

The Medieval Studies Program at the University of Connecticut and the Center for Professional Development present the fourth annual Medieval Studies Secondary Schools Outreach Seminar

## **MEDIEVAL EUROPE AND THE VIKINGS**

A One-Day Seminar for Middle and High School Teachers of History, English and the Social Sciences on Friday, **March 30, 2001** (with Connecticut Department of Education CEUs Available)

### **Location:**

Student Union Building  
Room 382  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut

### **Intent and Description:**

“From the savage nation of the Northmen, which lays waste our realm, deliver us, O God.” So runs a prayer in a ninth-century liturgical book, one of the clerical sources for what has become the popular image of the Vikings as plunderers bent upon destruction. Yet the 300-year period spanned by their invasions and migrations was also the era in which the foundations were laid for high medieval civilization. This seminar is designed to assist public school teachers in teaching the history of the Vikings, an important topic in the history and culture of the Middle Ages. The Medieval Studies faculty speakers for this outreach conference represent the disciplines of History, English, and Modern and Classical Languages and Literature. They will present papers that discuss various aspects of the Vikings, their history, their impact on Western culture, and what one historian has recently called their continuing “allure.”

The Medieval Studies faculty believes that an outreach to secondary school teachers is an essential part of the mission of the University of Connecticut, and that public school and university educators will benefit from the opportunity to meet and discuss ways of teaching the Middle Ages. Additionally, the faculty of the Medieval Studies program wishes to foster understanding of the history and culture of the Middle Ages, the formative age of European history and, therefore, a fundamental root of our modern western societies.

### **Faculty Speakers:**

**Benjamin Liu** is Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Connecticut. He teaches Spanish language and literature, with an emphasis on the literatures of the medieval Peninsula. His current research focusses on interfaith relations, with recent publications addressing such themes as interfaith sexualities and cross-cultural language learning in 13<sup>th</sup>-century Spain.

**Robert Hasenfratz** is an Associate Professor of English and is Co-Director of the Medieval Studies Program at the University of Connecticut. His concentration is in old and early Middle English texts. He recently finished an edition of the “Ancrene Wisse”, an early 13<sup>th</sup>-century spiritual guide written originally for three women, and currently is working with Professor Jambeck on a textbook, “Reading Old English.” In addition, he will begin offering an introduction to Old Norse from the spring semester.

**Sherri Olson** is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. Her field is late medieval history with a special focus on English village communities. She is currently working on a collection of articles that use court records to explore self-government, popular culture and memory in peasant communities.

**Thomas Jambeck** is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Connecticut. He is the Co-Director of the Medieval Studies Program. His areas of interest are the history of the English Language and medieval English drama. He is currently working with Professor Hasenfratz on a grammar/reader of Old English entitled “Reading Old English.”

### **Seminar Program**

9:00 Registration and Coffee (Room 382, Student Union Building)

Please Note!

Period music will be provided during registration by the Storrs *Collegium Musicum*  
Bruce Bellingham, Director

9:45 Welcoming Remarks

Sherri Olson

Faculty Organizer, Medieval Studies Outreach

10:00 Benjamin Liu

“Vikings and Muslims”

10:30 Robert Hasenfratz

“Some Approaches to Teaching Old Norse Literature”

11:00 Break

11:15 Sherri Olson

“The Fury of the Northmen: A Clerical Myth?”

11:45 Morning wrap-up

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Thomas Jambeck

“The Vikings and the English Language”

2:00 Question and answer session and discussion with audience

2:45 Closing Remarks

*The Medieval Studies program* at the University of Connecticut offers coursework leading to the interdisciplinary degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Medieval Studies. The Departments of Art, Dramatic Arts, English, History, Modern and Classical Languages, Music, and Philosophy cooperate in the program.