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Meredith Abroad seeks interested students

Now is the time to sign up for Meredith in Great Britain 1984, according to Dr. Roger Crook, director of the program.

Faculty members in addition to Dr. Crook who will accompany the group this year include Dr. Craig Greene of the art department and Dr. Dorothy Preston of the math department.

The program will begin at Meredith in May where students will spend two weeks in classes. Then the group will move to the University of Stirling in Scotland where they will spend 2½ weeks. Finally,

the group will move to London for six weeks, returning at the end of July.

Courses offered this summer include Art History, Beginning Photography, Basic Statistics, A History of Science, History of Christianity in Great Britain, and Contemporary British Society.

"We change the course offerings each summer to try to give variety," said Dr. Crook. He said that 13 departments at Meredith had been involved in the program at least once.

The cost of the program is the cost of one semester at

Meredith during the next school year. This cost includes transportation from Boston overseas and back and room, board, and tuition.

The group that comprised Meredith Abroad this past summer included 40 students and three instructors. While in Scotland, the group went on excursions to the Trosachs Mountains, Glamis Castle, Sir Walter Scott's home and fishing

villages on the Coast of Fife and St. Andrews. Most students also went to Edinburgh.

In London, the group stayed at the Maria Assumpta Centre which was a five-minute walk from Kensington Palace and 15 minutes by subway to the theatre district. The group took excursions to Canterbury, Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford and Oxford.

Dr. Crook and his wife had

a unique experience when they met the Queen Mother with a small group at Clarence House. Dr. Crook said that she spent a few minutes talking to each person in the group, making them feel comfortable.

Students interested in Meredith Abroad '84 should go by and see Dr. Crook, 212 Joyner. All Meredith students are eligible, and he will take the first 40 who sign up.

Medieval manuscripts on display in Meredith College library

Several medieval manuscripts from Duke University will be on display until October 10 at the Carlyle Campbell Library. Arranged in cooperation with Dr. John Sharpe, director of the Perkins Library Rare Book Room, the manuscript exhibit is one the highlights of the Medieval Festival at Meredith this fall.

All of the manuscripts displayed date from the thirteenth century, with the exception of Petrus Comestor's *Sermones*, a late twelfth-century copy made possibly during the author's lifetime. The manuscripts' Latin language texts restricted their use to scholars and preachers, although their message often filtered down to laymen in the form of vernacular sermons.

Manuscript (MS.) 12 is a vellum codex or book containing a Franciscan breviary, a collection of prayers said by members of the order. Produced in France, this breviary contains several historiated initials; that is, the letter beginning a paragraph or section of the text has been enlarged and elaborately decorated. It is interesting to note that if in fact this MS. dates from the mid-thirteenth century, then it was copied within 25 years after the founding of the order by St. Francis.

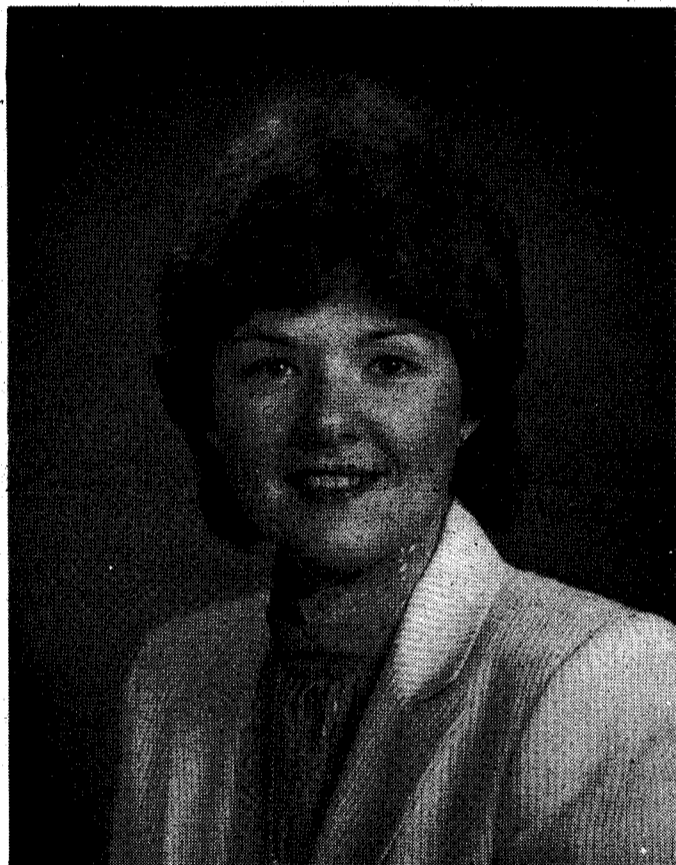
During the Middle Ages a book might be called a "Bible" even if it contained only a few chapters of Scripture. In fact it was common practice in medieval scriptoria, or copying centers, to produce "Bibles" consisting of a single book or section, for example the Gospels or the Apocalypse. MS. 32 is a case in point: it contains the books of Job, Proverbs, Lamentations, and Ecclesiastes. The text begins with an illuminated initial, an enlarged letter circumscribing a picture. Another remarkable feature of this codex are the gold-letter entries for two feast days of the Virgin.

