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| RACHEL THARP  (417)459.0590  [r.l.tharp@outlook.com](mailto:r.l.tharp@outook.com)  [www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-tharp/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-tharp/) | |
| EDUCATION | **PhD, May 2022** Literary & Cultural Studies, Medieval & Renaissance  English Department, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK  Dissertation: “*Virgulae* and *Distinctiones*: A History of Western Notational Systems from Grammar Handbook to Liturgical Leaf”  Dissertation Committee: Profs. Daniel Ransom, Samuel Huskey, Joyce Coleman, William Endres, & Joseph Mansky  I present the history of the virgule or slash (/)as a measure of how students read and interpreted texts first by methods taught in grammar handbooks but then according to scribal-driven innovations to the page. The mark primarily operates in four ways: as an outsider to *distinctiones,* the dominant mode of punctuating from the first century CE to the ninth; as the term *virgula,* a “stem” or “twig” describing the shapes of accents or critical signs in grammatical treatises; as a runover or punctuation mark, both byproducts of Insular innovations in book production during the eighth and ninth centuries; and as an outsider yet again in Carolingian scriptoria, where scribes preferred a modified version of *distinctiones* or a new system of liturgical punctuation called *positurae*. The history of the virgule reveals how the responsibilities once considered as acts of interpretation left to the reader became expectations for the appearance of texts placed upon the scribe.  **MA, 2017**  English-Literature  English Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO  Thesis: “Breaking Expectations: Deviations from Genre, Gender, and Social Order in the Clerk’s and the Merchant’s Tales”  **BA, 2015**  Literature, Linguistics Minor  English Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO |
| PUBLICATIONS | **Accepted**  “‘Under this Yok of Mariage Ybounde:’ Aristocratic Husbands and Authoritative Wives in the Merchant’s Tale.” *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association,* Special Issue on Confinement, expected December*.*  **In Preparation**  “Innovation and Exemplars: The Virgule’s Role in Insular Book Production from the Seventh to Ninth Centuries.” *Viator.*  “*Virgulae, Distinctiones,* and *Positurae*: Notational Competition in Eighth- and Ninth-Century Carolingian Manuscripts.” *Medium Aevum.* |
| GRANTS | 2022, Phi Kappa Phi, Graduate Research Grant, $1,500  2022, University of Oklahoma Graduate Student Senate, Research Grant, $750 |
| AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS | 2022, Donald R. Howard Travel Fund Scholarship, New Chaucer Society  2021-2022, English Department Dissertation Fellowship, University of Oklahoma  2021,Derdeyn-CMRS Travel Scholarship, University of Oklahoma    2019, English Department Graduate Student Travel Grant, University of Oklahoma  2019, College of Arts & Sciences Student Travel Assistance Program, University of Oklahoma    2017, Rudolph C. Bambas Memorial Scholarship, University of Oklahoma  2016, Robert Henigan Graduate Award, Missouri State University  2016, Tammy M. Gardner Memorial Travel Award, Missouri State University    2015-2016, Lee H. Morris Memorial Scholarship, Missouri State University    2013-2015, Eugene Andereck Creative Writing Scholarship, Missouri State University |
| CONFERENCE ACTIVITY | **Papers Presented**  2022, “Digitizing the John Manly and Edith Rickert Canterbury Tales Collation Cards,” New Chaucer Society Congress, July 11-14  2022, “The Virgule’s Role in Insular Book Production During the Eighth and Ninth Centuries,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 9-14  2021, “The Ancient Origins of the Virgule: the Space between Words and Symbols,” International Medieval Congress, July 5-9  2020, “Native English Influences on the Virgule in Middle English Verse,” Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies Annual Symposium, June 15-17, canceled due to pandemic  2019, “The Virgule in Context,” Mid-America Medieval Association Annual Symposium, September 12-13  2017, “An Exemplum ‘for the Wyves love of Bathe:’ Disrupting Form and Distributing Authority in the Clerk’s Tale,” Mid-America Medieval Association Annual Symposium, September 22  2017, “Deconstructing Shakespeare’s Griselda*,*” South-Central Renaissance Conference, April 20-22  2016, “The Merchant, a Marriage, and Received Authority: Posing an Ideological Challenge to the Medieval Social Order in the Merchant’s Tale*,*” Midwest Modern Language Association Conference, November 10-13  2015, “Inversions of Social Order in the Clerk’s Tale*:* The Clerk’s Case for Powerful Wives and Common People,” Missouri State University Undergraduate Literature Conference, April 17-18 |
| TEACHING EXPERIENCE | **University of Oklahoma**  Principles of Composition II: Fall 2018, Spring 2019  Principles of Composition I: Fall 2017  **Missouri State University**  Writing II Writing Across the Disciplines: Spring 2017, Fall 2016  Writing I: Spring 2016, Fall 2015  Writing I for Non-Native Speakers of English: Fall 2016  Writing I Jump START: Summer 2017  Introduction to College Composition: Spring 2017 |
| PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | **Spring 2022 – Present, Project Manager**  An Electronic Supplement to *The Text of the Canterbury Tales*,Self-Employed  My project to digitize and transcribe John Manly and Edith Rickert's sixty thousand collation cards recording the textual history of the Canterbury Tales is completely funded by grants and scholarships. The result will be a web-based digital supplement that corrects data in Manly and Rickert's The Text of the Canterbury Tales and improves the accessibility of their text. I am collaborating with University of Chicago Special Collections and technical departments at the University of Oklahoma, including the Digitization Lab and the Digital Scholarship Lab, on digitization standards, segmentation, optical character recognition, and website development.  **Summer 2021, Student Library Assistant**  Digitization Lab, University of Oklahoma Libraries  To achieve archival-quality preservation of items in the University of Oklahoma libraries’ collections, I operated flat-bed, V-shaped, and large-format scanners (as well as a camera), processed the images taken by cropping, color correction, attributing metadata, or applying optical character recognition, and prepared them for use or storage. I adhered to a project workflow to track production deadlines and comply with industry standards in digitization.  **Fall 2018 – Spring 2021, Research Assistant**  Variorum Chaucer, University of Oklahoma  The Variorum Chaucer produces comprehensive editions of Chaucer's individual works. My role was to conduct qualitative and quantitative research, summarize my findings in oral or written reports, and write or edit final content to be published in the forthcoming volume on the Pardoner’s Prologue and Tale. I managed projects according to a workflow that I created to ensure comprehensive and accurate results.    **Spring 2018, Research Assistant**  Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Oklahoma  I coordinated a team of educators and orchestrated cross-functional cooperation between five organizations to produce an interdisciplinary event designed to educate about one hundred university students and members of the public. Besides making a budget, I wrote and edited press statements, instructional materials, and status reports, as well as oversaw the development of presentations to ensure field-specific information was restructured to suit a general audience. |
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| LANGUAGES | Middle English: Excellent  Latin: Good  Old English: Good |
| PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS | New Chaucer Society  Medieval Academy of America  Phi Kappa Phi |
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