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| RACHEL THARP  [rlt@ou.edu](mailto:rlt@ou.edu) Variorum Chaucer  (417)459.0590 21 Bizzell Library  2023 Delaware Ln 401 W Brooks St  Norman, OK 73071 Norman, OK 73019 | |
| EDUCATION | **PhD, May 2022** Literary & Cultural Studies, Medieval & Renaissance  English Department, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK  Dissertation: “Accent and Embellishment / A History of the Virgule from Grammar Handbook to Liturgical Leaf”  Dissertation Committee: Profs. Daniel Ransom, Samuel Huskey, Joyce Coleman, William Endres, & David Anderson  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 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 run-over mark and byproduct of the Irish preference for content over calligraphy when copying manuscripts for export in the eighth and ninth centuries; and as a symbol perhaps descended from the acute accent and the neume *virga* in plainchant musical notation of the ninth to eleventh centuries. 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 | **Manuscripts Under Review**  “‘Under this Yok of Mariage Ybounde:’ Aristocratic Husbands and Authoritative Wives in the Merchant’s Tale.” *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association.*  **Manuscripts in Preparation**  “Reading Unseparated Text: *Distinctiones* in First- to Seventh-Century Grammars & Carolingian-Period Codices.” |
| AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS | 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 |
| RESEARCH EXPERIENCE | **Fall 2018-Spring 2021, Research Assistant**  Variorum Chaucer, University of Oklahoma  The Variorum Chaucer produces comprehensive editions of Chaucer's individual works, and my role in our forthcoming publication is to write the physical descriptions of twenty-three printed editions containing the Pardoner’s Tale. |
| COMMUNITY OUTREACH | **Spring 2018, Research Assistant**  Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Oklahoma  I organized Shakespeare's Birthday—an interdisciplinary event designed to educate the public and university students about Early Modern English, Renaissance theater, and Shakespearean literature—in cooperation with Boomer Buzz, the Medieval Fair of Norman, Special Collections at Bizzell Library, and the University of Oklahoma Drama department. |
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| EXTRA TRAINING | **Summer 2021, Student Library Assistant**  Digitization Lab, University of Oklahoma Libraries  To achieve archival-quality preservation of items in the 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 (i.e., bagged) them for use or storage. |
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| LANGUAGES | Middle English: Excellent  Latin: Good  Old English: Good  Spanish: Fair  French: Fair |
| PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS | New Chaucer Society  Early Book Society  Medieval Academy of America  Modern Language Association |
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