The Sixteenth International Congress of the New Chaucer Society will be held July 18–22, 2008 at the campus of the University of Wales, Swansea, Wales, UK. The Congress is hosted by the University of Wales, Swansea. Names of Congress participants will be announced in the Chaucer Newsletter for Spring 2008.

The Program Committee members are Ruth Evans (Chair), Helen Fulton, Alexandra Gillespie, Ethan Knapp, and Diane Watt, with David Lawton (NCS Executive Director) and John Ganim (NCS President) ex officio (with administrative assistance from Sarah Noonan). The Advisory Committee members are Joyce Coleman, Cathy Sanok and Nicky Zeeman, with Frank Grady and John Fyler as ex officio members. The local arrangements will be organized by Helen Fulton, Ifor Rowlands, Liz McAvoy, Catherine Clarke, Deborah Youngs and Glyn Pursglove.

In keeping with the suggestions made at the 2004 Glasgow Congress, there is no single theme for the Congress. Sessions will consequently follow several threads: Form and Aesthetics; Transitions, Ruptures, and Temporalities; Geographies and Colonizations; Making the Text (Manuscripts); Gender versus Sexuality; Nature, Science, and Technology; Devotion, Dissent, and Diaspora; Vernaculars and Identities; Gower; Professionalism and Pedagogy. In addition, there will be a number of non-aligned panels and sessions, and several plenary sessions.

We encourage you to share information about the Congress with other interested people who may not be NCS members at present – graduate students, new colleagues, and others working outside the field who may find sessions related to their specialties.

A Warm Welcome From Swansea

We are very much looking forward to greeting you in Swansea in July 2008, when the long northern days and summer sunshine (fingers crossed) will show Swansea and the Gower peninsula at their best. A conference website giving details of registration, accommodation and travel information will be up shortly, linked to the NCS website and also to the Swansea University website.

Accommodation will be available on campus, with a choice of single, twin and ensuite rooms. A list of nearby guest houses and hotels will also be put up on the website. There will be a set of pre-conference graduate workshops held on Thursday 17th July, starting at 2.00pm, offering such delights as Scribal Dialect, Scribal Hands and Introduction to MS Description - not to be missed by any committed postgrad. Outings to points of medieval interest (including Tenby, Carew Castle, and Gerald of Wales’s birthplace at Manorbier) will be offered on the Sunday afternoon, and there will also be an optional visit to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth on Tuesday 22 July, for a viewing of the Hengwrt Chaucer and other manuscript treasures.

It’s all here waiting for you!

Best wishes from Helen Fulton, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and her dedicated team.
in containing various sanctions against the lord and his officers, presumably drawn up by KingEdward I who was no friend of William’s. After William’s death, the lords of Gower no longer lived in the region, and by 1398 the lordship had formally passed to the crown. This no doubt explains why Owain Glyn Dwr took control of Gower between 1403 and 1405, at the height of his rebellion, and it is likely that he used local Welsh people to occupy the town. Following the crushing of the Glyn Dwr uprising, Swansea was again under English lordship and remained one of the most important ‘marcher’ towns in south Wales. Partly as a result of the Glyn Dwr rebellion, Swansea’s Welsh population grew significantly during the fifteenth century and by the mid-sixteenth century more than half the tax-payers of Swansea were of Welsh origin.

**Literary production**

In medieval Wales, as elsewhere, literary production depended to a great extent on monasteries and cathedral schools. A strong tradition of Latin scholarship was fostered at monastic centres such as Llanbadarn Fawr and Strata Florida in west Wales, and St David’s in the south west, while a continuous tradition of Welsh-language writing was supported by the native princes, in their courts and in the schools and monasteries which they patronised.

