

International Medieval Congress

January 2009
Newsletter

About the IMC

The International Medieval Congress is now in its 16th 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 1500 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, a bookfair, craft and societies fairs, and the Congress dance.

The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2009! I look forward to seeing you there.

Axel E. W. Müller
Director, International Medieval Congress

Contents	Page
About the IMC	1
IMC 2009	
Academic Programme	1
Events & Excursions	2
Post-Congress Tour	2
Exhibitions & Book Fair	2
Medieval Craft Fair	2
Historical & Archaeological Societies Fair	2
Looking Ahead	
IMC 2010: Travel and Exploration	3
IMC Diary Dates	3
About the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds	
Teaching and Research	4
IMB: Call for Contributors	4
Membership of the Institute	4



IMC 2009 13-16 July ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

With over 380 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 1600 participants to attend. For registration information, visit <<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2009.html>>.

The IMC is going heretical in 2009! The IMC special thematic strand 'Heresy and Orthodoxy' is set to show that orthodoxy has always been as controversial and as hard to pin down as heresy. 190 sessions explore every possible permutation of the controversies of faith, both internal and external, and how different nations and believers dealt with threats, perceived or real, to their beliefs. 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. **John H. Arnold** (Birkbeck College, University of London) will begin with a lecture entitled '**Heresies and Rhetorics**', followed by a lecture by **Jeffrey J. Cohen** (George Washington University) on '**Between Christian and Jew: Orthodoxy, Violence, and Living Together in Medieval England**'.

Heresy and Orthodoxy 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 186 sessions plus 10 round table discussions and workshops contribute to continuing debates in many aspects of Medieval Studies. We are, as always, pleased to welcome the Medieval Academy to the IMC. This year, **Herbert L. Kessler** (Johns Hopkins University) will present the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled '**Against the Jews, Saracens, and heretics who say we adore idols: Art as Orthodoxy**', which will be followed by a Medieval Academy reception.

This year, in addition to the main programme there will be two **special lectures**. **María Isabel Fierro** (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid) will present a lecture, supported by Santander Universities, entitled '**Heresy and Political Legitimacy in Muslim Spain and Portugal**' and writer **Alan Garner** will give a lecture entitled '**By Seven Firs and Goldenstone: An Account of the Legend of Alderley**'.

Image - Dan Walker



Manuscript Illumination Workshop, 2008

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 a medieval banquet featuring a decorated boar's head. There will also be hands-on workshops in calligraphy, braiding and textiles, as well as cosmetics and perfumes.

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 the abbeys of Fountains, Kirkstall and Byland Abbey, medieval sites in Beverley and Pontefract, as well as Conisbrough and Skipton Castle. 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.



Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds



Image - Vicki Spence

Lindisfarne Priory and Castle at Dawn

POST-CONGRESS TOUR: HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

17-19 JULY 2009

TICKET PRICE **£390** FOR 3-DAYS ALL INCLUSIVE

Running from sea to sea, part of a frontier that stretched for 150 miles, Hadrian's Wall is one of the world's great monuments. Led by Ian Wood and Richard Morris of the University of Leeds, this three-day tour will explore the continuing significance of Hadrian's Wall and the Roman frontier zone in the early middle ages. Sites visited will include Lindisfarne, Jarrow, Hexham, as well as the Roman forts at Arbeia, Birdoswald, Vindolanda, and Bewcastle.

EXHIBITIONS & BOOKFAIRS

Once again, the Congress will feature more than 70 stands showcasing the publications and other output from publishers, booksellers, and academic departments from around the world in our annual four-day Main Bookfair. Following the growing success of the Antiquarian and Second-Hand Bookfair, it returns for another year. Delegates will have the opportunity to browse the stalls on Sunday 12 and Monday 13 July.

CRAFT FAIR

For the second year running the Congress will also host an exciting one-day Craft Fair on Tuesday 14 July. Come and browse the unique selection of hand-made items on offer! Buy something unique, ranging from lampwork beads and replica pottery to hand forged metalwork.

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES FAIR

Also returning for a second year, 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 15 July.

CONTACT DETAILS

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PRINTED PROGRAMME

The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC2009. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2009.html>

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.

Looking Ahead

IMC 2010: 12-15 JULY 2010

In 2010, to commemorate the 550th anniversary of the death of Prince Henry 'the Navigator' of Portugal, the International Medieval Congress has the special thematic focus '**Travel and Exploration**'.

The voyages undertaken in the name of Henry of Portugal exemplify many of the motives that had long driven people to travel and explore: the prospect of wealth, trade, and territory, knowledge and curiosity, piety and religious zeal, legends and external salvation. The Congress seeks to provide a forum for debates on the motives, processes, and effects of travel and exploration, not only by Latin Christians in the so-called 'Age of Discovery', but across cultures, and throughout the medieval period.

What motives prompted travel and exploration in the Middle Ages? Were the factors that drove exploration and travel in and from Europe the same as in other cultures? How do travel and exploration and their effects resonate through written, material, and visual culture? We welcome papers and sessions on all aspects of travel and exploration, broadly understood, including travel as a means of cultural, political, and commercial interaction, ethnography, mental travel, spiritual journeys, the literature of utopia, travel to any place in our world and beyond, journeys 'real' and 'fictitious'. We would particularly encourage submissions with cross-cultural and comparative approaches, and in this context welcome sessions that reach beyond the conventional chronological and geographical borders of the European Middle Ages.

Aspects may include:

- Infrastructures and technologies of travel
- Travel and trade
- Conflict and travel
- Travel as an everyday experience
- Exploration as power politics
- Religious travel: pilgrimage, crusade, mission
- Rulers and nobility on the road
- Travel: restrictions and encouragement
- Exploration and discovery: concepts and historical processes
- Migration: forced and free, human and non-human
- Travel, exploration, and the construction and communication of knowledge
- Legends in travel and travels in legend
- Travel, exploration, and the imagination
- The art of travel and travelling in art
- Metaphorical, allegorical, and spiritual travels
- Writing travel: media, genres, motives, effects
- Mapping travels and travelling through maps

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2009; Session proposals must be submitted by 30 September 2009. The IMC welcomes session and paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

IMC DIARY DATES

- IMC 2009 Registration Deadline: 14 May 2009
- IMC 2009: Special Thematic Strand 'Heresy and Orthodoxy': 13-16 July 2009
- IMC 2010 Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2009
- IMC 2010 Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 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



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.



In Gawain's footsteps? Members of the Institute for Medieval Studies in Lud's Church, Staffordshire (the Green Chapel from 'Gawain and the Green Knight?') on New Year's Day 2009.

Image - Michael Garcia

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>