

**DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE AGES**  
**c/o Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS)**  
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**Arizona State University**  
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### **“Dear Colleague” Letter**

1 December 2008

Thank you very much for your interest in our 2009 Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers, “Disease in the Middle Ages.” We have been delighted by the outpouring of enthusiasm we have received for the Seminar, and thrilled to have support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) to launch this first-ever collaborative project that combines new humanistic and scientific approaches to exploring the past experiences of health, disease, and disability in premodern times. This letter provides an overview of the Seminar’s objectives and structure, as well as detailed information on the accommodations, resources, and other benefits of our environment in London next summer. All this same information—as well as links to other relevant information—can be found on our website as well: <http://medievalseminar2009.asu.edu>. Also, please do not hesitate to direct questions to us via e-mail at [medievalseminar2009@asu.edu](mailto:medievalseminar2009@asu.edu).

#### **A Note about the Application Process.**

Full information on the application procedure can be found in section 12 below. Here, we would like to remind you that the application process has two parts.

**Part 1 – submitted directly to NEH:** Go to the following website at NEH and fill out the online initial application form: <http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> This part is for the NEH’s own internal records and is the necessary first step of processing your file.

**Part 2 – submitted directly to the Seminar Directors, c/o ACMRS:** The rest of the application materials are sent to us directly, at the e-mail or snail-mail address found at the end of this letter.

**Assessment of applications is made solely by the Seminar directors, plus one additional consultant, and not by the NEH. The application deadline is 2 MARCH 2009.**

#### **1. The scope of the project and the general approach to the study.**

This five-week seminar for college and university teachers will be held July 5 through August 8, 2009, in London, England. Based at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London, and the Wellcome Library (the world’s premier

research center for medical history), this Seminar will gather scholars from across the disciplines interested in questions of health, disease and disability in medieval Europe. A primary goal will be to explore how the new scientific technologies of identifying pathogens (particularly leprosy and plague) can inform traditional, humanistic methods (historical, literary, art historical, and linguistic) of understanding cultural responses to disease and disability. Reciprocally, we will also explore how traditional, humanistic studies of medieval medicine can inform modern scientific studies of disease. This will be the first such project of its kind and we very much look forward to initiating participants into a completely new way of looking at the medieval world.

Special emphasis will be placed on assisting you with your independent research projects relating to the History of Medicine, especially, but not restricted to, those based on unpublished primary sources.

## **2. Intellectual Objectives.**

In 2007, the National Library of Sweden in Stockholm mounted a webpage devoted to the Codex Gigas, the so-called “Devil’s Bible.” Long known in a superficial way to medieval scholarship, this early thirteenth-century compilation is regarded as the largest medieval manuscript ever made: 890 mm tall by 490 mm wide, weighing in at 75 kg. What had not previously been widely known until the online description of the manuscript was published, was that about two-thirds of the way through this collection of biblical and historical texts are several of the most-widely circulating medical texts in medieval Europe.<sup>1</sup>

“Hiding in plain site” is a phrase that could aptly describe both medieval medicine and its historiography. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, studies surveying the general medieval landscape continue to give short shrift—or ignore outright—topics related to disease, health, and disability and the learned and practical traditions of knowledge associated with them. More frequently, when disease is considered, the Black Death is the only subject, and it is often handled with little dexterity. This Seminar seeks to bring these issues out into the light of day. Even if not yet widely acknowledged by other medieval scholars, the history of medicine is now in its prime, the object of excellent work being done by a broad international array of scholars. Moreover, linguists, literary scholars, art historians, religious historians, even historians of music have increasingly recognized the ways in which medical terminology, medical analogies, medical images, and even medically motivated music performance all drew on common beliefs about the structure and internal processes of the human body.

Dialogue between medical historians and other medieval scholars has been going on for some time and wonderful advances have been made in pushing forward philological work in editing major and minor texts; pinpointing the development of medical vocabularies (especially in the vernacular languages); and finding analytical methods for better understanding the meanings that medical illustration had. This seminar will survey all the best work in each of these areas.