Close to the borough of Swansea, in the lordship of Glamorgan, were two important Cistercian monasteries, at Neath (founded in 1130) to the north, and at Margam (founded in 1147) to the east (actually closer to Cardiff than Swansea). It was to Neath Abbey that Edward II fled in 1326, only to be captured by Henry of Lancaster before being deposed the following year. Neath was a significant centre of manuscript production. One of its most famous products, from the early fifteenth century, is Peniarth MS 50, known as ‘Y Cwta Cyfarwydd’, ‘The Short Guide’, which contains mainly prophetic material, prose and verse, written in Latin, English and Welsh.

Margam Abbey had its own chronicle, in Latin, as well as a copy of the Domesday Book, William of
Malmesbury’s *Gesta Regum* and *Novella Historia*, and a twelfth-century copy of Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae*, with the ‘Prophecies of Merlin’ glossed in a late-thirteenth-century hand. The Latin *Annales de Margam* begin with the death of Edward the Confessor and continue until 1232. Though most of the early part of the chronicle relies heavily on secondary sources, particularly William of Malmesbury, the later entries are genuine primary sources for the history of Glamorgan. In the entry for 1204, the description of the murder of Arthur of Brittany by King John is a unique account, providing details not found in any other source.

The Welsh Cistercian monasteries also played a key role in the transmission of native Welsh literature, through transcriptions, editing, collecting and preserving. Cistercian foundations were particularly patronised by Welsh princes and gentry, and some of their members came from prominent Welsh families. Though Neath and Margam belonged to an Anglo-Norman lordship, they were also close to the neighbouring Welsh lordship of Afan and their communities were open to Welsh as well as Normans.

Either Margam or Neath abbey was the place where one of the most famous Welsh manuscripts was transcribed, the *Book of Taliesin*, dated to about 1275. This unique manuscript, written in Welsh, contains some very early (ninth century) poems attributed to the sixth-century British poet Taliesin, as well as prophetic and folkloric verse associated with the later avatar of the legendary Taliesin.

The two monasteries are also associated with another important Welsh manuscript, the *Red Book of Hergest*, transcribed c. 1400, which contains poetry, prose and religious material in Welsh, including the famous ‘Four Branches of the Mabinogi’. While some historians associate the *Red Book* with Strata Florida, Glannor Williams believed that the manuscript was copied in a Glamorgan monastery, probably Neath. Some of the poetry in the manuscript seems to have been available to the monks of Margam from another source. A stanza has been copied into a Margam charter using an orthography which is much earlier than that of the *Red Book*, suggesting that the Margam monks had access to an older version of the some of the poetry.

The lordship of Glamorgan (Morgannwg in Welsh), which covered most of the south-east of Wales, was home to a flourishing secular tradition of court poetry composed by the *cywyddwyr*, poets composing in the *cywydd* metre, of whom the most famous is the fourteenth-century poet Dafydd ap Gwilym. Though Dafydd himself came from west Wales, near Aberystwyth, one of his most important patrons was Ifor ap Llywelyn, or Ifor Hael, ‘Ifor the Generous’, whose court was at Bassaleg, between Cardiff and Newport. In the fifteenth century, one of the most prolific court poets, Lewys Glyn Cothi, composed poems to William, abbot of Margam, referring to the abbot’s great learning and calling Margam the ‘Rome of Wales’. Swansea had its own home-grown poet, Rhys Fardd, ‘Rhys the Poet’, also known as Y Bardd Bach, ‘The Little Poet’, who came from Oystermouth, just down the road from the main city centre and now known by its modern name of Mumbles. Composing between 1460 and 1480, Rhys was one of a group of prophetic poets who spread dire warnings about the duplicity of the English during the Wars of the Roses.

Glamorgan was the centre of a literary revival in the fifteenth century which saw a particular interest in the translation of significant works into Welsh prose. During the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, Mirk’s *Festival*, the *Gesta Romanorum* and the dialogue by Henry Parker, *Dives et Pauper*, were all translated into Welsh by a school of translators located in Glamorgan.

Along with other Norman towns in south-east Wales and the marches, Swansea was part of a thriving literary culture in the central and late middle ages, one that was supported by local lords and monasteries, and which expressed itself in Latin, English, French and Welsh. Its reference points were not confined to the familiar landmarks of Wales, but looked outwards to London, Rome, Jerusalem, Florence, and other great cities of the world.

