

# The Round Table

N E W S

*from the North American Branch*

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*IAS Officers 1996-1999 (for full addresses see bbias)*

President: Philippe Ménard (U of Paris-Sorbonne)  
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*Back Issues of bbias and Arthuriana:* For back issues of *bbias* (through v. 46/1994), contact Hans R. Runte, Dept. of French, Dalhousie U, Halifax, N.S., B3H 3J5, Canada (hrunte@is.dal.ca). For back issues starting with v. 47/1995, contact Joan Grimbert, Dept. of Modern Languages, Catholic U, Washington, DC 20064 (grimbert@cua.edu). Back issues still available are vols. 25-29 (1973-77) and 31-34 (1979-82), all for \$10 each; v. 36-41 (1984-89), 43 (1991), and 45-47 (1993-95) are \$15 each. All other volumes are out of print. For back issues of *Arthuriana*, contact *Arthuriana*, Box 750432, SMU, Dallas, TX 75275-0432 (bwheeler@mail.smu.edu).

*Your bbias Abstracts:* Please submit the bibliographical details and a brief, objective account of your publications to the NAB bibliographers:

1. Research in Germanic, Scandinavian, English, and Celtic studies to: Martha Blalock, School of Business, U of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA;

2. Research in Latin and Romance studies to: Glenda W. Carl, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Southwestern U, Georgetown, TX 78626, USA.

*Arthurian Studies at Kalamazoo*: 33rd International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 7-10, 1998. (For information and registration materials write to Prof. Paul Szarmach, Director, The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008; tel: 616-387-8745; fax: 616-387-8750; e-mail: MDVL\_CONGRES@WMICH.EDU; Web Page <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress>.)

*IAS Business Meeting*: Thursday, May 7, 1998, 12:00 noon, Valley III, 308. Box lunches will be available for \$6.00 at the meeting.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Minutes of meeting of May 1997 (see *Arthuriana* 7.4, pp. 100-102)
3. Matters arising
4. President's report
5. Secretary-Treasurer's report
6. Bibliographers' report
7. Report from the editor of *Arthuriana*
8. Other business

*Sessions sponsored by the North American Branch of the International Arthurian Society* (These sessions also appear in the Program of the 33rd International Congress, and on the Web Page at <<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress>>). Dates: Thurs, May 7 through Sunday, May 10.

Friday, 10 a.m.: Session 166 Valley III Room 308

Colloquium on Arthurian Women in Honor of Maureen Fries

Organizer: Bonnie Wheeler (Southern Methodist U)

Presider: Chauncey Wood (McMaster U)

1. "Guinevere The Enchantress"  
Donald L. Hoffman (Northeastern Illinois U)
2. "The Tread of Olwen: Wonder Women in *Culwch and Olwen*"  
Jo Goyne (Southern Methodist U)
3. "The Lady with the Bridle as Temptress in *La Mule sans Frein*"  
Henry Hall Peyton III (U of Memphis)
4. "Malory's Guenevere: A Woman Who Had Grown a Soul"  
E. D. Kennedy (U of North Carolina)
5. "Blood Money: Perceval's Sister and the Economics of Sacrifice"  
Martin R. Shichtman (Eastern Michigan U)
6. "Malory's Multiple Virgins"  
Kathleen Kelly (Northeastern U)

Friday, 1:30 p.m.: Session 214 Valley III Room 308

Homosociality and the Arthurian Legend

Organizer and Presider: Martin B. Shichtman (Eastern Michigan U)

1. "Identity Construction/Social Destruction: Homosociality in Sir Thomas Malory's *Arthurian*"

Dorsey Armstrong ( Duke U)

2. "The Visual Economies of Homosexuality in Arthurian Literature"  
Laurie A. Finke (Kenyon College)
3. "Homosexuality and the Ideological State Apparatus in Gottfried's *Tristan*"  
Robert Sturges (U of New Orleans)

Friday, 3:30 p.m.: Session 262 Valley III Room 308

Arthurian Anxieties

Organizer: Bonnie Wheeler (Southern Methodist U)

Presider: Judy Shoaf, Assistant Editor, ARTHURIANA, Moderator of Arthurnet (U of Florida)

1. "The Anxiety of the Romance Hero: Renaut de Beaujeu, Reader of Chretien de Troyes"  
Debora B. Schwartz (California Polytechnic State U)
2. "Heroic Anxieties: Chaste Knights in the Grail Quest"  
Peggy McCracken (U of Illinois - Chicago)
3. "A Questing Beast as Emblem of the Ruin of Logres in the Post-Vulgate"  
Antonio L. Furtado (Pontificia U Catolica-RJ, Rio de Janeiro)
4. "Gender Anxiety and Disciplining Laughter in Malory's *Morte Darthur*"  
Sandra M. Salla (Lehigh U)

