

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

Dr Helen Swift (St Hilda's College, Oxford), Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer

Dr Simon Horobin (Magdalen College, Oxford), Hon. Secretary

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), Monographs Editor

Mr Glyn Davies (Victoria & Albert Museum, London), elected on 19th May 2012

Prof. John Hines (Cardiff University)

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 26th January 2013. It is recommended to the Society at its Annual General Meeting on 18th May 2013.

The Report includes the Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2012, 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

ANNUAL REPORT

Overview of Activities in 2012

During the year under review, the Society continued to grow in size, in profile and in its support for medieval studies. The Society's Committee endorsed a five-year Strategy at the beginning of the year, which emphasised the need to consolidate SSMLL's activities around its core strengths. In line with this Strategy, the Society in 2012 consolidated its established activities, increasing the publication of monographs, events and funding for both research and conferences. This was done in testing financial circumstances which have, to date, been successfully weathered.

Membership

The Society saw the highest increase in its membership it has ever seen: the total recorded in the last Annual Report was 258; the equivalent figure for 2012 is 319. This reflects an increase of just under 24%. Of these members, 93 were graduates who received the discount of two years for the price of one (the equivalent number the previous year was 68). No library or society took up the offer of institutional membership in 2012 (at the established rate of £25 / \$48 / €35). The individual membership rate has remained remarkably low at £16.50 / \$35.50 / €21 (£16 / \$35 if joining by Standing Order); the consequence for the Society is that, in 2012, it made very little surplus on individual full membership dues, and, on graduate dues, a substantial (though acceptable) loss.

Journal

The eighty-first volume of *Medium Ævum* appeared in 2012 in its customary two issues, appearing in May and October. There was a change of production arrangements during the year, reflecting the fact that Oxbow Books has been subject to a takeover. First signs are that the new arrangements, which bring the production more 'in house' are proving both cheaper and more efficient.

The editorial team continued, without change: Prof.s Sylvia Huot, Nigel F. Palmer and Corinne Saunders, with Jackie Pritchard also continuing as Assistant Editor.

Subscriptions remained healthy, with an increase in the overall number, though this was a reflection of the increase in the Society's membership. In terms of commercial subscriptions, there was a net fall of 2.5%.

Monographs

During 2012, three monographs were published which provide a good reflection of the range of the Society's interests. The first to appear had 'MMXI' on its title-page, and came off the printing press in the first weeks of the calendar year. It was Brent A. Pitts edition of *Estoire de l'Évangile (Dublin, Christ Church Cathedral, MS. 6.1.1)*. The second to appear developed out of the first of the Society's day conferences: David Rundle ed., *Humanism in Fifteenth-Century Europe*. The third volume was Cornelia Linde's *How to Correct the Sacra Scriptura? Textual Criticism of the Bible between the Twelfth and Fifteenth Century*. All were produced in hardback, at a reasonable price and with 50% reduction for members of the Society.

The work of editing continued to be shouldered by Dr Anthony J. Lappin, with Dr Kenneth P. Clarke in support. However, at its last meeting of the year, and in line with its Strategy, the Society's Executive Committee decided to appoint a Monographs Sub-Committee to assist the work of the Monograph Editors. That Sub-Committee began working at the very end of the calendar year and we look forward to reporting on its development in the next Annual Report.

Support for Medieval Studies

There are two main ways in which the Society provides funds to support medieval studies.

The first is by its Travel Bursaries, which are awarded by competition with two rounds each year. This year, nine bursaries were offered, and eight offers accepted. The total money thus awarded is £2,700. Note that the total stated in the Annual Accounts is different as not all monies are paid out in the year they are awarded. The full list of Bursaries awarded in 2012 is as follows:

Name	Status	Subject	Purpose of grant
Brower, Susannah	school teacher with PhD	thirteenth-century commentaries on Ovid's <i>Ars Amatoria</i> and <i>Amores</i>	Research at the BL
Connolly, Margaret	Hon. Fellow, St Andrews	Fifteenth-century manuscripts owned by the Roberts of Middlesex in the sixteenth century	Research in Oxford
Depnering, Johannes	PhD student, Oxford	The transmission of moral and penitential sermons attributed to the Franciscan Berthold von Regensburg (ca. 1210-1272)	Research in Leipzig
Jordan, Alexandra	MRes. student, Leicester	Life of St Malo	Research in Rome
Mancia, Lauren	PhD student, Yale	John of Fécamp's Theory of Contemplation and the Origins of Devotion to a Suffering God	Research in Cambridge and Salisbury
Stevenson, Kath	Post-doctoral teaching assistant, QUB	Anglophone reading communities in late medieval Ireland	Research in Longleat and Oxford
Symons, Vicky	PhD student, UCL	Runes and roman letters in Old English literature	Research in Harvard
Hickey, Helen	Post-doctoral, Melbourne, Australia	<i>Madame Sainte-Larme</i> in Medieval and Early Modern England and France	Research in Oxford and France

The second means by which the Society assists medieval studies is by sponsorship of conferences and workshops. As can be seen from the accounts, in 2012, over £3,370 was provided in grants for this purpose, to events across the British Isles and Ireland. More detail of them can be found on the Society website.

