

IMC Newsletter

August 2006



About the IMC

Established in 1994, the IMC has provided an unrivalled forum for intellectual debate in the field of medieval studies for fourteen years. Hosted by the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, the IMC is held in Leeds every July, and each year attracts some 1400 medievalists from throughout the world. Papers and sessions are selected for the IMC by an international committee of 38 leading medievalists, specialists in fields from Scandinavian to Mediterranean Studies, from monasticism to the study of non-Christian cultures. The IMC is unique in that it welcomes papers in any major European language.

At the core of the IMC is its four-day programme of three-paper sessions, workshops, round tables, and special lectures. In addition to this, the IMC each year organises daily excursions to medieval sites of interest and offers delegates a full programme of evening events, concerts, and receptions - not to mention the end of congress dance! Our bookfair is attended by leading medieval publishers.

The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2007!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Axel E. W. Müller

Director,

International Medieval Congress

Online proposal submissions for IMC2007. Visit <imc.leeds.ac.uk/imcapp>.

IMC 2006

Academic Programme

The IMC 2006 took place between 10-13 July at the University of Leeds, UK. More than 1450 medievalists attended, making this year's Congress the biggest ever in the IMC's thirteen-year history. Some 350 sessions and roundtable discussions explored all aspects of the European Middle Ages, with papers on subjects as diverse as The Raetovarii and the Late Roman Frontier on the Upper Danube, Radical Haircuts in Medieval Egypt, Robert Crowley and the Ploughman Tradition in the Early English Reformation, Les traductions latines de Marco Polo, and Anger and Crime in Medieval Sweden. As one participant commented, there was 'an excellent range of subjects for the

sessions. All the speakers I heard presented very good and well-prepared papers'. This year's special thematic strand, Emotion and Gesture, generated enormous interest and enthusiasm, with over 100 sessions presented under the auspices of the strand, including keynote addresses by Gerd Althoff (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster) and Barbara Rosenwein (Loyola University Chicago). The Emotion and Gesture strand was exceptionally well co-ordinated by Madeline Caviness (Tufts University, Massachusetts) and Daniel Smail (Harvard University), and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Madeline and Dan for all their hard work this past year. The strand clearly opened up new avenues of interest in these subjects, and we hope all who presented in or attended sessions on emotion and/or gesture found the experience a positive one. We plan to continue the debate at next year's Congress, and would welcome paper and session proposals for IMC2007 that develop on themes explored in this year's Emotion and Gesture strand.

This year's press coverage of the IMC explored a number of topics arising out of sessions and roundtables at the Congress. Articles on the *Da Vinci Code*, the cult of St George, and the daily life of prisoners and social outcasts in the Middle Ages appeared in the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mirror*, *Guardian Online*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Yorkshire Evening Post*, and *Yorkshire Post*; other topics were given airtime on BBC Radio Leeds,

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and prompted enquiries from the UK daytime TV programme, the *Richard and Judy Show*, and from various other media production teams (the *James Whale Show*, Jamie Oliver's production company). The extent of media interest in the IMC2006 was encouraging, implying as it does the present popularity of things medieval amongst the British public.

Did you know? Of the over 1450 participants at the IMC 29% were retired or post-graduate students. 42% were from the UK, 21% from North America, 32% from mainland Europe, and 5% from the rest of the world.

Events and Excursions

For many, the events and excursions offered at the IMC are a highlight of the Congress experience. Sunday, 9 July, opened the Congress with a day of excursions to York, Richmond, and Middleham Castles, and a rare opportunity to see Harewood Castle, only recently opened to the public. Also on offer was a voice workshop with Lisa Colton (University of Huddersfield), jointly sponsored by the IMC and the North East Early Music Forum, featuring medieval songs to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The evening featured performances by Alan Murray and Lauren Moreau (Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds), and by Óscar Mascarenhas (University of Limerick).

