

International Medieval Congress

August 2010
Newsletter

About the IMC

The International Medieval Congress is now in its 17th year and has established itself as an unrivalled forum for intellectual debate in all areas of medieval studies. Hosted by the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, the IMC is held in Leeds every July, and now attracts more than 1600 medievalists from around the world every year. Papers and sessions are selected for the IMC by an international committee of 35 leading medievalists. The IMC is unique in that it welcomes papers in any major European language. The IMC is based around a four-day programme of sessions, workshops, round tables, and special lectures, and is complemented by a range of daily excursions, workshops, concerts, dramatic performances, receptions, bookfairs, craft and societies fairs, and the Congress dance.

The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2011! I look forward to seeing you there.

Axel E. W. Müller
Director, International Medieval Congress

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IMC 2010 12-15 July

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

Last month, from 12-15 July the seventeenth annual International Medieval Congress took place at the University of Leeds in the UK. 1673 medievalists attended, from no fewer than 43 different countries, making this the largest IMC to date.

The Congress continues to draw in international participants with more than half of participants coming from outside of the UK, 19% coming from outside Europe. This year attracted delegates from as far a field as New Zealand, Taiwan ROC, and South Africa. Some 400 sessions and roundtable discussions explored all aspects of the European Middle Ages, with papers on subjects as diverse as 'Hraþe seoþðan wæs æfter mundgripe': Anglo-Saxon Punishment and Middle English Torture', 'Them Friars dash about': Mendicant termination in Medieval Scandinavia', 'Le strade della guarigione: vie di comunicazione, monasteri, ospedali e santuari (Italia centro-nord, XIII-XV secolo)', 'Oboedientia und arbitrium proprium im Leben des heiligen Gallus', and 'Instrucciones pro iter agentibus: Los tratados médicos del ámbito universitario de la Escuela de Montpellier dedicados a los viajeros medievales.'

The Congress was host to a truly diverse audience, ranging from the seasoned professional to the postgraduate giving their first paper. This year not only saw some fields of familiar research explored anew but also highlighted some of the more recent and spectacular finds and discoveries.

We received plenty of feedback and are already looking at ways to improve the Congress for next year. Amongst many positive comments about the Congress, participants said that IMC 2010 'was great, even with all the rain!' (admittedly it rained more in 2010 than in previous years) and that they were 'Looking forward to IMC 2011!' This year's special thematic strand, Travel and Exploration, generated both interest and enthusiasm, with more than 175 sessions presented under the auspices of

the strand, including keynote addresses by Patrick Gautier Dalché (Section des Sciences Historiques et Philologiques, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris), Dionisius A. Agius (Institute for Arab & Islamic Studies, University of Exeter), Michael McCormick (Department of History, Harvard University), and Felipe Fernández-Armesto (Department of History, University of Notre Dame). The Travel and Exploration strand was co-ordinated by Felicitas Schmeider and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work and input over the past year.

EVENTS & EXCURSIONS

As in previous years, IMC 2010 offered a varied programme of events and excursions, as well as practical workshops as an accompaniment to the academic programme.

Sunday, 11 July, opened with an excursion to Middleham and Richmond Castles, as well as a trip to York, with the opportunity to watch the Corpus Christi Mystery Plays performed on wagons around the city. Sunday events included the opening of our annual two-day Antiquarian and Second-hand Book Fair, a workshop for singers and musicians examining the performance of medieval music in the 21st century directed by Belinda Sykes (jointly sponsored by the IMC and the North East Early Music Forum), and a hands-on opportunity to try tablet weaving, as well as riveting tales of the Otherworld performed by storyteller Heather Sharpe.

Other event highlights included workshops on sugar crafting and medieval spices, medieval cooking, and the art of calligraphy, as well as a concert of Muslim,

Jewish, and Christian songs of the Crusades by Joglearesa, and a performance of Christian music from Medieval Toledo by Emma Hornby and Schola Cantorum. The IMC concert series concluded with a performance of music exploring the imagery of the Rose and Nightingale in Medieval Spain and beyond by Alva. All concerts took place within the beautiful Norman Church of St John the Baptist in Adel. Returning for the third time this year were the Craft Fair and Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair, both of which continue to generate positive interest and showcase the diversity of creative and historical activities associated with the Middle Ages.

Other excursions included trips to Mount Grace Priory, a close-up look of the restoration of the York Minster stained glass, Byland Abbey, Helmsley Castle, Durham Cathedral, as well as a walking tour of Leeds exploring the ever changing architectural landscape of the city.

EXHIBITIONS & BOOKFAIRS

Once again, the Congress featured more than 70 stands showcasing the publications and other output from publishers, booksellers, and academic departments from around the world in the annual four-day Main Bookfair. Following the growing success of the Antiquarian and Second-Hand Bookfair, it returned for another year. Delegates were able to browse the stalls on Sunday 11 and Monday 12 July.

