

International *Medieval* Congress

AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER
IMC 2015: 6-9 JULY



IMC DIARY DATES

IMC 2016: Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2015

IMC 2016: Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2015

IMC 2016: Special Thematic Strand, 'Food, Feast & Famine': 4-7 July 2016



IMC 2015

Over 2,400 delegates attended the 22nd annual International Medieval Congress at the University of Leeds from 6-9 July 2015, making it, once again, the largest ever IMC. We were pleased to welcome medievalists from postgrads to professors from over 40 countries onto campus to debate, discuss, and further learn about diverse aspects of the European Middle Ages.

Some delegates travelled from as far as South Korea, Brazil, and New Zealand to participate. This year more than half of our attendees came from outside the UK, with more than 800 from the European continent and over 400 delegates from outside of Europe.

With our third year on campus, alongside offering convenient on campus accommodation and purpose-built session rooms, delegates were able to meet over coffee in the ever-popular Marquee and Parkinson Court. In addition to this, we have expanded our range of dedicated networking spaces

by opening the Terrace Bar, serving food and drinks throughout the day and into evening, in the Leeds University Union. As in the previous year, we used the Union's Stylus Nightclub as the venue for the IMC dance, but, new to IMC 2015, a local band, 'Tom Rocks & the Replicants', provided the entertainment, an innovation that was enthusiastically endorsed by revelling medievalists.



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THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME AND SPECIAL THEMATIC STRAND 'REFORM & RENEWAL'

The 2015 programme featured 636 sessions and round tables, covering a wide range of topics, such as gender studies, archaeology, as well as science and technology. Papers such as 'On the Heels of the Female Communities of the Poor Life: The Cases of Lisbon and Évora, 14th-15th Centuries', 'Polioretics Systems: Renewed or Classical Connections? - Byzantine and Roman Influences in Some Iberian Visigothic Military Hill Forts', 'The Double Messiah in Text and Image: Messiahs from the Tribes of Judah, Ephraim, or Dan and the Jewish-Christian Polemic', and 'La réforme monastique du Xe siècle vue de Saint-Géraud d'Aurillac (Cantal, France)' reflect this diversity.



'Reform and Renewal' was the special strand of the IMC 2015, encompassing 220 sessions and setting the theme for our keynote lectures on Monday. Maureen C. Miller (Department of History, University of California, Berkeley) gave a lecture titled 'Beyond National Narratives: Culture, States, and Reframing 'Gregorian' Reform', followed by 'Spaces Of Reform?: Urban Renewal and the Shaping of Cities in Medieval Europe' by Keith Lilley (School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast). Later that day Frank Griffel (Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University) addressed the topic 'Reforming Islam at the Turn to the 6th/12th Century: Al-Ghazali's Project of Reviving Religion through Aristotelianism and Mysticism' in his keynote lecture.



As ever, the academic programme was augmented by our programme of further keynote and other special lectures. Sara Lipton from the Department of History at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, was this year's speaker for the Annual Medieval Academy of America Lecture; her talk was entitled, 'The Vulgate Of Experience - Preaching, Art, and the Material World'. The Annual Early Medieval Europe Lecture, 'Carolingian Cultures of Dialogue and Debate', was delivered by Mayke de Jong from the Departement Geschiedenis en Kunstgeschiedenis, Universiteit Utrecht.

The 'Reform and Renewal' strand was co-ordinated by Steven Vanderputten (Vakgroep Geschiedenis, Universiteit Gent), to whom we would like to express our gratitude for his work dedicated to the IMC over the past year. The strand allowed for a great diversity of papers held within 15 sub-categories, from artistic expression to religious and secular reform. We hope all who attended sessions or gave a paper had an informative, engaging, and fruitful congress.



SPECIAL SESSIONS 2015

Two special sessions took place in the Special Collections in the Brotherton Library. Alaric Hall (School of English, University of Leeds) spoke about 'J. R. R. Tolkien at Leeds and in the Brotherton Library Special Collections', outlining Tolkien's early literary works published during his first lectureship at the University of Leeds. Not only was this talk a 'sell out', with audience members queuing outside the Brotherton Room well before the talk began, but attendees were treated to a small exhibition of Tolkien's works held by Special Collections, including his correspondence with Ida Gordon, medievalist, ex-student, and wife of Tolkien's friend and collaborator E.V. Gordon.



Over 200,000 rare books and seven kilometres (4.3 miles) of manuscripts and archives constitute the university's Special Collections. Among these are over 300 incunabula, books printed in Europe before 1501. Leeds University Library sponsored the special session 'Secrets of Early Printed Books: The Leeds Incunabula Revealed' given by Rhiannon M. Lawrence-Francis, Resource Discovery Librarian at the Special Collections. Rhiannon presented her findings from her recent project on the incunabula.