By Chaucer’s standards, the literary tradition of Morgannwg may have seemed provincial, but it was not parochial. When, next July, you find yourself inexorably drawn from the Swansea University campus to the waterside pubs and cafes of Mumbles, nestling in the shadow of the Norman castle of Oystermouth, rest assured you will be following in the footsteps of medieval monks and poets.
Conference Announcements

“1408-2008: The Age Of Gower”
The First International Congress

Sessions will be held on the campus of Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End. Meals and housing accommodations will also be available on campus. Conference plans include evensong and readings from Gower’s Latin, French and English poetry, followed by a reception, in Southwark Cathedral; a walking tour of “Gower’s Southwark” led by historian Martha Carlin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and author of Medieval Southwark (Hambledon Press, 1996); a special tour of the Museum of London; and a banquet aboard a Thames River boat.

Plenary sessions: Nigel Saul, University of London: “John Gower: Prophet or Turncoat?”; John Burrow, University of Bristol: “Sinning against Love in the Confessio Amantis”; Linne Mooney, University of York, Simon Horobin, Oxford University, Estelle Stubbs, University of Sheffield: “Gower’s Scribe ‘D’.”


For those attendees going on to the New Chaucer Society Congress in Swansea, coaches will be arranged, and can be booked in advance. A stop in Ewelme will include a tour of the tomb of Chaucer’s granddaughter and alms houses led by John Hines of the School of History and Archaeology, Cardiff University.

Registration and Housing information to follow shortly, and will be posted on the Society website, www.johngower.org.

Glendon College, York University (Toronto, Canada) and the University of Richmond (Virginia, USA) announce the first joint conference on Early Modern French and English Literature to be held at Glendon College (York University) on Saturday, October 4th, 2008. The conference topic will be:

Imagining a Common Past in Early Modern England and France.

The histories, languages, literatures, and cultures of England and France have been inextricably linked since the Norman Conquest in 1066, and never more so than in the period between the Hundred Years War and the end of the seventeenth century - a time that also sees the birth of England and France as nation-states and global empires. This conference invites scholarship in both English and French from a broad range of disciplines (e.g. literature, linguistics, history, historiography, comparative literature, cultural studies, art history, etc.) that focuses primarily on the early modern English and French imagination of the medieval period: the nature of their memory of a shared past, and the multiple "uses" of it in early modern public discourse and culture. Also welcome are papers exploring aspects of the medieval period which later become the subject of early modern memory.

Keynote Address: Prof. Mary Catherine Davidson, Glendon College, York University.

Single papers as well as complete panels are welcome. Please send proposals for panels and papers as Word attachments in English or French to conference organizers: Igor Djordjevic (Department of English, Glendon College, York University,
idjordjevic@glendon.yorku.ca) and Lidia Radi (Director of Italian Studies, Department of Modern Literatures and Cultures, University of Richmond, lradi@richmond.edu).

Proposals for panels should include an abstract of 250-300 words for each paper, a one-page CV for each presenter and, if a chair is suggested, the following info: name, affiliation, and email address.

Deadline for proposals: January 30th, 2008
http://mlc.richmond.edu/anglofrenchimaging/index.htm

The Rocky Mountain Medieval And Renaissance Association announces a call for papers for their 40th annual conference to be held at the University of Colorado, in Boulder, Colorado April 24-26, 2008 on the topic of:

Historical Engines: Texts, Technology and Innovation In The Middle Ages And Renaissance

The twentieth and twenty-first centuries do not have exclusive claim to technological and intellectual innovations; pre- and early modern cultures were also deeply involved in technical innovation. These innovations ranged across the spectrum; physical inventions and institutional innovations changed society in large as well as subtle ways, and innovations in the intellectual sphere, from the use of vernacular languages in literature to the introduction of Arabic numbers, transformed how and what people could think. Innovation seems to be a constant characteristic of the human condition, then as well as now.