But we will go further. The traditional humanistic disciplines of history, art history, literature, religious history, and music history share basic methods and analytical assumptions because they all focus in one way or another on documents and other material artifacts: objects that humans themselves have made, whether textual or plastic. We will add an additional

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<sup>1</sup>Stockholm, National Library of Sweden, MS A 148 (Codex Gigas), s. xiii in. (Bohemia). A full description and digital reproduction can be found at *Codex Gigas*, <http://www.kb.se/codex-gigas/eng/>, accessed 20.vii.2008.

dimension to the methods that can be used to understand the ways societies of the past have wrestled with the body and its physical limitations: we will add modern science to the dialogue.

The related fields of paleopathology and paleomicrobiology allow a new kind of understanding of disease and disability. By focusing literally on the physical remains of human bodies, these scientific disciplines allow medievalists to step outside their texts and images and see the medieval world from a new perspective. We don't pretend that these methods of studying skeletal lesions or bacterial DNA are automatically more productive of "truth" than traditional humanistic methods. We make no such presumption at all. Rather, we propose that it is in the interests of both humanists and biological scientists to engage in *dialogue* about each others' methods—and for that, both sides need to have a better understanding of the methods and presumptions of the other disciplines.

This Seminar, therefore, offers a panoramic view of current humanistic as well as scientific views on the medieval landscape of health and disease, healing and disability. We will cast our net broadly to look not only at western Europe, but also the Islamic world which shared and even inspired the West's intellectual systems as well as sharing its exposure to the same infectious diseases.

The Seminar will take place at the Wellcome Library in London, the world's premiere center for the history of medicine. We will, moreover, exploit a variety of other resources that England has to offer, from ancient Roman baths to horticultural settings of immense beauty to the remains from medieval plague cemeteries in the Museum of London. You will have access to the British Library, which is just down the street from the Wellcome, as well as other leading libraries in London and nearby Cambridge and Oxford. Our objective is to offer you, as a scholar not formally trained in the history of medieval medicine, the opportunity to immerse yourself in the best work in the field, and to then take the insights you have gained and vigorously apply them to the researches you are undertaking in your own field.

### **3. An introduction to the core faculty.**

This Seminar has two co-directors: Monica H. Green, PhD, Professor of History at Arizona State University, and Walton O. Schalick, III, MD/PhD, Assistant Professor of History of Medicine and Bioethics and of Pediatrics, Orthopedics & Rehabilitation and History of Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Drs. Green and Schalick bring complementary skills and, between them, over 40 years of teaching experience. Together, their research covers a geographic range from Italy to England, and a methodological range from philology and textual analysis to pharmaceuticals and disability studies. Three guest lecturers, all senior scholars, will bring expertise in the particular areas of Islamic medicine, medieval paleopathology, and the history of surgery. The combined talents of the co-directors and the guest lecturers will offer you a full array of the historiographical approaches to medieval medical and disability history.

Dr. Green has extensive experience as an editor and historical interpreter of medieval medical texts, in Latin as well as vernacular traditions, having edited the Latin *Trotula* and surveyed the entire corpus of medieval Latin and vernacular gynecological texts. Her approach is both philological and cultural-historical. Her first book, *Women's Healthcare in the Medieval West: Texts and Contexts*, was co-winner of the 2004 John Nicholas Brown Prize from the Medieval Academy of America for the best first book in medieval studies. Her most recent book, a major cultural history of women's medicine from 1100 to 1600, examines topics as diverse as women's literacy, the impact of medical licensing, and the cultural resonance of misogynistic discourse in the context of medicine and science. She is now engaged on a major

study of the 12th-century medical school of Salerno, the first entry point of Arabic medicine into the West and the first medieval Christian center to ground medical explanations on rigorous application of scientific principles of causation. Green has extensive research experience in all the major European libraries, including those of London. This Seminar presents a unique opportunity for her to share with fellow scholars the extraordinary riches of medieval medical culture. She is particularly interested in the processes of translation of medical literature and the ways in which various techniques of literary analysis can aid the medievalist in identifying the audiences and uses of these texts. She is also interested in the ways in which changes in legal culture affected medical practice.

