

Medieval History 3010: Fall Semester 2004

Scheduled Meetings: Wednesday, Sept. **22, 1-3** and Tuesdays: October 5, November 2, November **23**, December **14, 1-3 P.M.** The first meeting will take place in my office, Robinson Hall, M04; subsequent meetings will take place in Robinson **205**.

Prof. M. McCormick
Robinson Hall M-04
Office Hours: Monday 12-2 or by appt.

The medieval field has two components: a general field comprising basic literature in institutional, economic, social and cultural history of the Middle Ages from its origins to about 1400 A.D. (first semester) and a specialized, topical subfield (second semester).

Candidates who will be writing their dissertations in the late antique, medieval or Renaissance fields should meet with Prof. McCormick at their earliest convenience to discuss more specialized readings, alongside the regular reading program. Candidates with less preparation will wish to devote their efforts to reading widely and generally in medieval history in the first semester to prepare for the close discussions of key works in the general meetings and to lay the groundwork for successful and more specialized reading in the second semester.

The first semester's work for the general field in medieval history entails **3** main elements:

1. a structured program of readings
2. four general sessions devoted to key problems in medieval civilization
3. a required essay

An initial meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. **22, 1-3**, to review plans and discuss students' individual interests and aspirations for the field. Subsequently four general meetings will bring together specialists and generalists: they will be held on four Tuesdays, from 1-3 P.M.: October 5, November 2, November 23, December 14, 1-3 P.M. The required essay is due on or before **21** December (see below). It should be accompanied by a full bibliography of works read during the first semester, organized by cluster. That bibliography will supply one component of the general examination. At that time also students should specify in writing how they wish to specialize in the second semester.

Students should understand that readings prepared for common discussion represent a necessary but certainly not sufficient component of work toward satisfying this field. The General Examination in medieval history will probe for depth and critical grasp as well as broad factual knowledge of European history in its various facets from about A.D. 400 to 1500. Students should read extensively and should become familiar with the classic secondary works listed on p. 3, and with the topics listed under "The General Field". Sound preparation in the first semester will make for a profitable subfield preparation in the second semester which will grow naturally out of the basic reading of the first semester.

Students who have never studied medieval history at the college level should begin by reading R.H.C. Davis, *A History of medieval Europe from Constantine to Saint Louis* 2nd edn, London, 1989. Alternatively, authoritative guidance can be found in the appropriate chapters of the *New Cambridge Medieval History* or, where it has not yet appeared, the older but still valuable *Handbuch der europaischen Geschichte*, ed. T. Schieffer 1- (Stuttgart, 1976). Three other general works of great value are R.W. Southern, *The Making of the Middle Ages* (New Haven, Yale, 1953), Georges Duby, *The Early Growth of the European*

Economy: Warriors and Peasants from the Seventh to the Twelfth Century, tr. H.B. Clarke (Ithaca, 1974), and R. Bartlett, *The Making of Europe. Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change, 950-1350* (Princeton, 1993). Newcomers to medieval history who are unaccustomed to working in a 350-year old tradition of scholarship may find it of interest to read as well D. Knowles, *Great Historical Enterprises*, London, 1964, chaps. 1-4. Some good biographies of famous medievalists have been published among those ed. H. Damico and J.B. Zavadil, *Medieval Scholarship. Biographical Studies on the Formation of a Discipline*, 1, *History*, New York, 1995. Students with very limited exposure to European medieval history might wish to get a taste of the subject matter with some light reading, e.g. Eileen Power's *Medieval People*, 2nd edn, New York, 1963, etc.

It is only natural that in the course of critical reading, analytically-minded scholars will encounter unfamiliar terms or themes about which they would like a quick explanation or more detailed information. *Lexikon des Mittelalters*, Munich, 1977- 98; it provides concise but authoritative articles on persons, places, institutions and some broader topics. The *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, New York, 1982-9 is uneven: articles range from outstanding (particularly the broader, synthetic ones) to much less, and coverage is spotty. *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages*, ed. A. Vauchez et al., tr. A. Walford, (Chicago, 2000) can provide useful quick reference. *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*, ed. A.P. Kazhdan (Washington, D.C., 1991) is brief but good, although naturally more focused on the eastern Mediterranean. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, ed. F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingstone (3rd edn Oxford, 1997, etc) will help swiftly and accurately with matters of the Church.

