
Medica

The Society for the Study of Healing in the Middle Ages Newsletter Spring 2005



Greetings to All Members and Friends of Medica, The Society for the Study of Healing in the Middle Ages.

We are now in our seventh year and headed into a new chapter. We were represented this year at the Medieval Academy meeting in Miami, and we are about to begin a big push for our on-line journal. As always, we invite your participation.

Medica's purpose is to establish and maintain a friendly network of scholars interested in the varieties of healing in the Middle Ages. We are now regulars at Kalamazoo and are planning for more sessions at Leeds and the Medieval Academy. We also maintain a website and listserve. We are continuing in our attempt to get our on-line journal, which is called, of course, *Medica*, up and running.



If you have items to add for the next issue, please contact one of the officers.

Contact Information

President
Bryon Grigsby
Centenary College
grigsbyb@centenarycollege.edu

Vice-President (President-Elect)
Carol Everest
The King's University College
ceverest@KingsU.ab.ca

Secretary/Treasurer
Gerard NeCastro
University of Maine at Machias
necastro@maine.edu

Web Sites

<http://www.umm.maine.edu/medica>
<http://faculty.centenarycollege.edu/medica/>

Medica Listserve

medica@lists.maine.edu
Contact Gerard NeCastro

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**Thirty-Eighth International Congress
on Medieval Studies
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan, 4-8 May 2005**

Medica will sponsor two sessions at Kalamazoo this year as well as our annual business meeting and luncheon.

Also, please see related sessions listed on the following pages.

Medica Sessions



**Thursday, May 5, 12:00 noon
Luncheon and Business Meeting
Medica:
Society for the Study of Healing
in the Middle Ages
Bernhard Center, President's Dining Room
Cost: \$9**



**Friday, May 5, 10:00
Session 236
Sangren 2304**

Focus on Fluids I: Examining Blood and Tears

**Organizer: Candace Robb, Independent Scholar
President: Candace Robb**

**The Secrets of the Blood
Bettina Bildhauer, Univ. of St. Andrews**

**Blood and Fellowship in Sir Thomas Malory's
Morte Darthur
Christina M. Francis, Arizona State Univ.**

**Healing Tears
Carol A. Everest, King's Univ. College**



It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

W. C. Williams



**Friday, May 5, 1:30
Session 300
Sangren
2302**

Focus on Fluids II: Analyzing Urine

**Organizer: Linda Migl Keyser, Georgetown Univ.
President: Linda Migl Keyser**

**The Doom of Urines: A Middle English Uroscopic
Anthology
M. Teresa Tavormina, Michigan State Univ.**

**Urine, Pharmacists, and Beasts in Fifteenth-
Century Germany
Marian E. Polhill, Univ. de Puerto Rico-Recinto
de Rio Piedras**

**Amorous Humors, Humorous Amours, or, Urine
Love
Lora Sigler, California State Univ.-Long Beach**

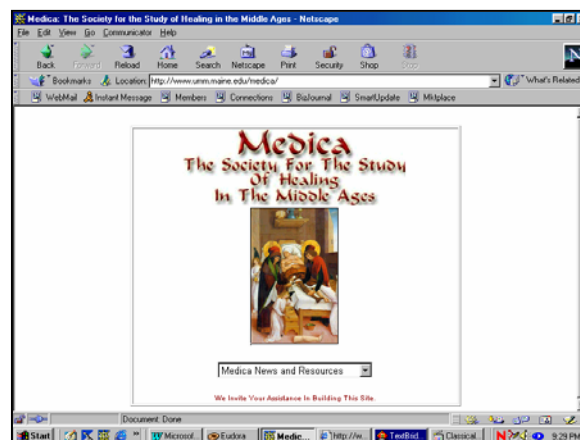


**Sessions for 2006
Medieval Congress
& Other Conferences**

**Please Feel Free To Suggest Other Topics,
Either at the Business Meeting or Any Other Time
You Think of Them**



Medica Web Site



<http://www.umm.maine.edu/medica>

Other Sessions of Interest

Sadly enough, the majority of these are at times competing with Medica sessions.



