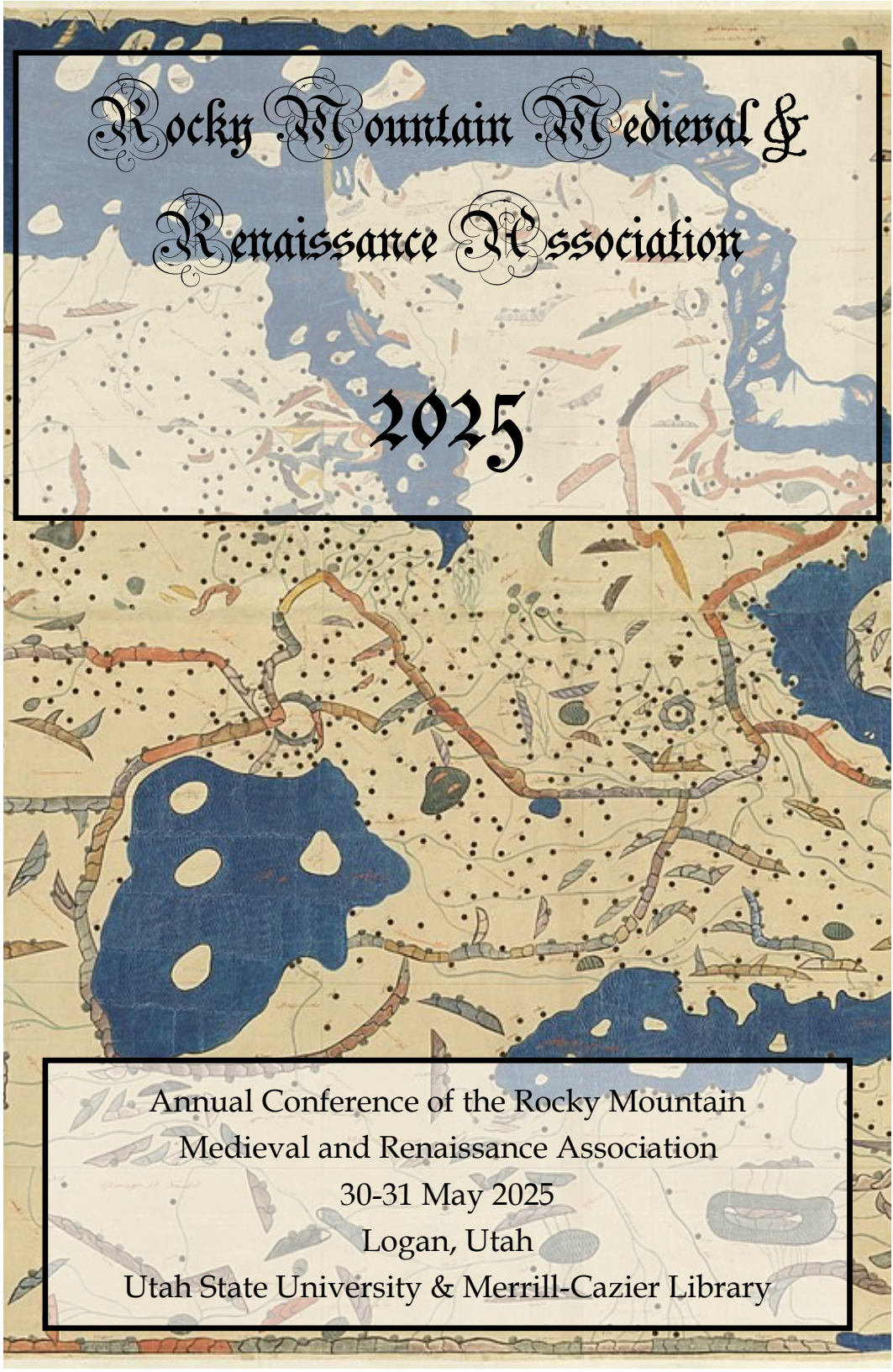




Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association

2025

Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain
Medieval and Renaissance Association

