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News from MAA Boston

Many members of Digital Scriptorium recently attended the 91st annual meeting and conference of the Medieval Academy of America, 25-27 February 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting was hosted by the Medieval Academy of America, Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Lesley University, The Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley College.

The program featured three plenary speakers: Barbara Newman (President of the Medieval Academy of America, John Evans Professor of Latin and Professor of English, Religious Studies, and Classics, Northwestern University); William Noel (Director, Kislak Center for Special Collections, University of Pennsylvania); and Robin Fleming (Professor of History, Boston College, and a 2013 MacArthur Fellow). In addition, the program included fifty concurrent sessions in a wide variety of formats and covering a broad array of disciplines such as Digital Humanities, Carolingian Studies, the Eleventh Century, Unfinished Works, Lyric Transformations, Medieval Ecologies, and Monasticisms.

Most exciting at the MAA meeting was the presentation of the The 2016 Robert L. Kindrick-CARA Award for Outstanding Service to Medieval Studies to:

Consuelo Dutschke, PhD, Curator, Medieval and Renaissance Collections, Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Columbia University, esteemed former Executive Director and current member of the Board of Directors of Digital Scriptorium.



Anne Lester, Chair of CARA (Committee on Centers and Regional Associations) of the Medieval Academy of America, congratulates this year's CARA awardees: (from left) Timothy Graham (University of New Mexico), Consuelo Dutschke (Columbia University), Peter Beidler (Lehigh University), Anne Lester (University of Colorado).

The Kindrick-CARA Award recognizes medievalists who have provided leadership in developing, organizing, promoting, and sponsoring medieval studies through the extensive administrative work that is so crucial to the health of medieval studies but that often goes unrecognized by the profession at large. In honoring Dr. Dutschke, the Committee commended her "tireless and expert work with manuscript collections in libraries across the country. But this award specifically recognizes her

leadership in the creation and development of the project known as Digital Scriptorium (DS), which she began in 1997 and which she has 'patiently and tenaciously' developed, organized and promoted to the present....Consuelo has been a tireless advocate and teacher for the project and its many uses, guided all the while by her 'constancy, optimism, and skillful diplomacy,' which has allowed the project to flourish. The letters of nominations were exuberant in their praise for her profound technical skills, the breath of her knowledge, her ability to learn new technologies and media, and her boundless generosity toward colleagues, students and scholars. Her endeavors truly constitute an outstanding contribution to the field of Medieval Studies, for which we humbly thank her and offer this award in recognition." The 2016 Kindrick-CARA Prize Committee consisted of CARA Chair Anne Lester (University of Colorado, Boulder), Phil Adamo (Augsburg College), and Tom Burman (Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville).

Please join us in congratulating Consuelo on her award and in celebrating her as a uniquely indefatigable individual to whom we all owe a great deal of thanks for her pioneering work and inspiring influence in digital medieval studies.

Also of note from Boston is the anticipation of an exciting multi-venue exhibition to be held this Fall:

BEYOND WORDS: ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS FROM BOSTON COLLECTIONS

For more information, see the [blog of the Medieval Academy of America](#).

An international conference linked to the exhibition with one day at each of the three venues will take place on Nov. 3-5, 2016. We will post more about the exhibits, venues, and symposium when the exhibition website goes online.

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