

Proclamation!

On this the twenty fifth day of October in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twelve, we have these announcements to present.

Firstly, just a carriage ride away at OSU on the sixteenth of November, there will be a lecture so named "Maimed Bodies and Broken Systems in the Old Norse Imaginary." It will commence at 3:00pm in the 090 Science and Engineering Library.

Secondly, at Sturges room 005 on the twenty-sixth of November we will have a 6:30pm dinner followed by a film.

Most Sincerely,

Student Editor: Rebecca LeAnn Dollard

Contributing Students: Amanda Caserta, Collin James, Kristin Schwacha

AARS Chair: Dr. Patricia DeMarco

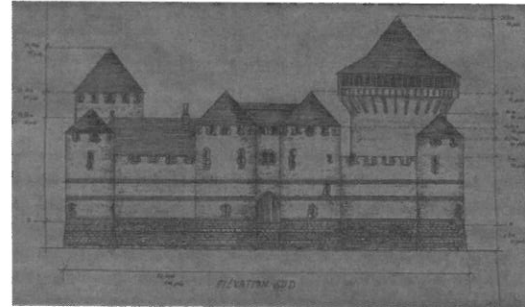
AARS Office Manager: Kathleen Frissora

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A Modern Medieval Wonder By: Amanda Caserta



Ever wonder what it was really like to build a castle in the Middle Ages? Me too. I recently stumbled onto a fabulous find that can help to answer that question, located in an old abandoned quarry in the Burgundy region of France. There, a massive building project is aiming to recreate a 13th century castle using only medieval technology and materials. Guédelon Castle was begun in 1997 and is projected to be completed around the year 2022. The owner and visionary behind this endeavor is Michel Guyot, who is also the owner of the nearby Saint-Fargeau Castle (another 13th century wonder). *Continued on page 2*

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What is most astounding about this project is that we get a chance to observe as it happens what it was really like to create these massive structures and the time and effort it took to create them.



Modern structures are built within a matter of months with the use of machines and a few hundred laborers, but these projects took years and hundreds or thousands of men who not only pieced the structure together with their own hands, but

also created the materials and tools on site or nearby. That is exactly the process being used at Guédelon; everything from the mortar to the building stones to the iron tools are made or cut on site using the materials that surround the area.

Another beauty of this project is that it is open to the public. People can visit and observe the use of medieval technology as well as engage in demonstrations such as iron smelting, making charcoal, medieval cooking, and much more. Amazingly enough, this is not the only project in the world of this magnitude. Right here at home, another similar project is underway in Lead Hill, Arkansas. The Ozark Medieval Fortress was inspired by the Guédelon Castle and began in 2009. Unfortunately, construction at Ozark has been suspended until an investor can be found. Luckily Guédelon Castle is still in full operation, so for those lucky enough to make it to France, I would highly recommend a trip. Information about Guédelon Castle can be found on its website, including visiting and event information, You can learn more at <http://www.guedelon.fr/index.php?lg=en>.

Our guide explained their philosophy on investing so much time, energy, and money into what some would argue is superfluous detail: their main objective in any work done on York Minster must ultimately keep with the spirit of the building. In the Medieval



cathedral construction, carvings with just as much elaborate detail would have been found all over the building, even in places in where no one could see or appreciate them. This work was religiously motivated- it was worth the expense because it was for the glory of God. Now, not everyone invested in the restoration of this cathedral is motivated by religion. However, these buildings are the result of hundreds of years of people attempting to transform raw stone and glass into something stunningly beautiful, and so worth preserving.

Something Wicked This Way Comes...



The fraternities have been playing a game called Assassin on campus, but as AARS majors, minors, and faculty, I bet we know a thing or two more about killing people (academically only of course). So this year, we are

going to have the first AARS War. We will take themes from Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance traditions and really make the game our own. To do that, we need your input. So, bring your dinner and join us on November 5th at 5 o'clock in Sturges Room 009 to help us create the rules for our upcoming battle!

*Continued from page 5...*heads as if by a divine power, and to illustrate the grace and cohesion of the overall architectural plan. The ruins of these buildings still retain the power to captivate and inspire, even though the roofs have fallen in and the elaborate carvings have been worn by centuries of weather. However, in an environment with the right combination of cultural, political, financial, and religious factors, some of these medieval sites have managed to be actively preserved. A few of the sites that we visited were restored to a truly impressive degree. York Minster is one such site. Not only does it still function as a site of religious worship, but it also has a comprehensive restoration team that constantly surveys and repairs the cathedral. Our tour of the facilities allowed us to observe actual masons carving the building's stones by hand.

