




2001

## Front Matter

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# QUIDDITAS

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Founded in 1980 as *JRMMRA* (*The Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association*), the journal is published once a year. In 1998 the Association voted to change the journal's name to *Quidditas*, but retained the former title, *JRMMRA*, as a subtitle for that year of transition. The present volume for 2001 is thus the third volume published under the title *Quidditas*.

Scholars of the Middle Ages or Renaissance are cordially invited to submit essays (twenty to thirty double-spaced manuscript pages) that would appeal to readers of medieval and early modern disciplines. As always, submissions will be refereed.

Manuscripts 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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Bozeman, MT 59717-2300

Authors of accepted work will be asked to supply a copy of the manuscript on a computer disk compatible with Macintosh programs.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscription to the journal for individuals is by membership in the Association at the following costs: \$25 for graduate students, independent scholars, adjunct faculty, and retired faculty; \$35 for Assistant Professors; \$40

for Associate Professors; \$45 for Full Professors; and an additional \$5 at the appropriate level for joint memberships. A single back issue costs \$20. For further information, including institution subscription rates, please contact:

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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

The title of the journal has been changed from *JRMMRA* in order to reflect the national and international contributions included in each volume. Rather than remain a “regional” publication, with readers and articles drawn primarily from the Rocky Mountain states, the journal (as well as the Association itself) has expanded its focus and now seeks to publicize that change through this inaugural volume of *Quidditas*.

*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 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, Truman State University designer.

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