

International Medieval Congress

January 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 2010! 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

This year's Congress promises to be one of the largest yet. With over 400 sessions relating to many key areas of the study of the European Middle Ages, and 1370 active participants, 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/imc2010.html>.

The IMC is spreading its wings in 2010! The IMC special thematic strand 'Travel and Exploration' is set to showcase the length and breadth of medieval scholarship. 180 sessions explore the meaning of space and distance, and how different nations and peoples perceived the world and each other. This year, the Congress will open with two plenary lectures, each of which aims to start off a debate that we hope will run all the way through the Congress. **Patrick Gautier Dalché** (Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, Paris / Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris) will begin with a lecture on '**Maps, Travel, and Exploration in the Middle Ages**', followed by a lecture by **Dionisius A. Agius** (University of Exeter) entitled '**In these seas, horrors beyond count befell [us]': Travel in Medieval Islam**'.

Travel and Exploration 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: over 180 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, **Jan Michael Ziolkowski** (Harvard University / Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC) will present the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled '**Wandering Scholars: Myths and Realities of Vagrant Students from the Early Middle Ages Onwards**', which will be followed by a Medieval Academy reception.

In addition, there will be four **special lectures**. **Michael McCormick** (Harvard University) will present a lecture on '**From Aachen to Jerusalem and Back: Mediterranean Communications, Charlemagne's Survey of the Holy Land Churches, and Post-Roman Christianity in the Middle East**', **Felipe Fernández-Armesto** (University of Notre Dame) will be speaking on '**The Sea and the World**', **Kevin A. Leahy** (Portable Antiquities Scheme, Scunthorpe) will be talking about the remarkable and recently discovered '**Anglo-Saxon Treasure from Staffordshire**', and **Markus Vinzent** (University of Birmingham) will be looking into the '**Rediscovered 'Parisian Questions' of Eckhart**'.

EVENTS & EXCURSIONS

This year's selection of events will be an exploration for the senses. The programme includes workshops for singers, as well as musical and dramatic performances which represent both the travel of cultures and imagined travel. There will also be opportunities to participate in hands-on workshops on calligraphy and tablet weaving, as well as an exploration of the use of spices across the globe in cooking, medicinal, and other uses. In addition there will be a demonstration in the making of beautiful lamp work beads. 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 castles of Richmond, Helmsley, and Middleham, the monastic sites of Byland, Mount Grace, and Rievaulx, as well as city trips to the centre of Leeds, to York, its Minster, and Durham Cathedral. Full details of all events and excursions are available in the programme and through our website. Although Congress participants will be given precedence, all events and excursions are open to the public, and early booking is essential.

Byland Abbey,
North York
Moors National
Park



Photo by Roy W Lambert

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



Photo by Sabrina Withers

POST CONGRESS TOUR: CASTLES OF THE WELSH MARCHER LORDS

16-19 JULY 2010

TICKET PRICE: £399 FOR 4-DAYS ALL INCLUSIVE



Photo by Gregg M Erickson

The Welsh Marches (which lie on both sides of the modern Welsh border) contains not only beautiful scenery, but also spectacular castles, including the site of what is perhaps the earliest castle in Britain at Burghill. Led by Kelly DeVries (Loyola University, Maryland) and Robert C Woosnam-Savage (Royal Armouries, Leeds), this four day tour will explore the turbulent history of the borders and the changing face of its defensive architecture. Sites visited will include the castles of Montgomery, Whittington, Clun, Stokesay, and Ludlow, as well as Hereford Cathedral, Old Oswestry hill fort, Offa's Dyke, and the town of Chester.

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 11 and Monday 12 July.

CRAFT FAIR

Back for a third year the Congress will also host an exciting one-day Craft Fair on Tuesday 13 July. Come and browse the unique selection of hand-made items on offer! Buy something unique, ranging from lampwork beads and replica pottery to metal pins and wax candles.

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES FAIR

Also returning for a third 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 14 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 IMC2010. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2010.html>

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.

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

IMC DIARY DATES

- IMC 2010 Registration Deadline:
14 May 2010
- 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>