30-31 May 2025

Logan, Utah

Utah State University & Merrill-Cazier Library



RMMRA Executive Officers

President: Kristin Bezio

Treasurer: Samantha Dressel

Membership: Vincent Patarino

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Marybeth Perdomo

Bretton Rodriguez

Ginger Smoak

Jacob Thomas

Cody West

Conference Organizers

Alexa Sand, Kristin Bezio, Samantha Dressel, Margaret Harp, Darin Merrill, Alani Hicks-Bartlett, Cody West, Corinne Wieben

As a land-grant institution, Utah State University campuses and centers reside and operate on the territories of the eight tribes of Utah, who have been living, working, and residing on this land from time immemorial. These tribes are the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Indians, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Northwestern Band of Shoshone, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, and White Mesa Band of the Ute Mountain Ute. We acknowledge these lands carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity. We recognize Elders past and present as peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the land. In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous self-governance history, experiences, and resiliency of the Native people who are still here today.

<https://library.usu.edu/land-acknowledgement>

You'll notice that each name tag has some little castle icons – they will help you figure out who is new and deserves a warm welcome, and who knows all there is to know about the RMMRA!

RMMRA

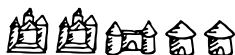
 1 year

 5 years

 10 years

 25 years

The RMMRA itself would have a tag with this:



Conference Schedule

All events will be held at the Merrill-Cazier Library

Friday (Registration open 8:00am-5:00pm) 30 May 2025

8:00am-9:00am: Coffee & Pastries

9:00am-10:30am: Sessions 1 & 2

10:45am-12:00pm: Session 3

Lunch on your own

1:30pm-2:45pm: Sessions 4 & 5

3:00pm-4:15pm: Library Collections Plenary Session

5:00pm-7:00pm: Welcome Reception

Prodigy Brewery

Dinner on your own

Saturday (Registration open 8:30am-12:30pm) 31 May 2025

8:30am-9:00am: Coffee & Pastries

9:00am-10:30am: Conference Keynote

10:45am-12:15pm: Sessions 6 & 7

12:30pm-1:45pm: Member Meeting & Boxed Lunch (all are welcome)

2:00pm-3:15pm: Sessions 8 & 9

3:00pm-3:30pm: Coffee & Cookies Break

3:30pm-5:00pm: Sessions 10 & 11

5:15pm-6:30pm: Sessions 12 & 13

End of Conference

Dinner on your own

Sessions

Friday, May 30, 2025

9:00am-10:30am

1. *Language, Nation Building, and Identity* (Room 154)

Chair: Mustafa Bannister

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/82497095145?
pwd=dsPlXqrjGAYmbelYopQOYE5dWDfaCa.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/82497095145?pwd=dsPlXqrjGAYmbelYopQOYE5dWDfaCa.1)

Sunshine Simmons, “Chaos and Order: Merlin, Morgan le Fay, and the Establishment of a Nation”

Averie Basch, “Igraine as Celtic Sovereignty: Securing a King’s Rule”

Cailyn Mickelsen, “Unmanning Richard II in Medieval and Renaissance Literature”

2. *Premodern Texts, Modern Techs* (Room 122)

Chair: Maia Farrar

[https://chapman.zoom.us/j/99734559180?
pwd=4n59zsA4AXmYITpguk6aDpInP8D0bF.1](https://chapman.zoom.us/j/99734559180?pwd=4n59zsA4AXmYITpguk6aDpInP8D0bF.1)

Jonathan Seyfried, “Using Transkribus to Automate Paleographical Transcription for Medieval Catalan”

Elise LeMonnier, “Devotional Reflections and Temporal Portals: Digital Analysis of Aachen Pilgrim Badges”

Pamela Yee, “Improving Open Access Editions in the Middle English Texts Series (METS): A DH Case Study”



3 In Context: Facsimiles and Fragments in Cycles of Scholarship

(Room 154)

Chair: Kristin Bezio

A Roundtable: Allison McCormack, Lyuba Basin, Todd Samuelson

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/89171715805?
pwd=BqxZR35DEnD9NQLux3v6AdPKtJfK8e.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/89171715805?pwd=BqxZR35DEnD9NQLux3v6AdPKtJfK8e.1)

While some institutions boast large collections of medieval codices, the majority of American libraries and museums are more likely to hold individual manuscript leaves, fragments, and facsimiles of medieval documents. Among other factors, the record prices reached at rare books auctions during recent years ensures that acquiring complete codices remains out of reach for many institutions. However, fragments and facsimiles have rich possibilities for teaching and scholarly research.

