

9 November 1962

A Proposal
to Establish at UCLA
a Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

It is proposed that a Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies be established at UCLA as of 1 July 1963.

I. The Problem.

During the past two decades medieval and Renaissance studies have both greatly broadened **and** at the same time tended to converge. These movements of scholarship have opened up new questions which require a degree of collaboration among experts with very diverse competencies such as could scarcely have been envisaged a generation ago. Moreover, the investigation of new problems has inevitably entailed a continuing **re-exploration** of traditional ground from a broader perspective and with a deeper insight.

The Middle Ages are no longer an intelligible unit if defined simply as the phase of Occidental culture extending from the victory of Christianity to the overseas expansion of western Europe. In most fields of research the problems of Latin Christendom in this period have been found to ramify into the Byzantine, Slavic and Islamic East, and into the remarkably fertile minor Christian communities of the Orient. Often, as well, they are touched by the cosmopolitan Jewish culture. Increasingly, for purposes of creative scholarship, the "Middle Ages" stretch from Iceland to Ethiopia, from Morocco to Muscovy. They include a constellation of kindred cultures based intellectually on Greek thought and religiously on Jewish monotheism.

Similarly, Renaissance scholarship has grown much more complex. It is now seen that the Near East remained a major, although dwindling, force in the formation of Western culture until deep into the sixteenth century. Study of the Northern Renaissance and of classical enthusiasms during the Middle Ages has provided a wider context for understanding the remarkable

originality of Italy in this period. Even the Reformation is now generally envisaged less as a break with the past than as the culmination of powerful religious impulses of the four centuries **preceding**. Functionally the old division between medieval and Renaissance scholarship has lost much of its significance. They are now a unified field of investigation.

The new view of the Middle Ages and Renaissance has likewise expanded understanding of the implications of classical studies. Awareness both of continuities and of **mutations** in the tradition stemming from Antiquity is integral to the erosion of barriers between medieval and Renaissance scholarship, and lends new vividness to our sense of the Graeco-Roman element as a living and creative ingredient in later ages. Not only in the Latin West but also in **Byzantium** and the Near East, Greece and Rome provided much of the common denominator.

A **major** research center implementing and enlarging the new conception of medieval and Renaissance studies, and their close alliance with classical scholarship, is needed in this country, but nowhere seems in prospect save at UCLA. Harvard, for example, is blocked by the fact that most of its advanced Byzantine studies are at Dumbarton Oaks, 400 miles from Cambridge.

II. The Reasons for Establishing a Center of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UCLA.

(1) The Regential decision to **make** UCLA the primary focus for development of Near Eastern Studies within the University of California makes logical and, indeed, academically necessary an intensification of the study of the innumerable ways in which the Near East influenced and was influenced by the Western and the Slavic peoples during their **formative** period. It is not irrelevant that a major statement of the new conception of **medieval** studies as embracing not only the West but also the Byzantine and **Islamic** areas is Professor Gustave von Grunebaum's Medieval Islam, 2nd edn. (Chicago, 1953).

Under his leadership the UCLA Near Eastern Center has developed not only internationally recognized work in the Arabic, Hebrew, Iranian and **Turkic** fields, but also in the (**much rarer**) study of the oriental Christian cultures. The recent commitment of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research to endow a chair at UCLA in the Armenian field is significant for medieval studies here.

(2) The relative adjacency of UCLA to the Huntington and Clark Libraries, with their **massive** resources in the English Renaissance, is a piece of good fortune which demands great emphasis on Renaissance studies at UCLA. No other major American university has so great an opportunity. An understanding of the total Renaissance, and not merely the English Renaissance which was so largely dependent on Continental impulses, is **fundamental** for analysis of many of the most significant elements in American life. The recent gift to UCLA of the Elmer Belt Library of Vinciana, and the purchase of the **Nicodem**i and Corsini libraries, point our direction. The French, German, Scandinavian, Netherlandish, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech and Polish Renaissances, as well as the English Renaissance, await far more intensive research, to all of which the study of the Italian is **primary**. And, to repeat, the new context of their investigation is continuity with the Middle Ages, a Middle Ages to which the Near East is integral.