Following her talk, participants were able to view these fascinating books up close.

Music and dance inspired another two special sessions. Composer and musical director Graham Coatman spoke on 'Contemporary Composers and the Renewal of Medieval Practice?: Medieval Models in the Work of Judith Weir', exploring the uses of medieval models in modern compositions. Raül Sanchis Francés from Universitat Rovira i Virgili gave a talk on dance and identity entitled 'Ballar El Moro - Dancing the Moor: Festive Dances of Moors and Christians in the Western Mediterranean'. This talk was also an introduction to the exhibition 'Ballar el Moro: Dancing the Moor', which was located on the Parkinson Gallery throughout the IMC. This exhibition was a production of the Ethnological Museum in Barcelona and the Associació Cultural Joan Amades, in cooperation with the Department of Catalan Philology of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili of Tarragona and the Diputació (regional administration) of Tarragona and with the support of the 'Cases de la Festa' of the Ajuntament (city administration) of Barcelona.



The IMC was also host to the White Rose University Consortium Poster Display which was exhibited on the balcony of the Refectory throughout the duration of conference. Students from the University of Leeds, University of Sheffield, and the University of York were invited to submit posters presenting their research and gave presentations on Tuesday evening, which were evaluated by a specialist panel.

This year the IMC held three Professional Development Workshops on Friday 10 July: 'An Introduction to Medieval Records at The National Archives', 'An Introduction to Academic Publishing', and 'A Medieval Arms and Armour Study Session'. We would like to thank The National Archives, Brill Publishers, and the Royal Armouries for creating and delivering these varied and insightful events, making our Friday Professional Development series our largest and most successful to date.

EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS FOR IMC 2015



A varied programme of events and excursions also formed an integral part of the IMC's programme. With interactive activities such as craft workshops, excursions to sites of historic interest, and other entertainments, delegates were able to engage in medieval crafts, music, and architecture throughout the week.

Taking advantage of Leeds' location in the heart of Yorkshire, IMC excursions provide the opportunity to visit a variety of the beautiful historic settings of the region. This year Conisbrough Castle, the cities of York and Lincoln, as well as Mount Grace Priory and Jervaulx Abbey were destinations further afield from Leeds, giving delegates an opportunity to explore the north of England. However, delegates also had the opportunity to visit more local sites with excursions to the Royal Armouries Museums and Kirkstall Abbey.

This year's IMC concert programme once more featured musical performances by dedicated artists. Blondel's 'Zephirus Eke with His Sweete Breeth' was a celebration of wind music of the late 14th and early 15th centuries, whilst 'Robbers, Rebels and Royals',



performed by the musical ensemble Joglaresa in collaboration with storyteller Nick Hennessy, invoked the subversive side of medieval music by offering a programme of songs and stories that challenged traditional authorities, whether secular or religious. Inspired by the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, Trouvère offered their programme 'Magna Melodia', immersing listeners in the musical backdrop to the tumultuous events of 1215.

As ever, the IMC provided the opportunity for delegates to get hands-on (or feet-on) experience in medieval arts and crafts. Starting with workshops in singing and applique on the Sunday, our programme also featured a traditional music session and further workshops in spinning and calligraphy. On Thursday night, the Arbeau Dancers, accompanied by live music from Peter Bull, invited delegates to join them for a lively evening of music and dance.



The IMC 2015 concluded with 'Making Leeds Medieval', the open campus event on University Square featuring craft displays such as embroidery, pole-lathe turning, paper marbling, and leatherworking, as well as live combat displays by the European Combat Guild. Having performed in the previous year, the guild this time showcased 13th and 15th century armour and fighting techniques. SMJ Falconry also returned, offering delegates a chance to see a variety of magnificent birds of prey up-close, providing a not-to-be-missed photo opportunity.

The Leeds University Union Medieval Society organised a special programme of events for Congress delegates, such as the annual pub-quiz and the first-ever Medieval Poetry Corner. This year the society also launched a Film Festival in partnership with the historic Hyde Park Picture House featuring a line-up of historically themed films with the opportunity for discussion with special guests after the screening. For more information on the LUU Medieval Society, please contact LUUmedievalociety@gmail.com.



IMC FAIRS

The IMC Bookfair in the Parkinson Court is (as one commentator described) 'always a highlight', and featured thirty-five publishers and organisations selling their latest publications in medieval studies. Not only did special conference offers make for great browsing, the Bookfair presented a fantastic opportunity for authors and publishers to network and establish new ties.