**Friday, May 6, 10:00
Session 211
The Perception and Treatment of
Madness in Late Medieval England
Schneider 1245**

**Sponsor: Texas Medieval Association
Organizer: Donald J. Kagay, Albany State Univ.
Presider: Donald J. Kagay**

**Women and Mental Anguish in Confessional
Exempla
Beth Allison Barr, Baylor Univ.**

**Madness in The Book of Margery Kempe
Julie Chappell, Tarleton State Univ.**

**Alchemy, Medicine, Administration, and Madness
Surrounding the Illness of Henry VI of England
Wendy J. Turner, Augusta State Univ.**



Briefly Noted

**Only papers of related materials are included.
Full listings of the sessions, of course, are in the
official program.**

Thursday, May 5, 10:00

**Session 58
Hagiography: The Margins
Sangren 3311**

**Corrector et medicus of Burchard of Worms
K. A. Laity, Univ. of Houston**



**Thursday, May 5, 11:30
Session 151
Early Celtic Magic and Ritual
Schneider 1225**

**Irish Healing Magic: The Role of the Occult in the
Formation of Early Irish Christianity
Silas J. Mallery, Univ. of Minnesota–Twin Cities**



**Friday, May 6, 10:00
Session 188
Scientia Politica in the Late Middle Ages:
Studies on Kingship and Tyranny
Valley II 207**

**Tryanny as Disease: Medicine and the Organic
Analogy in Late Medieval Political Discourse
Takashi Shogimen, Univ. of Otago**



**Friday, May 6, 10:00
East versus West: Warrior Saints
Session 186
Valley II 202**

**Holy Healer or Soldier Saint: Hagiography of St.
Michael in the East and West
Richard F. Johnson, William Rainey Harper
College**

**Friday, May 6, 1:30
New Perspectives on Islamic Spain IV:
Islamic Science and Theology in al-Andalus
Session 240
Valley III 302**

**New Trends in the History of Medieval Islamic
Medicine**

**Sunday, May 8, 10:30
Session 588
Miracles and Magic in Politics and Propaganda
Valley III Stinson Lounge**

**Melting the Snow: Viking Heritage and Healing
Relics in Royal and Episcopal Propaganda
Elizabeth Walen Walunas, Univ. of Houston**

**Sunday, May 8, 10:30
Conversing with the Minority: Relations among
Christian, Jewish, and Muslim
Women (A Roundtable Discussion)
Session 621
Bernhard 211**

**The Shared Experience of Jewish and Christian
Women Interpreted from the Practical Literature
on Women's Healthcare
Carmen Caballero-Navas, Univ. de Granada**



Medica News

This spring, for the first time, Medica was able to present a session at the Medieval Academy Conference. The session was organized by Louise M Bishop of Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon, with the assistance of Linda Keyser of Georgetown University and our President Bryon Grigsby.

All reports say that the session went very well.



Medica at The Medieval Academy Miami, 2005

The Theory of Disease

Linda Ehlsam Voigts
Curators' Professor Emerita, Department of
English, University of Missouri-Kansas City

- Explaining Brain Function (and Dysfunction) in Late-Medieval Texts

M. Teresa Tavormina
Professor of English, Michigan State University

- The Seeing of Waters: Diagnostic Taxonomies in Middle English Uroscopy Treatises

Alain Touwaide
Research Associate, Department of Botany,
Smithsonian Institution

- Etiology in Byzantium or the debate between physiology and theology



Publications

2004-05 Publications

Benedictow, Ole Jørgen *The Black Death, 1346-1353: The Complete History*. Woodbridge, Suffolk. Rochester, NY: Boydell Press, 2004.

Citrome, Jeremy. *The Surgeon in Medieval English Literature*. New Middle Ages Series. Palgrave, 2005.

Bullough, Vern L. *Universities, Medicine and Science in the Medieval West* Aldershot and Burlington: Ashgate Publishing, 2004

Byrne, Joseph Patrick. *The Black Death*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2004

Caballero-Navas, Carmen, ed. and trans. *The Book of Women's Love and Jewish Medieval Medical Literature on Women*. London ; New York: Kegan Paul ; New York: Distributed by Columbia University Press, 2004

Grigsby, Bryon Lee. *Pestilence in Medieval and Early Modern English Literature*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Mitchell, Piers D. *Medicine in the Crusades: Warfare, Wounds, and the Medieval Surgeon*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Montford, Angela. *Health, Sickness, Medicine and the Friars in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries*. The History of Medicine in Context. Aldershot and Burlington: Ashgate, 2004

Siraisi, Nancy G. The Fielding H. Garrison Lecture: "Medicine and the Renaissance World of Learning." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* Volume 78, Number 1, Spring 2004

Taavitsainen, Irma and Päivi Pahta, eds. *Medical and scientific writing in late medieval English*. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

What Did We Miss?

