

The Medieval Chronicle 11 (2018) – Abstracts

Marcus Bull – Eyewitness and Medieval Historical Narrative

Historians routinely make judgements about sources according to whether or not they are ‘eyewitness’. But this is a category that has received little scholarly attention, a surprising omission given the emergent interest in historical experientiality, as well as in light of the research undertaken into eyewitness perception and memory by cognitive and social psychologists. This paper examines the interest in autopsy demonstrated by ancient historians, and then assesses the extent to which medieval writers’ approaches to eyewitness evidence matched those of their classical predecessors. The paper concludes with an analysis of two eyewitness texts – Robert de Clari’s account of the Fourth Crusade, and Francesco Balbi di Correggio’s history of the Great Siege of Malta – in order to consider the role that eyewitnessing could play as a plot device within a narrative, and the manner in which an eyewitness author might situate his autoptic status relative to other validating strategies. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 1-22)

Dominique Adrian – La Chronique de Memmingen: histoire et luttes politiques dans une ville d’Empire au XV^e siècle

While the chronicles of Augsburg or Nuremberg have been edited long ago and extensively researched, the only medieval chronicle of the South German Imperial city of Memmingen remained virtually unknown up to these days. Its authors, Erhard Wintergerst (mainly 1440–1471, although beginning with a mythical narration of the older history of the city) and Heinrich Löhlin (to 1497), were merchants from the *Tucher* guild and held political offices in their city; the latter seems to have been a first-rate politician in Memmingen. Both authors share the same views on the political life of the city: both are passionate champions of the guilds in their opposition to the patricians, a lasting conflict in Memmingen; this very personal perspective is unparalleled in other sources. It shows also how the new historical interests, developed in Augsburg or Nuremberg around 1450, extend their influence in other, smaller towns. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 23-42)

Anders Bengtsson – Le rôle du connecteur *car* (ou *nam/enim*) dans la prose historique: connecteur interphrastique?

Which role had the conjunction *car* (‘for’) in Old French? Since *car* could be syntactically mixed with others, authors considered it sometimes a conjunction that began a main clause. But it also had another role, viz. a marker in prose texts. Thus, *car* became an essential element in the conversion of verse into prose.

In this article, comparisons are made between Froissart’s *Chronicle* and the anonymous *Anglo-Norman Prose Brut*. Froissart clearly makes more use of it than the author of the *Brut*, which is perhaps due to the special way of composition of the *Brut*. This text does not represent a mechanical conversion into prose, whereas Froissart’s style seems more conversational, since he described what he heard and saw and put it into his own words.

In a study on *Knighton’s Chronicle*, the author eventually asks whether Latin influence could explain the high frequency of *car* in French: the evidence provided here clearly supports the lack of influence of Latin on French chronicle composition. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 43-63)

Kim Bergqvist – The Vindication of Sancho II in the *Crónica de Castilla*: Political Identity and Historiographical Reinvention in Medieval Castilian Chronicles

The first part of the post-Alfonsine *Crónica de Castilla* (c.1300) is partly a vindication of the reputation of Sancho II, the king who is known to have initiated the fratricidal wars after the death of Fernando I in 1065. This article demonstrates how this is a direct consequence of the political identity constructed and disseminated within this utterly Castilian chronicle, and probably a response to certain specific historical and political circumstances in the final years of the thirteenth century. The article argues the need to view changes in the historiographical genre during this period, including those that transformed history writing towards a more ‘literary’ mode, as relevant to the ideological views and projects of the instigators of chronicle writing. Finally, it questions current views of the *Crónica de Castilla* as an example of aristocratic historiography. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 64-86)

Catherine Blunk – Faux Pas in the Chronicles: What is a Pas d'armes?

Identifying a *pas d'armes* (a type of fifteenth-century tournament) is not an easy task. Most of the medieval chroniclers of the extant accounts of jousts held by René d'Anjou in Nancy and Châlons-sur-Marne in the mid fifteenth century call these events *joustes*. Yet a few contemporary authors, including a chronicler, call them *pas*. In this essay I will use evidence from chronicles, chivalric biography and a work of fiction to show that a recognizable textual convention is evident in most *pas d'armes* accounts. I will also examine modern scholars' definitions of *pas d'armes*. I will then closely analyze the accounts of the events in Nancy and Châlons-sur-Marne to see if they meet the current defining criteria for *pas*, ascertain whether those criteria should be reconsidered, and determine if attention to the textual convention can help verify whether or not these events were indeed *pas d'armes*. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 87-107)

Nicholas Coureas – The Perception and Evaluation of Foreign Soldiers in the Wars of King Peter I of Cyprus: The Evidence of the Cypriot Chronicles and its Shortcomings

This paper discusses foreign soldiers in Cyprus under King Peter I (1359–1369). It examines their military value but also why Cypriot nobles opposed their presence. Discussion centres on the evidence of four chronicles; the anonymous Chronicle called 'Amadi', the Chronicle of Guillaume de Machaut, the so-called *La prise d'Alexandre* (on the capture of Alexandria in 1365), the *Chronique des Quatre Premiers Valois* and the Chronicle of Leontios Makhairas, called the *Exegesis*. The introduction on foreign soldiers serving in Cyprus during the Civil War of 1228–1232, based on the *Estoire de la guerre qui fu entre l'empereur Frederic et Johan d'Ibelin*, a chronicle written by Philip of Novara, a noble participant in these events, has been included. This is due to the parallels it affords with the fourteenth century. The importance of corroborative documentary evidence to balance inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the accounts of the chronicles is stressed. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 108-126)

Lisa Demets – 'Toujours loyal': A Middle Dutch Chronicle of Flanders by Jan van Dixmude in sixteenth-century Ghent

