COMING IN 2021
The New Medieval Prosopography

Medieval People:
Social Bonds, Kinship and Networks

Dear Friends,

Starting in 2021 Medieval Prosopography will transition into Medieval People: Social Bonds, Kinship and Networks.

In 1980, the first volume of Medieval Prosopography contained a welcome by Joel Rosenthal, one of the three editors, as well as “The Scope of Medieval Prosopography,” as essay by George Beech, another of the original editors. As George Beech indicated, prosopography is dedicated to highlighting “hitherto unknown or obscure individuals.” In recent years social network analysis has come to signify what prosopography was used to describe. To keep up with this evolution, the title of the journal has been changed to capture just this sort of scholarship but also to include other approaches to studying the lives of medieval people.

The mission and objectives and focus of the rebooted Medieval People will feel familiar, but the delivery will be different. This new iteration of the journal will carry on the current numbering system, so volume 35 will be the last print volume of Medieval Prosopography and volume 36 will be the first online-only volume (with an option to print articles on demand) of Medieval People.

The earliest volumes of Medieval Prosopography were “self-published” in 1980s technology (a typewriter and copy machine). When this journal debuted, the founding members could not have foreseen the development of current forms of academic publishing, the internet or the proliferation of tools that scholars could use to research the lives of medieval people. In his opening remarks, Rosenthal indicated that it was hoped that the journal would be “a channel of communication for North American and European scholars.” As an electronic journal, Medieval People aims to encourage the same interaction, but also hopes to engage scholars from all over the globe.
Medieval People, like Medieval Prosopography, will have articles that will appear annually. However, an enhanced online presence will allow for a more timely delivery of information throughout the year, such as featuring new research projects and online databases useful to those working in social network analysis and collective biography; highlighting upcoming conference sessions and conferences; promoting useful tools for those working in the field; etc. For those preferring a more traditional mode of delivery, articles will be able to be printed on demand. Medieval Institute Publications will continue to be our partner in this newly rebooted journal.

We hope that you will join us in moving Medieval Prosopography into the future with Medieval People. For information about subscribing and the launch of the new journal please keep an eye on our website: https://wmich.edu/medievalpublications/journals/prosopography.

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