III. Purposes of the Proposed Center.

The Center:

(1) would publish, through the University press, a journal of medieval and Renaissance studies devoted primarily, although not exclusively, to problems of cultural osmosis among the many sub-cultures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Initially at least, this publication would be annual. It would receive and solicit articles not only from members of the University's faculty on all campuses, and from our doctoral graduates, but from competent scholars the world over. In place of reviews, it would try systematically

to publish critical evaluations of significant monographs and articles relevant to the Middle Ages and Renaissance appearing in languages not generally used by scholars in this field. There is a growing body of publication in the Slavic, Scandinavian and Netherlandish tongues, in Arabic, Turkish, Iranian, Armenian, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Finnish, Rumanian, Welsh, and even in the languages of South and East Asia, which is partially inaccessible even to the most learned scholar. No abstracting service is envisaged, but rather an effort to point to the more solid and provocative new findings now largely unavailable. The **Center's** journal would therefore have a considerable advisory board, chiefly drawn from all campuses of the University, to serve as scouts for, and evaluators of, such materials.

(2) would stimulate **contributions** to the various monograph series of the **Press**. Whether any new series is needed remains to be seen. A Corpus Scriptorum de Re Technica has been discussed to publish the now unavailable medieval and Renaissance materials on technology written in Latin, Arabic, Italian and **German**.

(3) would arrange **small** invitational conferences to discuss substantive problems in medieval and Renaissance studies, and to explore their growing edges. Presumably papers presented to, or emerging from, these conferences would often be published in the **Center's** journal and would thus have international influence.

(4) would develop liaison between **UCLA** and national and international scholarly bodies in the field.

(5) would explore sources of **funds** for research and would aid members of the faculty in applying for such assistance.

(6) would help to **build** library resources, including microfilms, in its field at **UCLA**. The recent appointment of Mr. J. M. **Edelstein** as special bibliographer for the Middle Ages and Renaissance marks a great advance.

(7) would cooperate with, and buttress related research units (see infra, IV).

(8) would arrange public lectures and colloquia, would be hospitable to visiting scholars, and would act as a stimulus and "communications center" for medieval and Renaissance activities and interests. It would also occasionally aid Extension in organizing relevant offerings,

(9) would consult, by means of its Director and Advisory Committee, with departmental chairmen, the deans of the various colleges and professional schools, the Dean of the Graduate Division, and the directors of other research units, regarding continual strengthening of the faculty in its field of interest.

(10) would award research assistantships and graduate fellowships. These would be publicized over the country by means of brochures and posters.

(11) would consult with the appropriate departments, schools and colleges to facilitate the study within those departments, schools and colleges of students with medieval and Renaissance interests.

(12) would arrange informal social gatherings, normally in relation to lectures or the like, at which scholars of kindred interests may become better acquainted. This is very necessary at UCLA because of the residential diffusion of the faculty.

IV. Relation of the proposed Center to other research units at UCLA.

During the past few years UCLA has developed a group of research units in the humanities and social sciences which are in many ways mutually buttressing: the Near Eastern Center, the Russian and Eastern European Center, the Center for the Study of Comparative Folklore and Mythology, and the Center for Research in Languages and Linguistics. Many of our faculty are actively concerned with more than one of these centers. While each has a distinctive field and function, their bibliographical growth has in particular been supporting to each other. The proposed Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies fits this pattern.

V. Relation of the proposed Center to faculty on other campuses of the University.

There are already excellent medieval and Renaissance scholars both at Riverside and at Santa Barbara, to speak only of southern California. Since obviously thirteen centuries of the development of our civilization cannot be neglected either at the undergraduate or the graduate level, within two decades there will be considerable groups of faculty in this field on eight campuses of the University. It would be astonishing if, on at least a few of these, research units somewhat similar in scope to that of the proposed Center were not eventually developed. Meanwhile, the UCLA Center should do all in its capacity to support and encourage interested scholars on all campuses. As has been indicated, their contributions to its journal and to its conferences would be sought, and their researches promoted in so far as may be possible. When related research units emerge on other campuses, the UCLA institute would work closely with them for common objectives.

