

### **MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

The fall 2002 volume contains four essays that explore the instabilities inherent in acts of naming and defining female gender. Wendy Hennequin employs the analytical category of a third gender to make sense of the paradoxical status of the virgin warrior Penthesilea in John Lydgate's *Troy Book*. The remaining three essays stem from a roundtable discussion on "Are We Post-Feminist Yet?" sponsored and organized by the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship at the 2002 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo. Anne Clark Bartlett examines the murky boundaries between feminism and postfeminism in contemporary US culture; Lisa Perfetti makes a case for refining and reframing feminist questions and pedagogy in the classroom in light of postfeminist cool; and Lorna Collingridge tackles the issue of postfeminism through a German-US case study, the renaissance of Hildegard Studies and its uneasy relationship with feminist scholarship. All three essays propose that a feminist insistence on holding on to the concept of "woman" as a meaningful heuristic tool, no matter how vaguely it must be defined, is preferable to a politics of gender-free cool or at least tepidity, or even a vision of post-gender scholarship and pedagogy.

And looking forward: please note that the spring issue of the MFF will be an open issue. (See **Call for Papers**.) We welcome submissions on any topic relevant to medieval feminist inquiry, and yes, even further challenges from the postfeminist cool.

*Ulrike Wiethaus*

### **MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR**

I have had the pleasure of taking over as Managing Editor for 2002–3, while Gina Psaki is on sabbatical. My hardest task with this current issue was managing an embarrassment of riches. So much wonderful material was submitted that we had to cut twenty pages. Accordingly, please go to our web site (<http://smfs.uoregon.edu>) for the general bibliography by Chris Africa and the bibliography on women and medicine by Monica Green. Please send me any notes, announcements, calls for papers, calls for submissions, proposals for *Subsidia* volumes, etc. that should appear in issue 35. My address is as follows: Barbara K. Altmann, Dept. of Romance Languages, 1233-University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1233. You can reach me by e-mail at [baltmann@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:baltmann@oregon.uoregon.edu).

*Barbara Altmann*