This panel will showcase how cultural heritage institutions collect, teach with, and facilitate research with medieval documents other than complete codices. What ethical considerations come into play when purchasing single manuscript leaves? How does teaching with leaves and facsimiles in tandem help students learn about medieval manuscript culture? How can fragments incorporated into other media, for example as binding waste, be re-contextualized? Panelists will provide insight on these and other topics, highlighting the perspectives of librarians and teaching faculty working collaboratively with medieval documents.

Lunch Break 12:00pm-1:30pm

4. Academia in the Age of Trump: A Facilitated Discussion (Room 154)

Chairs: Kristin M.S. Bezio & Kim Klimek

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/83051815865?
pwd=uH4UdiyY6PA29tWbDVtvcfVMctcAcJ.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/83051815865?pwd=uH4UdiyY6PA29tWbDVtvcfVMctcAcJ.1)

This session presents an opportunity for open discussion, questions, and connections to be made around fears and concerns having to do with the current social and political situation. As this is impacting every institution and scholar differently, we want to make sure there is an opportunity for discussion, rather than full roundtable where panelists do most of the talking. We will use methods designed to facilitate open discussions, beginning with reflective writing and smaller group discussions around main questions and then opening up to a larger discussion.

Please note: What is discussed in this session should remain in the session so that all who participate feel welcome and able to fully express themselves without concern about reprisals or having their thoughts made public.

5. Intertexts and Told Tales (Room 122)

Chair: Christine Cooper-Rompato

[https://chapman.zoom.us/j/93477278174?
pwd=ajiH1kC48e2pB3lFPkoGdlzMUAdVYX.1](https://chapman.zoom.us/j/93477278174?pwd=ajiH1kC48e2pB3lFPkoGdlzMUAdVYX.1)

Paul Stapleton, "Chaucer's 'Nun's Priest's Tale,' the Cross, and Mousetrap Soteriology"

Darin Merrill, "Chaucer's Deep Flandrish Roots"

Margaret Harp, "Statuary as Atonement: Funereal Expression in Le Printemps d'Yver"

Library Collections Plenary Session

LIBRARY STAFF USU

Room 101

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/84039459016?
pwd=PBTNA6Z7QQtZP1fkK9KmC0wbZ13Dxh.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/84039459016?pwd=PBTNA6Z7QQtZP1fkK9KmC0wbZ13Dxh.1)

The Merrill-Cazier Library cordially invites attendees to a Rare Book Petting Zoo hosted in the Special Collections & Archives' Tanner Reading Room. Librarians, Jennifer Duncan and Paul Daybell from Utah State University, and Lyuba Basin and Allison McCormack from the University of Utah's Marriott Library will provide a hands-on opportunity to experience and explore some of their most unique manuscripts and facsimiles.



Please join us for a welcome reception at
Prodigy Brewing Company
5:30pm-6:30pm.

25 W Center Street, Logan, UT

Keynote Session

“Medieval Mediterranean Art – the Problem of the Crusades”



Dr. Justine Andrews

Room 101

<https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/86880416480?pwd=g2Lubsgvl7mfeg71zbjQ7cPNwCaF6U.1>

Crusader Art is the art produced by and for Crusaders in the Holy Land, and the category ends with the final conquest of Latin rulers in Acre in 1291. But what about after that date? With patronage and production stopped in the former Latin Kingdoms, where did the artists go?

Did the repercussions of the Crusades continue to inflect art produced in other regions of the Eastern Mediterranean that coped with instances of Western European rule over majority populations distinct in culture and religious practice? The use of the term “Crusader Art” persists in the descriptions of art from the fourteenth century in Cyprus and the Greek Peloponnese. Using examples of architecture, sculpture, panel, mural and manuscript painting, this study will examine what is Crusader and what is Post-Crusader in these works of art. Post-Crusader in this context will signal a movement beyond the original category, and therefore, help us examine how artworks challenge and surpass the ideas and analysis within which a category like Crusader Art entraps them.