Surely we missed something. If you notice publications we miss (of yours or someone else, or if you spot something new, please send a quick note to Gerard NeCastro at necastro@maine.edu.

**International Medieval Congress
11-14 July 2005
Leeds, UK
An Interdisciplinary Conference Covering All
Aspects of the European
Middle Ages
Special thematic Strand: Youth and Age
Contact: IMC@Leeds.ac.uk
www.leeds.ac.uk/ims**

The annual International Medieval Congress in Leeds is the largest medieval conference in Europe. Hosting over 1300 medievalists from over 40 countries across the globe, it provides a unique forum for interdisciplinary discussion and the dissemination of new ideas concerning the Middle Ages.

This year's special thematic strand, Youth and Age, has generated an enthusiastic response from scholars around the world. The programme features over 100 sessions devoted to various aspects of youth and age, including burial practices, virginity, chastity and sexuality, medicine, demographics, retirement and inheritance, and social status. Discussion and events at the IMC will not be limited to this theme: in total there are more than 300 sessions dealing with all aspects of the European Middle Ages including daily life, science and technology and culture and society. Apart from the academic sessions the IMC is also host to a series of workshops, round table discussions, business meetings and receptions.

One of the highlights of the IMC is its series of special lectures. This year, Christiane Klapisch-Zuber of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, will present the keynote lecture 'The Training of Artists' Apprentices: The Master-Pupil Relationship in Quattrocento Italy'. The Medieval Academy of America returns to the IMC for its annual lecture, 'When Norse Was Hip: Superficial Reflections on Anglo-Scandinavian England', presented by Roberta Frank of Yale University. Neil McGregor, director of the British Museum, will present a special lecture entitled 'The Middle Ages for the Modern World - Presenting Medieval Collections'. There will also be a roundtable discussion entitled 'Medieval Studies Within Higher Education - Where do We Go from Here?' focussing on the role of medieval studies within British Higher Education, its perception in society as a whole and its prospects for the future.

The academic content of the programme is complemented by an extensive book fair, featuring most of the leading publishers in medieval studies, providing delegates with the opportunity to browse through the latest publications and meet with publishers. We also offer a wide range of excursions to sites of medieval interest, including, among others, York, Beverley Minster and the surrounding town, Rievaulx Abbey, Towneley, Jarrow and Wearmouth, and behind the scenes trips to the Royal Armouries and Bede's World.

This year's events include performances of 'Death, or the Maiden - Concert with Marionettes', 'The Garden of Earthly Delights - A late medieval music concert', and a performance of the St Andrews Lady Mass. Furthermore, we will host a tasting of medieval food, prepared by Caroline Yeldham and Sally Grainger, as well as a workshop in medieval dance with the Arbeau Dancers. For the first time in 2005, the IMC, working together with NEEMF, the North East Early Music Forum, is sponsoring a medieval music workshop which will take place on Sunday, 10 July. And of course, a range of evening receptions and the end of congress dance offer delegates the chance to relax, make new contacts, and catch up with old friends.

Full details of the programme and booking information may be found online at:
<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/>

Or by contacting:
International Medieval Congress
Parkinson Building, Room 1.03
University of Leeds
LEEDS LS2 9JT U.K.

24-hour Telephone: +44 (113) 343-3614
Fax: +44 (113) 343-3616
E-mail: imc@leeds.ac.uk



Calls for Papers

Society For The Social History Of Medicine 2005 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) invites submissions to its 2005 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSHM's assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar.

The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded £500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*.

Further details and entry forms can be down-loaded from the SSHM's website <http://www.sshm.org>

David Cantor
Division of Cancer Prevention
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza North, Suite 2025
6130 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda MD 20892-7309 U.S.A.

Email: competition@sshm.org
The deadline for entries is: 31 December 2005

Graduate Student Award?

Various members of Medica ve long talked about the possibility of giving a prize or travel grant to graduate students who present papers in Medica sessions at Kalamazoo.

What do you think about this possibility? What would the criteria be? How would we go about judging?

As you can see, this is one of our topics under New Business. Any thoughts?