Geography laid down the physical perimeters within which men and women created the medieval world and a good grasp of European geography is obviously indispensable to medieval history. A decent text is N.J.G. Pounds, *An Historical Geography of Europe*, Cambridge, 1990. A Mackay and D. Ditchbum, *Atlas of Medieval Europe*, London: Routledge, 1997 etc., available in paperback, is a useful effort to map and discuss succinctly key political, economic and cultural developments. The best single-volume historical atlas for the period is *Grosser historischer Weltatlas*, 2. Teil, *Mittelalter*, ed. J. Engle, Munich, 1970 etc. H. Jedin, J. Martin et al., *Atlas zur Kirchengeschichte - die christlichen Kirchen in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 2nd edn, Freiburg-im-Breisgau, 1987 is excellent, and exists also in a French edition. A serviceable paperback is H. Kinder and W. Hilgemann, *The Anchor Atlas of World History*, 1, New York, 1974, etc.

1. STRUCTURED READINGS

The following list should serve as the point of departure for each individual's exploration of medieval civilization. Every student preparing the medieval field should read carefully at least one listed work in each of the following categories and have read in and studied several more, whether listed here or selected in concert with Prof. **McCormick**. Medievalist candidates will be expected to have read *all* titles in Cluster A. The categories are tailored to insure a broad and solid preparation for the second semester of topical fields and sufficient medieval expertise to be able to contribute to the general discussions.

Professional medievalists dispose of several excellent tools which allow them rapidly to assemble a bibliography on almost any conceivable subject. Use them yourself to find additional books and articles appropriate to the various clusters; do not fail check with Prof. McCormick about which may be the most fruitful references you will have turned up.

The two best retrospective bibliographies are: G.C. Boyce, *Literature of Medieval History, 1930-1975*, Millwood, 1981; Dahlmann-Waitz, *Quellenkunde der deutschen Geschichte. Bibliographie der Quellen und der Literatur zur deutschen Geschichte*, ed. H. Heimpel and H. Geuss, 10th edn, Stuttgart, 1969-1999.

The best running bibliography is *Medioevo latino. Bollettino bibliografico della cultura europea dal secolo VI al XIII*, ed. C. Leonardi, Spoleto, 1980-, now available on CD-ROM. A useful electronic bibliography, but which is limited in coverage (because it covers only articles) is *I[nternational] M[edieval] B[ibliography] on CD-ROM*, Tumbout, 1995 etc., is available through HOLLIS. For more electronic materials, see also the links on the website of the Standing Committee on Medieval Studies: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~medieval/pages/webref.htm>.

A. CLASSICS

F.W. Maitland, *Domesday Book and Beyond: Three essays in the early history of England*, Cambridge, UK, 1897, etc.

F. Kem, *Gottesgnadentum und Widerstandsrecht im friiheren Mittelalter. Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte der Monarchie*, 2nd edn. Miinster, 1954; (abridged): *Kingship and Law in the Middle Ages*, ed. and. tr. S.B. Chrimes, New York, 1956 etc.

G. Tellenbach, *Church, State and Christian Society at the Time of the Investiture Contest*, tr. R.F. Bennett, Oxford, 1939 etc.

M. Bloch, *Feudal Society*, tr. L.A. Manyon, Chicago, 1961 etc.

G. Duby, *La société aux XI^e et XII^e siècles dans la région mâconnaise*, Paris, 1953, etc.

J.C. Holt, *Magna Carta*, Cambridge, UK, 1965 etc.

P. Toubert, *Les structures du Latium médiéval*, Rome, 1973.

R. Bartlett, *The Making of Europe*, Princeton, 1983.

B. EARLY MIDDLE AGES

W. Levison, *England and the Continent in the Eighth Century*, Oxford, 1946 etc.

P. Classen, *Karl der Grosse, das Papsttum und Byzanz. Die Begründung des karolingischen Kaisertums*, 3rd edn, ed. H. Fuhrmann and K. Märtl, Sigmaringen, 1985.

P. Riché, *Education et culture dans l'Occident barbare, VI^e-VIII^e siècles*, Paris, 1966 etc.

M. McCormick, *Eternal Victory. Triumphal Rulership in Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and the Early Medieval West*, Cambridge, 1986 etc.