Leeds University Union Foyer hosted this year's Second-hand and Antiquarian Bookfair as well as the Medieval Craft Fair. The array of items such as



books, jewellery and lampwork beads, hand-dyed wool, instruments and leatherwork drew a lot of attention from delegates looking for souvenirs and gifts to take home. With the Craft Fair once more extended to Thursday, it provided a perfect addition to the 'Making Leeds Medieval' event on the University Square and in the Union Building.



Also in conjunction with 'Making Leeds Medieval' was the Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair. Nine independent local and national groups in the UK dedicated to preserving history showcased their ongoing work and research on a variety of national treasures offering delegates a chance to learn more about their valuable work and, in some cases, handle archaeological finds.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

As an annual event, feedback is important to us. By listening to our delegates' comments and concerns, we endeavour to improve the event year on year. While we are currently evaluating the results of this year's surveys, we would like to thank you for all the feedback, comments, and suggestions we have received.



Creating a sense of community is something close to the IMC's heart and so creating spaces to facilitate networking is one of our priorities. With the move onto the University of Leeds campus three years ago, offering spaces has become easier and delegates are able to meet up in locations that reflect their preferred atmosphere. One new location was the Terrace Bar, which was open throughout the IMC.

Furthermore it appears the IMC is establishing its own character on the University of Leeds campus. Among the comments we received were positive impressions such as 'I had the chance to see excellent papers', 'excellent organisation and staff' and 'I like that all the buildings are close together and easy to get to'.



As the IMC has grown in size, our efforts to optimise the session room allocations continue. We are aware that with the rise in numbers of sessions scheduling becomes more complex; however, it is our aim to make every effort to keep overlapping sessions on similar subjects to a minimum.



If you have any feedback that you would like to pass on to the IMC administration team, please get in touch at imc@leeds.ac.uk.

TWITTER AT THE IMC

The #IMC2015 hashtag was lively and more active than ever this year, allowing medievalists who could not attend the IMC in person to follow the discussions, sessions, fairs, events, and exhibitions live. Tagging individual sessions further helped



communication on certain topics. #IMC2015 even trended UK-wide, along with the hashtag of session 1403 (#s1403), a round table discussion dedicated to the use of Twitter in medieval circles titled 'The Twitterati: Using Twitter in Medieval Scholarship and Pedagogy' sponsored by the East Coast Medieval Graduate Alliance. Due to the open nature of social media, the IMC team will be launching Twitter guidelines in the spirit of keeping the Twittersphere a safe online space for all participants. As calls for papers for next year are ongoing, be sure to check the #IMC2016 hashtag to view proposals and get the latest IMC news. Follow us @IMC_Leeds.

IMPRESSIONS OF IMC 2015

Photos and videos of IMC 2015 are now available online through our website, alongside the updated version of the IMC 2015 academic programme:

<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2015.html>



GUIDELINES FOR IMC 2016 PROPOSALS

The number of proposals received by the IMC has been steadily increasing year on year. In response to this growth we have amended our timetable as well as increased the numbers of parallel sessions during the IMC. Yet this level of growth is not sustainable indefinitely.

In order to control the size of the IMC, as well as to best preserve the interdisciplinary scope and balance of the academic programme, we have introduced a more rigorous procedure for the acceptance of paper and session proposals. For IMC 2016, proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- **Originality of content**
- **Clarity of content and expression**

- **Provision of complete and accurate information on the proposal form**
- **Contribution to overall coherence and diversity of the programme**

Further criteria will apply to proposals for sessions:

- **Overall coherence and demonstration of a clear academic rationale**
- **Overall number of sessions submitted by the organiser or sponsor (no more than four sessions per organiser/sponsor)**
- **Diversity of session participants, e.g. in terms of institution and nationality**

We hope that publishing official criteria for acceptance will make the process of programming more fair and transparent to everyone as well as ensuring the overall quality of the academic programme.



CONTACT DETAILS

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IMC 2016, 4-7 JULY - CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL FOCUS: FOOD, FEAST & FAMINE

The IMC seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies. Paper and session proposals on any topic related to the European Middle Ages are welcome. However, every year, the IMC chooses a specific special thematic strand which - for 2016 - is 'Food, Feast & Famine'. The theme has been chosen for the crucial importance of both phenomena in social and intellectual discourse, both medieval and modern, as well as their impact on many aspects of the human experience.

Food is both a necessity and a marker of economic and social privilege. Who cooks food, who consumes it in the Middle Ages? How and what did people from different social levels or religious commitments eat? How did eating change? How were these issues contested and represented? What does food reveal about differing aspects of medieval society and culture?

