

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SMFS

As the academic year winds down, I think the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship can boast of several major accomplishments. First of all, we have a new institutional home: Minot State University in North Dakota, under the leadership of Michelle M. Sauer of the English Department. As of July 1, 2004, Michelle will serve as Managing Editor of *Medieval Feminist Forum* and will also assume responsibility for keeping track of SMFS membership. The administration of Minot State has been enthusiastic and generous in their support for taking over the nuts and bolts of managing SMSF and *MFF*. If you would like to send congratulations, good wishes, or advice to Michelle, her email address is michelle.sauer@minotstateu.edu.

At Kalamazoo this year, we had four fantastically successful sessions on women, money and power. It is clear that that concatenation of subjects attracts feminist scholars from many fields. On the other hand, our session on women in the Islamic world suffered from three cancellations out of four scheduled speakers! The session went forward and generated a good discussion, but left us pondering how we can move with greater success into feminist comparative cultural studies. As always, your thoughts and advice are welcome.

Our business meeting and reception this year included a ceremony to award the first bi-annual SMFS First Book Prize. The Book Prize Committee (Monica Green, Ann Matter, Sara Poor, Ulrike Wiethaus) had sixteen wonderful submissions and a very difficult decision to make. The prize went to Jennifer Summit for *Lost Property: The Woman Writer and English Literary History, 1380-1589* (Chicago, 2000), with two Honorable Mention awards to Maud Burnett McInerney for *Eloquent Virgins from Thecla to Joan of Arc* (NY: Palgrave Press 2003), and Lisa Perfetti, *Women and Laughter in Medieval Comic Literature* (U Michigan, 2003). Congratulations to Jennifer, Maud and Lisa! In 2005 we will give the first bi-annual Best Article Prize, so I call your attention to the announcement in this issue of *MFF*.

Best wishes for a restful and creative summer.

—E. Ann Matter

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Sometimes it is the return of the already expressed, not the repressed. “The trouble with Gloria Steinem and second-wave feminists,” said one younger woman historian I heard in a recent symposium, “is that they don’t realize that it is not gender but class and race that are basic third-wave struggles.” With (I admit) a certain asperity, I was almost provoked to respond that a close reading of *Ms. Magazine* from its inception would provide an antidote to this view, until I realized that we feminists are always confronting our struggles anew—as if they are brand new—precisely because they remain such unresolved raw nerves for our cultures. In the last two years, *MFF* has published two roundtable segments on our feminist affiliations and agendas: