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## Art History Professor Helps Create Online Database of Medieval Works

**Collaboration with Catholic University will feature art and artifacts from early northern Europe**

MAY 5, 2013 BY **EDWIN SMITH**

**FaTvLiErCcSMPrSt**

OXFORD, Miss. – A University of Mississippi professor is helping create an online database to provide easier access to information about the art and material culture of early medieval northern Europe, including that of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

Nancy Wicker, UM professor of art history, is collaborating with Lilla Kopár of Catholic University of America and the Institute of Advanced Technologies in the Humanities at the University of Virginia to establish "Project Andvari: A Digital Portal to the Visual World of Early Medieval Northern Europe". The project received a \$27,000 digital humanities start-up grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities' Office of Digital Humanities**.



Nancy Wicker, UM professor of Art

"Our goal is to build an online database to facilitate access to digital collections of art and artifacts from early medieval northern Europe," Wicker said. "These resources are now scattered around the world, and monographs and catalogs listing inscriptions, runes and monuments are out-of-print or difficult to find."

The project staff aims to build a single aggregate search engine that links to other databases, cultural heritage sites, museums and archives. Users will be able to search for iconographic parallels, learn about new finds, detect potential comparative material and follow the development and distribution of visual elements, media and types of artifacts.

"Fewer (NEH grants) were awarded than in previous years because of the sequester, so we feel very honored to have been awarded the grant," Wicker said. "There were eight awards for the Level I grants (for which UM and CUA applied), and 15 for the Level II awards."

The **Institute of Advanced Technologies in the Humanities** will provide technical guidance as the project develops, and IATH co-directors Daniel Pitti and Worthy Martin will participate in a two-day workshop. Art historians, literary scholars, archaeologists and museum professionals from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany and the U.S. will meet to discuss and recommend the conceptual foundations for a prototype system. IATH will also host the project's website and provide technical support and data.

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"James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier," a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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