

International Medieval Congress

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER



ABOUT THE IMC

Entering its 18th year, the International Medieval Congress 2011 is firmly established as an unrivalled interdisciplinary forum for intellectual debate in all areas of medieval studies. The IMC is held in Leeds every July, and attracts more than 1600 medievalists from around the world every year, over 1350 of which are actively involved in the programme. The IMC is unique in that it welcomes papers in any major European language and the international nature of the Congress is central to its culture.

The IMC comprises a four-day programme of sessions, workshops, round tables, and special lectures and is complimented by an exciting range of excursions, workshops, concerts and performances, receptions, bookfairs, craft and historical society fairs, and the Congress dance.

Papers and sessions for the IMC are selected by an international committee of 35 leading medievalists and proposals for papers in all major areas of medieval study are welcomed.

The IMC offers a great deal of opportunities to medievalists worldwide. Come and experience this for yourself at the IMC 2011!

Axel E. W. Müller
Director, International Medieval Congress

IMC 2011: 11-14 JULY

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

2011's Congress programme promises to be just as productive and exciting as in previous years. With some 400 sessions relating to many key areas of the study of the European Middle Ages, 17 round table sessions and a number of special lectures contribute to the core programme and special thematic strand, we are expecting more than 1600 medievalists to attend.

The IMC 2011 special thematic strand 'Poor...Rich' is poised to discuss the spectrum of medieval wealth, from the most affluent to the most humble and all stages in between. Sessions explore a range of topics including: How uneven was the distribution of wealth in medieval communities and polities? 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? How did church and secular authorities deal with the moral and practical problems arising from poverty and the uneven distribution of wealth?

In addition, there will be a number of special lectures at IMC 2011. The opening keynote lectures will be by Robin Fleming (Boston College, Massachusetts) on 'Scavenging and Its End in the Early Medieval Britain' and Samuel K. Cohn Jr. (University of Glasgow) on 'Rich and Poor in Late Medieval Europe: The Political Paradox of Post-Plague Economics'. On Wednesday evening, Christopher Dyer (University of Leicester) will present a keynote lecture on 'The Experience of Being Poor in the Later Middle Ages: The Pauper's Perspective'.

'Poor...Rich' is only one of the many focuses of the IMC, and discussion and events will be by no means limited to this special focus: over 190 sessions plus 16 round table discussions and workshops contribute to continuing debates in a variety of areas of Medieval Studies.

We are, once again, pleased to welcome the Medieval Academy to IMC 2011. This year, Margot Fassler (University of Notre Dame) will present the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled 'Volmar, Hildegard, and a History for the Rupertsberg'.

About the IMC

Page

IMC 2011

Academic Programme	1
Events, Excursions, Exhibitions and Fairs	2

Looking Ahead

IMC 2012: Rules to Follow (or Not)	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

The International Medieval Congress Registration can now be completed online!

Congress delegates can now use the Online Registration option via the University of Leeds Online Store which provides a fast and secure method of payment. The Online Store registration is for payment by credit/debit card only. A Non-Online Registration option is available but will incur a non-online fee of £15 to cover the additional costs of processing the registration.



Undercroft, Fountains Abbey, photography courtesy of Michael Garcia.



Lastingham Church, North Yorkshire, photography courtesy of Michael Garcia.

Events, Excursions, Exhibitions and Fairs

EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS

This year's selection of events presents something for everyone to enjoy as an addition to the academic sessions. The events programme includes workshops and gatherings for musicians and singers, as well as musical and dramatic performances. There will also be the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop on medieval painting techniques as well as the chance to learn medieval dance. In addition there will be the opportunity to experience the range of foods eaten by different social classes in a food tasting session.

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 religious sites of Whitby, Lastingham, Kirkstall, and Fountains, as well as city trips to York to visit Barley Hall and Micklegate Bar, to Lincoln to visit the Cathedral and Bishops' Palace and to Harewood House and Sandal Castle, as well as a day excursion to North Yorkshire to discover its many Parish Churches. 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.