Dr. Justine M. Andrews is Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico. She earned her PhD in Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her MA from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. She has worked at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; the Meadows Museum in Dallas, TX; and the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. She has published on the art and architecture of Medieval Cyprus, as well as on illuminated Books of Job in the Medieval Mediterranean. Dr. Andrews has held a Fulbright Fellowship in Cyprus (2008) and was a Solmsen Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (2013-2014). She teaches art history courses on Medieval European, Byzantine, and Islamic Arts.

6. Beyond the Text: Fabrics, Bindings, and Spaces (Room 154)

Chair: Darin Merrill

<https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/85424347202?pwd=0M4DS0fhqvoTV6wcksE6lwEAPZJ0e1.1>

Grace Edwards, "Garden 'Beds': Spatial and Spiritual Mediation in Early Modern Bed Valances"

Alison McFarland, "Liminal Space in a Parody Mass by Morales"

Alani Hicks-Bartlett, "The Chains(?) of Love: Camões on Petrarch on Dante on (Re)vision"

7. Bringing Texts to Life: At the Crossroads of Scholarship and Pedagogy (Room 122)

Chair: Jolene Mendel

<https://chapman.zoom.us/j/94405917518?pwd=CI3LawsjyrOo9TbbThHn25TfT52xO6.1>

Andrew Wells, "'You can try on his armor': Making Old Texts Relatable and Relevant For Today's Students"

Bailey Hart, "The Chrzanowski Collection in Pedagogy and Scholarship"

Michael Torregrossa, "Facts, Fictions, and Fantasies: Representations of the Black Death in the Comics"

Stacey Battis, "Turkish Habits: History, Fiction, and Authentic Representation in Jean Racine's *Bajazet*"

RMMRA Member Luncheon
ALL ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME

(Room 101)

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/84107785595?
pwd=VJDmG4xURNRqsdCTavaWHodVIHgNNd.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/84107785595?pwd=VJDmG4xURNRqsdCTavaWHodVIHgNNd.1)

Member meeting to start at 1:15pm

During this Luncheon Meeting, those attending will vote on matters of business requiring the ratification of participating members, including new board members and officers nominated to serve on the Executive Board. We will also present the Alan D. Breck and Delno C. West Awards for best junior and senior scholar papers at the 2024 Conference, and recognize the winners of the 2025 Rosenberg and Walton Travel Awards (see back pages of this program for details).

All are welcome to attend, but only those who RSVPed and have lunch tickets are guaranteed lunch (there may be extra lunch tickets available at the Registration desk).



8. *Power and Protest* (Room 154)

Chair: Sarah Gordon

<https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/88089545071?pwd=7jhjPvGs6E0afc0hbh6rwrnVdaB34O.1>

Cody Osguthorpe, "Witchcraft, Magic, and Rebellion in Early Modern Britain"

Maia Farrar, "Literary rebels: Shakespeare, Lilburne, and Modern Political Protest"

Tennessee Tarrant, "A Tale of Vengeance in Byzantium: the Enigmatic Rebellion of Thomas the Slav"

9. *Milk, Blood, and Other Effluvia* (Room 122)

Chair: Jacob Thomas

<https://chapman.zoom.us/j/94405917518?pwd=CI3LawsjyrOo9TbbThHn25TfT52xO6.1>

Kierra Burns, "Centering Maternal Breastfeeding in the Old English Metrical Charm 6"

Jennifer Lodine-Chaffey, "'Out, damned spot!': Blood Stains in Early Modern Drama and Popular Pamphlets"

Sawyer Kelly, "Shakespearean Autopsies: Dissecting the Transgressive Body in *Titus Andronicus*, *Coriolanus*, and *King Lear*"

Coffee and Cookie Break!