The Rocky Mountain Medieval And Renaissance Association is interested in papers exploring the relationship between technology and history from scholars in all disciplines on any aspect of technological or intellectual innovation during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Papers could address topics in areas such as warfare, political organization, literary devices, and techniques in the visual or performing arts, among many others.

Questions of interest might range across the critical field: How does the notion of technology complicate our notions of period? By what language do medieval and early modern people discuss technological innovation? What is the relationship between textuality and technology? How does textual production reflect technological thinking? Is it fair to classify technological innovation as the province of vernacular or secular knowledge? How do monastic institutions use technological innovation? What is the relationship between technology and class or estate structure?

Proposals should clearly state the problem being discussed and its relation to the conference theme, as well as the discoveries, insights or conclusions that will be presented. Abstracts of no more than 500 words for a twenty minute presentation may be submitted to Professor Charlene Kellsey via email: charlene.kellsey@colorado.edu (184 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0184 USA). Deadline for submissions is December 3, 2007. Notifications will be sent out by December 21.

All presenters must become members of RMMRA ($25) and pay the conference registration fee. Registration packets with further details of venues and hotels will be sent out in January. Information will also be posted on the association website at: www.uni.edu/~swanj/rmmra/rocky.htm

CFP: Gower in Vancouver

Papers on any topic investigating Gower’s poetry or the field of Gower studies (past or present) are welcome on a panel at the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Medievalists. This conference--hosted by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, June 1-3, 2008--is part of the annual interdisciplinary Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Send inquiries and proposals to Lynn Arner, Women’s Studies/English, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1, Canada: laner@brocku.ca. Deadline: January 1, 2008. This panel is sponsored by the Gower Project. For more information about The Gower Project, see http://people.westminstercollege.edu/faculty/godman/gower/index.htm. For information about the Congress, see http://www.fedcan.ca.

The Sixth La3amon/Lawman International Conference (‘Lawman in his context’), will take place at Gregynog, Newtown, Powys (Wales, UK) from 1-6 July 2008.

Papers will cover the broad topic of Lawman and the context for his writing, including the Brut chronicle, other Arthurian and metrical chronicles (English and European) and the romance tradition in relation to Lawman.
After Arundel: CALL FOR PAPERS

After Arundel: Religious Writing in Fifteenth-Century England

An international conference organised by the Faculty of English, University of Oxford, in association with the Bodleian Library, marking the 600th anniversary of the publication of Arundel's Constitutions.

16th – 18th April 2009
University of Oxford

* Mapping Chronologies (chaired by James Simpson)
* The Dynamics of Orthodox Reform
* Humanism and Intellectual History
* Literary Self-Consciousness and Literary History
* Discerning the Discourse: Language and Spirituality
* Heresy and its Textual Afterlife

Plenary speakers to include: Jeremy Catto, Anne Hudson, David Lawton, Miri Rubin and Sarah Beckwith. Conference respondent: Nicholas Watson

Please send 500 word abstracts by 1st May 2008 to vincent.gillespie@ell.ox.ac.uk, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 6QA

Conference committee: Vincent Gillespie, Helen Barr, Santha Bhattacharji, Mishtooni Bose, Kantik Ghosh, Annie Sutherland, John Watts

Conference Program

Panels and Chairs: Each session will have an anchor speaker. Sessions will be 1.5 hours; there will be separate plenaries, no more than two parallel sessions, and 30 minute breaks between sessions. The first plenary will be at 4.00 on Thursday, followed by a prestigious reception and dinner.

The Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies (SAMEMES) was founded in June 2007 by professors and scholars from English departments of all Swiss Universities, to provide a window on medieval and early modern studies in Switzerland and explore critical and theoretical interests common to our fields. In this connexion the Board (Lukas Erne, president; Denis Renevey, vice-president; Indira Ghose, secretary; Antoinina Bevan Zlata, treasurer, and Margaret Bridges) would like to announce the association's first

Conference and Call For Papers.