New Medica Officers

As you will learn in the business meeting, we are preparing for elections of officers. We will take nominations at this year's meeting, and we will likely wait for a sufficient period for nominations to cease.

More details will be available at the time of the meeting. At this time we may also think creatively about our governance structure.

This notice, however, is to ask you to think about the possibility of serving as an officer. There are many able people in this organization, and we want to see as many involved as possible.



40th Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine

The 40th Congress of the International Society for the History of Medicine (ISHM) in 2006 will be hosted by The Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Society for History of Medicine.

Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and modern medicine in its broadest sense, included history of medical education and of social medicine. Scholars from all areas and disciplines are welcome.

See the website at <http://www.ishm2006.hu>

Main Topics

History of medical education and medical schools
History of education of pharmacy at medical universities
History of social medicine
Influence of Hungary and of Central Europe upon the development of medicine
Varia

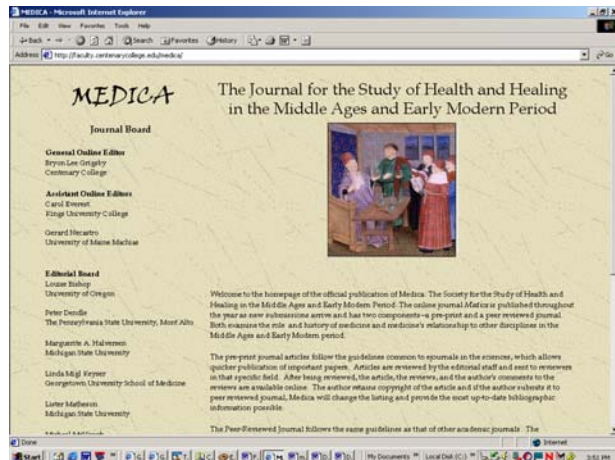
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Office for International Cooperation
Ms Klara Papp
1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 7.
Hungary

E-mail: info@ishm2006.hu
Tel: 36-1-327-3000/2538
Fax: 36-1-411-6370

Publishing Opportunities

Medica: The Journal for the Study of Health and Healing in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period

Our Journal is up and running. Please visit us at
<http://faculty.centenarycollege.edu/medica/>



Our Original and Ongoing Call for Papers.

Submissions may be on any subject matter of medieval medicine, health, or healing as well as the interrelationships between disciplines, such as medieval medicine and literature, law, politics, or religion. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts either via email as Microsoft Word attachments or via U.S. mail on disk. Endnotes should appear in a separate file from the text, and the author should also include a vita. If submitting manuscripts on disk, the author should include a SASE for the return of the disk. Manuscripts can be either emailed or mailed to:

Bryon Grigsby, President of Medica
English Department
Centenary College
400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Email: grigsbyb@centenarycollege.edu

Most manuscripts should be between 15 and 30 pages in length. Manuscripts should follow the MLA Handbook, 5th edition. The author's name, address, phone number, email, and institutional affiliation should only appear on the title page, and all other references to the author should be omitted so that the manuscript can be reviewed anonymously. Medica accepts only unpublished works that are not under review at other journals.

Journal of Medical Humanities

Journal of Medical Humanities is seeking manuscripts that reflect its enlarged focus on interdisciplinary inquiry in medicine and medical education.

Manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Medical Humanities undergo a blind review by members of the editorial board. We prefer an electronic copy of the manuscript but will also accept four printed copies of the manuscript (the original and three copies) sent to:

Therese Jones, Ph.D.
Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, MSC 7730
San Antonio TX 78229-3900

e-mail: jonest2@uthscsa.edu
telephone: 210.567.0810
fax: 210.567.0805

Bulletin of the History of Medicine

The leading journal in its field for more than three quarters of a century, the Bulletin is the official publication of the American Association for the History of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Institute of the History of Medicine. Each issue spans the social, cultural, and scientific aspects of the history of medicine worldwide and includes reviews of recent books on medical history.

The journal publishes articles spanning the social, cultural, and scientific aspects of the history of medicine worldwide. Articles are based on historical research in primary sources that allow the author to make interpretations and to place the story in historical context. Articles should not exceed 10,000 words of text.