EXHIBITIONS & BOOKFAIRS

Once again, the 2011 Congress will feature more than 60 stands showcasing the publications and other output from publishers, booksellers, and academic departments from around the world in our popular annual four-day Main Bookfair. With a vast range of publications we are confident that there will be something for all tastes. If previous years are anything to go by then there should be bargains to be found. Following the growing success of the Antiquarian and Second-Hand Bookfair, it also returns for another year. Delegates will have the opportunity to browse the stalls on Sunday 10 and Monday 11 July.

The Congress will also again host an exciting one-day Craft Fair on Tuesday, 12 July. Come and browse the unique selection of hand-made items on offer! Items range from lampwork glass beads to wax candles, natural dyes, leatherwork, and jewellery, all made by artisans with training in historical crafts or inspired by a medieval theme.

HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES FAIR

Also returning for another year, there will be an opportunity to meet some of the many groups that work within the UK to preserve and promote local and national history and archaeology. Representatives will be on hand to discuss their work on Wednesday 13 July.



CONTACT DETAILS

International Medieval Congress, Institute for Medieval Studies, Parkinson Building 1.03, University of Leeds, LEEDS, LS2 9JT, UK

Tel.: +44 (113) 343-3614

Email: imc@leeds.ac.uk, <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc>

PRINTED PROGRAMME

The printed programme will be ready in February and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC 2011. A publicly-available and fully-searchable online programme is accessible at

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2011.html>

The online programme includes abstracts of all sessions.

LOOKING AHEAD

IMC 2012: 9-12 JULY 2012

All societies operate according to rules, both written and often unwritten. Medieval societies were no exception. Rules affected kingship and lordship; urban and rural communities; secular church and regular monastic life, as well as social groupings, aspects of economic, religious, legal and intellectual life, and even literature and the other arts. People made rules, lived by the rules, and broke rules. In view of the fundamental importance of this topic, the IMC has chosen as its special thematic focus in 2012:

Rules to Follow (or Not)

Medieval rules were multifaceted. They might be written down or transmitted orally, configured as conventions, and composed as canons, or imposed by custom and usage, be transmitted by commands and laws, be defined by tradition and consensus or handed down by some higher authority. They might encompass an entire society or culture or be limited to one section of society or a single activity. They might have been associated with legal sanctions and/or with morality, and concepts of sin and virtue. They might become differentiated and varied over time, and they were transmitted from one area of life to another. Rules were frequently long-lasting but equally might sometimes lose their validity over time, or mutate into new forms.

IMC DIARY DATES

- **IMC 2011 Registration Deadline: 14 May 2011**
- **IMC 2011: Special Thematic Strand, 'Poor... Rich': 11-14 July 2011**
- **IMC 2012: Paper Proposals Deadline: 31 August 2011**
- **IMC 2012: Session Proposals Deadline: 30 September 2011**
- **IMC 2012: Special Thematic Strand, 'Rules to Follow (or Not)': 9-12 July 2012**
 - **IMC 2013: 8-11 July 2013**
 - **IMC 2014: 7-10 July 2014**



Areas of discussion could include:

- The role played by rules in differing forms of institutional life: in kingship and principalities, in territories, towns and villages, in craft guilds, sodalities and brotherhoods; in the Church, within dioceses, ecclesiastical synods, monasteries, and religious or professed knightly orders etc.
- The social and intellectual frameworks of rules: social stratifications and hierarchies; sacred or profane spaces; religious axioms; traditions, myths, taboos, social exclusion
- The legal framework of rules: divine commandments, or customs, statutes, resolutions, decrees, monastic rules, and charismatic decisions
- The types and sources of rules within the fields of scholarship, economy, literature, technology, architecture, fine arts, and music: canons, genres, styles, practices and methods, exemplarity
- The presentation and reflections of rules: as subjects of literature and art; as items of jurisprudence, economics, theology and philosophy, and as ritual and ceremonial figurations
- Modalities of creating, adapting, legitimating, proclaiming, enforcing, transferring, transgressing, overriding and/or resisting rules

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2011; Session proposals must be submitted by 30 September 2011. 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.



MS 102, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds. John Sintram, Sermons, c. 1425

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.

IMC 2011 Reception and Meeting

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a contributor to IMB, there will be a reception and information session at 19.00-20.00 on Monday 11 July in the Senior Common Room at Bodington Hall. Alternatively, contact the Editorial Director, 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>