

The Sarum Seminar presents

REMAKING LIBRARIES IN REFORMATION ENGLAND



Bodleian Library, Oxford

Jennifer Summit

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In 1400, most of England's medieval books were housed in monastic libraries. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the books were scattered, and those that were not lost or destroyed were later gathered by Renaissance book collectors. Their libraries remain the major collections of medieval books in our own age, including the Parker Library in Cambridge, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and the Cotton Library in London.

By examining these libraries and their foundation, this talk considers a set of larger questions that concern the future of libraries no less than their past: What is a library? How does its organization shape its uses and the meanings of the materials it holds? And how does it persist not just as a place for reading and writing, but as a symbol of the place of reading and writing in the broader world?

Jennifer Summit is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Medieval Studies Program at Stanford. A Bay Area native, she received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1995, the same year that she began teaching medieval and early modern English literature at Stanford.

She is the author of the forthcoming book, *Memory's Library: Medieval Books in Early Modern England* and *Lost Property: The Woman Writer and English Literary History, 1380-1581*, as well as numerous articles on books, writing, and literary culture, with topics that include Chaucer's representations of the crusades, the poetry of Elizabeth I, and the impact of the Reformation on English ideas of nationhood and its medieval past.

The **Sarum Seminar** sponsors lectures on medieval art, history and culture. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.sarumseminar.org.

Thursday, October 18, 2007
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
75 Alta Road, Stanford

