




2003

## Front Matter

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# QUIDDITAS

*Journal of the Rocky Mountain  
Medieval and Renaissance  
Association*

**Volume 24**

**2003**

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Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in PMLA, Historical Abstracts, and America: History and Life.

### FROM THE EDITOR

Quidditas. This is a Latin legal term that originally meant “the essential nature of a thing” and appeared in fourteenth-century French as “quiddite” In the Renaissance, the English adaptation, “quiddity,” came to mean “logical subtleties” or “a captious nicety in argument” (OED) and is so used in Hamlet (“Why may not that be the skull of a lawyer? Where be his quiddities now, his quilllets, his cases, his tenures, and his tricks?” 5.1.95–97). Thus, the original Latin meaning, together with the later implied notions of intense scrutiny, systematic reasoning, and witty wordplay, is well suited to the contents of the journal.

Cover design by Winston Vanderhoof and Jason Daum, Truman State University designer. Domenico Theotokopulos, called El Greco. Spanish, b. Greece, 1541–1614. The Assumption of the Virgin, 1577, oil on canvas, 401.4 x 228.7 cm., Gift of Nancy Atwood Sprague in memory of Albert Sprague, 1906.99, unframed. Reproduction, The Art Institute of Chicago

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ARTICLES

God As Androgyne: Jane Lead's Rewriting of the Destiny of Nature Sylvia Bowerbank . . . . .	5
The Unfortunate Traveller and the Ramist Controversy: A Narrative Dilemma Kurtis B. Haas. . . . .	25
Pain for Pen: Gaspara Stampa's Stile Novo Amy R. Insalaco . . . . .	39
Wise Maget Jolyon Timothy Hughes . . . . .	55
ALLEN D. BRECK AWARD WINNER	
The Presence of the Past: Shakespeare in South Africa Natasha Distiller . . . . .	87
DELNO C. WEST AWARD WINNER	
Using and Abusing Delegated Power in Elizabethan England James H. Forse . . . . .	101

*Contents*

**BOOK REVIEWS**

<i>The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality and the Scribe</i> Thomas Klein . . . . .	117
<i>The Friend</i> Garrett P.J. Epp. . . . .	120
<i>The Manly Masquerade: Masculinity, Paternity, and Castration in the Italian Renaissance</i> Liz Horodowich . . . . .	124