

[CMRS] October Newsletter

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## October Newsletter

### Medieval Islam Specialists Return to SLU for the Fall Semester



Two of the world's most distinguished scholars in the history, art, and architecture of the medieval Islamic world are returning to Saint Louis University this month and will be in residence for the remainder of the Fall semester. **Carole Hillenbrand** and **Robert Hillenbrand**, both of the University of St Andrews and the University of Edinburgh, will be NEH Research Fellows in the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and will be conducting research in the Pius XII Library and its Special Collections.

"There are few institutions in the world that can match Saint Louis University for its wealth of research materials and its extraordinary reservoirs of talent in the fields of medieval and early modern studies," remarked Professor Carole Hillenbrand. "It is a great pleasure to return as NEH Research Fellows. We particularly enjoy working with the world-class graduate students at SLU and

look forward to meeting many new ones and learning of their research."

In 2005 Carole Hillenbrand was the first non-Muslim to be awarded the King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies in Saudi Arabia. In 2009 **Queen Elizabeth II** appointed her Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Most recently, in 2016, the British Academy awarded her the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Corresponding Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. She is the author of numerous books and studies, including *Islam: A New Historical Introduction*, *Turkish Myth and Muslim Symbol: The Battle of Manzikert*, and *The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives*. Robert Hillenbrand is the preeminent authority in the world on medieval Islamic art and architecture. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and the author of hundreds of studies, including most recently *Ayyubid Jerusalem: The Holy City in Context* and *Islamic Art and Architecture*. In 2019 both scholars were jointly awarded the Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

In addition to conducting research and working with faculty and students, Carole and Robert Hillenbrand have agreed to jointly deliver the **2019 Center for Medieval and Renaissance Annual Lecture**. This is something they have done only once before at the New York Metropolitan Art Museum. The title of the lecture will be "The Great Age of the Seljuq Turks: History and Art." It will take place on **Friday, November 1 at 3:30 pm** in the Pere Marquette Gallery. A reception will follow.

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## **New Gift to the CMRS Provides Funding for Doctoral Students in Crusade Studies**

It seems fitting that Saint Louis University, named for a medieval crusader, would be one of the world's premier institutions for the advanced study of the crusades and the medieval Middle East. [The Crusade Studies Forum](#), housed at SLU, and with start-up fund from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is the longest running forum for the presentation and analysis of new research in this vibrant field. SLU is also home to the quadrennial [International Symposium on Crusade Studies](#), which met most recently in 2018.



In recognition of this excellence, the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, a genealogical society, has donated funds to establish an annual grant of \$3000 to support the research of a doctoral student at SLU examining any aspect of the crusading movement. The first recipient of the Crusade Studies Award is **Thomas Morin** of the Department of History, who just returned from Israel, where he took part in archaeological excavations at the Teutonic Knight castle of Montfort. He will use the funds to support his research on the medieval County of Tripoli.

The next round of applications for the Crusade Studies Award will open in April 2020 and awards will be made in June. For more information, stop by the CMRS office or email [cmrs@slu.edu](mailto:cmrs@slu.edu).

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## Special Thanks to All of Our Donors!

We don't say it often enough, but we are grateful to all of the members of the **Friends of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies** who make regular contributions to support the activities and funds of the CMRS. Many make small donations, others larger ones. But all of our Friends help us to continue the important work of the Center

We are particularly grateful for a recent gift of \$5000 from **Barbara Newman** and **Richard Kieckhefer**. If those names sound familiar, they should. Dr. Newman is Professor of English, Religious Studies, and Classics at Northwestern University. A past president of the Medieval Academy of America, Dr. Newman has published well over a dozen books, including most recently *Medieval Crossover: Reading the Secular against the Sacred*. Dr. Kieckhefer is Professor of History and Religious Studies at Northwestern University and author of six books, including most recently *Forbidden Rites: A Necromancer's Manual of the Fifteenth Century*. Both of these scholars have given lectures at SLU and Dr. Kieckhefer received his BA here. To have such generous regular support from distinguished scholars like these is a genuine honor, and a testament to the excellence of our faculty and students at SLU across the departments. Thank you!



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## **NEH Research Fellow to Deliver Lecture on Current Research**

The current National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellow, **Pier V. Aimone** of the Pontifical University Urbaniana in Rome, will deliver a lecture on the subject of his research in the Pius XII Library Special Collections.

The title of the lecture will be "The Library of Cardinal Capranica and its Juridical Works (MS Vat. Lat. 8184). It will take place on Friday October 4 at 3:15 pm in Adorjan Hall 142. A reception will follow.

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## **Other Events at the Center in October**

- The Pre-Modern Seminar will meet on Friday, October 11 at 3:00 pm with a public lecture by Kathleen Walkowiak entitled, "Established Upon the Capitoline for the Sake of Justice: The Senate and People of Rome in the Twelfth Century." The lecture will take place in Adorjan Hall 142.
- The Crusades Studies Forum will meet on Friday, October 18 to discuss the article: Alan V. Murray, "Warriors and Civilians in the Crusade Movement. Military Identities and Status in the Liberation and Defence of the Holy Land." The discussion will take place at 3:00 pm in Adorjan Hall 342.

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