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## Welcome

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Welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art & Architecture*.

This issue is devoted to a series of interdisciplinary articles focused on popular imagery in the form of graffiti and badges, both sacred and secular. Edited by Matthew Champion and Becky Williams, are six articles that explore the flourishing scholarship on medieval and later graffiti (and other building marks) assisted by ever-expanding examples made available on photographic databases. Most buildings have been found to contain some markings and sometimes many layers of markings, appearing in the most unexpected places, over centuries.

After a thoughtful introduction explaining the new field of examining graffiti and building markings, Matthew Champion explores the radical shift in perceptions towards historic graffiti. This is followed by Becky Williams an examination of the bewildering variety of graffiti found at one site: All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard and what each might mean within its physical context. Graffiti found in the jail at Winchester's Westgate is the subject of Claire Woodhead's study as to its multiple roles in what must have been a place of combined misery and hope. Alison Fearn's article, then investigates hitherto-overlooked deliberate taper burn marks at Donington le Heath Manor House and how their production and placement was meant to keep the home's occupants safe. Natalie Cohen's essay describes how graffiti is displayed and interpreted at a wide range of National Trust sites in Kent and East Sussex: each building brings forward new questions for scholars and visitors. Perhaps most surprising is the discovery analyzed by Crystal Hollis of graffiti marks on the St. Joan of Arc Chapel, once in France and now in Milwaukee and what its medieval and more modern inscribers wished to communicate. Becky Williams, then, sums up recent scholarship on graffiti and suggests new directions in which researchers could inquire. Linking with this excellent group of articles is the article by Ben Reiss who proposes a new interpretation of sexual body-part badges in late medieval Europe which, like the graffiti crosses boundaries of sacred and secular as well as rich and poor.

The Discoveries section includes accounts of the findings of an early-Byzantine mosaic map, an underground 5th-century church with brilliant frescoes, the recreated sounds of Byzantine Thessaloniki, Anglo-Saxon jewelry, a lost 12th-century castle, 13th-century insults and fresco paintings on church walls, dog prints, and submerged churches.

New layout/New format. In hopes of coming (finally) into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art & Architecture* is trying out a new format under Digital Commons. This means that accessing the journal should be cleaner and easier and that previous issues are now professionally archived for the future. It also offers features such as online submissions and email notices and more. We welcome any suggestions/compliments/criticisms you have regarding this change.

### **Photobank**

The Photobank database continues to serve as a resource for scholars and teachers. Recent uploads include details of English parish churches. Please note that our Photobank has undergone considerable renovation and is now part of Digital Kenyon at Kenyon College. You can search

by typing in a key word or name in the search box (e.g. Canterbury). The Photobank continues to grow with copyright-free images all downloadable for use in research and teaching.

### **The Future**

For future issues we are actively seeking articles on any aspect of medieval art and architecture, including: long and short scholarly articles, scholarly book reviews, review articles on issues facing the field of medieval art history, interesting notes and announcements, useful website recommendations, new archeological discoveries, and recent museum acquisitions. We are interested in publishing articles that will undergo double-blind review as well as those which are subject only to regular editing processes, including articles that are the result of preliminary research. We are also looking for images to add to our photobank, to be shared and used by anyone in the classroom and in their research. To round out the scholarly portion of the journal, we are also seeking short, amusing excerpts from medieval sources, comments on the Middle Ages in movies and popular culture, etc.

Again, welcome to *Peregrinations*. Any suggestions or comments you have concerning the journal would be most welcome. Please feel free to e-mail us at: [Sarah Blick \(editor\)](#).

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