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Medieval Literature

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Annotated Bibliography: Saint Margaret & Hagiography

Caxton, William, Translator. “The Golden Legend: St. Margaret” Compiled by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, 1275. The Temple Classics. Edited by F.S. ELLIS First issue of this Edition, 1900. Reprinted 1922, 1931. Web. 14 Oct. 2014. Document URL <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/goldenlegend/GoldenLegend-Volume4.asp#Margare>

William Caxton translated “The Golden Legend: St. Margaret” in the 1400s, and, according to Wikipedia, died the year Columbus would discover the New World. He is accredited with bringing more modern printing technology from Cologne back to England, where, one of the first items printed in this new fashion, was Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales.*

“The Golden Legend: St. Margaret” may be the closest to being a primary source that I may see during this project, and as such, is quite exciting. Originally published in Italian more than seven hundred years ago, the stories of the saints that de Voragine collected were translated by William Caxton into English. Unlike the other sources I have found, this document itself is a historical item which I imagine will be invaluable to understanding who St. Margaret was, what may have actually happened, how she was perceived closer to her time and shortly after (in comparison to today). Due to its authenticity of known historical editors, of whom, each, a plethora of information is available, I am confident of the caliber of this source.

One of the most important things one can do when becoming an expert on a text is to read all the variations of the story. The version of the story of the life of Saint Margaret differs from the text we received in class, written from the perspective of one so called “Teochimus”, who claims to have known Saint Margaret and calls himself blessed for having written down the words; this is essentially a bias, and therefore, an objective retelling of the story is valuable.

Head, Thomas, *Medieval Hagiography: An Anthology*. New York: Garland Publishing, 2000.

According to Fordham University, the Jesuit University of New York, Head is “one of the leading experts on Western Hagiography.” As an author of fiction, additionally, I am hoping head will be able to present interesting information and conceptions about the flare and drama concerning St. Margaret’s fantastic story. Head is an internet ghost after 2001, the latest information I am able to find, in which he served as an assistant professor of history at Washington University in St. Louis.

Reames, Sherry L., “Margaret of Antioch” *Middle English Legends of Women Saints.* Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publication, 2003. Web. 14 Oct. 2014. Document URL <http://d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/reames-middle-english-legends-of-women-saints-margaret-of-antioch-introduction>

Reames is an English professor of Wisconsin University, and is involved in Medieval English. She is the editor of a great number of books concerning medieval texts, an example of which is accessible at the University of Rochester website ([http://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/ creator/sherry-reames](http://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/%20creator/sherry-reames)). Reames founded the Hagiography Society in 1990. The “Sherry L. Reames Graduate Student Travel Award for Hagiographical Studies”, funded by the Hagiography Society, provides a student with a staggering three hundred dollars “to be used toward travel to present at the [International Congress on Medieval Studies](http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/), held annually at the University of Western Michigan in Kalamazoo, Michigan.”

Sands, Tracey R., “Saints and Politics During the Kalmar Period.” *Scandinavian Studies* 80.2 (2008): 141+. *World History in Context*. Web. 14 Oct. 2014. Document URL:

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/whic/AcademicJournalsDetailsPage/AcademicJournalsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=WHIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Journals&limiter=&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&search_within_results=&p=WHIC%3AUHIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CA190697908&source=Bookmark&u=mlin_c_fitchcol&jsid=83b459bef20bc1fd08ef9dc0032c817a>

Tracey R. Sands has a doctorate in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Washington, as well as a Master's degree in Folklore and Mythology, and has reportedly taught at a number of universities throughout the United States, including the University of Colorado. Within “Saints and Politics During the Kalmar Period” Sands studies the use of Saint Margaret in artwork discovered during the Kalmar Period, as well as Saint Margaret’s impact on the society and people of the times, as well as the implications for Saint Margaret’s value to the faith and the people who believed in her, were inspired by her and prayed to her. I believe Sands will be able to provide a unique and sharp perspective to this project, as she is an expert in what history and English studies has deemed *more literary than literal saints* which Saint Margaret most certainly is.