(GF available)

3:00pm-3:30pm

10. Monastic Traditions and Garments (Room 154)

Chair: Jonathan Seyfried

[https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/81048494668?](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/81048494668?pwd=HNskj8eFzIZAAuVCZaPlKVXDaFcbtC.1)

[pwd=HNskj8eFzIZAAuVCZaPlKVXDaFcbtC.1](https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/81048494668?pwd=HNskj8eFzIZAAuVCZaPlKVXDaFcbtC.1)

Todd Upton, "Background Contexts for Monastic Traditions and Slave-Holding in Regions of the Crusades, c. 1095-1410"

Christine Cooper-Rompato, "Hairshirts in the Canonization Process of St. Thomas of Hereford"

11. Gender and Sexuality in and around Shakespeare (Room 122)

Chair: Kim Klimek

[https://chapman.zoom.us/j/96828249434?](https://chapman.zoom.us/j/96828249434?pwd=S3fSH96bFart7LnBm6qThR64gICcTj.1)

[pwd=S3fSH96bFart7LnBm6qThR64gICcTj.1](https://chapman.zoom.us/j/96828249434?pwd=S3fSH96bFart7LnBm6qThR64gICcTj.1)

David Strong, "Kurzel's *Macbeth* and His Empowerment of Lady Macbeth"

Jolene Mendel, "Gender, Magic, and Re-Vision in Julie Taymor's Gender-Bending Adaptation of *The Tempest*"

Samantha Dressel, "'I can turn one of them to be a man': Speech Acts, Uncertainty, and Disbelief in *Galatea*"



12. Alternatives to the Tenure-Track Market (Room 154)

Chair: Allison McCormack

<https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/89990357137?pwd=ni1pJMKPbX8XTh6ChTSpcaxOkNRNtg.1>

There are many career paths open to medievalists beyond tenure-track professorships. But what do these careers look like, and how can academics market their skills to get a foot in the door? Come learn about different “alt-ac” positions through an open conversation with people in these fields. All are welcome to join, whether you’re considering one of these careers for yourself, are seeking more information to better support your students interested in alt-ac jobs, or just want to find out more.

13. Pedagogy Workshop (Room 122)

Workshop Leader: Samantha Dressel

<https://chapman.zoom.us/j/96849635433?pwd=50Mh7cy5DSy2qeLLLW0jMts3rpxuB8.1>

This year's pedagogy workshop will be a guided conversation that may touch on some number of the following topics: EdTech platforms, assessments beyond the argumentative essay, challenges specific to particular student populations, challenges specific to teaching early texts, teaching beyond our narrow specialties, challenges created by local, state, and federal governments, and more. Depending on participant interest, we may focus on just one or two, or divide into smaller discussion groups for more topical coverage. Our goal is collaborative conversation resulting in tangible and actionable ideas and outcomes.

Interested in Hosting an RMMRA?

If you are interested in having your home institution host an RMMRA conference, let us know! Email incoming RMMRA President Margaret Harp (margaret.harp@unlv.edu), RMMRA President, to find out more about hosting a conference.

Paper Awards

Allen Dupont Breck Award

This award was established to honor the memory of Allen DuPont Breck, University of Denver history professor and founder of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. Extraordinarily gifted as a teacher, he was also creative in his vision, particularly in his idea that an organization of medievalists and Renaissance scholars was needed in this region. The fledgling organization held its first meeting at the University of Denver in 1968, organized around the theme of "The Bishop in Medieval and Renaissance Society." The Association's Bylaws were established in 1980 and published that year in the first issue of *Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association*, along with Allen's review of the history of the organization to that point. The RMMRA is grateful for his convivial vision of "a proper forum for the sharing of scholarly study of one of the most significant periods of human history." The Allen DuPont Breck Award is given for the best paper given by a junior scholar (from graduate students to assistant professors, including independent scholars and adjunct faculty at equivalent rank). The Breck award carries an award of \$300, the option of publication in the Association's journal *Quidditas*, and recognition at the annual awards ceremony.