M. Carver, *Sutton Hoo: Burial Ground of Kings?* London, 1998.

H. Clarke and B. Ambrosiani, *Towns in the Viking Age*, London, 1991.

K.F. Werner, *Les origines (=Histoire de France, 1)*, Paris, 1984.

R. McKitterick, ed. *The New Cambridge Medieval History, 2, c. 700-c. 900*, Cambridge, 1995, chaps. 1-14 and any six of the remaining 16.

C. THE CHURCH

H.X. Arquillière, *L'augustinisme politique: essai sur la formation des théories politiques du moyen âge*, Paris, 1934.

W. Ullmann, *The Growth of Papal Government in the Middle Ages*, London, 1955 etc.

R.W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*, Harmondsworth, 1970 etc.

H. Grundmann, *Religiose Bewegungen im Mittelalter*, 2nd edn, Darmstadt, 1972 (Eng. tr. exists).

C. Morris, *The Papal Monarchy. The Western Church from 1050 to 1250*, Oxford, 1989.

G. Constable, *The Reformation of the Twelfth Century*, Cambridge, 1996.

D. HIGH CULTURE

M.D. Chenu, *Nature, Man and Society in the 12th Century*, tr. J. Taylor and L.K. Little, Chicago, 1968.

C.H. Haskins, *The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century*, Cambridge, MA, 1927.

B. Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*, 3rd edn, Oxford, 1983.

P. Dronke, *Medieval Latin and the Rise of the European Love Lyric*, Oxford, 1965-6.

E. Auerbach, *Literary Language and its Public in Late Latin Antiquity and in the Middle Ages*, tr.

R. Manheim, New York, 1965 etc.

P. Vinogradoff, *Roman Law in Medieval Europe*, Oxford, 1929 etc.

M.T. Clanchy, *Abelard. A Medieval Life*, Oxford, 1997.

J. Kaye, *Economy and nature in the fourteenth century. Money, market exchange and the emergence of scientific thought*, Cambridge, 1998.

E. SOCIETAL PATTERNS AND CHANGE

Lynn White Jr, *Medieval Technology and Social Change*, Oxford, 1962.

F. L. Ganshof, *Feudalism*, tr. P. Grierson, 2nd edn, New York, 1961 etc.

D. Herlihy, *Medieval Households*, Cambridge, MA, 1985.

J. Chapelot and R. Fossier, *The Village and House in the Middle Ages*, tr. H. Cleere, London 1985 etc.

R. Francovich and R. Hodges, *Villa to village: the transformation of the Roman countryside in Italy, c. 400-1000*, London, 2003.

F. THE FOUNDATION OF THE MEDIEVAL ECONOMY

G. Duby, *Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West*, Columbia, SC, 1968 etc.

R. Fossier, *Enfance de l'Europe. X^e-XII^e siècles*, Nouvelle Clio, 17, Paris, 1983 etc.

L. Genicot, *Rural Communities in the Medieval West*, Baltimore, 1990.

G. ARISTOCRACY

T. Reuter, *The Medieval Nobility. Studies on the Ruling Classes of France and Germany from the Sixth to the Twelfth Century*, Amsterdam, 1979.

L. Genicot, *La noblesse dans l'Occident médiéval*, London, 1982.

G. Duby, *The Chivalrous Society*, tr. C. Postan, London, 1977 etc.

H. ADMINISTRATION AND KINGSHIP

J.W. Baldwin, *The Government of Philip Augustus*, Berkeley, 1986 etc.

T.N. Bisson, *The Medieval Crown of Aragon*, Oxford, 1986.

J.R. Strayer, *The Reign of Philip the Fair*, Princeton, 1980.

I. THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

L. Genicot, *Le XIII^e siècle européen*, Nouvelle Clio, 18, Paris, 1968 etc.

J. Huizinga, *The Autumn of the Middle Ages*, tr. R.J. Payton and U. Mammitzsch, Chicago, 1996.

F. Braudel, *The Structures of Everyday Life*, New York, 1981 etc.

W. Abel, *Agrarian Fluctuations in Europe from the Thirteenth to the Twentieth Centuries*, tr. O. Ordish, New York, 1980.

B. Geremek, *Les marginaux parisiens aux XIV^e et XV^e siècles*, Fr. tr. D. Beauvois, Paris, 1976; =

The Margins of Society in Late Medieval Paris, tr. J. Birrell, Cambridge, 1987.