MS. 101 is a collection of sermons by Petrus Comestor.

"Comestor," a Latin word meaning "the eater," is a nickname given to this medieval churchman because he devoured (and presumably also digested) so many books. But Petrus was a prolific and influential writer as well; his manual of sacred history, the *Historia scholastica*, found its way into almost every library in medieval Europe. Like the manufacture of books, the art of preaching is a medieval legacy that has resisted change down through the centuries. Still, because his books circulated so widely in religious milieus, and because his authority inspired credence well into the Renaissance, Comestor's impact on preaching could be compared to

in that it was twice enlarged and incessantly recopied; well over 100 copies of the *Aurora* survive today, and many others must have been lost, victims of fire, war and time.

The *Aurora* is a "Bible," but—once again—not in our sense of the word. First, it is in poem form. Petrus no doubt believed the transformation of Bible stories into rhyme would enable his readers (as well as those who only heard the text read) to memorize Scripture more easily; thus the pleasant and the useful commingle in his book. Second, the *Aurora* contains vast sections of commentary explaining the different meanings—from literal to allegorical—of the scriptural text.



Dr. Rosemary Hornak presented the Distinguished Faculty Lecture on Sept. 12.

Dr. Hornak delivers Distinguished Faculty Lecture at Meredith

Rosemary T. Hornak delivered the Meredith College 1983 Distinguished Faculty Lecture entitled, "Breaking the Barriers to Women's Achievement: The Spiral of Success" on September 12 at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

In April Dr. Hornak received the Pauline Davis Perry Award for Excellence in Teaching and was described by Meredith President John Weems during the award presentation as "an excellent teacher with high expectations of herself and her students."

A member of the Meredith faculty since 1977, Dr. Hornak is currently assistant professor

of psychology and has been an adjunct professor of psychology at North Carolina State University since 1979. She graduated from Wheeling College and Ohio State University, and specializes in cognitive and developmental psychology. Sex roles and psychology of women are among Dr. Hornak's interests, which she applies as a certified childbirth educator.

The Faculty Distinguished Lectures are given annually by an outstanding faculty member at Meredith. This tradition was begun during the 1963-1964 academic year by the president of the College at that time, Dr. Carlyle Campbell.



that of John Wesley in modern times.

MS. 110 contains a copy of Petrus de Riga's *Aurora biblia versificata*, a rhymed Bible with commentary written toward the end of the twelfth century. Although literacy in general and knowledge of Latin in particular were usually limited to the priesthood, we can call Petrus' *Aurora* a medieval "best seller"

Moderns tend to consider the Middle Ages as a "culture of the book;" in reality it was a culture of the spoken word. The manuscript display clearly shows the form and functions of the medieval codex, but the real wonder is that these texts served to incubate reflection, discussion and debate throughout medieval Europe. No less marvelous, indeed, is that these fragile texts have survived at all.