Delno C. West Award

This award was established to honor the memory of Delno C. West, professor of history at Northern Arizona University, and one of the most dedicated early members of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association. Professor West, who was Chair of the Department of history at Northern Arizona and Director of the Honors Program, was a president of the Association and the general coordinator of three annual meetings that were held in Flagstaff and at the Grand Canyon. His teaching centered on medieval Europe and he published widely on the history of Christianity. His numerous books and articles include *The Libro de las Profecias of Christopher Columbus* (1991). He was a fine scholar and a good friend of the Association. The Delno C. West Award is given for the best paper given by a senior scholar (associate professors, professors, and other long-standing scholars). The West award includes recognition at the following year's awards ceremony, a handsome plaque, and the option of publication in the Association's journal *Quidditas*.

Applications

Applications for the 2025 awards are due by July 1, 2025. Applicants should submit the paper as presented at the conference (i.e. not substantially revised for publication) using the portal on the website: <https://rmmra.org/prizes-and-grants-1>. The applications will be judged by the RMMRA president and an appointed committee from the Executive Council, using the academic quality of the paper as the essential criterion.

Travel Awards

Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Travel Award for Graduate Students

This award has been established to honor the many years of support, service, and enthusiasm for the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association of Michael T. Walton and Phyllis J. Walton. Over the twenty-seven years he was with us, Michael Walton gave twenty-four papers, some joint with his companion in life and scholarship, his wife Phyllis. He organized two of our conferences (2000 and 2011); he drafted our Constitution; he helped guide our transition from a hard-copy to an electronic journal; and from 1996- 2013, he brought continuity to our Board. Phyllis Walton has likewise served the RMMRA in many different and essential capacities, including as treasurer, and with Michael wrote four distinguished monographs. This award is meant to recognize the particular informal support both Waltons have given to junior scholars at the RMMRA conferences and elsewhere.

The Michael and Phyllis Walton Awards will be available to graduate students in any medieval or Renaissance field of study who are presenting papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference and who have not defended their degree-granting projects at the time of the meeting. There will be a maximum of four awards for each conference: \$250, which will be sent out in check form before the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees.

Harry Rosenberg Travel Award for Untenured Scholars

The RMMRA Travel Award for Untenured Scholars will be available to post-graduate medieval and Renaissance scholars with insufficient institutional funding working in any field of study who are presenting papers at the annual Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference and who have completed a doctorate but have not been granted tenure prior to the time of the meeting. There will be a maximum of four \$250 awards for each conference, sent out in check form before the conference to defray the costs of travel to and lodging at the conference, plus waiver of the registration and RMMRA membership fees. Note: graduate students are not eligible for this award because of the RMMRA award dedicated to supporting graduate students at the annual meeting, the Michael T. and Phyllis J. Walton Award.

Those interested in applying for the Walton or Rosenberg Awards for 2026 should visit the RMMRA website: <https://rmmra.org/prizes-and-grants-1>

2024 West Award Winner: Paul Stapleton

2024 Breck Award Winner: Jonathan Seyfried

2025 Rosenberg Winner: Samantha Dressel

2025 Walton Winners: Bailey Hart & Sunshine Simmons

Online Peer Reviewed Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association <http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rmmra>.

Call for Papers

Quidditas, the annual, online journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites submissions from all aspects of medieval and Renaissance or early modern disciplines: literature, history, art, music, philosophy, religion, languages, rhetoric, Islamic and New World cultures, global regions and comparative and interdisciplinary studies. Articles appearing in *Quidditas* are abstracted and indexed in MLA, EBSCOhost, Historical Abstracts, Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index, America: History and Life, and Oxbridge Standard Periodical Directory. Ex Libris has designated *Quidditas* as a peer-reviewed journal in its SFX Knowledgebase. Since there is no subscription fee, the journal is easily available from any computer. Authors will be informed about the disposition of all manuscripts within three months of receipt.

Quidditas features a Notes section for short articles pertaining to factual research, bibliographical and/or archival matters, corrections and suggestions, pedagogy and other matters pertaining to the research and teaching of Medieval and Renaissance disciplines. Our In the Classroom section seeks longer review of literature essays, articles dealing with pedagogy, and short reviews of individual textbooks and other published materials that instructors have found especially valuable in teaching courses in medieval and early modern disciplines. We also accept Book Reviews for publication.

Membership in the RMMMRA is not required for submission or publication.