P. Spufford, *Power and profit : the merchant in medieval Europe*, New York, 2003.

J. EUROPE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

C. Erdmann, *The Origin of the Idea of Crusade*, tr. M.W. Baldwin and W. Goffart, Princeton, 1977.

H.E. Mayer, *The Crusades*, London, 1972 etc.

J. Riley-Smith, *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading*, Philadelphia, 1986.

A.P. Kazhdan and A. W. Epstein, *Change in Byzantine Culture in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries*, Berkeley, 1985.

K. MIDDLE AGES AND US

E.R. Curtius, *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages*, tr. W.R. Trask, New York, 1953 etc.

L. White, *Medieval Religion and Technology. Collected Essays*, London, 1979.

J.R. Strayer, *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State*, Princeton, 1973.

C. Verlinden, *The Beginnings of Modern Colonization*, Ithaca, 1970.

L. NEWER DEPARTURES

E. Leroy Ladurie, *Times of Feast, Time of Famine: a History of the Climate since the Year 1000*, tr. B. Bray, New York, 1971.

J. LeGoff, *Time, Work and Culture in the Middle Ages*, tr. A. Goldhammer, Chicago, 1980.

C. W. Bynum, *Holy Feast, Holy Fast. The Religious Significance of Food to Medieval Women*, Berkeley, 1987.

P. Brown, *Body and Society. Men, Women and Sexual Renunciation in early Christianity*, New York 1988.

A. Gurevich, *Medieval Popular Culture. Problems of Belief and Perception*, tr. J.M. Bak and P.A. Hollingsworth, Cambridge, 1988.

M.T. Clanchy, *From Memory to Written Record: England 1066-1307*, 2nd edn, Oxford, 1993.

H. Jankuhn, *Haithabu. Ein Handelplatz der Wikingeneit*, 8. Auflage. Neumiinster, 1986.

H. Fichtenau, *Living in the Tenth Century. Mentalities and Social Orders*, tr. P.J. Geary, Chicago, 1991 etc.

J.W. Baldwin, *The Language of Sex. Five Voices from Northern France around 1200*, Chicago, 1994.

D. Herlihy, *The Black Death and the Transformation of the West*, Cambridge, MA, 1997 and D. Raoult, G. Aboudharam, E. Crubé, et al., "Molecular identification by 'suicide PCR' of *Yersinia pestis* as the agent of medieval Black Death," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 97 (2000), 12880-3: *Gilbert

M. Carver, *Sutton Hoo: Burial Ground of Kings?* London, 1998.

H. J. Hässler, *Ein Graberfeld erzählt Geschichte (Studien zur Sachsenforschung. 5.5)*, Oldenburg, 1999.

M. McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy. Communications and Commerce, A.D. 300-900*, Cambridge, 2001.

2. THE GENERAL SESSIONS (Fall 2004)

The general sessions will bring together specialized and generalist medievalists for a sustained, analytical comparison and discussion of the works listed as the "Main focus". All participants will be expected to have read and studied them carefully.

Background readings are just that: you should read in these titles to give you the background to appreciate the significance and stakes of the varying theses we shall be debating.

With regard to primary sources listed below, students are required to form some critical sense of the primary materials from which historians have fashioned what we know of the medieval world. It is impossible to grasp the nature and achievements of medieval research without some acquaintance with the evidence on which that research is founded. Read the primary sources as a help to understanding the men and women who made the medieval world, to deepen your own insight and to grasp the achievements of Pirenne, Southern, Duhuy, etc.

GENERAL SESSIONS

1. Wednesday, Sept. 22: Organizational meeting: the nature of the medieval field; requirements; suggestions; assignment of background readings.

2. Tuesday, Oct. 5: Early medieval underpinnings: acts and archaeologists (ca. 400-900)

a. background: P. Brown, *World of Late Antiquity. A.D. 150-750*, London, 1971, etc.; R. McKitterick, ed., *The Early Middle Ages (Short Oxford History of Europe)*, Oxford, 2001; R. Collins, *Early Medieval Europe, 300-1000*, New York, 1991.

b. Main focus:

-Primary sources: all should read R.S. Lopez and I.W. Raymond, *Medieval Trade in the Mediterranean World. Illustrative Documents...* New York, 1955, Docs. nos. 9, 10 and 20.

1. Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, tr. L. Thorpe (Penguin).