Conferences and other Events

In addition to the sponsorship it provides for medievalists to organise their own conferences, the Society has developed its own calendar of events, and 2012 saw three new initiatives.

Chronologically, the first of these, which took place in Oxford in March, was the first 'Medievalists and Classicists in Conversation', a day colloquium intended to encourage the

different disciplines to share insights on a subject of mutual interest. The first topic was 'Epic', and over 25 people attended the event. It is testimony to its success that it was decided to repeat the format in 2013.

The second event was the Annual General Meeting which, for the first time, took on a new format. The Committee, keen to promote medieval studies around the country, wishes to see its AGM and Annual Lecture move each year and, for the first of these occasions, we were privileged to be hosted by our friends at the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Durham. The AGM was immediately followed by the Annual Lecture, given by Prof. Helen Cooper (University of Cambridge) and entitled 'The Ends of Story-telling'. It was very well attended and provoked a lively question session; it was followed by a brief launch of what was at that point the Society's latest monograph, *Humanism in Fifteenth-Century Europe*, and by a drinks reception.

Finally, in November, the first of a short series of workshops on 'The Mediterranean City', jointly supported by the Society and the British School at Rome, was hosted by Prof. Frances Andrews and the Institute for Medieval Studies at St Andrews. The theme was 'Space' and, as with the 'Conversation' earlier in the year, it proved an enjoyable and inspiring occasion. Reports of the discussion are available on the Society's website.

What did not occur within the twelve months was the next of the Society's one-day conferences. For organisational reasons, it was agreed to hold that on 16th February 2013 at Heythrop College, London on 'Exegesis, from East to West'. There will be a further one-day conference in the autumn in York, on 'Story-telling at Court and in the Cloister'.

Governance of the Society

As established by its Constitution, the Society's governing body is its Executive Committee, whose members are the Society's Trustees. It is required to meet at least twice a year, and, in 2012, it followed the established pattern of meeting on three occasions; as in 2011, 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. In particular, it reviewed the Society's Reserves Policy to ensure that its activities were both supported and sustainable. In addition, as mentioned in the first paragraph of this Report, the Committee drew up a five-year Strategy for the Society which was endorsed at its meeting in February 2012. A copy of that Strategy is appended to this report.

The Constitution provides for the election of members of the Executive Committee at the Society's Annual General Meeting. The term for an Ordinary Member of the Committee is five years, while the President is elected for three, with possible renewal for two further years. As Dr A. J. Lappin had served his first 36 months as President, he was duly nominated for and re-elected to that post at the AGM that took place on 19th May 2012. In addition, there was one vacancy on the Committee and Mr Glyn Davies (Victoria & Albert Museum) was elected as Ordinary Member.

The day-to-day running of the Society continued to be the duty of the Executive Officer, Dr David Rundle. In recognition of the increasing activity undertaken by the office, it was agreed to increase paid support by also having an Executive Assistant, who is Mr Karl Kinsella.

Financial Overview

The headline figure in the accounts shows a larger shortfall than in previous years, but one which reflects the aim of the Society's Trustees to decrease surpluses in a sustainable manner. Indeed, the accounts demonstrate a substantial increase in activity reflecting the Society's developing reputation as a promoter of medieval studies. The main source of funds continues to be the journal which, in fact, was more profitable in 2012 than it had been in the four previous years, an impressive achievement in the present financial climate. The vitality of the Society's monographs publication, meanwhile, resulted in a much higher return than has previously been seen. Equally, the substantial increase in the Society's membership saw a leap in the income from dues. The overall impact of these improvements in income would have been to have a minimal shortfall in 2012, if they had not been more than offset by the highest ever amount paid out in travel bursaries, as well as a significant increase from 2011 in support of conferences through sponsorship.

Outlook for 2013

The Committee's intention for 2013 is that it will continue its work of consolidation of its core activities in line with its Strategy. There is already a busy calendar of events arranged, both those organised by the Society itself and those sponsored by it. In addition, one major initiative that has long been in the development (and which was mentioned in the Annual Report for the previous year) is expected finally to be launched: the database of Theses in Medieval Studies.

In financial terms, the Committee will continue its policy of careful stewardship of the Society's monies, with a sustainable decrease in surplus used to fund its charitable activities. At the same time, the Committee feels that it is appropriate to propose a modest increase in membership dues in order to limit (but not alleviate) the loss made through the present rates regime. This will, of course, be decided by the membership of the Society at its AGM.

In short, the Committee looks forward to a year in which the Society's membership and profile, it is hoped, will continue to see steady growth, building on the successes of 2012.

