

IMC Newsletter

February 2006



About the IMC

Established in 1994, the IMC has provided an unrivalled forum for intellectual debate in the field of medieval studies for thirteen years. Hosted by the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, the IMC is held in Leeds every July, and each year attracts some 1300 medievalists from throughout the world. Papers and sessions are selected for the IMC by an international committee of 38 leading medievalists, specialists in fields from Scandinavian to Mediterranean Studies, from monasticism to the study of non-Christian cultures. The IMC is unique in that it welcomes papers in any major European language.

At the core of the IMC is its four-day programme of three-paper sessions, workshops, round tables, and special lectures. In addition to this, the IMC each year organises daily excursions to medieval sites of interest and offers delegates a full programme of evening events, concerts, and receptions - not to mention the end of congress dance! Our bookfair is attended by leading medieval publishers and in 2006 we are pleased to offer as our post-congress excursion *Scotland the Brave! Castles and Battlefields of Central Scotland* (for more information, see p. 3).

The IMC offers so much to medievalists worldwide. Come and see for yourselves at the IMC 2006!

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/imc2006.html>.

IMC 2006

Academic Programme

With some 340 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, *Emotion and Gesture*, has been expertly co-ordinated by Madeline Caviness (Tufts University) and Daniel Smail (Harvard University). The strand generated an overwhelming response from medievalists worldwide, and has produced a wealth of insightful

and intriguing papers and sessions. In total, 96 of the 341 sessions will explore aspects of emotion and gesture in the Middle Ages.

As a first this year, we will be opening both the Congress and the special thematic strand with two plenary speeches, aimed at initiating a debate which we hope will continue throughout the Congress. Gerd Althoff (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster) will lead off with a lecture entitled 'Tears and Joy: What Did the Expression of Emotion Mean to the Medieval Public?', followed by a lecture by Barbara Rosenwein (Loyola University Chicago) on 'Emotion and Gesture: A Misbegotten Marriage'.

Emotion and Gesture 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 245 sessions and 17 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, Pam Sheingorn (City University of New York) will be presenting the annual Medieval Academy Lecture, entitled 'Experiencing the Illustrated Manuscript: Towards Performative Presence'.

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We are also delighted to welcome Dame Liz Forgan, CBE, Chair of the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), for a special lecture on the Wednesday evening. The HLF was established by Parliament in 1994 to make grants to a wide range of projects concerning the local, regional, and national heritage of the UK. This year, the HLF will allocate around £330 million, and since 1994, it has awarded over £3 billion to more than 15,000 to UK projects.

This year, we have three events planned for Thursday afternoon:

- a round table discussion on 'Establishing a Committee for Centres and Associations for Europe', organised by Robert E. Bjork, the Medieval Academy's chair of their Committee for Centers and Associations. The discussion aims to bring relevant parties together with a view to forming a possible European network.
- a workshop for postgraduate students on research tools and on how to set about getting one's work published. Please note that there are only a limited number of places available and early booking (via the IMC 2006 registration form) is strongly advised; and
- a podium discussion on the impact of *The Da Vinci Code* on medieval studies. This event will coincide with the launch this summer of Ron Howard's film adaptation of the book, and will look behind some of the claims made in Dan Brown's novel, with a view to providing an academic response to these, and to the significant reaction the book has generated amongst the public at large.

Did you know? Of the 1035 active participants at the IMC 2006 29.2% will be relistetired or post-graduate students. 29.9% will be from the UK, 24.35% from North America, 40.8% from mainland Europe, and 4.95% from the rest of the world.

Printed Programme

By mid-February the printed programme will return from the printer and a copy will be sent to everybody actively involved in the IMC2006.

An online version is already accessible at <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2006.html>

Events and Excursions

As always, the IMC has organised a wide range of events and excursions. This year's selection of events is particularly diverse, and includes a workshop for singers, a range of musical performances from diverse cultural backgrounds, various drama performances, and a special dinner drawn from medieval recipes. Excursions this year will include

visits to the newly-restored Kirkstall Abbey, to Middleham, Scarborough, and Richmond castles, and to the cities of Chester and York, where there will be opportunity to see the 2006 production of the York Mystery Plays.

Second-hand and Antiquarian Bookfair

As a brand new feature this year, we have arranged a one-day special Antiquarian and Second-Hand Bookfair for Sunday 9 July. Please bear this event in mind when making your booking arrangements.

New for 2006

Online Programme

Fully searchable programme

Freely available to all

Includes abstracts of sessions

Post Congress Tour 2006

Scotland the Brave!