2. *Beowulf* or *The Heliand. The Saxon Gospel*, tr. G. R. Murphy, New York, 1992.

-Secondary sources:

All should read: H. Pirenne, *Mohammed and Charlemagne*, New York, 1939 etc. AND one of the following:

2. R. Hodges and D. Whitehouse, *Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe*, Ithaca, 1983 etc. (those who can should also read the update in the French edition: *Mahomet, Charlemagne et les origines de l'Europe*, tr. C. Morrisson et al., Paris, 1996, pp. 163-76).

3. M. Carver, *Sutton Hoo: Burial Ground of Kings?* London, 1998 or C. Morrisson, ed. *Les échanges au moyen âge* (= *Dossiers de l'archéologie*, no. 256, September 2000), Dijon, 2000.

4. M. McCormick, *Origins of the European Economy. Communications and Commerce, A.D. 300-900*, Cambridge, 2001.

Discussion openers: what are the main strengths of Pirenne's argument? Its weaknesses? What are the main strengths of Hodges and Whitehouse? What aspects of Pirenne's argument do they leave untouched? Do they misunderstand? Do they successfully supplant? What is the logical structure of McCormick's argument? If he were alive today, how would Pirenne respond to Hodges and Whitehouse? To McCormick? How do these works show that our explicit understanding of early medieval society has

changed in the half century between the two works? Implicit? How has our understanding of the problem developed since Hodges and Whitehouse? Based on your general reading and the extracts from the Primary sources listed above and these two works, what kind of research strategy would you devise to address the crucial questions left unanswered by these books?

2. Medieval Church: November 2

a. Background: W. Horn, *The Plan of St. Gall in Brief*; various articles in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*.

b. Main Focus:

-Primary Sources:

1. *Rule of St. Benedict*
2. Any one of the following: *Letters of St. Boniface*; *Letters of Bernard of Claiwaux*, tr. B.S. James; *The Correspondence of Pope Gregory VII*, tr. E. Emerton; *Guibert of Nogent, Self and Society in Medieval France*, ed. J.F. Benton, etc.

-Secondary Sources:

Background: either: A. Angenendt, *Geschichte der Religiosität im Mittelalter*, Darmstadt, 1997, pp. 1-30, 751-8, and any two chapters you choose; or R. Bartlett, "Reflections on Paganism and Christianity in Medieval Europe," *Proceedings of the British Academy* 101 (1998), 55-76.

1. R.W. Southern, *Western Society and the Church in the Middle Ages*, Harmondsworth, 1970 etc.
2. One of the following J. Leclercq, *The Love of learning and the Desire for God. A Study of Monastic Culture*, tr. C. Misrahi, New York, 1961 etc.; or G. Constable, *The Reformation of the Twelfth Century*, Cambridge, 1996; or H. Grundmann, *Religiose Bewegungen im Mittelalter*, 2nd edn, Darmstadt, 1972 (Eng. tr. acceptable).

3. Medieval **High** Culture, Nov. 23

a. Background: C.H. Haskins, *The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century*, Cambridge, MA, 1927 etc.

b. Main Focus

-Primary Sources: 1. *The Song of Roland* or Dante, *Inferno*

2. Bernard of Claiwaux, *Sermons on the Song of Songs*: read ten sermons in any of the many translations; or his *Éloge de la nouvelle chevalerie*, ed. and tr. P.Y. Emery (Paris, 1990); or Hugh of St Victor, *Didascalicon. A Medieval Guide to the Liberal Arts*, tr. J. Taylor, New York, 1961; or selected works of Thomas Aquinas, e.g. *Basic Writings*, ed, A. Pegis, New York, 1945

-Secondary Sources

1. A. Murray, *Reason and Society in the Middle Ages*, Oxford, 1978 etc.
2. either E.R. Curtius, *European Literature and the Latin Middle Ages*, tr. W.R. Trask, New York, 1953 etc.
or B. Smalley, *The Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages*, Oxford, 1952 etc.
or M.T. Clanchy, *Abelard. A Medieval Life*, Oxford, 1997.

or J. Kaye, *Economy and nature in the fourteenth century*. Money, market exchange and the emergence of scientific thought, Cambridge, 1998.

4. The King's Two Bodies, December 14

a. Background: R.W. Southern, *The Making of the Middle Ages*; J.R. Strayer, *On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State*

b. **Main** Focus

-Primary Sources: Galbert of Bruges, *The Murder of Charles the Good*; Joinville, *The Life of St. Louis*, tr. M.R.B. Shaw (Penguin); Dante, *On Monarchy*.

