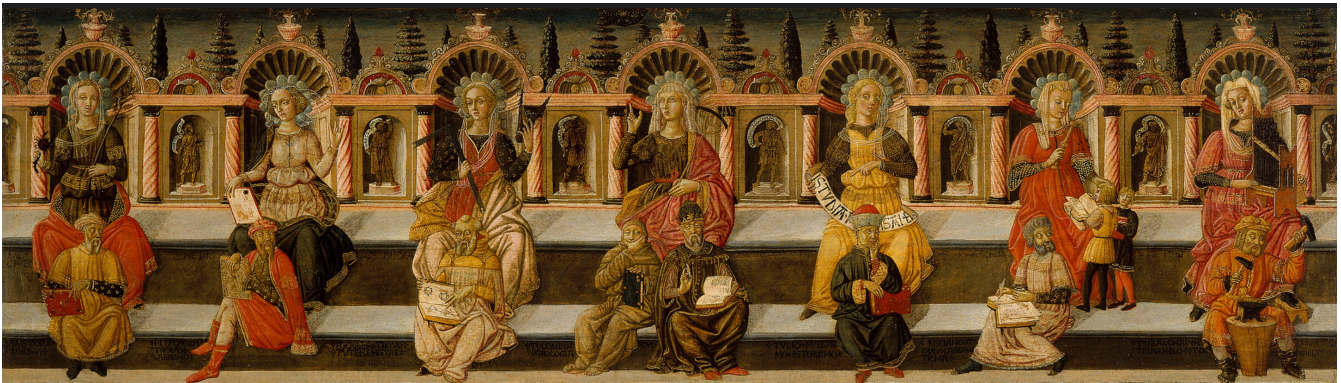

VOX SCHOLARIUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE GUILD OF SCHOLARS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in tempore pestilentiae



The Seven Liberal Arts (socially distancing) by Giovanni di Ser Giovanni Guidi, c.1460

Information about the October 23-25, 2020 Annual Meeting

For the first time since its founding, the Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church will hold its annual meeting as a virtual event. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Virginia Theological Seminary in Arlington to cancel all events. Although we plan to meet at VTS for the 2021 annual meeting, our meeting this year will use online technology so that our members across the country can attend without leaving home or risking exposure to the pandemic.

The Executive Committee's plans for the virtual meeting are provided in this "Annual Meeting" issue of the *Vox Scholarium*. Please read it carefully to learn about the organization of the presentation of papers, the introduction of new members, the virtual business meeting, virtual social get-togethers, and virtual worship services.

- **The virtual Annual Meeting will consist of several online events that will be broadcast through Zoom.** Many of you will have already had experience with virtual meetings. You know that it is an effective and user-friendly way for members of groups to communicate with both sight and sound while remaining distant from one another physically. The required information about how to connect through your computer to the virtual events is published below.

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Zoom Instructions

Simple instructions for joining the several online sessions of the Virtual Annual Meeting will be sent to members by e-mail prior to the meeting. Our President, Ed Hansen, who is an experienced user of Zoom technology, will be the host of the sessions.

• **The Virtual Annual Meeting will actually consist of a series of online events, scheduled so that members in the several continental time zones will be able to participate within reasonable day-time hours.** The schedule of events can be seen below. All times are given in Easter Daylight Savings Time (EDT).

Friday Afternoon

- 1a. Welcome (with brief introductions) and Evening Prayer: 3:30 – 4:20 PM EDT
- 1b. Short Break :4:20 – 4:30 EDT

2. Robert Prichard's paper on the role of laity in the colonial Church: 4:30 – 5:30 PM EDT

Friday Evening

Remote social gathering (provide your own snacks and beverages): 9:00 - 10:00 PM EDT

Saturday

- 1a. Welcome and Morning Prayer: 10:30 – 11:00 AM EDT
- 1b. Short Break 11:00 – 11:10 AM EDT

- 2a. David Burton's paper "Precious Ramotswe: Epitome of Anglican Principles:" 11:10 AM – 12:00 Noon EDT

- 2b. Short Break (approximately 12:00 – 12:10PM EDT)

3. Marsha Dutton's paper "Alexander McCall Smith, Isabel Dalhousie, and W. H. Auden: Triangulating Meaning.": 12:10 – 1:00 PM EDT

4. Remote social gathering (provide your own snacks and beverages): 4:30 - 5:30 PM EDT

Sunday Morning

Remote Eucharist from the National Cathedral: 11:15 AM EDT

Go to the National Cathedral web site at cathedral.org and click on "Worship and Music."

