

Proposal for panel, ASLH meeting, Dallas, November 2009

“Varieties of Editing: Pleasures and Pitfalls in Editing Pre-Modern Legal Documents”

This panel is designed to present the methods and problems encountered in editing different kinds of legal documents. One panelist, Patrick Nold, has edited a medieval text giving marriage advice designed for Pope John XXII (who was thinking about doctrine, not planning matrimony); it is a codex unicus, which means that while he did not have to collate he had no guidance when a (Latin) word or phrase was uncertain. He has just published *Marriage Advice for a Pope: John XXII and the Power to Dissolve* (Brill, 2008). He is an assistant professor of history at SUNY Albany. The second panelist, Peter Grund, is assistant professor in the English Department at the University of Kansas (although all his degrees come from Uppsala University, Sweden). He is one of the editors of a new edition of the records of the Salem witch trials, just published by Cambridge University Press as *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt*. Their concerns were quite different; the Salem texts are of course not unknown but editions over the years have differed in completeness and interpretation. The commentator is Frances Whistler, who for more than twenty years was an editor at Clarendon Press of Oxford University Press and who moved to Boston University's Editorial Institute in 2004 to co-direct preparation of the edition of James Fitzjames Stephen being prepared there.

The hope is that members of the audience who are themselves editing, or thinking of editing, or simply working with a pre-modern or non-Western document will learn something useful and be able to ask questions.

Laura Culbertson, "Modern Concepts and Ancient Procedures: Problems in the translation of Sumerian dispute records".

Laura Culbertson holds a bachelor's degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago. She has the master's degree and this Spring will complete work on her Ph.D., both under the direction of Professor Piotr Michalowski at the University of Michigan. [She will have the doctorate before the ASLH meeting.] In the Fall she will be a post-doctoral scholar at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

Patrick Nold, "Editing 'Marriage Advice for a Pope': Why do medievalists edit texts and how do they do it?"

Patrick Nold holds the D. Phil. from Oxford (1999). He is assistant professor of history at the State University of New York at Albany. He is the author of *Pope John XXII and his Franciscan Cardinal: Bertrand de la Tour and the Apostolic Poverty Controversy* (Oxford, 2003) and numerous articles. His book *Marriage Advice for a Pope: John XXII and the Power to Dissolve* was published by Brill this year.

Peter Grund, "Who Wrote What and When? The charting of records and the editing of the documents from the Salem witch trials".

Peter Grund holds the BA, MA, and Ph.D. from Uppsala University, Sweden. He is assistant professor of English Language Studies at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Prior to his appointment he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of English at Uppsala University. He was recently one of a group led by Bernard Rosenthal which edited *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (Cambridge, 2009). He is an editor with Merja Kyto [Kyto has an umlaut over the o but my program won't let me include it in an email] and Terry Walker of a volume with the preliminary title *English Witness Depositions 1560-1760: An Electronic Text Edition* (Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins). He has published numerous articles, many of them in the field of linguistics.

Frances Whistler, Commentator.

Frances Whistler had a variety of editorial roles, from desk editor to commissioning editor, at the Clarendon Press, the Academic imprint of OUP, for more than 20 years. She joined the Editorial Institute at Boston University in 2004 to co-direct preparation of a multi-volume edition of the works of the judge, codifier, and historian of the law Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, to be published by OUP, and to teach publishing-editor skills.