The political and social milieus in which manuscripts circulated offer new insights into the writing aims of the material author(s) or scribe(s) and the interpretation strategies of subsequent owners. In this light, this contribution reconsiders the writing context of the so-called Chronicle of pseudo-Jan van Dixmude. By confronting the material and textual information provided by the original manuscript (Ghent, University Library, G. 6181), the manuscript can be related to a politically ambitious family in sixteenth-century Ghent. The writing of medieval Flemish historiography in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Flanders seems to be closely related to the practice of politics, more particularly in moments of crisis such as revolts. Jan van Dixmude's manuscript version of the Middle Dutch Chronicle of Flanders or *Excellente Cronike van Vlaenderen* provides new insights into the social and political identities of late medieval patricians aspiring noble ambitions. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 127-153)

Catherine Emerson – Using an Example: Denis Sauvage, Philippe de Comynes and the 'Vieil Exemple'

Philippe de Comynes was part of a community of writers in the fifteenth century who referred to their work as *Mémoires*, but readers did not recognize this as a generic marker and first editions of his work were published as *Chroniques*. This article examines the editing strategies of Denis Sauvage, the first editor to use the title *Mémoires*, and his references to an unidentified manuscript. For Sauvage and his publisher, Galliot Du Pré, the manuscript has intellectual and financial value, justifying the granting of a new royal privilege for exclusive publication. However, in many cases, the base text remains the text as originally published, with references to the manuscript serving to draw attention to the skill of the editor's craft. Similar approaches can be identified in modern editions of medieval histories. (*MedChron* 11 (201): 154-170)

Rodrigo Furtado – Reassessing Spanish Chronicle Writing before 900: The Tradition of Compilation in Oviedo at the End of the Ninth Century

This paper is a contribution to the origins of Spanish medieval historiography. I analyze two collections: the collection copied in the 'Soriensis' manuscript, most probably lost in a fire in 1671, and the so-called *Chronica Albeldensis*. I defend that shortly before the year 900 in Oviedo, Spain, from where

both these collections originate, there was an interest in an easily readable kind of ‘universal history’ based on compilations of previous texts. These compilations were still modelled upon Eusebius-Jerome’s *Chronicon*, but they already supposed a great freedom in the handling of those previous texts, revealing great difficulty in understanding history as synchronic. They also formed an authentic historical canon subject to continuous additions and redesigns, becoming the backbone of Medieval Spanish compilatory historiography until at least the thirteenth century. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 171-194)

Henry Gough-Cooper – Decennovenal Reason and Unreason in the C-Text of *Annales Cambriae*

In 1216, or soon thereafter, a Welsh nationalist chronologist created a version of the St David’s chronicle that was an ancestor of the late thirteenth-century chronicle in London, British Library, Cotton MS Domitian A.i, known as *Annales Cambriae* C. The chronicle consists of a set of annals to which a universal chronicle has been prefixed, and the earlier compiler’s work is preserved within this surviving late thirteenth-century edition. This paper examines the evidence for the early thirteenth-century compiler’s overt and covert use of the 19-year lunar-solar (or ‘decennovenal’) cycle, to encode a powerful statement about the significance of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (c.1172–11 April 1240). (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 195-212)

John Melville-Jones – The Battle of Gallipoli 1416: A Detail Rescued from a Chronicle

On May 29, 1416, a Venetian fleet was attacked by a Turkish fleet off the harbour of Gallipoli, and decisively defeated it. The report that the Venetian commander, Piero Loredan, sent to the Senate is preserved in two very similar versions, in the contemporary chronicle of Antonio Morosini and in the later work *De Origine Urbis Venetae et Vita Omnium Ducum* written by Marin Sanudo. Sanudo’s version, however, omits one incident. The omission can be explained by the fact that the person concerned (Dolfino Venier) was distantly related to him. This shows that scholars need to examine every source for medieval history carefully, even if they sometimes seem to be recycling the same material. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 213-219)

Grischa Vercamer – The Origins of the Polish Piast Dynasty as Chronicled by Bishop Vincent of Kraków (Wincenty Kadłubek) to Serve as a Political Model for his Own Contemporary Time

Bishop Vincent of Kraków, known as Wincenty Kadłubek, was the most influential scholar in Poland in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century. In his *Chronica Polonorum* (c.1205) he wrote the prehistory of Poland in a very untypical way. Instead of constructing a straight lineage of the dynasty of the Piasts from ancient times up to his own day (as most of the other authors of his time did), he invented deliberately different prehistoric dynasties for the Poles and inserted artificial time gaps among them. Thus, he stressed the idea of Poland as a *res publica* (people of Poland), who could survive quite well without rulers, if indeed the latter turned out to be bad and egotistical. This implied a clear warning to the contemporary Piasts: they should keep the matters of the *res publica* in mind or they could be replaced. Poland had already managed to get by – so he argued – without rulers for various periods in the past and could, if necessary, do it again. (*MedChron* 11 (2017): 220-27)

Review

***The Chronicle of Amadi*, translated from the Italian by Nicholas Coureas and Peter Edbury (Karl Borchardt)**

(*MedChron* 11 (2017): 248-252)

Review

Éloïse Adde-Vomáčka, *La Chronique de Dalimil* (Ivan Hlaváček)

(*MedChron* 11 (2017): 253-257)

Edition

Sjoerd Levelt – Anthony Munday’s ‘Briefe Chronological Suruay concerning the Netherlands’ and the Medieval Chronicle Tradition of Holland in the Early Modern Period: Introduction and Edition

(*MedChron* 11 (2017): 258-296)