

International Medieval Congress

January 2008 Newsletter



About the IMC

The International Medieval Congress is now in its fifteenth year and has established itself into 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 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 book fair and the end of Congress dance.

The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2008! I look forward to seeing you there.

Axel E. W. Müller
Director, International Medieval Congress

IMC 2008, 7-10 July

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

With over 350 sessions relating to many key areas of the study of the European Middle Ages, this year's Congress programme promises to be just as innovative and rich as ever. We are, again, expecting more than 1400 participants to attend. For registration information, visit <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2008.html>.

The Congress in 2008 is going green! Across the world many societies are increasingly concerned about the state of the planet, natural world, and the environment. After the IMC special thematic strand 'The Natural World' had been chosen, it was announced that 2008 was also going to be the United Nations' 'International Year of Planet Earth', which aims to investigate human-induced changes to our planet. The IMC is contributing to this aim by having 160 sessions exploring a wide range of aspects of the Natural World, the interaction of nature with human civilisation, and the changes of nature throughout the period. This year, the Congress will open with two plenary lectures, each of which aims to prompt a debate that we hope will run all the way through the Congress. Oliver Rackham (University of Cambridge) will lead off with a lecture entitled 'What Was the Natural World in Medieval Europe?', followed by a lecture by Richard C. Hoffmann (York University) on 'Nature and Culture, Culture and Nature in the Middle Ages and Medieval Studies'. In addition to that, there will be a number of lunchtime lectures focussing on the changing faces of nature in the medieval period and in a wider historical context.

The Natural World is only one of the many focuses of the IMC, and discussion and events at this year's Congress will be by no means limited to this theme: a total of 180 sessions and 13 round table discussions and workshops will focus on the many aspects of medieval studies not covered by the

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special thematic strand. We are, as always, pleased to welcome the Medieval Academy to the IMC. This year, Patrick J. Geary (University of California) will present the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled 'Language and Power in the 11th Century', which will be followed by a Medieval Academy reception.

EVENTS & EXCURSIONS

This year's selection of events includes workshops for singers and dancers, musical and dramatic performances representing a range of cultural backgrounds, and both a medieval food tasting and an ale and beer tasting. For the first time, the IMC will host hands-on workshops recreating medieval manuscript images and herbal remedies. 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 Bede's World, Bolton Castle, Lincoln, Rievaulx, and the brand new Leeds Discovery Centre as well as an exciting post-Congress tour of South Wales and its dramatic castles. Full details of all events and excursions are available in the programme and through our website. Although Congress participants will be given precedence, as all events and excursions are open to the public, early booking is essential.

POST-CONGRESS TOUR: 'FROM GAWAIN & GERALD TO GLYNDŴR & GOTHIC!' - THE CASTLES OF SOUTH WALES

11-14 JULY 2008

TICKET PRICE £445 FOR 4-DAYS ALL INCLUSIVE

Following the success of our two previous memorable tours of 2004 ('The Welsh Castles of Edward I') and 2006 ('Scotland the Brave!: The Castles and Battlefields of Central Scotland') this year we return to Wales and the lands of the Marcher Lordships within which lie some of the greatest castles in Britain. Kelly DeVries, Professor of the Department of History, Loyola College, Maryland, and Robert C. Woosnam-Savage, Curator of European Edged Weapons, Royal Armouries, Leeds, are pleased to be able to offer another tour and will act, once again, as guides for this excursion. This four day tour will provide an opportunity to visit some of South Wales' finest built medieval heritage, examining how it is both set apart and is yet still part of 'The Natural World'. The itinerary includes: Carreg Cennen, Barri Castle, Caerphilly Castle, Castell Coch, Pembroke Castle, and Chepstow Castle amongst others. Prices include expert guides, transport, entry to sites, individual site guide books, three nights' accommodation (en suite), as well as breakfast, dinners and packed lunches. This tour is open to Congress participants as well as members of the public. We recommend that you reserve your place on this excursion as early as possible.

EXHIBITIONS & BOOK FAIR

Once again, the Congress will feature more than 80 stands showcasing the publications and other output from publishers, booksellers, and academic departments from around the world in our annual four-day Book Fair. Following the growing success of the Antiquarian and Second-Hand Book Fair, it returns for another year. Delegates will have the opportunity to browse the stalls on Sunday 6 and Monday 7 July.