The conference proposes to focus on some of the numerous critical and theoretical interests common to our institutionally divided disciplines, whether they relate to modes of textual production and reception (the advent of print culture does not spell out the demise of manuscript production, nor do these two forms of textuality reflect the wide range of literary transmission and reception, which is further affected by intermediality), to formal or thematic continuities and discontinuities (processes of cultural memory and/or amnesia), or whether they concern the effects of social and political change in (gendered and transgendered) construction of textual identities. Current theoretical approaches to literary history require that the study of diachronic and synchronic relationships between texts - pretexts and intertexts - take into account mechanisms of cultural transmission, as well as of gender and identity construction. With these emphases in mind, we plan to organize a two-day conference on

Pretexts, Intertextualities, and the Construction of Textual Identity

at the University of Berne, on 3 – 4 October 2008

The conference is open to all interested participants. Distinguished guest speakers include Stephen Orgel, Ad Putter and David Wallace. A selection of papers will be published in a special issue of SPeLL (Swiss Publications in English Language and Literature). The organizers invite interested scholars to submit proposals for short papers (presentation time 20 minutes). Send your proposals by 31 January 2008 to Margaret Bridges (margaret.bridges@ens.unibe.ch), Institut für Englische Sprachen und Literaturen, Philosophisch-Historische Fakultät der Universität Bern, Unitoibler, 3012 Bern, Switzerland. All proposals must include the following information: name and affiliation of proponent, contact details, title of paper, abstract of 150-200 words.

For further information contact the conference organizer, Prof. Margaret Bridges (margaret.bridges@ens.unibe.ch) or visit the Association’s website (www.samemes.ch) which describes the procedure for application for membership to SAMEMES.
The Sixth International Conference on Middle English

Date: 24-26 July 2008
Location: Cambridge, England
Contact: Laura Wright
Contact email: icome6@english.cam.ac.uk
URL: http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/icome6/
Linguistic Fields: Middle English

Meeting Description:

The Sixth International Conference on Middle English will be held at the English Faculty of the University of Cambridge, UK, 24-26 July 2008. Like its predecessors, ICOME 6 will include sessions on Middle English language and linguistics, textual studies, and literature. The conference begins on Thursday 24th July and finishes on Saturday 26th July. Plenary papers will be given by the following: Roger Lass (Cape Town), Margaret Laing (Edinburgh), Gabriella Mazzon (Cagliari), Ad Putter (Bristol)

Participants are invited to submit proposals for 20-minute presentations (to be followed by 10-minute discussions) on any topic within the abovementioned areas. Such proposals should be submitted in the form of 400-word abstracts and should be sent to the organizers by the 31st January 2008. Abstracts should be in .doc or .rtf format (preferably in Times 12 fonts) and sent by e-mail to icome6@english.cam.ac.uk. Notice of acceptance will be sent in March 2008. Participants can also submit proposals for workshops or panels on specific topics; such proposals should reach the organizer no later than the 27th December 2007. Colleagues submitting abstracts are kindly requested to state on their registration form whether they need technical equipment for their presentation. Abstracts of the accepted papers and of the plenary lectures will be printed into a booklet that will be distributed to participants, and will also be available on the conference website.

The registration fee is GBP45. Please download a registration form from the conference website at http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/icome6. Registration forms should be sent to the organizer at: ICOME6 Conference Organiser, The Faculty of English, 9 West Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB3 9DP, United Kingdom

Forms and payment of the conference fee should reach us by 30th May, but recall that room reservation should be placed as early as possible (further information about accommodation in colleges is to be added to the website). Payment can be made by credit card (see the list on the registration and payment form) or by bank drafts in UK pounds sterling.

We cannot accept emailed or faxed forms under any circumstances.

