

Intern. Congr. Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo May 2-5, 2002

Julia Miller

37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo May 2-5, 2002
Abstracts Deadline: September 15, 2001

Special Session

"In the name of God and Profit:" Images of Commerce and Spirituality in the Later Middle Ages

This session will explore the multifaceted relationships between commerce and spirituality as depicted in late Medieval images. The Italian merchant Francesco Datini's ledger entry ("in the name of God and profit") illustrates one way in which religious piety and business practices were integrated in the late fourteenth century. Such a connection reflects contemporary anxieties over how religious thought could structure commerce and profit-making. Religious texts also integrate commercial practices with salvation, such as Jacopo da Voragine's citation of Augustine, where Christ's redemption of mankind's original sin was recast as the borrowing of money at interest and the debt's repayment. The large numbers of images depicting money, charity, vices connected with greed, and religious stories related to poverty and wealth, reflect societal attempts either to delineate moral divisions between profit-making and religious piety, or to reconcile them. Papers might consider religious imagery produced in connection with commerce, such as images for guilds; the depiction of commercial practices in narrative cycles or manuscripts; commissions for mendicant orders; private commissions; coinage, or relationships between images and sumptuary laws.

Abstracts must be submitted by September 15, 2001 (see instructions on the following webpage)

<http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/37cfp/02letter.html>

Please contact one of the co-organizers for further information.

Julia Miller: jimiller@csulb.edu

Laurie Taylor-Mitchell: ltmitch@juno.com

Julia I. Miller
Art Department
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90840
Phone: 562-985-5665
Fax: 562-985-1650
jimiller@csulb.edu

Reference:

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