



## 18th NCS international Congress: Portland, 2012

The Newsletter reaches you later than usual in order to carry an update on the next Congress. This will take place in Portland, Oregon, from the morning of Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26, 2012, with the congress dinner on the night of the 26th. Optional day-long excursions will be offered on Friday, July 27, and the graduate workshops and Trustees' meeting will take place on Sunday, July 22.

The venue will be the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, where sessions will be held and accommodation provided at a contract rate of \$149 per night, with receptions and other functions in other city venues. NCS Executive Director David Lawton and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Warren Ginsberg met with Marriott representatives in Portland on Friday, December 10 to negotiate the contract, which has now been signed. The special rate - a saving of \$100 on standard 2010 summer rates - will be valid for three nights before and three days after the congress. In order to estimate room demand, we shall aim to set registration as early as possible after new year, 2012. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, program committee arrangements are proceeding speedily and well, so members should have all the information they need in good time to apply for any available travel funding. The Society will again offer generous subventions to participating graduate students and new Ph.Ds, which will now be known as the Donald R. Howard Scholarships.

The date for 2012 is a week later than usual. We are aware that this may disadvantage some Australian members, and worked hard to avoid the clash with their beginning of term, but in the end the logistics of the hotel venue made it impossible to meet our first preference. The Society will aim to return to the usual dates, in the third week of July, for the 2014 congress.

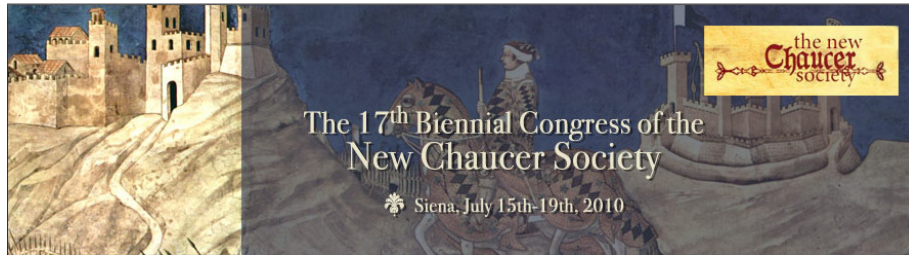
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### Newsletter Notice

This issue of the Newsletter is being emailed electronically to members and posted on the website. This is in keeping with the decision of the Trustees in Siena to experiment with electronic delivery, especially in view of rising mail costs and delivery problems. Any member who requests a hard copy will be sent one: please email [chaucer@arts.wustl.edu](mailto:chaucer@arts.wustl.edu) and confirm your preferred mailing address. We shall, however, send out the spring newsletter and ballot together in a hard copy to all members, and will then repeat the request to members to notify us if you would like to continue to receive a hard copy of subsequent newsletters.

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## Siena 2010: Survey Results

108 members filled out survey forms in Siena, ranking items from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), and we publish the results below. They are largely self-explanatory, and the program committee for Portland has already found them immensely helpful.

### Experience of the Congress

1. How do you rate the conference overall? **4.3**

### Program

2. How do you rate the quality of the program? **4.17**
3. How do you rate the structure of the program (for example, number of plenaries against concurrent sessions; number of concurrent sessions)? **4.14**
4. How do you rate the model of the threads? **3.76**
5. How would you rate the coherence and composition of the threads at this congress? **3.7**

*(The next three questions out of 108.)*

6. Would you prefer to see
- a) no threads - **8**
  - b) more threads - **6**
  - c) fewer threads - **48**
- (same - **45**)
7. In paper sessions, would you prefer to see
- a) 3 papers - **79**
  - b) 4 papers - **23**
8. In a 90-minute paper session, what is the ideal time you would devote to open discussion?
- a) 30 minutes - **49**
  - b) 20 minutes - **56**
  - c) 15 minutes or less - **3**

