The history of medieval manuscripts is not yet complete. Manuscripts continue to survive disasters both natural and human-made, to change hands and locations. Their stories begin, but very emphatically do not end, on the shelf. Join medieval scholars from across North America and England to consider how torn, burnt, defaced, erased, stolen, borrowed, and lost medieval manuscripts shape our ideas about the medieval past.

The post-medieval fates of medieval codices attest to a near-infinite variety of uses and abuses. After they were first created, medieval manuscripts were plundered for valuable illuminations, bought and sold by collectors of libraries small and large, and read and edited by scholars seeking to make sense, historically and artistically, of the Middle Ages. The symposium will explore a range of topics, from the practice of cutting and collecting images, to the eighteenth and nineteenth century reinventions of the medieval past, to medievalisms and the place of manuscripts in modern theoretical constructs such as the politics of the body and colonial studies.

Medievalism’s Manuscripts: The History of Medieval Manuscripts off the Shelf will coincide with the exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Untold Stories: Collecting and Transforming Medieval Manuscripts. Primarily drawn from the Getty Museum’s permanent collection and including several outside loans, the exhibition reveals the ways in which manuscripts have been refashioned both conceptually and physically, and explores the long and eventful history of these books before their entry into museum and private collections.

The UCLA Young Research Library will present an accompanying exhibition in the Welcome Gallery, Off the Shelf: Medieval Manuscripts and the Aesthetics of the Past.
Saturday, April 13, 2013
UCLA, Royce Hall Room 314
Advance registration not required.

9:15 am  Coffee, fruit, pastries
9:45 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella (Director, UCLA CMRS)
Matthew Fisher (UCLA) and Kristen Collins (J. Paul Getty Museum), Conference Organizers

10:00-12:00
Restoring, Relocating, and Revising
Chair: Jennifer Jahner (California Inst. of Technology)
Howard Bloch (Yale University)
“Restoration from Notre-Dame-de-Paris to Gaston Paris”
Andrew Taylor (University of Ottawa)
“From Viollet-le-Duc to Wikipedia: The Lure of the Gruuthuse Froissart”
Elizabeth Emery (Montclair State University)
“Le Duc d’Aumale and his Library of Marvels: Chantilly’s American Apotheosis”

12:00-1:30
Lunch Break and visit to the Young Research Library Exhibition
Off the Shelf

1:30-2:45
Divide and Conquer: Collecting the Past
Chair: Lisa Bitel (USC)
Seth Lerer (University of California, San Diego)
“The Ruskin Book of Hours and the Medievalist Imagination”
David Matthews (University of Manchester)
“Dissenting and Collecting: Wyclif from Syon to Manchester”

2:45-3:15
Break

3:15-4:30
Burnings and Borrowings, Bodies and Oceans
Chair: Elizabeth Allen (University of California, Irvine)
Kathleen Biddick (Temple University)
“Fahrenheit 451: The Biopolitics of Medievalism”
Robert Rouse (Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver)
“Indigenizing the Medieval, or how did Maori and Awabakal become inscribed in Medieval Manuscripts”

On Friday, April 12, at the Getty Center, advance registration is required; space is limited. Call 310-440-7300 or register online at www.getty.edu/visit/calendar/events/Lectures.html. Parking is $15.

On Saturday, April 13, at the University of California, Los Angeles, registration is not required but space is limited. Campus parking by the hour is available at the Self-Service Pay Stations in UCLA Lots 2, 3, and 4; or, buy a daily permit for $11 from the UCLA Parking Services kiosk at Westwood Plaza.

For additional information 310-825-1880 | cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu | www.cmrs.ucla.edu.

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