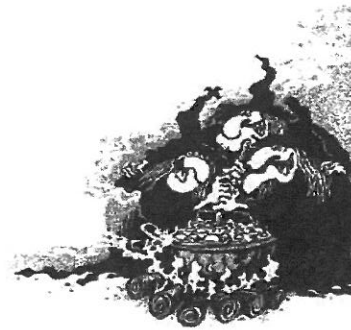


After this, we sorely tested our acrophobic classmates by donning hardhats being whisked in an elevator to the scaffolding at the top of the cathedral. The view of the city wasn't the only thing awe-inspiring up there; newly-carved grotesques had been recently installed. Yet even though a tremendous amount of time has been spent on these incredibly detailed carvings, once the restorations on that face of the cathedral are finished and the scaffolding is taken down, no one will see them.

THE STEREOTYPICAL WITCH: BASED IN CLASSICAL ARCHETYPES ?

BY: COLLIN JAMES

As Halloween approaches, our minds turn towards the changing of leaves, pumpkins and apples, and Halloween. Ghosts, vampires, and witches stereotypically wander the streets and star in many spooky tales. Witches almost always seem to be ugly old hags who work all their magic around a large cauldron, as we see in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.



“Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom, sleeping got,
Boil thou first I'th'charmed pot.”
(Stratton 1)

Where did this stereotype come from? While Classical magic is a broad and still debated over topic, I think this is where the stereotype for witches and cauldrons starts. Our earliest look would be Circe in Homer's *Odyssey*. When Odysseus lands on Circe's island, he sends half of his men to scout it out in which they come across Circe's hut.

“She led them inside, asked them to sit on high chairs and benches, and mixed for them a dish of cheese and barley, clear honey, and Pramnian wine. But into the mixture she also put some dangerous drugs that would make them forget completely their native land. *Continued on page 4*

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After she had given this to them and they had drunk it, she quickly stuck them with her wand and drove them into her pig pens.” (Luck 61-63)

From our earliest stories, Classical women are the ones who know herb lore and are adept at using it for healing, though this can be extended to using herbs that are dangerous in poisons and drugs. Herbs were usually broken down with a mortar and pestle to make it into a paste, poultice, or potion, which over time could have evolved into the cauldron. Circe is not the only witch whose power is shown through potions and herbs. Medea is another powerful witch in Classical literature who is well known as the spurned lover of Jason.

“Poison now the robes of Creusa! As soon as she puts them on, let a hidden flame burn her marrow deep inside. Within this dark-golden box lurks an invisible fire... Add your sting to these poisons, Hecate, and preserve in my gift the seeds of fire that are hidden in it!” (Luck 86-88)

Added to this box are many other ingredients that also have associations with fire, creating a poison so potent, that when Creusa puts it on, she burns the whole wedding congregation. These are but a pair of Classical stories that place witches as women of herbs, able to mix herbs and other ingredients into powerful and deadly potions that struck fear into the hearts of everyone.



Because history kids cite things, here they are:

Luck, Georg. [Arcana Mundi: Magic and the Occult in the Greek and Roman](#)

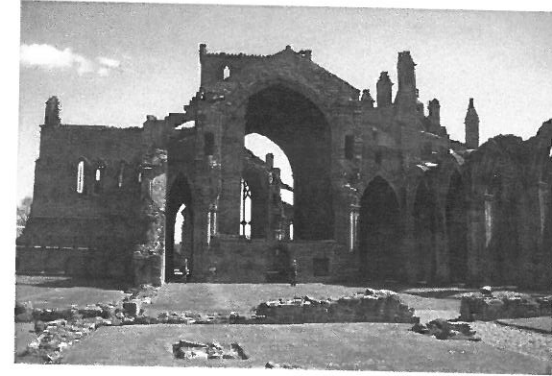
[Worlds: a Collection of Ancient Texts](#). Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2006.

Stratton, Kimberly B. [Naming the Witch: Magic, Ideology, and Stereotype in the](#)

[Ancient World](#). New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

Holy Restoration! The Ever-Shifting Fabric of Medieval Historical Sites

By: Kristin Schwacha



For about two weeks last May, I was visited the United Kingdom with eleven other students on a travel learning course to study Medieval castles and cathedrals. The trip was absolutely fantastic, of course, and took us on a whirlwind tour of castles, abbeys, and cathedrals from Scotland to the tip of southern England. Not only did these buildings vary widely in function, architecture, and geographic location, but they also cover a wide historical time span.

Due to this multitude of variables, each site we visited was in its own unique state of historical preservation and restoration. Some, like Melrose and Jedburgh Abbey, were partially destroyed. They still bore the marks of the Scottish border wars, with only portions of these once-massive buildings left relatively intact. It was necessary to use some creative imagination to envision these cathedrals in their prime. They were works of stone and stained glass that soared to mindboggling heights, shaped to emphasize both the weight of the stone held above the congregation's... *Continued on page 6*