Dr. Schalick, trained both as a physician and a historian, specializes in disability studies, pharmacology, and medical ethics, as well as medieval medical history. Winner of numerous research and teaching awards, Dr. Schalick has published and edited work on the history of medieval medicine, medical pharmacology, pain and practice, particularly on the northern European model of the University of Paris. He served as co-editor of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of Disability*. (2005). His first book manuscript (now in progress) is on the history of the formation of the medical marketplace around the inchoate university in Paris in the thirteenth century and how that marketplace altered the theory and practice of medical pharmacology. A second contracted book manuscript for OUP presents a pan-chronological history of Cerebral Palsy and its experience. A third monograph will trace the medicalization of children with disabilities in Europe. In addition, he has extensive experience in medieval archival research in London, Paris, Berlin, Munich and Rome. He is an ardent supporter of research that combines his own training in both medical scientific methodologies and historical disciplines. In addition, his focus on both the emerging medical institutions of the Middle Ages and the broader sociocultural meanings of disability will diversify the Seminar's perspectives.

Guest lecturers will include several of the leading figures in the History of Premodern Medicine now working in North America and Europe. We have invited them precisely because of their skill at presenting their deeply learned findings in engaging ways.

Emilie Savage-Smith, PhD, is Senior Research Associate, The Oriental Institute and Senior Research Fellow, St Cross College, Oxford. Her works include "The Exchange of Medical and Surgical Ideas between Europe and Islam" (1999); "The Practice of Surgery in Islamic Lands: Myth and Reality" (2000); *Medieval Islamic Medicine* (with co-author P. Pormann, 2007); and *A New Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, Volume 1: Arabic Manuscripts on Medicine and Related Topics* (forthcoming). In 1996, she served as curator for a stunning exhibit of Islamic medical manuscripts at the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/arabic/>).

Anne Grauer, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Loyola University of Chicago. Trained as a biological anthropologist, Dr. Grauer has published extensively on many aspects of paleopathology and paleodemography. Having done several studies analyzing mortality and morbidity patterns in selected gravesites in England, Dr. Grauer is now engaged on a major study of the physical lives and deaths of medieval women with the leading paleopathologist of the Anglophone world, Charlotte Roberts.

Michael R. McVaugh, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His award-winning 1993 book, *Medicine before the Plague:*

*Doctors and Patients in the Crown of Aragon, 1285-1335* explored the social and cultural aspects of medicine. Since 1975 he has been a general editor of the collected Latin writings of one of the most famous of medieval physicians, Arnau de Vilanova (d. 1311). Recently he has turned his attention to medieval surgery and its place in the world of medieval learning; he has edited the last great surgical treatise of the Middle Ages, Guy de Chauliac's *Inventarium* or *Chirurgia magna* (1997), and written a close analysis of how medieval surgery became "scientific," *The Rational Surgery of the Middle Ages* (2006).

#### **4. Applicant Profile.**

The ideal participant for this Seminar will be a faculty-member at a university or college in the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences with an interest in research on medieval medicine. The Seminar is designed for those with no prior background in medical history. Similarly, it does not presuppose any advanced training in the biological sciences. As the Seminar will not focus on one geographic area, scholars working on any aspect of medieval Europe or the Mediterranean, and in any discipline, are encouraged to apply. Also, because our understanding of Europe will be expanded by thinking comparatively, scholars with expertise in other premodern cultures (e.g., pre-Columbian Americas or China) will be welcome, as will scholars in the sciences who wish to be introduced to the methods of humanistic investigation of disease and disability. The archeologist with experience in studying the Plague of Athens, who nevertheless now wishes to study the Black Death; the literary scholar who has investigated the role of the body in Arthurian texts but is trying to understand the import of medicine on her research; and the microbiologist who has been investigating the epidemiology of leprosy, but who wants to understand its interface with the social history of physicians and the Church as well as the new meanings of leprosy in disability history would all be ideal candidates. All readings in the seminar will be in English. But because a large portion of the medieval medical corpus has never been edited or translated, a comfortable command of medieval Latin and/or any medieval vernacular language (including Arabic or Hebrew), as well as paleography and codicology, will greatly facilitate participants' ability to engage deeply with the collective work of the Seminar and their own research projects.