By popular request this year we are heading to Scotland, visiting some of the key sites of this country's turbulent past. This five-day tour, based in Edinburgh, will provide an opportunity to visit some of Central Scotland's finest medieval built heritage and famous battlefields, all against the backdrop of Scotland's spectacular scenery.

See where Wallace gained his greatest victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297! Descend into the bowels of the earth to walk through a 16th-century mine and countermine at St. Andrew's Castle! Marvel at the magnificence of the 15th-century bombard Mons Meg at Edinburgh Castle! Discover the wonders of the remarkable Rosslyn Chapel!



Edinburgh Castle

New for 2006-2007

On-line Proposal Submission

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

Looking Ahead

IMC 2007: 9-12 JULY 2007

In 2007 Leeds celebrates the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the borough of Leeds by its manorial lord, an event which established the physical framework of the later town as it is still visible in the commercial city of today. The Congress 2007 has chosen 'Medieval Cities' as its special thematic strand. The strand will be co-ordinated by Derek J. Keene (Centre for Metropolitan History, Institute for Historical Research, University of London).

The Congress will include sessions devoted to Leeds but is also an ideal venue for bringing together the wide variety of recent scholarship in many disciplines which has had a bearing on cities in medieval Europe and neighbouring territories. We specially invite papers that cross traditional boundaries of discipline and topic.

Aspects of this thematic strand may include:

- Cities and social and political formation
- Cities and patterns of belief: worship, cults, pilgrimage, and heresy
- Cities as sites of material and cultural production
- Cities as sites of commercial and cultural exchange
- Cities and the shaping of custom and law
- Cities and war
- Cities in history, myth, and imagination
- Life and death in the medieval city
- Networks of cities and other towns
- The impact of cities on territories
- The symbolic landscape of cities
- The representation of cities in graphic art
- Medieval cities in the modern world: conservation, museums, historiography, tourism

For more details about the special thematic strand have a look at <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/imc2007_call.html>.

However, as every year, the IMC 2007 will provide a forum for the discussion of all aspects of the study of the European Middle Ages. Papers and

sessions on all aspects of Medieval Studies are most welcome. The IMC welcomes session and individual paper proposals submitted in all major European languages.

We prefer proposals to be completed online - a quick, easy, and secure method. Paper proposals must be submitted by 31 August 2006, session proposals by 30 September 2006.

New for 2006

Medieval Studies online on the IMS website

Up-to-date Conferences calendar and a range of online resources at www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/med_online

IMC Diary Dates

- IMC 2006 Registration Deadline
14 May 2006
- IMC 2006: Special Thematic Strand 'Emotion and Gesture', *10-13 July 2006*
- IMC 2007 Paper Proposals Deadline
31 August 2006
- IMC 2007 Session Proposals Deadline
30 September 2006
- IMC 2007: Special Thematic Strand: 'Medieval Cities', *9-12 July 2007*
- IMC 2008: *7-10 July 2008*
- IMC 2009: *13-16 July 2009*
- IMC 2010: *12-15 July 2010*

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

Institute for Medieval Studies

Medieval Studies at Leeds

Teaching and Research

Leeds is renowned for the range and quality of its teaching, for excellence in skills training and medieval languages, and for exceptional resources.

Leeds medievalists' research spans Europe, from late antiquity to the end of the Middle Ages, from Iceland to Africa and the Middle East. Notable strengths 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.

Medieval languages and their associated literatures are a special strength: 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>.

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 organize 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>.

The co-location of postgraduate teaching and research with the International Medieval Bibliography and Congress (Europe's largest annual gathering in the humanities) 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. 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 within walking distance, whilst the castles, abbeys, landscapes and settlements of Yorkshire itself are on the city's doorstep.

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 IMB-Online, 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, 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

The IMS Membership scheme offers medievalists the opportunity to benefit from discounts and priority information, IMS products and activities. The membership scheme offers two categories : Associate and Affiliate. For Associate members we offer either the the IMB Online or a printed International Medieval Bibliography. For full details and a subscription form, visit <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/about/join.html>.

4th International Fields of Conflict Conference

The fourth biennial international conference on battlefield archaeology will take place between 29 September and 3 October 2006. The conference is jointly organised by the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, English Heritage, the Royal Armouries, the Battlefields Trust and Leicestershire County Council.

The conference will take place in Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, the home of one of the world's premier collections of arms and armour from the last millennium. The optional following two days (2-3 October) will comprise visits to several major English battlefields, including Towton and Bosworth, where investigations are in progress. Delegates will also have privileged behind the scenes access at the Armouries. For more details see <www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/fieldsofconflict/fieldsofconflictconference.htm>.