

# IMC Newsletter

January 2007



## 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 now attracts more than 1400 medievalists from around the world every year. Papers and sessions are selected for the IMC by an international committee of 38 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, a bookfair and the end of congress dance.

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**

For registration information, visit <[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007.html)>.

## IMC 2007

### Academic Programme

With over 400 sessions relating to key areas of medieval studies, this year's Congress programme promises to be richer than ever.

This year's special thematic strand, *Medieval Cities*, has been co-ordinated by Derek Keene (University of London). In total, 183 sessions will explore all aspects of the Medieval City.

This year, the Congress will open with two plenary speeches, each of which aims to prompt a debate that we hope will run all the way through the Congress. Chris Wickham (University of Oxford) will lead off with a lecture entitled 'Concepts of Urbanism at the Start of the Middle Ages', followed by a lecture by Marc Boone (Universiteit Gent) on 'The Medieval City: Beacon of Modernity - Site of Cultural Transfer?.'

*The Medieval City* is only one of the many features

of the IMC, and discussion and events at this year's Congress will be by no means limited to this theme: a total of 197 sessions and 21 round table discussions will focus on the many aspects of medieval studies not covered by the Special Thematic Strand.

We are, as always, pleased to welcome the Medieval Academy to the IMC. This year, Richard Kieckhefer (Northwestern University) will present the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled 'Mystical Communities in the Late Medieval West', which will be followed by a reception for all delegates hosted by the Medieval Academy.

2007 marks the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the borough of Leeds, and a range of lectures has been organised to celebrate this. The lectures are complemented by a walking tour of Leeds. These activities are part of the year-long Celebrate Leeds 2007 initiative, co-ordinated by Leeds City Council. More details can be found at <[www.celebrateleeds07.com](http://www.celebrateleeds07.com)>.

This year is also the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Leeds Centre for Medieval Studies and the International Medieval Bibliography, both now part of the Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS). To celebrate, following a lecture by David Palliser on 9 July, there will be a reception in the Weetwood Courtyard. All IMC participants are invited to join IMS staff, the University's Vice-Chancellor, the Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds, and other special guests to this special occasion.

## Contents

<b>About the IMC</b> .....	1
<b>IMC 2007</b>	
Academic Programme .....	1
Printed Programme .....	2
Events & Excursions .....	2
Second-hand and Antiquarian Bookfair .....	2
<b>Looking Ahead</b>	
IMC 2008: 10-13 July 2008 .....	3
IMC Diary Dates .....	3
<b>Institute for Medieval Studies</b>	
<b>Medieval Studies at Leeds</b> ....	4
Call for Contributors .....	4

## Events and Excursions

This year's selection of events includes a workshop for singers, musical and drama performances representing a range of cultural backgrounds, and a cooking workshop in which participants will prepare a medieval meal.

Excursions are led by experts in their field and often give privileged access to areas not usually open to the public. This year's excursions include visits to Knaresborough Castle, Durham Cathedral, Whitby Abbey, the Royal Armouries Museum, Selby Abbey and Howden Minster, Leeds City Centre, and Kirkstall Abbey. There are also excursions to see 15th-century military effigies in parish churches around Leeds, and stained glass windows in York parish churches. Full details of all events and excursions are available in the programme.

## Antiquarian & Second-hand Book-fair

Following the success of last year's one-day second-hand and Antiquarian bookfair, we have extended it to two days. Delegates will now have the opportunity to browse the stalls on Sunday 8 and Monday 9 July.

### ***Did you know?***

***The 2007 Programme includes 1302 participants making this the largest Congress to date.***

## Printed Programme

The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in IMC2007.

## Looking Ahead

### **IMC 2008: 7-10 JULY 2008**

Interest in (and concern for) the natural environment is not simply a modern phenomenon. Human identities are defined by their relationship with their natural environment, and human lives depend on natural resources. In medieval Europe, the discourse about the natural world was dominated by the Christian religion. However, its foundation was much broader, encompassing a rich and varied inheritance from antiquity, including classical natural philosophy, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious thought, as well as pagan and vernacular traditions which formed the basis for the development of new European attitudes towards nature. In medieval theology, philosophy, art, and literature landscapes such as deserts and wildernesses conveyed meanings, and so did the animals, real or imaginary, that populated them.

While unicorns and dragons may have wandered through imaginary landscapes, the inhabitants

of medieval Europe were busily taming the wildernesses surrounding them to permit their exploitation by human settlements and agriculture. Bush and forest were cleared to make way for crops and plants grown for food and trade. Animals were subject to breeding projects, some species were hunted to near extinction, while others were introduced or imported for entertainment and pleasure. But the interaction between humankind

## Online Programme

**Fully searchable programme  
accessible at**

**<[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/  
imc2007.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007.html)>**

**Freely available to all  
Includes abstracts of sessions**

and the environment was reciprocal: short-term effects of weather and longer-term climatic change, for example, could have profound consequences for medieval economies, societies, and cultures. In order to enhance our understanding of all of these developments and the consequences for the environment the input of many different disciplines is essential, and not just from within the humanities; therefore, we will especially welcome papers that cross traditional boundaries of discipline and topic.

Aspects of this thematic strand may include:

*Perception of nature and perception of creation*

*The 'Book of Nature'*

*Nature and taxonomy*

*Natural history and the encyclopaedic tradition*

*Natural symbolism*

*Liminality of the natural world*

*Representations of the natural world*

*The wilderness in literature, theology, and art*

*The natural world as a threat to human existence*

*Climate change and its effects*

*The impact of natural catastrophes on mentalities*

*Animal populations*

*Uses of plants and animals in science, medicine, and commerce*

*The exploitation of nature*

*Land clearance, draining of wetlands, protection of coastlines*

*Ecology and 'green' thinking*

*The IMC seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of Medieval Studies. At the IMC 2008, sessions and papers on the special thematic strand of 'The Natural World' are*

particularly encouraged. However, as in previous years, papers and sessions on all aspects of Medieval Studies are most welcome.

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2007, session proposals by 30 September 2007.

## On-line Proposal Submission

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

<[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2008\\_call.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2008_call.html)>

## IMC Diary Dates

- IMC 2007 Registration Deadline  
14 May 2007
- IMC 2007: 'Medieval Cities'  
9-12 July 2007
- IMC 2008 Paper Proposals Deadline  
31 August 2007
- IMC 2008 Session Proposals Deadline  
30 September 2007
- IMC 2008: 'The Natural World'  
7-10 July 2008
- IMC 2009: 13-16 July 2009
- IMC 2010: 12-15 July 2010
- IMC 2011: 11-14 July 2011

## Medieval Studies at Leeds

2007 is the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Centre for Medieval Studies and the *International Bibliography (IMB)*, both now part of the Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) at the University of Leeds.

### Teaching and Research

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 <[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/study/index.html](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 events <[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/events.html](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.

The Brotherton Library is one of the UK's leading resources for medievalists, including a substantial holding of medieval manuscripts <[www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/library.html](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.

### 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 can avail of access to the IMB, either on-line or in a printed edition. For full details and how to join today, visit [www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/join.html](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/join.html).

International Medieval Congress, Institute for Medieval Studies  
Parkinson Building, 1.03, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK  
Tel +44 (0) 113 343 3614  
Fax +44 (0) 113 343 3616  
Email: [imc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:imc@leeds.ac.uk)