

International Medieval Congress August 2008 Newsletter



Image - Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

About the IMC

Established in 1994, the IMC has provided an unrivalled forum for intellectual debate in the field of medieval studies for fifteen years. Hosted by the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, the IMC is held in Leeds every July. This year it attracted 1460 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 book fair is attended by leading medieval publishers. The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2009!

Axel E. W. Müller
Director, International Medieval Congress

IMC 2008, 7-10 July

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The IMC 2008 took place between 7-10 July at the University of Leeds, UK. 1464 medievalists attended, from 41 different countries, making this yet another successful year.

The Congress continues to draw in international participants with 30% coming from Europe (excl. UK) and over 12% from the US and Canada. This year also attracted a wide number of delegates from as far afield as Australia, China and Israel. Some 325 sessions and roundtable discussions explored all aspects of the European Middle Ages, with papers on subjects as diverse as 'Grenzen und Grenzmarkierung in den mittelalterlichen Natur', 'Le souverain dans l'exégèse carolingienne', 'Medieval DNA: On the Use of Molecular Genetic Methods for Exploring the Past', and 'Come la grazia eccede l'agire etico e realizza la politica della convivenza civile e della comunicazione'.

Press coverage of the IMC explored a number of topics arising out of sessions and roundtables at the Congress. These were linked to the special thematic strand and ongoing research as well as specific IMC events and resulted, amongst others, in articles by the Guardian Online and local press, showing that medieval studies is still generating interest from the general public.

Amongst many positive comments about the Congress, participants said that IMC 2008 was '**a smashingly good Congress**' and that the '**plenaries were outstanding**'. This year's special thematic strand, Natural World, was particularly challenging and generated both interest and enthusiasm, with more than 150 sessions presented under the auspices of the strand, including keynote addresses by Oliver Rackham, (Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge) and Richard C. Hoffmann, (Department of History,

Contents	Page
About the IMC	1
IMC 2008	
About the IMC	1
Academic Programme	1
Events & Excursions	2
Looking Ahead	
IMS Lecture Series	2
IMC Diary Dates	2
IMC 2009: 13-16 July 2008	3
Institute for Medieval Studies	4
IMB Call for Contributors	4
Membership Scheme	4

York University, Toronto, Ontario). The Natural World strand was co-ordinated by Brigitte Resl, (School of History, University of Liverpool) and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her work this past year. The strand opened up new avenues of interest in these subjects, and we hope all who presented in or attended sessions on the Natural World found the experience a positive one.

EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS

As in previous years, IMC 2008 offered a full programme of events and excursions as an accompaniment to the academic programme.

Sunday, 6 July, opened with a day of excursions including one to Lincoln Cathedral and Bishop's palace, a visit to Bolton Castle and, for the adventurous, a journey into Gawain country. Sunday events included the opening of our annual two-day Antiquarian and Second-hand Book Fair, a late medieval voice workshop (jointly sponsored by the



Image - Paul Sturtevant

One of the stalls at the Craft Fair

IMC and the North East Early Music Forum), and a sell-out hands-on demonstration on painting medieval manuscripts, as well as an evening performance by Simon Chadwick on a unique replica of the 15th-century 'Queen Mary' harp. Other event highlights included the immensely popular workshop on the content and production of 15th-century herbals, a dance workshop with the Arbeau Dancers, a concert by Duo Trobairitz, a performance of Armenian epic by Vergine Gulbenkian and both a Food tasting and Beer tasting.

Also held for the first time this year were the Craft fair and Historical and Archaeological Societies fair, both of which generated positive interest and we hope they will go on to become even bigger and better next year.

Other excursions included trips to Rievaulx Abbey, the Leeds Discovery Centre, Otley Parish Church and Bolton Abbey, Bede's World Museum and Demonstration Farm, Markenfield Hall and York Parish Churches.

Image - Dan Walker



The Manuscript Workshop - pigments

Bede's World
Museum and
Demonstration Farm



Image - Sarah Lynch

IMS LECTURE SERIES

The IMS Lecture Series for 2008/09 is taking shape. All lectures are free of charge and everyone is welcome. Lectures will take place on selected Wednesdays of each month between 17.30 - 18.30, in Lecture Room 1.08, Parkinson Building, University of Leeds. Current confirmed speakers include: Margaret Mullett (Professor of Byzantine Studies, Queen's University, Belfast), Andrew Reynolds (Reader in Medieval Archaeology, University College London), and Anna Eaves (Head of National Monument Record Services, English Heritage).

FUTURE IMC DATES

- IMC 2009 Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2008
- IMC 2009 Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2008
- IMC 2009: Special Thematic Strand: 'Heresy and Orthodoxy', 13-16 July 2009
- IMC 2010: Special Thematic Strand: 'Travel and Exploration', 12-15 July 2010
- IMC 2011: 11-14 July 2011
- IMC 2012: 9-12 July 2012
- IMC 2013: 8-11 July 2013

IMC 2009: 13-16 July 2009

CONTACT DETAILS

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Plans for next year's Congress are well underway. As in previous years, papers and sessions on all aspects of the study of the European Middle Ages are most welcome, in any major European language. A focus for 2009 will be the special thematic strand on:

'Heresy and Orthodoxy'

For further information on the call for papers please see our webpage: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2009_call.html We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. To submit a proposal, go to <http://imc.leeds.ac.uk/imcapp/>

To ensure balanced coverage of all aspects of research into the wider European Middle Ages, the Congress is divided into 35 evenly-sized strands, which make up the overall pattern of the Congress. This enables programming development across the wide geographical and chronological range of Medieval Studies. Overlaps and duplications are inevitable and the strand structure is intended to be inclusive, not exclusive, in nature. Each session will be allocated to a minimum of one strand but can be listed in a number of strands.

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
- 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

Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2008; session and roundtable proposals by 30 September 2008.

Institute for Medieval Studies

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; 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, Middle High German, Italian, French and Spanish. 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. 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



Image - Linette Withers

Font at St Michael's and all Angels Church, Hubberholme

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 IMB Online or a printed International Medieval Bibliography. For more information contact:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/join.html>

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 IMBOnline, 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, Israel, Lithuania, 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



Image - Linette Withers

Image - Zsuzsa Papp



IMS trip to Bewcastle and Hadrian's Wall

gain practical as well as academic experience. 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.