#### **5. Seminar Schedule and Participant Contributions.**

The Seminar will meet in London at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London (183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE) from Monday, July 6 through Friday, August 7, 2009. (You will be able to move into your accommodations on Sunday, July 5—or even Saturday, July 4 with prior arrangement—and stay until Saturday, August 8.) The Seminar will convene three mornings a week for five weeks to discuss common readings and examine historiographic patterns of disease and disability. Usually, our meetings will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, though we may adjust the schedule the second week of the Seminar (July 14-16) if participants plan to attend the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. You will be asked to prepare readings in advance for common discussion, which will be supplemented by presentations by the instructors and guest lecturers using various textual, visual, and other materials. In addition to this common material, we would like to invite you to present preliminary findings of your own research to the rest of the Seminar. The schedule of these presentations will be determined according to individual topics of research. It is hoped that by

the time of your presentation, you will have completed some portion of your on-going research project that can be circulated in advance to the rest of the Seminar for common discussion.

Afternoons will normally be left free to allow you time to prepare the Seminar readings and to explore your own research topics. During the first three weeks, on one afternoon a week there will be an optional session on research methods to benefit participants without prior training in Medical History but whose ongoing work may benefit from its methodologies. These sessions will focus specifically on (1) digital tools for researching the History of Medicine online, (2) the special demands of paleography for reading medical texts (this session will take place in the Manuscripts Room at the British Library and be conducted by Manuscripts Librarian, Laura Nuvoloni),<sup>2</sup> and (3) special interpretative issues in analyzing medical illustrations.

During the first three weeks, we have also scheduled one “field trip” per week. The first field trip is intended to introduce you to ancient Roman health maintenance, now preserved as both ancient ruins and modern practice in the city of Bath. Balneotherapy was intrinsic both to the medieval humoral (mainstream) therapy and remains central to contemporary and modern alternative therapies. Our visit will be enhanced by readings from ancient and medieval sources on the culture of balneotherapy. In the second week, the field trip will take us to the Chelsea Physic Garden in London. This will introduce you to the botanical basis on which nearly all medieval medical practice—learned or popular—was based. Topics for discussion will include Mediterranean vs. northern flora; the influx of “exotic” *materia medica* via the Islamic world; and questions of how these materials were actually made into therapeutic products. Finally, in the third week, we will conduct a trip to the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology at the Museum of London (MoL). Led by Dr. Anne Grauer with assistance from William White at the MoL, we will examine there the remains from the East Smithfield Black Death Cemetery, a mass gravesite excavated in 1986-88 that was used during the first wave of the plague pandemic in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and which contains the remains of at least 558 individuals. The objective of this trip is to allow you to better understand the practices of retrieval of the material remains of medieval people and the ways paleopathological scientists go about making their interpretations.

We also hope to provide some occasions where you can informally meet and interact with European scholars who share similar interests. We have designated Wednesdays “medieval lunch day”: if you desire to join us, we will have a lunch following the Seminar every Wednesday where scholars resident in London or just passing through can join us for informal conversation.

Fridays, as well as several Thursdays, will be free days when you can devote the full day to your own work, whether in London, other research centers in the U.K., or on the Continent. The Seminar Directors will be available throughout the Seminar to assist in formulating and executing these projects.

## **6. Individual Meetings and Research Assistance.**

Both Seminar directors will be present throughout the five-week Seminar and will be available for one-on-one meetings with you at least one afternoon a week in their offices at the

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<sup>2</sup>This session will be for medievalists already trained in paleography and engaged in active manuscript work. As there are no dictionaries or other reference works particular to the special technical language or terminology of medicine, a basic introduction to medical abbreviations and symbols will greatly facilitate your ability to work with medical texts in manuscript.

