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**MEDICINA MENTIS**

**Essays in Honour of Outi Merisalo on the  
Occasion of her Sixty-Fifth Birthday 9 May 2024**

**Eds. Marianne Pade, Leonardo Magionami,  
Susanna Niiranen, Bernd Roling & Raija Sarasti**



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## Preface

It is not easy to pin down Outi Merisalo's research profile. She is a leading scholar within such diverse fields as Medieval French and Latin, Early Modern Latin, Italian and Northern Humanism, palaeography, codicology and the history of the book, the history of medicine, and she has also published on contemporary intellectual history. In her own words, her research "focuses on the transmission of language and culture in the long period between Antiquity and Early Modern Age", and to elucidate that process, Outi has drawn on an impressive range of methodologies, analysing the material support of texts, the style of script, and the economic and cultural system that produced the volume in question.

Many of Outi's interests are mirrored in the contributions of this volume, written by her friends, colleagues and students, for Outi's whole career can be seen as a celebration of the *res publica litterarum*. She has a truly impressive international scholarly network, she is herself a member of a number of international scholarly organizations, and she has directed a series of collaborative research projects which have not only produced impressive scholarly results, but have also enabled her to gather around her research groups – sometimes known as 'the usual suspects' – which have profited both from her academic leadership, and from the spirit of community and friendship which always pervades her intellectual environment.

Outi gives freely of her time. She is always happy to teach not only in Jyväskylä, but students all over Europe have profited from her vast knowledge, and she has decisively influenced the emergence of a new, international and well-networked generation of scholars. She is also known for her outstanding generosity towards younger scholars, who have either studied with her, participated in her projects, or just come into her orbit where they were joyfully received and made welcome.

The editors of the volume wish to thank the authors for their inspiring contributions; we hope they will bring joy to Outi and will be seen as tokens of the great esteem in which we all hold her.

Aarhus, Siena, Jyväskylä, Berlin and Helsinki, March 2024

Marianne Pade, Leonardo Magionami, Susanna Niiranen,  
Bernd Roling & Raija Sarasti

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