commitment, and organized procedure. For those who, like Pam and me, find themselves with that mysterious combination, scholarly collaboration offers some of the greatest pleasures in our profession.

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HISTORY AND LITERATURE :THREE MEDIEVAL VIEWS

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THE BEGINNINGS of *Three Medieval Views of Women* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1989) were in 1982 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where I presented a paper on medieval costume, using the late thirteenth-century *Contenance des femmes* as my source. Gloria Fiero (U. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette) was in the audience and talked to me about making the information from the text more available, particularly by means of a translation. I hesitated, thinking more of a scholarly than a student audience. Several months later, I gave another paper on the *Contenance des femmes* at a conference in Dallas, Texas. Again, Gloria was in the audience, and this time she was successful in convincing me that there was a large audience for the material I was working with.

In Dallas, the two of us put together a project that would involve the edition of several texts, in favor of and against the female sex, all in Old French from roughly the same period (1275-1325). The audience for our work would be university students in French, history, or women's studies. Gloria would take care of finding a publisher, in exchange for which she would get top billing. She also wanted to try her hand at translating the texts, attempting to convey in English the meter and tone of the poems. I would provide her with rough but accurate translations of the Old French texts, and she would go to work. It was agreed that the texts would be accompanied by essays; I would write on the texts themselves (their language, genre, on edition of texts in general), Gloria on the historical situation of women at the turn of the fourteenth century. We exchanged phone numbers and parted company. Over the next few years, my phone bills would increase, and Gloria would become very familiar with her school's policies on long-distance dialing.

As Gloria worked on the translations, she discovered that she needed additional help, for her training is in medieval history, not in French. She asked one of her colleagues in Lafayette, Mathé Allain, for assistance. Rough drafts of the translations were sent back and forth between Louisville and Lafayette. Decisions were made about which texts to include in the project. At the same time, Gloria was busily contacting publishers regarding our efforts. We spent Labor Day weekend (1985) in Lafayette, the three of us laboring over details in the translations and notes to the texts.

Early in December 1986, I received an almost panicky phone call from Gloria: Yale UP had accepted our proposal, but wanted to see a complete rough draft by the end of January. Could I have my essay ready by then? I made glorious promises and set to work. By the end of February, Gloria was able to send to Yale our essays in rough form and the three Old French texts we had selected, along with accompanying translations.

Yale was happy, and we had a book to finish. Still to be completed were notes to the texts, final versions of the essays, selection of illustrations, and a host of small details. Gloria and I roomed together during a meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association (October 1987), where we read papers at the conference and put the finishing touches on our translations and essays. At every stage, we sent copies of our work back and forth

along with comments and suggestions.

In December 1987, we sent the complete manuscript to Yale for publication. Gloria had taken charge of all negotiations with Yale and of assembling our collaborative effort. She was in charge of communicating with Yale and of conveying the Press's pleasure or displeasure back to Mathé and me. She was, it must be added, a demon negotiator.

Our collaboration worked because Gloria and I tend to have similar working styles and to think alike. We managed to get together at various conferences (which meant that our institutions paid at least part of the bill), and we communicated often by phone. We spent a lot of money on photocopying, as we tried to share materials back and forth. Who knows what access to a FAX line would have meant for us? It was very useful to be able to pass rough drafts back and forth, because Gloria and I are not specialists in the same field. If she did not understand something I had written, it was unlikely that our audience would, and vice versa. The arrival of a packet of materials from Gloria would spur me on to do more work, rather than letting the project lie fallow for a few more weeks. I suspect the same was true at the other end. While the chronology of the project may seem long (1982-1989), I doubt that any one of the team members could have done the whole job more quickly on her own.

I enjoyed my collaborative efforts and would willingly work with Gloria Fiero again. I learned from her expertise and I hope she learned from mine. My one suggestion when selecting a co-worker is to find one who shares your sense of humor, sense of deadlines, and sense of limits. That way, you can laugh and cry together, not at each other.

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WORKING TOGETHER WITH E-MAIL
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E-MAIL (Electronic Mail) is a way of communicating with scholars at other universities almost instantaneously. It is much quicker than the Postal Service (especially when communicating with other countries) or even Federal Express, yet it doesn't require the recipient to be in her/his office at the moment you call, as the phone does.

There are two main E-Mail networks used in the U.S. and Canada: BITNET and INTERNET. (There is also USENET for UNIX machines, which works in much the same way). They connect the mainframes at various universities to each other. There are "gateways" which make it possible to communicate with people at schools on another network. The main network in the U.K. is called JANET and it is also gatewayed to BITNET, and you can also reach scholars in other countries around the world.

To use E-Mail you must have an account on your school's mainframe (since E-Mail doesn't use much CPU time at all, these are usually very cheap, if not free), and you need a way of accessing that account—either by modem from home computer, by local network from your office, by using a terminal in the library, or whatever. When you get your account, ask someone at the computer center to tell you how to use BITNET or INTERNET; access protocols differ from one system to another.

Then all you have to do is send messages. You can either write notes from your mainframe account, or (especially if you want to send longer documents) you can write them on your PC in your normal word processor, and then upload them and send them. This is an ideal way to do collaborative work. You need to know the recipient's E-Mail

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