CRAFT FAIR

Back for a third year the Congress also hosted an exciting one-day Craft Fair on Tuesday 13 July. A unique selection of hand-made items were offer and delegates could buy something special, ranging from lampwork beads and replica pottery to metal pins and wax candles.

Byland Abbey,
North York
Moors National
Park



Photo by Roy W Lambert

Calligraphy
was just one
amongst many
hands-on
activities on
offer



Photo by Sabrina Withers

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES FAIR

Also returning for a third year, there was an opportunity to meet some of the many independent societies that work tirelessly within the UK to preserve local and national history and archaeology. Representatives were on hand to discuss their work on Wednesday 14 July.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Looking Ahead:IMC 2011: 11-14 July 2011

As the global economy attempts to recover from the recent staggering economic downturn, and scholars and journalists describe the enormously uneven concentrations of wealth that took place in the decade preceding that downturn, it seems only natural to turn our scholarly gaze to issues of wealth and poverty in the Middle Ages. For that reason, the IMC has chosen the special thematic focus '**Poor...Rich**' for 2011.

How uneven was the distribution of wealth in medieval communities and polities? How was the distribution of wealth affected by environmental and commercial cycles of paucity and plenty? How was wealth amassed and then redistributed? What were the topographies of wealth and poverty? How permeable were the physical and symbolic boundaries between rich and poor? In what ways did both church and secular authorities attempt to deal with the moral and practical problems arising from poverty and the uneven distribution of wealth?

Areas of discussion could include:

- Charity
- Macro- and micro-economic studies
- Archaeological evidence for different economic strata
- Nutrition
- Social structures and social mobility
- Vagrancy and homelessness
- The rich and the poor in literature
- Concepts of 'expensive' and 'cheap'
- Rural v. urban poverty
- Involuntary and voluntary poverty
- Religions and religious orders and their approach to poverty and wealth
- Tax structures and their effects on the distribution of wealth
- Social value of (manual) labour/work
- Spiritual poverty
- Concepts or perceptions of relative wealth or poverty
- Luxury
- Conspicuous consumption and magnificence
- Sumptuary laws
- Health and treatment of the sick
- Moral attitudes towards individualism
- Excessive living

- Gluttony, avarice, and envy
- Begging

Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2010, session and roundtable proposals by 30 September 2010. We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Links to the online proposal forms are available at the top of the IMC 2011 Call for Papers website.

Remember to order your equipment for 2011 on your proposal form! Check <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/equipment.html> for more details.

The IMC 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



Brotherton Collection MS 1, fol. 24r; Brotherton Collection MS 1, fol. 9r; and Brotherton Collection MS 11, fol. 156r © Leeds University Library.

IMC DIARY DATES

- IMC 2010: Special Thematic Strand 'Travel and Exploration': 12-15 July 2010
 - IMC 2011 Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2010
 - IMC 2011 Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2010
- IMC 2011: Special Thematic Strand 'Poor...Rich': 11-14 July 2011
 - IMC 2012: 9-12 July 2012
 - IMC 2013: 8-11 July 2013
 - IMC 2014: 7-10 July 2014

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2010; Session proposals must be submitted by 30 September 2010. The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

About the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Formed in 1967, the IMS continues to go from strength to strength. IMS research spans all across Europe, from Late Antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages, from Iceland to Africa and the Middle East. Areas of specialisation 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. Leeds is noted for medieval languages and their associated literatures: in addition to Latin and Old English, Leeds caters for Old Norse, Arabic, Hebrew, Old High German, Italian, French, and Spanish <<http://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 organise the Congress. The Bibliography and Congress attract international visitors and lecturers, who contribute to the Institute's lively programme of seminars, lectures, and a year long programme of excursions and events <<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/events.html>>. The co-location of postgraduate teaching and research with the International Medieval Bibliography and Congress provides a milieu wherein students have the opportunity to gain practical as well as academic experience. Links with heritage bodies and museums enable internships.

Leeds University's Brotherton Library is one of the UK's leading resources for medievalists, including a substantial holding of medieval manuscripts <<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/library.html>>. 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 nearby, whilst the castles, abbeys, landscapes, and settlements of Yorkshire itself are on the city's doorstep.



Test firing carried out at Bosworth as part of the Battlefields project.

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.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE

Membership of the IMS offers medievalists priority access to IMC information and bookings and discounts on IMC registration and titles produced by Brepols academic publishers. Members also receive one free book per year from the Brepols back catalogue. There are two levels of membership: Affiliate and Associate. Associate members will gain access to the IMBOnline. For full details and how to join, visit

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