Sunday Afternoon

1. Business Meeting 3:30 – 4:30 PM EDT
2. Remote social "welcoming reception" for new members: 4:30 – 5:30 PM EDT

Detailed information on scheduled events follows.

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Paper Sessions

The first session will be a paper presented by guest speaker Robert Pritchard entitled “The Ministry of the Laity in the Church of England in the Thirteen Colonies.”

Abstract: While clergy--when present--had a monopoly on liturgical leadership in the colonial Church of England, the church could not have existed if it had not been for the multiple ways in which laymen and women supported the life and ministry of the church. They played vital roles in governance, in erecting and maintaining places of worship, in resolving local disputes about property lines, in education, in social welfare, in moral reform, and in responding to non-Anglican religious groups. Bob Prichard will talk about these varied roles, using the example of the colonial Church of England in Virginia. He will be speaking remotely from Virginia’s Middle Peninsula, an area with a number of surviving colonial church buildings.

The Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard is the Professor Emeritus of Christianity in America at the Virginia Theological Seminary, where he taught church history, liturgy, canon law, and Spanish language ministry from 1983 to 2019. Educated at Princeton (A.B.), Berkeley at Yale (M. Div.), and Emory (Ph.D.), Bob is the author or editor of ten books, including *A History of the Episcopal Church* (editions in 1991, 1999, and 2014) and *Issues in Prayer Book Revision*, vol 1. (2018). He is a former president of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church (2010-16). He was a participant in the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the U.S. A. (2001-07) and is a member of the Consultation on Common Texts, for which he currently serves as secretary. He founded the first Episcopal Spanish-language congregation in Virginia (1975) and has lectured widely in Latin America. Since 2006, he has been a General Convention Deputy from Virginia.

The second session will be a paper presented by David Burton entitled “Precious Ramotswe: Epitome of Anglican Principles.”

Abstract: Precious Ramotswe, principal character in Alexander McCall Smith’s series *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*, demonstrates essential Christian qualities in her professional and personal dealings as they develop in the now twenty novels that comprise the series. Mma Ramotswe, apparently reared in the Anglican Church of her native Botswana, reveals traits instilled in her by the Church; these include an unswerving belief in kindness toward her fellow human beings, and those most essential Christian tenets, forgiveness and love. In this short paper, I will explore these three topics to show McCall Smith’s creation of a character who never falters in her beliefs in order to live in a better world.

The Speaker: David G. Burton is Professor Emeritus of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Ohio University (Athens, OH). For over twenty years he led quarter-long study

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abroad programs in Mexico. In Athens he taught courses in language, Hispanic theater, Medieval Spanish literature, history of the Spanish language, and *Don Quijote*. His scholarship includes studies on *Conde Lucanor*, the *Celestina*, and the theater of Juan de la Cueva. He authored the chapter on the early plays of Cervantes in a forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Cervantes. He is the author of three books: *An Anthology of Medieval Spanish Prose*, an edition of the *Conde Lucanor*, and *A Literary Companion to Don Quijote*. In retirement he travels, reads, sings in a university chorus and church choir, has begun learning Portuguese and, when time permits, researches medieval Spanish hagiography, especially the presence of St. Mary Magdalen in pre-sixteenth-century Spain. He is presently completing a three-year term as Sr. Warden at Good Shepherd in Athens.

The third session will be a paper presented by Marsha Dutton: "Alexander McCall Smith, Isabel Dalhousie, and W. H. Auden: Triangulating Meaning."

Abstract: In Alexander McCall Smith's thirteen novels centering on Isabel Dalhousie of Edinburgh, editor of *The Review of Applied Ethics*, Isabel frequently quotes from the poems of W. H. Auden (one of the founders of the Guild of Scholars). The poems of his that she quotes, and her occasional references to other aspects of his life and thought, highlight the moral and philosophical themes of the series and help to explain her deep attachment to the geography, painters, and poets of Scotland. Necessarily, McCall Smith's own admiration for Auden's thought and poetry informs Isabel's, clarifying her insistence on extending herself to help those who enter her moral landscape, however marginally and inconveniently.

