queens College and at the Graduate Center, The City University of New York. He is the author of *Chaucer's Queer Nation* (2003), editor of *A Lytell Cronycle*, a Tudor English translation of Hetoum's *La*

Fleur des histoires de la terre d'Orient (1988), and co-editor of *Queering the Middle Ages* (2001) and of *Making Contact: Maps, Identity, and Travel* (2003); he is currently working on a new book, *Conduct Becoming: Representing the Good Wife in the Later Middle Ages*. He has long turned to Sheila Delany's work for provocative, challenging, and politically engaged medievalism and, in many years' teaching at the University of Alberta, came to value especially her articulation of a vibrant Canadian medievalism, as well as her strong engagement of medieval studies with contemporary political concerns.

A. E. Christa Canitz, Professor of English at the University of New Brunswick, co-edited *From Arabye to Engelond: Medieval Studies in Honour of Mahmoud A. Manzalaoui* (1999) and has been editor of *Florilegium* since 2005. She is delighted to offer this tribute to Sheila Delany, who acted as an informal mentor during her first few years of teaching at the University of British Columbia.

Robert A. Daum is Diamond Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics at the University of British Columbia. He works on Rabbinic literature and on Jewish cultural, intellectual, social, and political history from late antiquity to modern times, with special interest in late antiquity, medieval developments, and early modernity. Among the many attributes of Sheila Delany's scholarship, he appreciates her judicious synthesis of theory and text. His contribution to the present collection takes its cue from Professor Delany's passionate scholarly interest in textuality, literature, and ethics.

A. S. G. Edwards was for many years a colleague of Sheila Delany in British Columbia, where he taught at the University of Victoria. Their shared scholarly interests have included Chaucer and Osborn Bokenham. He is currently Professor of Textual Studies at De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

Rhoda L. Friedrichs has taught at Brooklyn College, at the University of British Columbia, and, since 1989, at Douglas College in New Westminster, BC. She has published scholarly articles on medieval social and political history and presented papers at national and international conferences, and she has served on the boards of the Medieval Association of the Pacific and the Society of Canadian Medievalists. Her current interests are in the area of prosopography. She has enjoyed participating in the Vancouver Medieval Symposium, a project inspired by Sheila Delany.

David Gay teaches Milton and the early modern period in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. He also teaches courses in religion and literature as a member of the interdisciplinary programme in Religious Studies. He is the author of *The Endless Kingdom: Milton's Scriptural Society* (2002) and co-editor of *Awakening Words: John Bunyan and the Language of Community* (2000). He remembers vividly Sheila Delany's plenary address at an interdisciplinary conference he co-organized at the University of Alberta. Her paper on "Bovo Then and Now: An Old Yiddish Romance in its Time and Ours" was perfect for this conference on Religious Influences and Cultural Constructions, reflecting her unique ability to bring the past into new relationships with the present. She showed the same exceptional ability in her first published book, *Counter-Tradition: A Reader in the Literature of Dissent and Alternatives*, which is the focus of his essay.

Brenda M. Hosington is Professeure honoraire, Département de linguistique et traduction, Université de Montréal, and Research Associate at the University of Warwick's Centre for the Study of the Renaissance. She has published on translation in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, on women writers and translators, on Neo-Latin literature, and on medieval cookery. She is currently working on a monograph on women translators in England, 1500-1660, and on a web-based annotated catalogue of translations in Britain, 1473-1640. She first heard Sheila Delany give a paper on Chaucer in Montreal more years ago than either would wish to admit and, since then, has enjoyed meeting Sheila at various venues and keeping up with her many publications.

Kathryn Kerby-Fulton is Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. She has published books and articles on medieval literary writers and their reception, and on medieval prophetic and visionary texts, including *Reformist Apocalypticism and Piers Plowman* (1990); *Iconography and the Professional Reader: The Politics of Book Production in the Douce Piers Plowman*, co-authored with Denise Despres (1999); and *Books under Suspicion: Censorship and Tolerance of Revelatory Theology in the Literature of Late Medieval England* (2006), as well as several edited collections. As a long-time professor at the University of Victoria (1985-2005), she was a West Coast colleague of Sheila Delany's and is grateful for Sheila's energy and commitment to exploring alternative scholarly approaches.

Stephen Knight is Distinguished Research Professor in English Literature at Cardiff University, Wales. Starting from Wales, he graduated from Oxford, and then travelled on to do a PhD in Sydney, where he taught for many years and where he first met Sheila Delany on one of her many lecture tours. He has published widely on medieval and modern topics: with Delany and David Aers he was among the first to bring radical voices to bear on medieval literature and has published widely on less canonical topics including crime fiction, Robin Hood, and, in his latest book, the myth of Merlin/Myrddin.

Tova Rosen is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at Ben Gurion University; she has also taught at Tel Aviv University and at Princeton, Columbia, and Berkeley. Her most recent books include *Hebrew Secular Poetry in the Middle Ages* (1997), *Unveiling Eve: Reading Gender in Medieval Hebrew Literature* (2003), and *Hunting Gazelles: Reading Gender in Medieval Hebrew Literature* (2006, in Hebrew). Tova Rosen also translates English and American poetry into Hebrew. Her volume *The Man with the Blue Guitar and Other Poems by Wallace Stevens* appeared in 1985.

Liliana Sikorska is Professor of English at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, and has been a visiting scholar at the University of Florida, the University of California at Los Angeles, Brown University, and the American University in Washington, DC. She is interested in the medieval mystics, medieval drama, and medievalism. Her books include *A Short History of English Literature* (3rd ed., 2007) and *In a Manner of Morall Playe: Social Ideologies in Medieval Morality Plays and Interludes, 1350-1517* (2002). She has edited *Medievalisms: The Poetics of Literary Re-Reading* (2008), *A Universe of (Hi)Stories: Essays on J. M. Coetzee* (2006), *Ironies of Art / Tragedies of Life: Essays on Irish Literature* (2005), and *Aspects of Suffering: Classical Themes in Literature in English* (2004). She first met Sheila Delany at the Leeds Medieval Congress in 1998, and an academic friendship, based on their shared fascination with medieval women, soon developed.

Andrew Taylor is Associate Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. He is the author of *Textual Situations: Three Medieval Manuscripts and Their Readers* (2002) and co-editor of *The Canterbury Tales* (2008) and *The Future of the Page* (2004). He remembers warmly Sheila's generous hospitality when the Medieval Academy met in Vancouver in 1990.

