

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

MAY 2021

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Dies Legibiles Undergraduate Journal of Medieval Studies! We are thrilled to share this work with you. During our undergraduate careers in medieval studies, we have been able to read, think, and learn about such varied aspects of the medieval world as religion, science, art, and history. But too often those breakthroughs, thoughts, and conversations remain confined to the classroom and the semester. Our hope is that through this journal, undergraduates from any institution can begin to see that their explorations need not be confined to a grading stack or to a final paper, and need not be forgotten about as soon as the bell chimes. Instead, we want to foster a community where students share their learning, teach each other, and recognize the power of their own writing to grapple with the current academic discourse.

Over the course of the year our team has had the honor of reading and engaging with essays written by undergraduates from all over the country, interviewing experts in the field of medieval studies, and reviewing a book written about the medieval English poem *Piers Plowman*. The fruit of all of this exploration is this journal, and we hope that it contains something of value for you, our reader!

To undergraduates: We hope that as you read this journal you are encouraged to continue in your studies of the medieval period. We hope that you are reminded that you are not studying alone, that your work is important, and that you do not need to wait until you have a doctorate to make your voice heard. To professors: We hope that you take the time to delve into these works and learn from them the same way your students learn from you, and that you encourage your students to engage with the community of scholars out there. And to the curious passerby: we hope that you gain something of interest, whether that be a cocktail party anecdote, or an appreciation for the care that students put into their research and their writing.

This has been a collaborative effort between our team and every student who took the time to send in a paper, as well as everyone who told a friend about the existence of our journal. A collaboration between our team and the professors who taught us, who supported us, and who encouraged their students to submit. We are so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to get this project up and running and we hope that as more issues

follow, more conversations will spring up and more undergraduates will cultivate a sense of the value of their own insights.

Gwen Ellis and Alexandra Domeshek
We proudly present: Dies Legibiles Volume I