Saturday 10 a.m.: Session 338 Schneider Room 1120

Arthurian Film

Organizer and Presider: Kevin J. Harty ( LaSalle U)

1. "Kidz in the Court: Arthurian Films for the Young"  
Elizabeth Sklar (Wayne State U)
2. "First Knights and Common Men: Modern Masculinity in American Arthurian Film"  
Jackie Jenkins (U of Calgary)
3. "Identities and Ideologies: Movie Merlins of the 80s and 90s"  
Barbara Miller (State U of New York at Buffalo)
4. "What's Up, Duke? A Brief History of Arthurian Animation"  
Michael N. Salda (U of Southern Mississippi)

*Other sessions of Interest to Members of the IAS/NAB:*

Saturday, 10 a.m.: Session 335 Fetzer 2020

*Tristan I: Tristan in its Medieval Context*

Organizer: Debora B. Schwartz (California Polytechnic State U).

1. "Silence is Golden: Mining Voids in the Vulgate to Construct the *Prose Tristan*"  
Janina P. Traxler (Manchester College, IN)
2. "Editing the *Tristana Panciatichiano*" (Florence, Bibl. Naz. Panc. 33)  
Gloria Allaire (Purdue U)
3. "Distortion of a Legend and Creation of a Hybrid Saint's Life: Intertextuality between Clemence of Barking's *Life of Saint Catherine of Alexandria* and the *Tristan* Romance"  
Alexia Gino (Catholic U of America)
4. "Art as Reading: The Tryst Beneath the Tree"  
Melissa Furrow (Dalhousie U)

Saturday, 10 a.m.: Session 305 Valley III 301

Sir Thomas Malory: Unity in Difference

Sponsored by The Texas Medieval Association.

Organizer and Presider: D. Thomas Hanks, Jr. (Baylor U)

1. "Dialogue in *Le Morte Darthur*: Difference in Sameness"  
Felicia Ackerman (Brown U)
2. "Questions of Coherence in Malory's *Works*"  
Fiona Tolhurst (Alfred U)
3. "The Exile Motif in Middle English Romance: *Sir Orfeo* and Malory's *Book of Sir Tristram*"  
Richard Garrett (Baylor U)

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.: Session 493 Valley III 302

*Tristan II*: Joseph Bédier and His Successors

Organizers: Joan Tasker Grimbert (Catholic U of America), Alain Corbellari (U de Lausanne)

1. "Ysé the Healer in Claudel's *Partage de Midi*"  
Stephen Maddux (U of Dallas)
2. "John Updike's Tristanian Passion"  
Alain Corbellari
3. "Bédier à rebours: Paul Griffith's *Lay of Sir Tristram*"  
Joan T. Grimbert

*Call for Session Proposals*: Kalamazoo, 1999. Members wishing to organize a session (especially in fields other than English and French literature) for the Fourteenth Symposium on Arthurian Studies at the 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies in May, 1999, are invited to send their proposals by December 31, 1998 to Donald L. Hoffman, Dept. of English, Northeastern Illinois U, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago IL 60625.

*Minutes of the NAB Business Meeting* held on May 9, 1997 at 12:00 noon in Fox Lounge (Medieval Institute Meeting, Kalamazoo, MI): See *Arthuriana* 7.4, pp. 100-102.

*Update on 19th Triennial International Arthurian Society (IAS) Congress* from Joan Grimbert, IAS/NAB Secretary-Treasurer:

The Congress will take place in Toulouse, France, July 25-31, 1999. The registration fee will be about \$80.00. A detailed brochure in French, English, and German will be sent out a few months before the Congress. It will include the program of papers, receptions, and excursions, and a list of hotels, along with the corresponding prices.

The four subjects for paper topics are:

1. Production and Illustration of Manuscripts and Printed Books
2. Encounters between Cultures in Arthurian Literature
3. Time and History in Arthurian Literature
4. The Comic in Arthurian Literature

Members of the IAS/NAB are invited to submit a preliminary proposal to the Organizing Committee as soon as possible, but no later than 30 April 1998. Include

your name and address, your proposed title, and an abstract of 20–30 lines. What the Committee most desires is to know how many people envision attending the Congress in order to give a paper. Thus, your proposal is preliminary and can be modified subsequently.

