



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1130022

Set out on pages

1-8

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 30/10/2025

Name:

Karon McDonald

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

MAAT

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

(Registered Charity, no. 1130022)

c/o History Faculty, George Street, Oxford, OX1 2RL

Members of the Executive Committee and Trustees of the Society:

Prof. Alastair Minnis (Yale University), Hon. President
Dr Sethina Watson (University of York), Vice-President, Hon. Secretary
Dr. David Rundle (University of Kent), Journal Editor
Prof. C. J. Saunders (Durham University), Journal Editor
Prof. S. Huot (Pembroke College, Cambridge), Journal Editor
Dr Stephen Mossman (University of Manchester), Journal Editor
Prof. Anthony J. Lappin (Stockholm University), Monographs Editor
Dr Kenneth P. Clarke (University of York), Monographs Editor
Prof. John Hines (Cardiff University)
Dr Julia Walworth (Merton College, Oxford)
Dr Andrew Dunning (Jesus College, Oxford)
Dr Richard Allen (Magdalen College, Oxford)
Dr Sarah Bowden (King's College, London)
Dr Rachel Burns (Jesus College, Oxford)
Dr Elizabeth Boyle (Maynooth University)
Dr Christian Sahner (New College, Oxford)
Dr Rebecca Thomas (University of Cardiff)

All queries about this Annual Report or enquiries about the Society should be directed to the Executive Officers, at ssmll@history.ox.ac.uk

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Overview of Activities in 2024

The Society continues to celebrate and support medieval studies by publishing the journal *Medium Ævum*, scholarly monographs, and by providing bursaries for research travel, conferences, and events. Highlights in 2024 included the Society's Annual Conference on 'Books Across Borders', held at Canterbury Cathedral and the University of Kent at which the Annual Lecture was delivered by Dr Sarah Bowden: 'Shifting Landscapes: St Oswald of Northumbria in England and Germany'. Christopher Lu was awarded the 2024 Essay Prize for an impressive essay entitled 'Learned humour, humorous learning: John Free's Latin translation of Synesius's *Economium Calvitii* (1461) and its transmission'. The Society's Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference, on the theme of 'Signs and Scripts', attracted a hybrid audience of over 50 attendees.

Journal

Following his appointment in the summer of 2022, Dr David Rundle's second year at the helm as Managing Editor saw the journal continue to thrive. All editors continued in their specialist areas: Dr Stephen Mossman edits Germanic languages, Prof. Sylvia Huot edits Romance languages, Prof. Corinne Saunders edits Old and Middle English, and Dr Rundle edits Latin, palaeography, and history. Dr Jackie Pritchard continued as Assistant Editor for the first half of the year, with Dr James Willoughby taking over the role following her retirement after the publication of 93.1. Dr Pritchard has given 27 years of sustained and superlative service to the journal and the Society is very grateful for her work over the years. Mrs Val Lamb typeset the journal, while Samantha MacArthy worked as Dr Rundle's Editorial Assistant, and Ms Helen Lawson continued as Prof. Saunders's Editorial Assistant. This year, two issues of *Medium Ævum* were dispatched to members and subscribers – issue 92.2 was dispatched to subscribers in spring and 93.1 was sent out in November. The publication schedule continues to run slightly behind while the publications schedule is reestablished following the death of former editor, Nigel Palmer.

Monographs

The Society published two new monographs in 2024: Bernhard Holl's edition of Gutierre de Palma's *Breue reprehensorium ad quosdam fratres religiosos* (<https://mediumaevum.org.uk/ns46>) and Shalom Shadik's *Natural Law: Medieval Translators and Commentators Facing Nichomachean Ethics, V. 7* (<https://mediumaevum.org.uk/ns47>). Prof. Anthony J. Lappin continues to chair the Monographs sub-committee. It was noticed that the back catalogue of monographs continues to offer an enduring appeal, remaining attractive to readers.

Financial Support for Medieval Studies

The Society continued to support PhD students and ECRs through travel bursaries and conference support. Several PhD students were able to undertake archival research thanks to the Society's bursaries, with Jack Nunn travelling to Paris to consult manuscripts and early prints at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and Simon Smets being able to inspect manuscripts in Florence. Jordan Skinner was able to spend a summer at the Centre for Medieval Studies in York, where, as well as doing archival work, he also benefitted from institutional support and mentoring. In line with previous years, we also supported graduate students through the Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference 'Signs and Scripts', with the Society's funding going toward travel grants for six graduate students. In addition to the Society's own conference in Canterbury on 'Books Across Borders', the Society also supported 'Mysticism in Action', the Mystical Theology Network's Conference (St John's College, Oxford); 'Gender and Sainthood, 1100-1500' (Oxford); Affiliations: Towards a Cross-Temporal Theory of Comparison (Oxford). Notably, many of these

events were organised by PhD and early career scholars, and many reached wider audiences by enabling both in person and virtual attendance. The Society prioritised offering support that would enable graduate students and ECRs to participate, whether through travel grants or the lowering of registration fees.