*(Return to the 5-point scale.)*

9. At the congress, how do you rate the quality of the sessions you attended? **4.19**
10. How do you rate the chairing of the sessions you attended? **3.98**
11. How do you rate the variety of the formats at the congress? **3.63**
12. How do you rate the transparency of the program planning? **3.43**
13. How do you rate your access to the planning of the program? **3.1**
14. If you submitted a proposal, how would you rate your experience of the process? **4.04**

### Delegate Experience

15. How do you rate the food and hospitality in Siena? **4.64**
16. How do you rate the registration process, information flow, and delegate support in Siena? **4.31**
17. How would you rate the congress venue? **4.3**
18. How would you rate the information you received before the conference? **4.09**
19. How do you rate the congress website? **4.38**
20. How do you rate the online registration process? **4.64**

Among comments from members, the most common was a complaint that some papers in Siena overran their allotted time, and that the chairs of some sessions failed to rein in such offenders. The program committee has taken careful note of this, and will strongly remind all session chairs and paper givers of their collegial obligations to other members. There were also helpful suggestions about possible variations to the format of sessions, most of which have been adopted by the program committee. Warm thanks to all members who contributed these views.

## Call for Nominations for Trustees

NCS President Carolyn Dinshaw has convened a Nominating Committee consisting of Christopher Cannon (as chair), Theresa M. Coletti, Yoshiyuki Nakao, Kellie Robertson, and Anthony Bale. She sends her thanks for the nominations for this committee she received from members, and took them into careful account in her decision.

I am also calling for nominations for Trustee by the other method for which the (revised) constitution provides:

Nominations may also be made by written petition from at least eight (8) Members to the Executive Director. A call for nominations shall be published in the Society newsletter in the fall preceding the election and the Executive Director shall solicit nominations from all members by e-mail when the time for nomination of Trustees is approaching. Nominations by petition shall be placed on the ballot automatically unless the Nominating Committee finds a constitutional reason for disqualification. Nominations by petition must reach the Executive Director by 1 January, one (1) month prior to the beginning of the election period.

I am happy to accept these nominations by email (dalawton@wustl.edu) in the first instance provided that the signatures follow (I shall be away over New Year, and require that these reach me by my return on January 8). Names received in this way, subject to the consent of those nominated, will be placed on the ballot alongside those originating from the nominating committee. The election takes place in February.

Candidates are eligible provided that the nominees are current financial members of NCS, and have not held office in the Society since 2006.

*David Lawton*  
Executive Director

## Conferences and Calls

### **Birkbeck Medieval Seminar MEDIEVAL SHAKESPEARE: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF PERIODISATION**

*1.30pm–6pm, Saturday 12 March 2011 at  
Birkbeck, Malet Street, London*

A one-day conference exploring the relationships and faultlines, contrasts and continuities, between 'medieval' and 'early modern' English culture.

Speakers: Lawrence Warner (University of Sydney), Helen Cooper (University of Cambridge) John Watts (Oxford University), Andy Wood (University of East Anglia).

This event is free but space is limited so it is crucial to reserve a place; to do so please email Dr Anthony Bale, a.bale@bbk.ac.uk

[www.bbk.ac.uk/english/our-research/research\\_seminars/birkbeck-medieval-seminar](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/english/our-research/research_seminars/birkbeck-medieval-seminar)

### **Nineteenth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature**

*April 8-9, 2011*

On April 8-9 of 2011, the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature (NPCEBL) will hold its nineteenth annual conference, hosted by Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, nestled in the bluffs along the Mississippi river in Winona, MN. The keynote speaker this year will be Dolores Frese of the University of Notre Dame.

Early inquiries regarding panels (professional or student) may be directed to John Kerr, [jkerr@smumn.edu](mailto:jkerr@smumn.edu). Paper abstracts will be due at the end of February.

**The Institute for Medieval Studies at the  
University of New Mexico  
26th International Conference on  
Medievalism**

*October 20-22, 2011*

For CFP and further information, email Anita Obermeier at [AObermei@unm.edu](mailto:AObermei@unm.edu).