Other News

EXEMPLARIA (www.maney.co.uk/journals/exm) announces its new Editorial Committee: Patricia Clare Ingham, Indiana University; James J. Paxson, University of Florida; Tison Pugh, University of Central Florida; Elizabeth Scala, University of Texas. The new Committee will succeed to the Editorship of EXEMPLARIA in 2010. Beginning in 2008, volume 20 and following, EXEMPLARIA will appear four times a year: January, April, July, October. The new Publisher of EXEMPLARIA, Maney, Inc., of Leeds and London, provides digital access to the journal at: www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/exm.
Inquiries and submissions may be directed to exemplaria@gmail.com.

A concert performance of the "The Loathly Lady," an original opera scored for early instruments and based on "The Wife of Bath's Tale," is scheduled for April 22, 2009 in Philadelphia (libretto, Wendy Steiner; music, Paul Richards; image projections, John Kindness). We are seeking funding for a New York performance near this date and would be grateful for leads and/or support. Please contact Wendy Steiner (University of Pennsylvania) for more information.

Katherine Kerby-Fulton announces that her recent book, Books under Suspicion: Censorship and Tolerance of Revelatory Writing in Late Medieval England (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006) just received the John Ben Snow Prize from the North American Conference on British Studies, awarded Nov. 11 at the annual meeting in San Francisco. The winning book is selected from those published in any area of British Studies between the Medieval and Modern periods.
Members of the New Chaucer Society might like to know that a Katherine Swynford Society was formed in June of 2004 and now has just one hundred members worldwide. There is also a Katherine Swynford Discussion Yahoo Group with over three hundred members. The Society now publishes a quarterly newsletter which has averaged twenty-three A4 pages over the first four issues. We are currently running a series of articles on Fourteenth and Early Fifteenth Century Literature. I would be the first to admit that so far more has been written in that series about the original Roman de la Rose (by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun) and Christine de Pizan’s objections to it than about Chaucer’s translation of part of it as the Romaunt of the Rose. We publish our newsletter in both an email and a hard copy printed version. Should any member of the New Chaucer Society wish to receive a complimentary email copy of an issue, contact Dr. Roger Joy either at 21 Sherborne Drive, Newcastle, Staffs., U.K. ST5 3JA or by email to john_of Gaunt.1399@yahoo.co.uk

Susanna Fein and David Raybin will direct a four-week NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers on the Canterbury Tales immediately prior to the NCS Congress in Swansea. The seminar will be located in London and Canterbury, June 22 – July 18, 2008. Please tell any teachers (K-12) who might be interested in receiving information about the seminar to contact us at raybin@eiu.edu, or to consult the seminar website: http://www.eiu.edu/~neh2008.

Corpus Christi College (Cambridge), the Stanford University Libraries, and the University of Cambridge are pleased to announce the release of a beta version of their Parker on the Web service in early October, 2007.

Parker on the Web is an interactive, web-based workspace designed to support research and teaching with the manuscripts of the Parker Library at Corpus. The completed project will include high-resolution images of the Library’s 538 manuscripts spanning the 6th to the 16th centuries; a fully-tagged version of M. R. James’ descriptive catalog, updated and expanded; plus digitized editions, translations and secondary scholarship. The project is supported by the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The beta site will be freely accessible at least through 2008 at http://parkerweb.stanford.edu. The beta version replaces the prototype made available in 2004, and offers a revamped user interface, enhanced searching and manuscript-viewing capabilities, and expanded metadata, bibliography, and page images for at least fifty manuscripts.

The beta version will replace the prototype at the same web address: http://parkerweb.stanford.edu.

To obtain full access, users will need to register and accept an agreement covering permitted uses. The site’s development and content are expected to be complete in late 2009, at which time full access will be available through institutional subscriptions only.

We encourage scholars and students in all relevant disciplines to visit the site, use it freely and frequently, and provide feedback. Instructors or institutions who wish to use the site for teaching or research are especially encouraged to contact the project team. Those seeking additional information, or wishing to communicate about the project are invited to send email to parkerweb@lists.stanford.edu.

The New Chaucer Society

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