Submissions should be addressed to:
The Editors
Bulletin of the History of Medicine
1900 East Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205
USA
Tel.: 410-955-3179
FAX: 410-502-6819
e-mail: bhm@jhmi.edu
http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/bulletin_of_the_history_of_medicine/index.html

**Business Meeting and Luncheon
Thursday, Noon
Bernhard President's
Dining Room**

Lunch is usually a selection of sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, cookies and drinks (soft drinks).
Cost: \$9.00.

If you have not already done so, please email Gerard NeCastro at necastro@maine.edu to save a space at the table. They serve us boxed lunches, so there will be a limited number of lunches. Whether you wish to eat lunch or not, please join us.

**Business Meeting
Agenda**

- I. Announcements
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Reports on 2004-05 Activities
- IV. New Business
 - A. Kalamazoo 2006
 - B. Leeds 2006
 - C. Medieval Academy 2006
 - C. Medica: The Journal for the Study of Health and Healing in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period
 - D. Officer Nomination Process
 - E. Committee Membership
 - F. Graduate Student Prize
 - G. Other
- V. Adjournment

Planning For Next Year

If you would like to propose a session for Kalamazoo or Leeds next year, please do.

If your session is accepted, you will automatically be the organizer and chair of the session (unless other arrangements are made). Your first step is to write a short rationale for the secretary to submit to the Medieval Congress organizers.

If your session is not accepted, we will gladly revisit it the following year.

The Medica Listserv

The good news is that the Medica Listserv is up and running again. The bad news is that not everyone has been re-added. If you have not received any messages lately, you are not on the listserv.

Whether you are a new member or old, if you want to be added to the listserv, please follow the instructions below. If all else fails, simply email Gerard NeCastro at necastro@maine.edu.

Medica's Listserv is operated via the University of Maine at Machias.

To subscribe to Medica, please send a message to listserv@lists.maine.edu. The message you send should read "subscribe medica firstname lastname". Of course, do not include the quotation marks, and you should include your own first and last names. There is no need to include anything in the subject heading.

Within forty-eight hours you will receive a confirmation that you have been added to the list, and you will be free to communicate with others in the group.

Important: When writing to other members on the list, please be sure to mail your messages to medica@lists.maine.edu. To send a message to the list owner (if you need to change anything about your subscription), please send a message to listserv@lists.maine.edu.

Other History of Medicine Listserves

Though Medica seems to be the only listserv dedicated solely to Medieval (and Early Modern) medicine, there are several others dedicated to the history of medicine in general.

CADUCEUS History of Medicine Mailing List

To subscribe, send an email to ListProc@list.umaryland.edu with the command: "SUBSCRIBE CADUCEUS-L Firstname Lastname" (without the quotes) in the body of the email.

The Medieval Science List

You may subscribe by sending the message: "SUBSCRIBE" to medsci@kant.ch.umkc.edu.

History of Science: Med-Tech List

To join, send the following message to listserv@h-net.msu.edu:
subscribe name institution

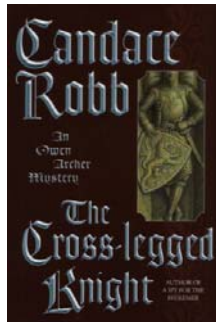
Medica Profile Candace Robb

Candace Robb, a member of Medica, is the author of the Owen Archer Mysteries set in 14th century York, which have won critical acclaim in the US, England, and throughout Europe. Publisher's Weekly has said: "Robb is uncommonly good at period atmosphere, immersing the reader in the everyday horrors of the plague." She is presently at work on the ninth book of the series, *The Guilt of Innocents*, and she has begun a second series called the Margaret Kerr Mysteries, the first two titles of which are *The Fire in the Flint* and *A Cruel Courtship*.

In her Owen Archer Mysteries, she has needed to know her medieval medicine and healing in order to create two very credible recurring characters, an apothecary, Lucie Wilton, and a midwife/healer, Magda Digby. In the few paragraphs below, she reflects on her work and challenges in creating them.

Midwives and Healers

Magda Digby, the Riverwoman, is one of my greatest challenges. I should have



known she would have a mind of her own when she sprung to life with startling clarity in the last draught of *The Apothecary Rose*. It was not until that final revision that I expanded Magda's role from a brief scene in which Owen meets her in the grave yard to the major part she plays in the book. Yet I clearly saw the odd house in which she

lives, her multihued clothing, her white braids, her petite yet strong figure. And I knew she represented for me the history of York, the city's incarnations as a Roman city, an Anglo-Saxon city, a Norse city, and finally the medieval English city of the series. I also knew from the start that she would always speak of herself in the third person and that she would use the old forms thee and thou.