STRATEGY 2012 – 2017

Adopted at the meeting of the Committee on 25th February 2012

1. The aim for the Society is to build on its reputation, becoming more widely acknowledged as a leading intellectual and practical support for medieval studies, ready to work in collaboration with like-minded learned societies and particularly concerned to protect and assist medieval studies where they are in a precarious position.
2. The Society will concentrate on consolidating its strengths in publications, events and grant-giving to maximise the support it can give to medieval studies.
3. The Society will develop its profile so it can better reach out across the medievalist community and will do this, in addition to its traditional methods, by working to increase its online presence, building on its website and e-bulletins.
4. The Society will look to increase its membership year on year by at least 10% each year.
5. The Society will seek to retain and, where possible, increase the commercial subscriptions to the journal, with the aspiration that they should be no lower than 55% of the overall subscriber base.
6. The Society will investigate a policy of fund-raising to support specific elements of its established activities.
7. The Society will expand the number of joint-funded ventures in which it participates with like-minded organisations.
8. The Society recognises the need to support its activity through an Executive Officer, supplemented where appropriate with other paid assistance.
9. The Society will look to delegate some projects from the Executive Committee to sub-committees whose membership will be drawn from the membership of the Society.
10. The Executive Committee will review annually the Society's performance against its Strategy and, in the penultimate year of the life-cycle of this Strategy, establish a method of validation of its performance.

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

<http://mediumaevum.modhist.ox.ac.uk>

ssmll@history.ox.ac.uk

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for CALENDAR YEAR 2012

Summary of Accounts	2012 £	2011 £
Balance by Activity		
<i>Medium Aevum</i>	£10,634.20	£8,642.47
Monographs	£2,784.07	£465.65
Conferences and Events	-£4,469.67	-£2,540.71
Society	-£14,200.41	-£10,599.14
Interest	£1,472.18	£1,253.78
Impact on Reserves	<u>-£3,779.63</u>	<u>-£2,777.95</u>
Accumulated funds		
Carried forward	£143,590.38	£146,358.83
Surplus for year	-£3,779.63	-£2,777.95
Post-accounts alteration		£9.50
Total to carry forward	<u>£139,810.75</u>	<u>£143,590.38</u>
Represented by:		
National Savings Income Bond	£50,000.00	£50,000.00
National Savings Investment (designated fund):	£81,562.75	£81,095.12
At Bank	£8,248.00	£12,485.76
Post-accounts alteration		£9.50
	<u>£139,810.75</u>	<u>£143,590.38</u>
		Note: uncashed cheque
Individual Activities		
<i>Medium Aevum</i>		
Receipts		
Subscriptions to <i>MÆ</i>	£17,711.36	£17,786.43
Sales of back copies	£172.69	
Electronic Royalties	£3,671.43	£3,753.04
Adverts and Permissions	£715.87	
Total	<u>£22,271.35</u>	<u>£21,539.47</u>
Payments		
Production	-£7,627.61	-£8,255.09
Postage	-£869.54	-£901.91
Assistant Editor	-£3,140.00	-£3,120.00
Editorial help		-£620.00
Total	<u>-£11,637.15</u>	<u>-£12,897.00</u>
Surplus	<u>£10,634.20</u>	<u>£8,642.47</u>

	2012	2011
	£	£
Monographs		
Receipts		
Sales	<u>£5,470.01</u>	<u>£1,836.61</u>
Total	<u>£5,470.01</u>	<u>£1,836.61</u>
Payments		
Readers	-£75.00	
Postage / Production Costs	<u>-£2,610.94</u>	<u>-£1,370.96</u>
Total	<u>-£2,685.94</u>	<u>-£1,370.96</u>
Surplus	<u>£2,784.07</u>	<u>£465.65</u>
Conferences and Events		
Payments		
Sponsorship of Events	-£3,370.22	-£1,500.00
Graduate Conference	-£388.92	-£309.77
Net Cost of Bibles Conference		-£730.94
Net Cost of 'Epic' Workshop	-£360.97	
Net Cost of Mediterranean City Event	-£153.86	
AGM and other events	-£195.70	
Total	<u>-£4,469.67</u>	<u>-£2,540.71</u>
Surplus	<u>-£4,469.67</u>	<u>-£2,540.71</u>
Society		
Receipts		
Membership	<u>£4,609.64</u>	<u>£3,748.02</u>
Total	<u>£4,609.64</u>	<u>£3,748.02</u>
Payments		
Expenses to Trustees	-£576.77	-£534.02
Executive Officer & Executive Assistant	-£9,747.24	-£7,310.00
Office Costs	-£4,714.04	-£3,983.54
Essay prize	-£250.00	-£250.00
Publicity		-£439.60
Travel Bursaries	<u>-£3,522.00</u>	<u>-£1,830.00</u>
Total	<u>-£18,810.05</u>	<u>-£14,347.16</u>
Surplus	<u>-£14,200.41</u>	<u>-£10,599.14</u>