**Uncertain Knowledge in the Middle Ages**

*7th-9th April, 2011, King's College,  
Cambridge*

What are the forms in which later medieval thinkers articulate epistemological scepticism, relativism and doubt? Is it possible to voice different forms of uncertainty in different institutional contexts and languages? An interdisciplinary workshop bringing into dialogue historians of philosophy, theology, history and literature.

Papers: Mishtooni Bose (Christ Church, Oxford); Rita Copeland (University of Pennsylvania); Dallas Denery (Bowdoin College); Sarah Kay (Princeton University); Hester Gelber (Stanford University); Christophe Grellard (University of Paris, Sorbonne); Maartin Hoenen (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg-im-Breisgau); Daniel Hobbins (Ohio State University); Dominik Perler (Humboldt University); Riccardo Quinto (Padua University); Vance Smith (Princeton University); Karen Sullivan (Bard College); Eileen Sweeney (Boston College); Helen Swift (St. Hilda's College, Oxford); Nicolette Zeeman (King's College, Cambridge).

The format will be a workshop for invited speakers; papers are pre-circulated. There are a limited number of places for attendees interested in the topic, available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Website:

<http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/research/events/uncertain-knowledge>

Organisers: Mishtooni Bose, Rita Copeland, Dallas Denery, Kantik Ghosh, Nicolette Zeeman

**The Allegory of Guillaume de Digulleville  
(Deguileville) in Europe: Circulation,  
Reception and Influence**

*Université de Lausanne, 21-23 July 2011*

The fourteenth-century allegorical trilogy composed by the Cistercian monk, Guillaume de Digulleville (or Deguileville) -- the *Pèlerinage de la vie humaine* [*Pilgrimage of Human Life*], *Pèlerinage de l'âme* [*Pilgrimage of the Soul*], and *Pèlerinage de Jhesucrist* [*Pilgrimage of Jesus Christ*] -- travelled widely across the medieval and early modern world. Digulleville's trilogy first allegorizes human life as a pilgrimage, then envisions a journey through the afterlife as another form of pilgrimage, and finally recasts the narrative of the Christian gospels as a story of divine pilgrimage on earth. Addressed to men and women, both rich and poor, Digulleville's pilgrimage allegories were recopied and illuminated with remarkable frequency during the Middle Ages. More than 80 medieval manuscripts survive today, now held in archives dispersed across the continents of Europe, North America, Asia and Australia. During Digulleville's lifetime, and the turbulent centuries that followed, his visions inspired French prose and French dramatic adaptations, multiple translations into English, German, Middle Dutch, and Latin, and a Castilian translation that may have inspired Christopher Columbus's naming of new world islands. Digulleville's pilgrimage allegories, and their wider context, are attracting increasing attention in current scholarship, in the fields of literature, history, art history, religious studies, linguistics, the history of science, and historical geography. The Lausanne colloquium brings together a program of speakers examining many aspects of the influence, circulation and reception of Digulleville's allegories during the period 1330 to 1700.

Those interested in attending the colloquium are encouraged to contact the organisers:

[marco.nievergelt@unil.ch](mailto:marco.nievergelt@unil.ch) ;

[stephanie.kamath@umb.edu](mailto:stephanie.kamath@umb.edu)

The organisers also welcome news of relevant recent scholarship to post on the Digulleville resources page of the conference site:

<http://www.unil.ch/digulleville>

**The Rocky Mountain Medieval and  
Renaissance Association  
Faith and Doubt in the Middle Ages and  
Renaissance**

*April 7-9, 2011  
Salt Lake City, Utah*

The Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association invites panel and paper proposals on the conference theme, "Faith and Doubt in the Middle Ages and Renaissance." The Conference will be held at the Crystal Inn in downtown Salt Lake City, just ten minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport. Our keynote speaker will be Raymond Waddington, Professor of English at the University of California at Davis. He is the author of numerous articles, essays, and books including *Aretino's Satyr*, 2004; *The Expulsion of the Jews* (co-editor), 1994; *The Age of Milton* (co-editor), 1980; *The Mind's Empire*, 1974; and *The Rhetoric of Renaissance Poetry* (co-editor), 1974. He also serves as Senior Editor of the *Sixteenth Century Journal*.