Other highlights included the delicious medieval banquet and a lively performance by Trio Literati of several Gawain romances. Teatrul Bon Ton presented a collection of stories featuring the wild antics of practical joker Till Eulenspiegel with marionettes. An acting workshop and a live dramatic reading of Chaucer's 'Nun's Priest Prologue and Tale' also offered amusement to Congress participants. The final performance of the Congress was an outstanding concert of Islamic music by Amir Hussein Pourjavady from Iran and Latif Bolat from Turkey.

The excursions included visits to new sites, such as Pickering Church to see the medieval wall paintings, as well as to old favourites such as Fountains Abbey and the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

The post Congress tour 'Scotland the Brave!' featured the castles and battlefields of Central Scotland, including Edinburgh, St Andrews, and Stirling. Also included was an exclusive evening visit to Rosslyn Chapel – made famous by *The Da Vinci Code* – a tour of Carlisle cathedral with Canon David Weston, and a surprise trip to Doune Castle, the location of many scenes in that well-loved classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.



Post Congress Tour Participants at King Arthur's Seat

Second-hand and Antiquarian Bookfair

The bookfair for IMC 2006 was larger than ever, opening with an Antiquarian and Second-hand bookfair on Sunday, 9 July.

Looking Ahead

IMC 2007: 9-12 JULY 2007

The IMC 2007 will once again provide a forum for the discussion of all aspects of the study of the European Middle Ages. Papers and sessions on all aspects of Medieval Studies are most welcome. The IMC is sub-divided into 35 thematic strands. Each year, a special thematic strand complements these core strands (see below). The IMC welcomes session and individual paper proposals submitted in all major European languages. The core strands are:

- Anglo-Saxon Studies
- Archaeology
- Art and Architecture
- Byzantine Studies
- Celtic Studies
- Central and Eastern European Studies
- Church History and Canon Law
- Crusades and Latin East
- Culture and Society
- Daily Life
- Drama
- Gender Studies/Women's Studies
- Geography and Settlement Studies
- Government and Institutions
- Hagiography and Religious Writing
- Historiography (Medieval and Modern)
- Jewish Studies
- Language and Literature – Comparative

New for 2006-2007

On-line Proposal Submission

One-Step, Easy Access, On-line Proposal Forms

- Language and Literature – Germanic
- Language and Literature - Middle English
- Language and Literature - Romance Vernacular
- Late Antique and Early Medieval Studies
- Latin Writing
- Literacy and Communication
- Material Culture
- Medievalism and Reception of the Middle Ages
- Mediterranean and Islamic Studies
- Monasticism and Religious Life
- Music and Liturgy
- Philosophy and Political Thought
- Scandinavian Studies
- Science, Technology and Military History
- Social and Economic History
- Sources and Resources
- Theology and Bible Studies

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2006, session and roundtable proposals by 30 September 2006. To submit a proposal, go to <imc.leeds.ac.uk/imcapp>

In 2007 Leeds celebrates the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the borough of Leeds by its manorial lord, an event which established the physical framework of the later town as it is still visible in the commercial city of today. The Congress 2007 has chosen 'Medieval Cities' as its special thematic strand. The strand will be co-ordinated by Derek J. Keene (Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute for Historical Research, University of London). Keynote speakers include Chris Wickham (University of Oxford) and David Palliser (University of Leeds).

The Congress will include sessions devoted to Leeds but is also an ideal venue for bringing together the wide variety of recent scholarship in many disciplines which has had a bearing on cities in medieval Europe and neighbouring territories. We specially invite papers that cross traditional boundaries of discipline and topic.

Aspects of this thematic strand may include:

- Cities and social and political formation

- Cities and patterns of belief: worship, cults, pilgrimage, and heresy
- Cities as sites of material and cultural production
- Cities as sites of commercial and cultural exchange
- Cities and the shaping of custom and law
- Cities and war
- Cities in history, myth, and imagination
- Life and death in the medieval city
- Networks of cities and other towns
- The impact of cities on territories
- The symbolic landscape of cities
- The representation of cities in graphic art
- Medieval cities in the modern world: conservation, museums, historiography, tourism

For details about the special thematic strand, go to <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007_call.html>.