MEDIEVAL CRAFT FAIR

This year the Congress will also host an exciting one-day Craft Fair on Tuesday 8 July. Come and browse the unique selection of hand-made items on offer!

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES FAIR

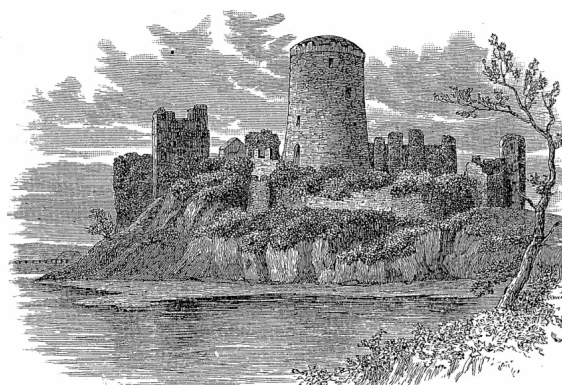
Also for the first time, there will be an opportunity to meet some of the many independent societies that work tirelessly within the UK to preserve local and national history and archaeology. Representatives will be on hand to discuss their work on Wednesday 9 July.

PRINTED PROGRAMME

The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC2008. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2008.html>

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.



Looking Ahead

**IMC 2009:
13-16 JULY 2009**

CONTACT DETAILS

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The IMC seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of medieval studies. Papers and sessions on any topic or theme in the European Middle Ages are welcome. Each Congress has one particular special thematic strand on an area of interdisciplinary study in a wider context. However, this strand is not intended to be exclusive and submissions from all spheres of medieval research, in any major European language, are welcome.

In 2009, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the launch of the Albigensian Crusade the International Medieval Congress has the special thematic focus:

'HERESY AND ORTHODOXY'.

Unity of the Christian faith is one of the defining features of the period known as the Middle Ages. Such was the power of the ideal that in 1209 an army could be raised purportedly to eliminate religious dissent. Once seen as a marginal question, the definitions of heretical and orthodox are now considered central to the medieval world view. The attempt to produce a single construction of heresy belies the irreducible plurality of medieval institutions and cultures. Research has made us not only better informed about religious movements such as the Cathars, Lollards, and Hussites, but also revealed the close connection between the conversion process, religious enthusiasm, and dissent.

Heresy and orthodoxy also played an important part in inter-faith relations with some western Christians dismissing Eastern Orthodoxy, Judaism, and Islam as heretical deviations. And yet the enforcement of correct doctrine was also a concern among all these communities and papers are particularly



Image courtesy of the Brotherton Collection, University of Leeds.

welcome looking at religious dissent within medieval Islam, Judaism, and Eastern Orthodoxy. Finally, in the wake of heresy came persecution with the western Inquisition developing into the prototype for many modern mechanisms of ideological control.

Aspects of this theme include:

- The legacy of conversion
- Dissent in early monasticism
- Heresy and universities
- Heresy in eastern and central Europe
- Spreading ideas: networks and the diffusion of heresy
- Depicting the heretic in writing and image
- The gendering of religious dissent
- Crusading as religious enforcement
- Pastoral care and inquisition
- Heresy as 'choice'
- The 'left wing' of orthodoxy
- From heresy to Reformation?
- Witchcraft and magic
- Terrorists or freedom fighters? The 'heretic' in modern and medieval writing.

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2008; Session proposals must be submitted by 30 September 2008. The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

IMC DIARY DATES

- IMC 2008 Registration Deadline: 14 May 2008
- IMC 2008: Special Thematic Strand 'The Natural World': 7-10 July 2008
 - 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: 12-15 July 2010
 - IMC 2011: 11-14 July 2011
 - IMC 2012: 9-12 July 2012
 - IMC 2013: 8-11 July 2013

About the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Having just celebrated the 40th anniversary of medieval studies in Leeds last year, 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.



40th Anniversary Celebrations for the IMB and Medieval Studies at Leeds

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 can avail of access to the IMB, either on-line or in a printed edition. For full details and how to join today, visit:

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