VI. The faculty at UCLA in medieval and Renaissance studies.

For several years a Renaissance Group and a Faculty Medieval Club, with largely overlapping memberships, have been operating informally at UCLA. Thanks largely to their discussions and representations, the library is being notably strengthened and desirable additions have been made, or are being made, to the faculty, although much remains to be done in both respects. As of the autumn of 1962, the following 63 members of the faculty and staff of UCLA have a research interest in the Middle Ages and Renaissance as described in section I, above:

James Andrews	Spanish (Portuguese and Spanish Renaissance theatre)
Samuel Armistead	Spanish (Medieval Spanish epic., balladry and historiography)
Alexander Badawy	Art (Coptic art)

Franz Bauml	Germanic Lang. (Middle High German literature and philology; Middle Latin literature, German palaeography, 1000-1500)
Elmer Belt	School of Medicine (Leonardo da Vinci)
Marc Bensimon	French (Renaissance literature)
Karl Birkmeyer	Art (14th-15th cents.)
Henrik Birnbaum	Slavic Lang. (Slavic historical linguistics; medieval and Renaissance Slavic intellectual history)
Kenneth Chapman	German Lang. (Scandinavian dialectology)
Mark Curtis	History (English Renaissance education and politics)
Herbert Davidson	Near East Lang. (Arabic and Hebrew philosophy)
Dante della Terza	Italian (Middle Ages and Renaissance)
Robert Dent	English (Elizabethan drama; Shakespeare bibliography)
Hugh Dick	English (History of literature, science and ideas in Renaissance England)
Alfred Dolch	Germanic Lang. (Gothic; Old High German; Old Saxon; early medieval commentaries)
Janos Eckmann	Near Eastern Lang. (The Eastern Turkish world during the Middle Ages)
J. M. Edelstein	Library (Middle Ages; Renaissance)
Anthony Forbes	History (English Renaissance law and politics)
J.A.C. Grant	Political Science (Legal history: English, canon law, law merchant)
Jonas Greenfield	Near Eastern Lang. (Medieval Jewish literature and history)
Charles Gullans	English (Scottish Renaissance poetry)
Rudolph Habenicht	English (Early Tudor literature)
Wayland Hand	Germanic Lang. (Literature; folklore)
William Hitchcock	History (Renaissance; Reformation)
Andrew Horn	School of Library Service (Medieval and Renaissance libraries and bibliography)

Albert Hoxie	History (Late Renaissance architecture and allied arts)
Judd Hubert	French (Renaissance literature)
Paul Jorgensen	English (Renaissance)
Robert S. Kinsman	English (Renaissance)
John Lapp	French (Prose and poetry of the Pleiade)
Wolf Leslau	Near Eastern Lang. (Ethiopic cultures)
Philip Levine	Classics (Palaeography ; Late Latin literature)
Miriam Lichtheim	History (Coptic texts)
Thomas Marrocco	Music (Trecento Italian music)
William Matthews	English (Late Middle Ages in England)
Ernest Moody	Philosophy (Medieval logic and philosophy)
Donald O'Malley	School of Medicine (Medieval. and Renaissance anatomy and physiology)
Moshe Perlmann	Near Eastern Lang. (Near Eastern history and civilization)
Carlo Pedretti	Art (Leonardo da Vinci's context)
James E. Phillips	English (continental backgrounds of the academic contribution to English literature in the Renaissance)
Jaan Puhvel	Classics (Linguistics ; vulgar Latin)
Gilbert Reaney	Music (Medieval music and related literature, especially French)
Florence Ridley	English (Medieval and Renaissance Scottish literature)
Walter Rubsamen	Music (Italian , Netherlandish, French, German and Scottish music of the 15th and 16th cents.)
Carl Sheppard	Art (Medieval sculpture to the 13th century)
Joseph Silverman	Spanish (Renaissance drama, and balladry)
Eli Sobel	Germanic Lang. (Middle-class culture in Renaissance Germany)
Charles Speroni	Italian (Renaissance Italo-English literary relationships)