Wellcome Centre. Also, both will be reachable via e-mail at other times. The co-directors would like to meet jointly with each Seminar participant during the first week to have an in-depth discussion of your research objectives and goals for the Seminar and a second time when appropriate later during the Seminar.

### **7. Research Resources at the Wellcome and beyond.**

As a member of the Seminar, you will have access to the Wellcome Library, “[o]ne of the world’s greatest collections of books, manuscripts, archives, films and paintings on the history of medicine from the earliest times to the present day.” The Wellcome Library’s resources constitute the principal reason for holding the Seminar in London. Virtually every resource that the medical historian needs—specialist journals, biographical dictionaries, scientific literature (including paleopathology)—is available. The Wellcome also has one of the largest databases of medical images in the world. A large part of the collection of modern scholarly literature is in open-stack browsing, while retrieval of closed-access materials is very prompt. Finally, the Wellcome has perhaps the single largest specialized collection of medieval medical manuscripts in the world. This includes materials in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and nearly all the medieval European vernacular languages. The Library’s hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10.00-18.00, Thursdays 10.00-20.00, and Saturdays 10.00-16.00. The Library has now made many of its databases available via its Remote Access service (a list can be found at <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/remotearchive.html>); once registered, you will be able to access many of the library’s databases from off campus. Because you will also have ASU affiliation (see under “Participant Status and Privileges” below), you will have access to the e-journals and databases to which ASU subscribes (and ASU e-mail accounts, if you wish to use them).

Members of the Seminar will also have access to the British Library (less than half a mile down the street from the Wellcome, <http://www.bl.uk>), with thousands of medieval manuscripts, including large numbers of medical texts. Access to the BL collections is readily obtained by applying for a Reader’s Pass (<http://www.bl.uk/services/reading/admissions.html>); you will need your passport for this and proof of your home address (so bring your U.S. driver’s license or other documentation). Other London resources include the libraries of the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Historical Society, the Public Record Office, the Warburg Institute, the Society of Antiquaries of London, etc. You can also individually arrange access to other research libraries in Britain, such as those at Cambridge and Oxford Universities. (You should probably contact any library you wish to visit before your departure to confirm their requirements for admission; some may ask for a letter of reference from your home institution. A few charge fees to obtain a reader’s ticket.)

University College, London (UCL, where participants will lodge) now has a wireless system running throughout its physical campus, which you will be able to access. In the Wellcome Centre’s facilities, the Seminar will have use of a seminar room and a lecture room, AV equipment, the use of a student common room with coffee machine, etc. for breaks, access 24-hours a day to a study room with about six desktop computers with Internet access, workspace and lockers for the participants, telephone at cost, photocopying at 2p. per sheet, and passes to the building for the participants. The Seminar may be able to call upon limited administrative support from the Wellcome Trust Centre from time to time. The Wellcome Trust Building, which houses both the Centre and the Library, has recently undergone extensive renovations and is now fully accessible to the disabled.

## **8. Description of housing at University College, London.**

**Frances Gardner House:** Wren Street, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 0HD

**Telephone:** +44 (0)20 7833 8175

**Nearest Underground stations:** King's Cross, St Pancras, Russell Square, Chancery Lane.

**Walking time to King's Cross/St Pancras/British Library:** approximately 17 minutes

**Walking time to Wellcome Trust Centre (183 Euston Road):** approximately 30 minutes

This newly built residence hall of University College, London, comprises 215 single en suite rooms (i.e., with personal bathrooms) and one double en suite room, arranged as cluster flats, all with their own kitchen/dining area. All rooms have computer data points. We have arranged for a group rate of £35/night from Sunday, July 5 to Saturday, August 8 (arrival date *might* be moved up to Saturday, July 4). Meals are *not* included in this fee. We have already made a deposit to secure the booking, and will need to pay the balance by early May. If you choose to take advantage of this housing option, the costs for your room will be deducted up front from your stipend payment.<sup>3</sup> Please note that University College of London is in no way sponsoring or approving academically the Seminar, "Disease in the Middle Ages." As guests of UCL Residences, we obliged to follow all rules and regulations. (Further details can be obtained by contacting the Seminar offices.)