The Speaker: Marsha Dutton earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in English (medieval literature) from the University of Michigan, where she focused on religious works, mostly by or for women, in the medieval English prose tradition. After working as a primary editor at the Middle English Dictionary for three years, she taught English at Hanover College (Indiana) for nine years and then at Ohio University for fifteen years, retiring in 2015. Since 2014 she has been the Executive Editor of Cistercian Publications. She has edited three Festschriften, honoring John R. Sommerfeldt, J. Robert Wright, and E. Rozanne Elder, and has published on Chaucer and on Julian of Norwich, but most of her scholarship concerns the sermons and treatises of twelfth-century Cistercian abbots, especially Aelred of Rievaulx (d. 1167) and Gilbert of Hoyland (d. 1172). She is currently preparing the critical edition of Gilbert's *Sermons on the Song of Songs* for Corpus Christianorum, Continuatio Mediaevalis, and writing a monograph on twelfth-century Cistercian laments, titled *Recollecting Grief*.

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Business Meeting Agenda and Information**Tentative Agenda**

- Approval of the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting (published in the Winter issue of the *Vox Scholarium*)
- Approval of new members
- Reports from members of the Executive Committee
 - President (Hansen)
 - Vice-President and Program Director (Elder)
 - Recording Secretary (Lares)
 - Corresponding Secretary (Benson)
 - Treasurer (Valentine)
- Election of officers for new three-year terms (Dutton for Nominating Committee)
 - Vice-President - Warren Smith
 - Recording Secretary - Jameela Lares
 - Treasurer - Alec Valentine
- Mission statement (Hansen)
- Proposal from the Membership Committee to restructure the Vice-President's role
- Proposal for incorporation (Hansen)
- New Business
- Adjournment

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Meeting and Receiving New Members

Traditionally scholars nominated for membership in the Guild have been invited to the Annual Meeting, so that, having read information on their scholarship, we can meet them before their membership is voted on at the Business Meeting. Rather than delay receiving new members, the EC has decided to invite nominees to the 2020 Virtual Meeting and will arrange a series of remote “meet and greets” so that nominees and members can become acquainted before the vote is taken at the Business Meeting. Nominees who cannot join the on-line meeting, like nominees in other years who could not attend the meeting, will be invited to attend the 2021 meeting and be voted on then.

Call for Papers for the 2021 Annual Meeting

Working on the premise that we will have an “in-person” meeting in 2021, the Guild has reserved the Hospitality House at Virginia Theological Seminary for the weekend of **22-24 October**. The restraints of mounting a ‘virtual’ meeting in 2020 has given us a pool of two papers for 2021. Two additional presentations are therefore needed for the 2021 Meeting.

As we are all now very aware, life is uncertain. Rather than assume that the two speakers scheduled for, but unable to present, this year will be able to clear their calendars for the October 2021 meeting, we encourage members to consider submitting abstracts for the 2021 or perhaps a subsequent meeting. A current file of willing speakers and knowledge of their topics lightens considerably the Vice-President’s task of putting a program together for the next and future annual meetings.

Please consider submitting an abstract before the Christmas holiday to the new Vice-President and Program Director to be elected at the October 25th Annual Meeting.

Include the following information:

Your name and preferred contact address

The putative title of the paper and 150-word abstract

Any audio-visual requirements

An indication of the year you’d prefer to make your presentation.

Any restrictions as to time and place (e.g. travel restrictions)

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News of Members

After 36 years Edward Hansen retired from his teaching position at Hope College and took a part time position as Director of the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science. The Midstates Consortium is a partnership between eleven liberal arts colleges and two Research Universities (The University of Chicago and Washington University in Saint Louis) formed to promote undergraduate research and education in mathematics and science. Moving into a part time administrative role will give Ed Hansen more time to pursue his research into the formation and evolution of coastal dunes in general and along the shores of the Laurentian Great Lakes in particular.

We continue to look for news of members to publish in the *Vox Scholarium*. Since our members are productive scholars or artists, there must be much to publicize. Please forward any such information along with images (jpeg, gif, or png format) to the editor: Bob Benson, 6090 Contreras Road, Oxford OH 45056 or by e-mail at bensonra@miamioh.edu.

Officers of the Guild

Ed Hansen, President (hansen@hope.edu)

E. Rozanne Elder, Vice-President, Program Director (e.rozanne.elder@wmich.edu)

Jameela Lares, Recording Secretary (jameela.lares@usm.edu)

Bob Benson, Corresponding Secretary, editor of the *Vox Scholarium* and Webmaster (bensonra@miamioh.edu)

Alec Valentine, Treasurer (acvalenti@yahoo.com)

Website: www.guildofscholars.org



Interpretation of a classical scholar as a scribe or an evangelist in the Ebbo Gospels (816-835).