Following careful review of the Society's financial situation (see below), the Society make the difficult decision to pause further bursary and conference support for the next two years. However, going forward, the Society remains committed to its annual conference and support of the OMGC and is exploring further funds for supporting graduate students in medieval studies.

Further details of bursaries and conference grants are available on the Society's website.

Governance

The Society's Executive Committee followed the usual pattern of meeting three times, with meetings in January, June, and November, and the Annual General Meeting in September. Meetings were held in person, with hybrid access made available to all Committee members, and all meetings chaired by the President, Prof. Alastair Minnis. Prof. Jane Roberts, the Vice-President and Secretary came to the end of her term. The Society thanks her for all her work. Dr Sarah Bowden was elected Hon. Treasurer and Dr Andrew Dunning Hon. Secretary at the AGM. The President was delighted to welcome Dr Rachel Burns, Dr Elizabeth Boyle, Dr Christian Sahner, and Dr Rebecca Thomas as new Trustees this year. Two new graduate observers, Elina Caponetti and Lucy Turton were also welcomed. The Executive Committee, in its meetings, oversaw the Society's activities in line with its Constitution and established Policies. Dr Hannah Ryley and Dr Anna Wilmore continued in their roles as co-Executive Officers. When Dr Ryley went on maternity leave in July, Dr Eleanor Baker stepped in.

Financial Overview and Outlook for 2025

As in 2023, in 2024 the Society again ran a deficit, though it was much reduced in comparison to the previous two years. In 2022, a substantial sum of money (£30,000) was transferred from the reserves, and this has covered our recent deficits. In light of this situation, together with increased production and administrative costs, the Society carefully reviewed its finances to safeguard its future, and undertook a variety of measures to ensure a more sustainable financial model. This ranged from an agreement to cut trustee expenses (aided by our ability to conduct hybrid meetings), a pause on conference and bursary support, and increased membership and subscription rates. The increased rates for commercial subscribers in 2024 began to have an effect, with the journal turning a profit in 2024. Increased rates for commercial subscribers and a raise in membership rates agreed at the 2024 AGM are helping to put the Society on a stronger financial footing for 2025. The sum of £15,000, as transferred from our reserves during 2024, will also help us to meet the challenges of 2025, including the costs of upgrading the Society's website. The Society is committed to reviewing its finances at every committee meeting to monitor the situation, given production costs will only continue to rise. Under the present model, the Society is able to continue its support for the one-day conference and OMGC, and is exploring fundraising options to enable it to return to its support of graduate students. The journal and monographs are widely read and can be accessed in both physical and digital formats. The Society's reserves remain strong, with over £55,000 in low-risk bonds and investment accounts, and over £20,000 in its current account.

Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature

(registered charity no. 1130022)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

for the CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Summary of Accounts

	Balance by Activity	2023 (£)	2024 (£)
<i>Medium Ævum</i> Journal		-2460	3032
Monographs		-1040	-83
Conferences and Events		-7482	-2954
Society		-6080	-8754
Interest & Yields		1512	1887
Impact on Reserves		-15550	-6872

Accumulated funds

Carried forward	96560	81819
Surplus for year	-15550	-6872
Post-accounts alteration		
Total to carry forward	81819	74947

Represented by:

National Savings Income Bond	50000	50000
National Savings Investment (designated funds)	20894	5894
At Bank / Paypal	10925	19053
Post-accounts alteration		

Individual Activities

Medium Ævum Journal

Receipts

Subscriptions / Backsales	7428	15193
Electronic Royalties	4468	4233
Adverts and Permissions	0	0
Total	11896	19426

Payments

Production	-8999	-11205
------------	-------	--------

EU postage	-372	-1476
Editorial Postage	0	-81
Assistant Editor	-3200	-2400
Typesetter / Editorial Help	-1785	-1232
Total	-14356	-16394

Surplus	-2460	3032
---------	-------	------

Monographs*Receipts*

Sales and Subventions	3833	4161
Total	3833	4161

Payments

Production and Development	-2673	-3258
Readers / various	-2200	-986
Total	-4873	-4244

Surplus	-1040	-83
---------	-------	-----

Conferences and Events*Payments*

Events Sponsorship	-3752	-2192
Oxford Medieval Graduate Conference	-750	-750
AGM and other Society Events	-2980	-12

Surplus	-7482	-2954
---------	-------	-------

Society*Receipts*

Membership	5592	5889
Refunds for conference support	500	500
Total	6092	6389

Payments

Expenses to Trustees	-1405	-263
Executive Officer	-5667	-8207
Executive Assistant	-650	-2805
IT services	-1713	-1156
Accounting	-612	-645
Other Office Costs (Stationery &c)	0	0
Essay Prize	-936	-738
Bank & Paypal Charges	-245	-279
Research Travel Bursaries	-884	-1000
Membership refunds	-60	-50
Total	-12172	-15143
Surplus	-6080	-8754