## **9. Participants' Stipend.**

The stipend amount for a five-week seminar is \$3800, the standard amount provided by the NEH for five-week seminars. Out of this, you will need to cover your airfare to London; the cost of accommodations for the University College, London;<sup>4</sup> and all other personal costs, including the books assigned for the course, meals, and other incidentals. (Other readings will be made available as digital files on a Blackboard® site from ASU.) We will provide you with an "Oyster Card" (a discount ticket for the London Tube system) with fare to cover local transportation for our three field trips. (You can then load extra money on the card to use as you like.) Also, the train fare to Bath (our "field trip" for the first week) will be covered by the Seminar, as will the admissions fees for all the field trips. The costs of photocopying at the Wellcome Trust Centre will be partially subsidized by the Wellcome. Because this is an overseas seminar, it will be possible for you to receive your full stipend in advance (minus the UCL housing costs, of course). Please note, however, that if for any reason you have to leave the Seminar early, you are required to reimburse NEH for the balance of the stipend (pro-rated on a weekly basis). No refunds can be provided on housing. Note that it is *very* likely that you will need to supplement your stipend with other funds to meet your full costs during the Seminar (please see #11 below).

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<sup>3</sup> At the time of writing, exchange rates with the British pound (£/GBP) have dropped to their lowest point in several years: currently, \$1.53:£1. The housing fee of £1225 (35 nights @ £35/night) thus translates to approximately \$1875.

<sup>4</sup> As noted above, if you choose to stay in UCL housing, the costs for the room will be deducted up front from your stipend payment.

### **10. The status of participants at the host institution.**

You will have a “double identity” for the summer. All participants will be registered through Arizona State University as “affiliates”, which will grant you an ASU computer account, allowing you an ASU e-mail address (should you wish to use it) and access to the Blackboard® account we will use to post readings, share files, and post messages. This will also allow you access to all the electronic resources to which the ASU libraries have subscriptions (including e-journals, databases, etc.). These include such crucial resources for the medievalist as the *Middle English Compendium* and the *International Medieval Bibliography*. You will also have online access via ASU to materials available at the Wellcome but not available via external access, such as the leading biographical dictionary of British persons, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, as well as various online journals. For scholars whose home institutions don’t invest in these research databases, this access will contribute greatly to your ability to perform high quality research during the course of the Seminar.

At the Wellcome Centre, the Seminar will have meeting space and entree to a community of some of the world’s leading medical historians. Members of the Seminar will have access to the Wellcome Library and office facilities in the Wellcome Trust Building at 183 Euston Road (see “Research Resources” above).

### **11. London, at your fingertips.**

For those participants who have visited London before, you will already know the incredible wealth of cultural resources that Britain’s capital has to offer. For those who haven’t visited London before, we recommend that you purchase a good guidebook to Britain now (e.g., *Let’s Go*, *Lonely Planet*, etc.) and start browsing through all the descriptions of London’s theatres, museums, parks, etc. One word of caution: London is one of the most expensive cities in the world. You will not have daily transportation costs because the UCL accommodations will be within walking distance both of the Wellcome Trust Centre and the British Library. In every other respect, you should be prepared to pay more than you’re probably accustomed to for basic goods and services. The Seminar leaders have spent time in London before and will be able to offer some tips on keeping costs under control. (For example, we strongly recommend you buy train tickets well in advance if you know you are going to be travelling to a specific destination. Fares rise dramatically the closer you get to the day of travel.) We will be well situated close to Tube stations on main lines. King’s Cross and St. Pancras stations are 10 minutes from the Wellcome Trust Centre and about 15 minutes from our lodging. The EuroStar train now services St. Pancras, which means you can be in Paris (or Brussels, etc.) within four hours.