We can no longer guarantee slide projectors for IMC2007 and advise using data projectors instead.

www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007/equipment.html

IMC Diary Dates

- IMC 2007 Paper Proposals Deadline
31 August 2006
- IMC 2007 Session/Roundtable Proposals Deadline
30 September 2006
- IMC 2007: Special Thematic Strand: 'Medieval Cities', 9-12 July 2007
- IMC 2008: Special Thematic Strand: 'The Natural World', 8-11 July 2008
- IMC 2009: 13-16 July 2009
- IMC 2010: 12-15 July 2010

International Medieval Congress

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Institute for Medieval Studies

Medieval Studies at Leeds

Teaching and Research

Leeds is renowned for the range and quality of its teaching, for excellence in skills training and medieval languages, and for exceptional resources.

Leeds medievalists' research spans Europe, from late antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages, from Iceland to Africa and the Middle East. Notable strengths include liturgy and music; the Mediterranean (Islam, the Crusades); cultural history of the post-Roman period; mission, monasticism, ecclesiastical history and archaeology; historical topography; art history and critical theory.

Medieval languages and their associated literatures are a special strength: in addition to Latin and Old English, Leeds caters for Old Norse, Arabic, Hebrew, Old High German, Italian, French and Spanish <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/study/index.html>.

The Institute's links with the Royal Armouries provide a rich environment for teaching and research on chivalry, arms, armour, tournaments, medieval warfare and the archaeology of battle.

The Institute's community includes some forty scholars from constituent Schools and partner institutions, together with a nucleus of medievalists within the Institute who work alongside the interdisciplinary teams that produce the Bibliography and organize the Congress. The Bibliography and Congress attract international visitors and lecturers, who contribute to the Institute's lively programme of seminars, lectures and events <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/events.html>.

The co-location of postgraduate teaching and research with the International Medieval Bibliography and Congress (Europe's largest annual gathering in the humanities) provides a milieu wherein students have the opportunity to gain practical as well as academic experience. Links with heritage bodies and museums enable internships.

The Brotherton Library is one of the UK's leading resources for medievalists, including a substantial holding of medieval manuscripts. On the campus edge is the archive of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, which contains a rich collection of regional medieval material. For students of architecture and landscape, the great Cistercian abbey of Kirkstall is within walking distance, whilst the castles, abbeys, landscapes and settlements of Yorkshire itself are on the city's doorstep.

International Medieval Bibliography: Call for Contributors

The International Medieval Bibliography (IMB), based at Leeds since 1967, is a multi-disciplinary database of Medieval Studies which helps underpin the work of the IMC. Now, after the implementation of the IMB-Online, the bibliography is working to greatly expand its coverage of publications. To this end, the editorial team is looking for individuals or organisations to become contributors to join its existing range of partners throughout the world. Contributors take responsibility for identifying and cataloguing publications relating to specific subject or geographical areas, and are rewarded with free subscriptions to IMB (online or print), other free publications and other benefits. Contributors are sought who are based in the USA, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Romania, and the Arab world, particularly with interests in archaeology, art, regional and local history, and vernacular languages. If you are interested in becoming a contributor, contact the editor, Dr Alan V. Murray, at <A.V.Murray@leeds.ac.uk>.

Membership of the Institute

The IMS Membership scheme offers medievalists the opportunity to benefit from discounts and priority information, IMS products and activities. The membership scheme offers two categories : Associate and Affiliate. For Associate members we offer either the the IMB Online or a printed International Medieval Bibliography. For full details and a subscription form, visit <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/join.html>.

4th International Fields of Conflict Conference

The fourth biennial international conference on battlefield archaeology will take place between 29 September and 3 October 2006. The conference is jointly organised by the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, English Heritage, the Royal Armouries, the Battlefields Trust and Leicestershire County Council.

The conference will take place in Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, the home of one of the world's premier collections of arms and armour from the last millennium. The optional following two days (2-3 October) will comprise visits to several major English battlefields, including Towton and Bosworth, where investigations are in progress. Delegates will also have privileged behind the scenes access at the Armouries. For more details see <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/fieldsofconflict/fieldsofconflictconference.htm>.