Magda has her own spiritual moorings, finding Christianity a lot of unnecessary fuss. She also has her own theories about healing and her own recipes for physicks. Now and then I use an actual recipe, such as the dwale? that she mixes for Pains in *The Cross-legged Knight*. But as I imagine her she would cut to the quick of a recipe, deciding what worked and what was superfluous, and often concocting her own. This makes life challenging.

I knew when I began *The Cross-legged Knight* that I needed help in describing the victims of the fire early in the book. I was about to disappear into the library

when I thought of my brother-in-law, who has worked in research at a pediatric hospital for burns victims for years and has lectured internationally. He guided me through the decisions I needed to make about how long the victims had been in the fire, what sort of fire it was, where they had been lying. He explained the various degrees of burns, how they look and smell, and suggested what Magda would need in order to heal them. She needed alcohol and tea—the latter for the tannin. In fourteenth century England Magda would have no tea, so I had to find alternative plants from which Magda could get sufficient tannic acid. This dovetailed with the leather-making research I was doing for the book—an unpleasant reality. Ed enjoyed working with me and can't wait to read the entire book—he read the crucial passages to check that I'd put it all together plausibly. Some interesting details I didn't have the space to use were that leeches were used in skin grafting procedures for burns—he believed that Magda would have the knowledge to do this. The ancient Egyptians used ants to suture wounds. I won't go into the details!

But I digress from Magda Digby. In rereading this book I noticed that I have a midwife and a would-be apprentice in Magda's wake. One of the central characters is Cisotta, a young midwife of whom Magda disapproves, thinking she relies too much on charms rather than sound knowledge of healing. Cisotta also treats her healing as a business, charging what the market will support. Her ambition has made her enemies among her fellow midwives. Magda Digby's reputation has been built on her skill, and what little she has is shared with the poor who live outside the walls of York. Alisoun Ffulford, whom many of you will remember from *The Riddle of St Leonard's*, returns in this book as a potential apprentice to Magda. She is being tested in Lucie and Owen's house, as nursemaid to the children. I brought the difficult young woman back because I want to further explore the dynamics between Magda and Alisoun (and Owen and Alisoun). You'll see more of this in the next Owen Archer.

Alas, Magda's island cannot be seen in the Ouse, which is no longer tidal. We can only wonder whether it was ever there.

The Owen Archer Mystery Series

The Apothecary Rose (1993)
The Lady Chapel (1994)
The Nun's Tale (1995)
The King's Bishop (1996)
The Riddle of St. Leonard's (1997)
A Gift of Sanctuary (1998)
A Spy for the Redeemer (2002)
The Cross-Legged Knight (2002)
The Guilt of Innocents (2006?)

MEDICA
The Society For The Study Of Healing In The Middle Ages
Membership Form

Medica, The Society For The Study Of Healing In The Middle Ages, invites you to become a member or to renew your membership. The dues are \$20 per year for tenured or tenure-track faculty. The dues for students, retired professors, and part-time faculty are \$10 per year. You may pay ahead if you like. Membership runs from January to December.

If you are a new member or have new information, please fill in all the items below. If you are a renewing member with all the same information, please simply fill in items 1, 13, and 14.

1. Name _____

2. Mailing Address _____

3. City _____ 4. State/Province _____

5. Area Code _____ 6. Country _____

7. E-Mail _____

8. Affiliation (if not noted above) _____

9. Office Phone _____

10. Home Phone (optional) _____

11. Fax _____

12. Areas of Interest: _____

13. If you do not already part of it, would you like to be added to the Medica listserve? (The Medica listserve is a rather quiet listserve, but is helpful at least a couple weeks each year.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Medica sometimes is asked by non-profit/scholarly organizations for a list of its members and friends. Would you like to be included on such mailings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please send this sheet with your updated information (if applicable) to:

Gerard NeCastro
Department of English
9 O'Brien Avenue
University of Maine at Machias
Machias, ME 04654

Please make checks payable in US Dollars. (For those outside the US, it may be easiest to pay at the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo at our yearly business meeting. If this is your preference, but would like to be on our mailing list, simply return this form indicating such.)

If you know anyone else who might be interested in joining, please pass this information along

