

Medieval Renaissance Circle

May 14, 2004

The Medieval Renaissance Circle grew directly out of an already existing OUC interest group that has been seeking to develop a B.A. Minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. We have now met as a Circle to consider how our program should develop at UBC-O.

We believe very strongly that Medieval and Renaissance Studies uphold the values and purposes being developed and articulated for UBC O. Medieval and Renaissance Studies are interdisciplinary, they are international in orientation, they are cross-cultural, and they are rigorous in scholarship.

The question, then that we asked ourselves was how much further than a B.A. Minor should we seek to develop this program at UBC O.

We have decided that it would be best not to develop a B.A. Major program, but rather to use the Minor to support Majors in other disciplines.

We would like to propose two further developments, however.

First of all, we would like to develop a Medieval and Renaissance Studies Institute. This institute would not be a building but a set of scholarly initiatives. It would have several functions. In the summers it would run interdisciplinary undergraduate courses on Medieval and Renaissance subjects. These courses would involve field trips to relevant locales (e.g. Florence, York, or Paris) so that the artifacts of certain places and times could be viewed. Such courses would enable our Minor program to be able to offer further studies in Art History than is currently possible. We also believe that such courses would be very attractive to the larger community. During the Fall and Winter terms the Medieval and Renaissance Institute would bring in lecturers, present colloquia, and host small conferences. We would hope that we could cooperate with the Medieval Studies program at UBC V and participate in its annual November conference.

Second, we would like to develop a Master's Degree program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Again we would like to cooperate with faculty resources at UBC V to build such a distinctive interdisciplinary program.

The Minor program we will continue to develop now. We can do so with existing resources. The Institute and the Master's program we would hope to develop over the next five years.

University Circle Members:

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