Secondary Source: E.H. Kantorowicz, *The King's Two Bodies. A Study in Medieval Political Theology*, Princeton, 1957 etc.

3. REQUIRED ESSAY

Students preparing the medieval field are required to write up one topic in 10 to 15 pages and submit this work not later than December 21. The paper should take the form either of a critical synthesis of standard research on a given topic or of a bibliographical essay, and it should deal with five to ten items. A model of such an essay may be found in F.S. Paxton, "The Peace of God in Modern Historiography: Perspectives and Trends," *Historical Reflections* 14:3(1987).385-404, L. Genicot, "Un Cquilibre dans l'histoire médiévale: l'étude du monde rural," *Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique* 81(1986).501-27, or M. Rubin, "A decade of studying medieval women, 1987-1997," *History workshop* 46 (1998). 213-39. One way of locating topical items is by reference to the bibliography of a recent synthesis, e.g. those in the *New Cambridge Medieval History*; David Herlihy, *Medieval Households*, or R. Fossier, *Enfance de l'Europe*; subsequent publications can be located with *Medioevo latino*; articles can be located through the online *IMB*.

Choose one of the following topics, or develop your own in concert with Prof. McCormick:

1. The transition from ancient to medieval civilization has been viewed in a number of ways from Pirenne and Dopsch down to R. Hodges and P. Brown, and beyond. How and why has our understanding of this transition changed?
2. The problem of aristocracy (or nobility, including knighthood) from the ninth to the twelfth century. How have historians moved beyond the ideas of Bloch (*Feudal Society*) and Southern (*Making of the Middle Ages*). Use *The Medieval Nobility*, ed. Reuter and other works of Genicot, Duby, B. Arnold, John Freed, Jean Flori etc.
3. Early medieval kingship. Use works of Kern, Kantorowicz, Janet Nelson, McCormick etc.
4. Women. How have historians dealt with women and with what success? What are the problems, what remains to be done? Begin with studies by Power, Herlihy, Wemple, Bynum, Venarde, etc. and develop your own bibliography.
5. The Investiture Conflict. This great struggle was a defining moment for medieval law, institutions and culture. Use Tellenbach, Ullmann (*Growth*), Kantorowicz (*Two Bodies*), I.A. Robinson, U. Blumenthal,

etc

6. The medieval expansion of Europe was the first step in a long and controversial economic, political and cultural process which has perhaps come to an end only in our own lifetimes. Analyze the historical analysis of this process on the basis of your readings in the various clusters. Use too the *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, vol. 1, ed. C.M. Cipolla (London, 1972 etc); P. Spufford, *Money and Its Use in Medieval Europe*, Cambridge, 1988, or *Power and profit: the merchant in medieval Europe*, New York, 2003, and the survey in Bartlett, *The Making of Europe*.

7. The problem of feudalism: how should historians interpret the rise of vassalage and the spread of fiefs from the ninth to the twelfth century? Use Ganshof, Duby (*Région mâconnaise*), Strayer (two essays in *Medieval Statecraft*), Le Goff ("The Symbolic Ritual of Vassalage," *Time, Work*), etc.

8. Some medieval historians have challenged the distinctions between popular and high culture. Study this question on the basis of your readings.

9. Historical ecology is emerging as a favorite instrument of analysis in the medieval historian's repertory. Consider this proposition on the basis of recent scholarly debate. Request a first bibliographical orientation according to your interests: animals, plants, climate, etc.

10. Memory and literacy have recently sparked considerable debate among medievalists. How has the topic developed and what are its implications for our understanding of medieval civilization?

11. The history of the Church in the Middle Ages has moved gradually from the Protestant search for the roots of the Reformation or Catholic triumphalism to more historically sophisticated approaches. Consider this development using the works of Duchesne, Leclercq, Grundmann, Vauchez, Constable, Bynum, Van Engen etc.

12. By unearthing utterly new material on all aspects of the material life of medieval people, the explosive growth of archaeology in the last decade is revolutionizing our knowledge of the Middle Ages, from demography to diet, via gender, climate, the rise of towns and shipping networks. Examine a region or a historical problem on the basis of archaeological investigation: request a first bibliographical orientation according to your interests.