




2002

Front Matter

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QUIDDITAS

Journal of the Rocky Mountain
Medieval and Renaissance Association

volume 23

2002

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Manuscripts written in English and dealing with medieval or renaissance studies, regardless of field or nationality, should follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* and be submitted without the author's name appearing therein. A cover letter containing the author's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and title of paper should accompany the submission. Please send four copies of the manuscript to:

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Editor, *Quidditas*
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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 “*quiddité*.” 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 quilleys, 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, Truman State University designer.

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