Send the proposal directly to:

The Organizing Committee  
 XIXth International Congress of the Arthurian Society  
 c/o Prof. Jean-Claude Faucon  
 12 impasse Blanchard  
 31400 Toulouse, France

At the same time, send a copy of the proposal to:

Joan Grimbert, Secretary-Treasurer, IAS/NAB  
 Dept. of Modern Languages  
 Catholic University of America  
 Washington, DC 20064  
 (e-mail: grimbert@cua.edu)

Should the above information be modified, new material will appear on the ARTHURIANA web site: <<http://www.dc.smu/Arthuriana/>>.

*Arthurnet*: Arthurnet is an electronic discussion group for scholars and students of Arthurian subjects from the early Middle Ages to the modern moment. Scholars in all fields of inquiry from literature and history to mythology and philosophy—and in the several languages pertinent to the Arthurian story—are invited to participate in this open list. There is a moderated line in the list to allow more structured conversation for those who wish to engage in it. Details of the moderated list are broadcast on-line. Any scholar willing to act as a discussion moderator is asked to contact Assist. Editor Judy Shoaf ([jshoaf@clas.ufl.edu](mailto:jshoaf@clas.ufl.edu)) with potential topics and timetables. Each moderator will be asked to prepare a summary article about the topic line (crediting appropriate participants) for publication in the Round Table section of *Arthuriana*. To subscribe, send the command 'sub arthurnet [your name]' to [listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca](mailto:listserv@morgan.ucs.mun.ca) as an e-mail message.

*The Arthurian Network*: New or changed e-mail addresses appear on the *Arthuriana* Homepage.

*New or Returning Members since last NEWS*:

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 Palmer Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118  
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Wineholt, Mr. Allan, Rt 9, Box 950, Ellijay, GA 30540.

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*Change of Name or Address since last NEWS:*

Aaron, Mr. Ian, 965 Kentwood Terr., Victoria, B.C. V8Y 1A5, Canada

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- Ashe 521, P.O. Box 248093, Coral Gables, FL 33124-4650

Submitted by:

D. Thomas Hanks, Jr., *IAS/NAB Newsletter Editor*

## response to 'response to arthuriana issue on adultery'

The 'Response to the Arthuriana Issue on Adultery' (7.4, Winter 1997) by Maureen Fries itself requires a response on several grounds. First, even though this special issue as a whole is decidedly historicist in critical approach, Fries's response is consistently a-historical. She fails even to mention the opening essay by the distinguished historian, Vernon Bullough, and consistently overlooks the historicist approaches of the other three essays: Wilson-Okamura relating his interpretation of Arthur's adultery in the Post Vulgate Cycle to the renewed interest in biblical history in the thirteenth century; Sturges relating his reading of Lancelot and Guinevere's alleged adultery in the *Morte Darthur* to developments in late medieval philosophy; and I relating mine to late medieval chivalric culture, the growth of English nationalism and the rising popularity of contemporary treatises on the mixed life for laypeople. Rather than consider the merits of these historicist readings, Fries contradicts the authors, particularly Wilson-Okamura and myself: we are wrong and she is right.

Next, Fries allows her irritation, particularly with my historicist 'mis-readings' of the *Morte*, to affect her professional standards and critical judgment. On one occasion she puts quotation marks around a paraphrase which distorts my meaning and then inserts an editorial '[!]' in the middle of the misquotation (93, citing 71). On another she reveals both her irritation and possibly her ignorance of late medieval chivalric culture by protesting that 'Honor has nothing to do with 'Arthur's adultery with the wife of King Lot, his greatest vassal (94). Even more regrettable, Fries's angry assumption of 'critical correctness' destroys the possibility of fruitful dialogue between Arthurian critics of different theoretical persuasions. It also betrays a lack of awareness that her 'correct' readings have clearly been influenced by her own mythic (and essentially a-historical) approach to Arthurian romance. Fries concludes by approving Sturges's thesis, which she paraphrases as the 'rich ambivalence' of Malory's text 'requir[ing] our moral assessment of his adulterous lovers always to be deferred' (94). Apparently she does not realize that the 'correct' readings she so vigorously defends in responding to my essay repeatedly contradict this conclusion. However, as her use of the adjective 'adulterous' in the paraphrase suggests, Fries may have missed the point of Sturges's essay. Certainly, given her 'common sense' conviction of a 'fully guilty affair consummated long before the Knight of the Cart episode' (96), she could not possibly agree with Sturges's conclusion that Malory's text does not allow the reader ever to know whether Lancelot and Guinevere actually committed adultery.

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