

# University of Winnipeg

## *Carol Harvey*

The University of Winnipeg is a bustling campus situated in Winnipeg's downtown. Within the space of one city block, some eight thousand students pursue degrees, diplomas and certificate programs in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Education. Most courses lead to the three or four-year B.A. or B.Sc. or the four-year Honours degree; the five-year integrated B.Ed./B.A. or B.Sc. program combining academic and professional courses is increasingly popular. Master's programs are offered by the Faculty of Theology and a small number of Joint Master's programs is available in conjunction with the University's sister institution, the University of Manitoba. Although there is no department of Medieval Studies as such or an interdisciplinary program, several departments do offer courses that introduce undergraduate students to the field.

The English department offers a number of opportunities for Medieval Studies. For their early period requirement, many Honours students take either Old English Language and Literature or Medieval Literature 1350-1500. The first two courses introduce the language of the Anglo-Saxon period and selected Old English texts in verse and prose (*Beowulf*, elegies, saints' lives, homilies). The Medieval Literature course usually includes a survey of Middle English romances and visionary allegories, along with research on scholarly medievalists who have constructed the field since the eighteenth century and on "creative medievalists" (e.g. Coleridge, Tolkien) whose artistic works treat things medieval. The department also offers a general level survey course on The Age of Chaucer as well as an Honours major author course focused exclusively on Chaucer's poetry. Occasionally students also take directed reading courses on other medieval texts.

Until recently, students in French Studies were introduced to medieval writers in the first-year literature course, a survey from medieval to modern. Unfortunately, that course now focuses on modern Francophone Literature instead. Courses in Early Medieval Literature and Late Medieval Literature are taught in the Honours program, offered in rotation with other Honours courses every two or three years. Although only a handful of students take courses at this level, many others have the opportunity to enjoy medieval works through a survey course in Women's Literature that includes Marie de France and Christine de Pizan—the latter writer is particularly popular with students. History of the Language is another course in which students are introduced to the medieval era through studying the development of the French language, as found in the documents and literary texts of the period.

History has had no specialist in the medieval period since the retirement of Wesley Stevens three years ago but the department hopes to be able to appoint a medievalist in the near future. In the meantime, courses on Europe in the Middle Ages are taught by the specialists in early European history. Other medieval courses such as *The History of Medieval Art*, *Women in Medieval Europe* and *The History of Sexuality from Antiquity to the Middle Ages* prove attractive to students. Medieval topics are also incorporated into several other courses at the third- and fourth-year level, e.g. *Classical and Medieval Science*.

Other departments such as Philosophy and Religious Studies offer one or two medieval courses, usually at the second-year level. *The History of Philosophy: Medieval* looks at selected philosophical works in the Christian, Islamic and Jewish traditions while *Religious Life and Thought in the Middle Ages* explores the work of major theologians from the fifth to the thirteenth centuries.

Despite the limited number of opportunities to teach Medieval Studies in a primarily undergraduate institution, University of Winnipeg medievalists maintain active research programs. Elizabeth Dawes (French Studies) has published several articles on idioms and proverbs in the medieval Romance languages. Murray Evans (English), author of *Rereading Middle English Romance* (McGill-Queen's, 1995), has recently been working on a book-length study of the sublime, the subject and the Trinity in Coleridge's *Friend* and the *Opus Maximum*. Carol Harvey (French Studies), is the President of the Canadian Society of Medievalists 2002-04. She has published extensively in English and French on the romances of Philippe de Remy. Her present research program is on the fourteenth-century miracle plays of the Cagé Manuscript. She has received awards for teaching and research and in 1988, the Government of

France appointed her Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques. Zbigniew Izydorczyk (English) has published *Manuscripts of the Evangelium Nicodemi: A Census* (1993) and edited *The Medieval Gospel of Nicodemus: Texts, Intertexts and Contexts* (1997). He is currently finishing his edition of the Latin Gospel of Nicodemus. Wesley Stevens (History), Professor Emeritus of Medieval History and the History of Science, is the author of four books and monographs and over fifty articles in German and Italian as well as English. He has also edited ten volumes of essays and translated four articles and books into English from French and German. In 1992, the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung of Germany awarded him the Humboldt-Forschungspreis for his teaching and research; he was honoured in 1997 by election to the Académie internationale d'Histoire des Sciences.