

AU librarian to discuss elaborate creatures found in manuscript

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Alfred University's (AU) longstanding lunchtime series, the Bergren Forum, continues with "Saints Inside Dragons: The Bizarre World in the Margins of the Luttrell Psalter" Thursday, Dec. 4, at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is free and open to the public.

Eva Sclipa, art librarian at AU's Scholes Library of Ceramics, will discuss the elaborate and often strange creatures found on the pages of a 14th century English manuscript, the "Luttrell Psalter."

Her talk will focus on images of bodily emergence, in which one creature is coming out of the body of another, or a creature is revealing other layers of its body by peeling back its skin. These images are very similar in some images of Saint Margaret of Antioch, patron saint of childbirth.

Sclipa will argue that Geoffrey Luttrell, the creator of the manuscript, was invoking Saint Margaret's aid and protection so that his son might produce an heir by referencing her likeness in his document through such imagery.

The Bergren Forum is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office. Guests are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

The series known as the Bergren Forum began in 1970. Rick Bergren, who taught at the University in the '70s, started the forums after being inspired by learning of the gatherings that (AU) students in the 19th century were known to conduct in Alumni Hall to discuss community issues. After Bergren's death in 1974, the University decided to continue the tradition in his name. Various faculty members have taken on the coordinator duties since that time. William S. Dibrell, professor of philosophy, is the current coordinator.