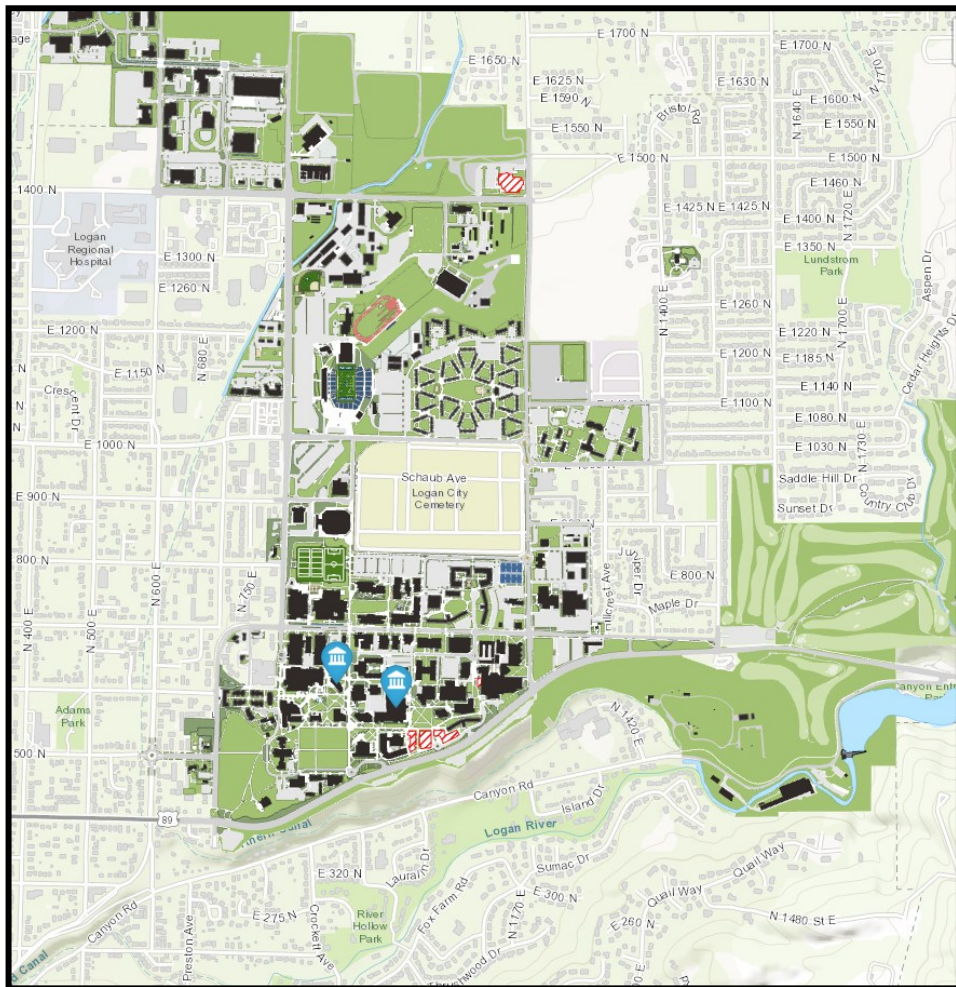
Guidelines for Submission

Please submit your article, Note, Book Review, or In the Classroom submission electronically in MS Word (.doc or .docx) through the online portal or to one of the editors (below). Use The Chicago Manual of Style (17th ed.). Please see guidelines at https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rmmra/publication_ethics.html

Please submit through <http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/rmmra> or send submissions to :

Dr. Ginger Smoak: ginger.smoak@utah.edu OR

Dr. Steven Hrdlicka: steven.hrdlicka@gbcnv.edu



USU Campus Map

The University Inn (left) and Merrill-Cazier Library (right) are marked with blue indicators. All conference sessions will be held at the Library. Parking information may be found here: <https://www.usu.edu/parking/visitors>. Public transportation in Logan is free--<https://rideconnectutah.gov/>.

You can find an online interactive map at <https://www.usu.edu/map/#>



Thank you to Utah State University and to the Merrill-Cazier Library
and library staff for their generosity and support of this year's
conference!