Obviously, we cannot know at this point what the exchange rates will be with the U.S. dollar in the summer of 2009. We recommend that, if you are thinking of applying to the Seminar, you start saving up extra funds now. The experience of being in London at the height of the summer, researching in the best libraries in the world, and having the opportunity to explore both Britain and (if you desire) also parts of the Continent, will be worth the investment. Also, we recommend that if you do not currently have a valid passport, you apply for one (or renew your old one) *immediately*. Waiting times for passports have increased in recent years, and it will be a rush if you wait until April (or later) to apply. (For U.S. citizens, at the time of this writing a visa for the United Kingdom is not needed for stays under six months’ duration. Please be sure to check current visa regulations prior to planning your trip.)

## **12. Application procedure and deadline.**

**Part 1 – is submitted directly to NEH:** Go to the following website at NEH and fill out the online initial application form: <http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> This part is for the NEH’s own internal records and is the necessary first step of processing your file.

**Part 2 –** The remaining application materials are **sent to us directly**, at the e-mail or snail-mail address listed below.

**Receipt Deadline: March 2, 2009**

**Notification: April 1, 2009**

The complete application package should be submitted directly to the Directors of the Seminar at the address below – not to the National Endowment for the Humanities (send *only* the NEH cover sheet to the Endowment). Include the requested information below, either as hardcopy sent via snail-mail or as e-mail attachments in MS Word or pdf versions. Ignore instructions at the NEH website about sending multiple hard copies; we will scan in all hardcopy submissions and circulate them as PDFs to the evaluation committee. Please label each attachment with your last name and file description, such as “Smith CV.doc.” The complete application packet includes the following four (4) parts, with the letters of recommendation being sent separately:

a) NEH Cover sheet, found at <http://www.neh.gov/online/education/participants/> Complete this online. (It is sent electronically to the NEH, thus fulfilling **Part 1** of the application.) Then, before closing the window, print it out or scan it into a PDF document to include with the rest of the application you send to us.

b) A c.v. (not exceeding five pages)

c) An essay of 1,000 words or fewer (roughly four pages) which covers the following:

- Your reasons for applying for the seminar
- What goals you wish to target through the Seminar, including any individual research projects
- What relationship the Seminar may have to your teaching
- Any personal and academic details you deem pertinent
- Your facility with medieval languages (e.g., Latin, Old High German, Arabic, etc.) and your experience with paleography.

d) Two letters of recommendation from colleagues familiar with your professional accomplishments, as well as your ability to contribute to and benefit from the Seminar. If you have participated in an earlier NEH institute or seminar, a letter from the director or lead scholar(s) would be useful. Letters should be sent via e-mail or snail mail directly to the Seminar directors at the address below; if sent by e-mail, **please ask your referee to put “NEH Seminar letter of recommendation” in the subject line.**

### **Selection Criteria**

A selection committee will read and evaluate all properly completed applications to ensure selection of the most promising applicants and to identify a small number of alternates. The selection committee includes the two Seminar directors and an external expert in medieval medical history. While recent participants are eligible to apply, selection committees are charged with giving primary consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years (2006, 2007, or 2008). Recent participation in NEH's Landmarks of American History Program does not negatively affect eligibility or competitiveness.

The most important consideration in the selection of participants is the likelihood that an applicant will benefit professionally and contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the Seminar. This is determined by committee members from the conjunction of several factors, including the following:

- quality and commitment as a scholar of the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences
- intellectual interests, both generally and as they relate to the Seminar
- special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the Seminar
- the likelihood that the Seminar would enhance the applicant's scholarship and/or teaching
- commitment to participate fully in the formal and informal life of the Seminar

Your completed application should be **postmarked no later than March 2, 2009**, and should be addressed as follows:

DISEASE IN THE MIDDLE AGES  
c/o Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS)  
4th Floor, Lattie F. Coor Hall  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 874402  
Tempe, AZ 85287-4402  
Phone: (480) 965-4661  
Fax: (480) 965-1681

Or if sent via e-mail: mail to [MedievalSeminar2009@asu.edu](mailto:MedievalSeminar2009@asu.edu), **with the subject header "NEH application"**.