The aim is to cover the entire spectrum of famine to feast through multi-disciplinary approaches. Study of the medieval economy raises issues about standards of living and nutritional health. Both archaeological as well as textual evidence have been used to explore crop yields, agricultural methods, transport problems, dearth, and famine. Geographical and social variations in diet are important for understanding medieval taste and the era's definitions of sufficiency and luxury. Food is an expression of international relations and trade, as shown in the intercultural influences between Christian Europe and Islamic Spain, North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and India.

Across medieval Europe the acquisition, preservation, and storage of food was a struggle for much of the population, but food consumption was also a means for a clerical and noble elite to display taste and ostentation. In popular culture, feasting is perceived as one of the major activities of the medieval elite. The religious significance of food and fasting in the Middle Ages was part of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish practice. Fasting and food had wide-ranging interconnections with piety and charity, and could involve renunciation of an exceptional intensity. Spiritual and physical nourishment and its absence can be explored in many disciplines from the theological, legal, and literary to the art historical and linguistic.

Areas of discussion could include:

- Agricultural systems
- Almsgiving – food as charity
- Changing tastes
- Cookbooks and cooking practice
- Dearth and famine
- Drink – wine, ale, and water
- Environmental contexts
- Feasting
- Food and social class
- Food in monastic and other religious communities
- Food production
- Food supply and population
- Food supply and transport
- Fresh and saltwater fish
- Hunting
- Medical ideas of food, digestion, and humoral pathology
- Medieval haute cuisine
- Religious and spiritual feasting and fasting
- Spices and other edible luxury trade items
- Standards of living
- Symbolic/Figurative food
- Trading food

Proposals should be submitted online at:

www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2016_call.html

The IMC online proposal form is now available. Paper proposals must be submitted by **31 August 2015**.

Session proposals must be submitted by **30 September 2015**.

The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Medieval Research and Teaching at Leeds - A Unique Environment

Leeds combines exceptional interdisciplinary teaching and research with access to some of the best aspects of the British Isles in the medieval period.

The Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) is the home of the International Medieval Congress as well as the International Medieval Bibliography, the world's foremost interdisciplinary bibliography of the Middle Ages. Together, they provide opportunities for students to combine paid work experience with academic practice. Formed in 1967, the IMS today is one of the largest communities of medievalists in the UK, with over 50 members of staff and associated specialists.

The University's world-class library has the best medieval resources in the north of England and, with the archive of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, houses important collections of medieval manuscripts and rare books. Many of the medieval manuscripts of the Library can now be viewed online:

www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/

The libraries of the Royal Armouries and the British Library Lending Division are close at hand. Cooperation with the Royal Armouries and Leeds City Museum enriches teaching, research, and career development opportunities.



MA in Medieval Studies

Full-time (12 months) and part-time (24 months)

The MA in Medieval Studies programme is made up of a core of language and skills modules, which give the student an excellent grounding for postgraduate study, plus a range of interdisciplinary, team-taught and single-discipline option modules, and an extended piece of supervised independent research.

Our teaching and supervision expertise spans 1300 years and enables the student to study either a

closely interrelated set of subjects or to spread their interests across an outstanding range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields. There are also specialised modules offering language teaching for beginners in Old and Middle English, Old French, Old Norse, and Middle High German. The MA Medieval Studies programme provides an excellent basis for further work at doctoral level, either full-time or part-time, including key skills for research on medieval topics. An MA in Medieval History is also available at Leeds.

PhD Research in Medieval Studies

The IMS supervises doctoral research on interdisciplinary medieval topics, across a wide range of subjects. Research degrees in the IMS are structured so that, as well as embarking on their doctoral project, in the first year of study students take the following taught modules in foundational skills for research:

- Research Methods and Bibliography
- Medieval Latin
- A modern foreign language for reading scholarship on the research topic

It is the usual practice in the IMS for research students to have two co-supervisors, from different relevant disciplines. They work with the students to shape the project and give bibliographical and methodological guidance, and will continue to read and advise throughout their research. Each student presents an annual paper on his or her work in progress at a research seminar in the IMS. Research students are also encouraged to give papers at national and international conferences.

International Medieval Bibliography Call for Contributors

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 subjects or geographical areas, and are rewarded with free subscriptions to IMB (online or print), other free publications and additional benefits. Contributors are sought for national, regional, and local history in France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Portugal, Serbia, Israel, Lithuania, Greece, Cyprus, Latvia, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Korea, and the Arab world. Thematic contributors (who may be based anywhere) are particularly sought for art history, humanism, Italian literature, French literature, German literature, Jewish Studies, linguistics, numismatics, and music.