AUTHOR BIOS

ASA SIMON MITTMAN is professor and chair of the Department of Art & Art History at California State University, Chico, where he teaches courses on ancient and medieval art, monsters, and film. He has written Maps and Monsters in Medieval England (Routledge, 2006; paperback 2008), co-written with Susan Kim Inconceivable Beasts: The Wonders of the East in the Beowulf Manuscript (ACMRS, 2013, winner of a Millard Meiss Publication Grant from the College Art Association and an ISAS Best Book Prize), and a number of articles on the subject of monstrosity and marginality in the Middle Ages. He co-edited with Peter Dendle a Research Companion to Monsters and the Monstrous (Ashgate/Routledge, 2012; paperback 2013), and is the president of MEARCSTAPA (Monsters: the Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application). He is co-director of Virtual Mappa with Martin Foys. He is now at work on the Franks Casket and images of Jews on medieval world maps. He is also an active (and founding) member of the Material Collective and a regular contributor to the MC group blog. He was born and raised in New York, the son and grandson of artists, and in a family of writers of one sort and another.

THEA TOMAINI is professor of English (Teaching) at the University of Southern California. She is the author of Sworn Bond in Tudor England, (Mcfarland Press, 2011), and of The Corpse as Text: Disinterment and Antiquarian Enquiry 1700–1900 (Boydell, 2017). She has published articles on ghost legends and death fascination of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and she is on the executive board of MEARCSTAPA (Monsters: The Experimental Association for the Research of Cryptozoology Through Scholarly Theory and Practical Application). She is a co-editor of Preternature, an academic journal dedicated to the study of the uncanny and supernatural. Professor Tomaini has also published poems in various poetry journals. She has yet to see a ghost.
ALAN S. MONTROSO is a PhD candidate at the George Washington University where he works on eco-criticism and medieval literature. He has published twice before in Punctum-related venues, and his essay “Crip/Queer Cave-Dwellers in The Book of John Mandeville” will appear in a 2018 volume of the New Middle Ages series titled Monstrosity, Disability, and the Posthuman in the Medieval and Early Modern World, edited by Asa Simon Mittman and Richard Godden. His dissertation, tentatively titled “Subterranean Ecologies: Reading Caves in Medieval Literature,” investigates the inhuman agencies, subterranean archives, and speluncular ecologies that arise in representations of caves across various genres of premodern writing.


ERIN VANDER WALL (MPhil, The George Washington University) works with spatial theory and monster theory in late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Her research focuses on factual narratives and literary fictions concerning earthquakes, volcanos, avalanches, and quicksand.