Kate Steinitz	(Leonardo da Vinci)
Robert Stevenson	Music (sixteenth century Spanish Music)
Robert Stockwell	English (History of English pronunciation and syntax)
Norman Thrower	Geography (History of Cartography)
Andreas Tietze	Near Eastern Lang. (Turkish language and literature of the 14th-16th cents.; folklore)
Giuseppe Velli	Italian (15th century literature)
Gustave von Grunebaum	History (Islamic and Byzantine intellectual history)
Speros Vryonis	History (Byzantium)
Eric Wahlgren	Germanic Lang. (Old Norse; Icelandic, runes)
Lynn White, jr.	History (Medieval and Renaissance technology; Indic influences)
Glenys Witchard	French (Arthurian legends; Welsh)
Terence Wilbur	Germanic Lang. (Linguistics, Old Irish)
Harry F. Williams	French (Old French and Spanish language and literature)
Dean Worth	Slavic Lang. (Literary language of Kievan Russia, 11th-14th cents.)
Marion Zeitlin	Portuguese (Old Portuguese and Spanish)

The proposed Center would not directly affect the teaching programs of the relevant departments, save as might result from the consultations indicated supra, III (10). However, it is hoped and expected that the conferences, colloquia, lectures, etc., organized by the Center, as well as the Center's efforts to aid the research projects both of individuals and groups, within its sphere, will further enliven both undergraduate and graduate teaching in medieval and Renaissance studies.

VII. Structure and Operation.

The Director of the Center would be appointed by the Chancellor of UCLA on nomination of the Dean of the College of Letters and Science, to

whom the Director shall report. The Dean of the College shall appoint an Advisory Committee to work with the Director in the development and operation of the Center. The editor and editorial board of the Center's journal shall be appointed annually by the Director in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

The Director should normally be relieved of teaching one course. He should consult frequently with the Advisory Committee and the editor of the journal, and informally with all members of the faculty concerned with medieval and Renaissance studies, to assure that the Center shall be responsive to faculty needs and wishes.

The Center should be housed with the editorial office of its journal, in the physical area of the faculty in humanities and social sciences.

VIII. Budget for 1963-64.

I. Salaries	FTE		
A. Academic (0)			
1. Director (1/3 time)	0.34	\$5,600.00	
2. Research assistants (2 on 11 months at \$2640)	1.00	5,280.00	
			\$10,880.00
B. Non-academic (1)			
1. Secretary-stenographer II (6 mo. at \$380; 6 mo. at \$399.)	1.00		4,674.00
C. General assistance (2) (1/8 of \$4,344.)	0.125		543.00
	<u>2.465</u>		
II. Supplies and expense (3) Telephone, mailing, travel, hospitality, honoraria, stationery, printing, etc.			2,600.00
III. Equipment and facilities (4)			
Electric typewriter		\$ 350.00	
Metal filing cabinet		52.00	
Storage cabinet		105.00	
Book cases (2)		120.00	
Audograph and transcriber		729.00	
Duplicating machine		300.00	
			<u>1,656.00</u>
		Total	\$20,353.00

Comments on 1963-64 budget:

1. It is assumed that the editor of the **Center's** journal will have an office adjacent to the **Center's** office and will utilize its services and facilities. The University of California Press likewise is prepared to offer some secretarial assistance to editors of journals published by them.
2. It is anticipated that 4 research assistants (on half time) will be requested for 1964-65, 6 for 1965-66, and 8 for 1966-67.

Respectfully presented,

Dante della Terza

Wayland Hand

Philip Levine

Ernest Moody

Jaan Puhvel

Gustave von Grunebaum

Lynn White, jr. (chairman)