The RMMRA seeks to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of all aspects of European medieval and Renaissance studies. We welcome abstracts addressing, among other topics, the literary, historical, scientific, religious and cultural representations of faith and doubt and their various permutations in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. However, as in previous years, abstracts, papers, and sessions on all aspects of the study of the European Middle Ages and Renaissance are also welcome.

Proposals for panels or abstracts for individual papers should be directed to one of the conference's co-organizers: Kimberly Johnson (kimberly\_johnson@byu.edu), Ginger Smoak (ginger.smoak@utah.edu), and Michael Walton (waltonmar@aol.com).

Abstracts are due January 31, 2011.

**SPECIAL ISSUE OF WILEY-BLACKWELL'S  
ONLINE JOURNAL *LITERATURE COMPASS*  
ON THE GLOBAL MIDDLE AGES**

*Literature Compass* invites contributions for a special issue of the *Global Circulation Project*, edited by Geraldine Heng and Lynn Ramey, on the Global Middle Ages.

We define our period broadly as premodernity c. 500-1500 CE, always with flexible time horizons, and always with the understanding that the semi-convenient term "Middle Ages" is a heuristic category under erasure, and with diminished purchase for cultures and worlds outside premodern Europe.

Essays can focus on the circulation of a text, set of texts, ideas, themes, narratives, genres, or stories, and can take the form of broad surveys, or close readings of a particular motif, set of texts, or network of intercultural circulation. An interdisciplinary focus is especially welcome: in addition to literature and textuality, we are also interested in stories or themes that travel through fabrics, maps, sculpture, ceramics, clothing, edifices, or other cultural media, especially if they intersect with literary work. In like vein, we are equally interested in literary and cultural traces of how people and oral traditions traveled. Contributions on cultural texts from other continents than the Americas and Europe are especially welcome. If you have an interest in an experimental approach or focus, please consult the issue editors at:  
heng@mail.utexas.edu and  
lynn.ramey@vanderbilt.edu

Inquiries and Proposals to the editors of the special issue by: January 31, 2011

Submissions by: March 31, 2011

For more details on submission and the manuscript review process, please see:

<http://www.wiley.com/bw/submit.asp?ref=1741-4113>

More information on LICO's *Global Circulation Project* can be found here: <http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/literature/>

and here: <http://www.blackwell-compass.com/globalcirculationproject>

More information on *Literature Compass* can be found here: <http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/literature/about>

The Centre d'Études Supérieures de  
Civilisation Médiévale (CESCM)  
4th to the 8th of July 2011

**DWARFS OR GIANTS?  
APPROPRIATION AND CREATION IN  
THE MIDDLE AGES**

The conference theme fully reflects the tradition of interdisciplinary study promoted by the CESCM in fields as varied as the history of ideas, architectural forms and techniques, representations, literary or otherwise, and social practices. The general intention is to analyse the processes inherent in the formation of medieval civilisation by assessing the tensions between tradition and innovation, appropriation and creation.

The often-stilted image of the Middle Ages as a period in which what exists is merely borrowed and reused is susceptible to re-examination through an analysis of the nature, content, modalities and aims of such appropriations, thus allowing for the emergence of more complex phenomena such as recomposition or innovation fuelled by conscious choice in areas of reference, allusion and influence. Such developments, whether passive or deliberate, individual or collective, fleeting or sustainable, ought to be seen in terms of new points of departure, witnesses to the vitality of the Middle Ages and its ability to refashion and nourish a cultural landscape in constant evolution. The conference will take place within the framework of the *Semaines Médiévales* which have been at the heart of the Centre's activities for over fifty years. The event, bringing together specialists and students from all over the world, will provide a stimulating setting for conference papers and round-table discussions in a spirit of free exchange and debate.

If you would like to present a paper at the conference, please contact Stephen Morrison (Stephen.Morrison@univ-poitiers.fr) in the first instance.

**John Gower in Iberia: Six Hundred Years**

II International Congress of the John Gower Society  
Valladolid, 18-21 July 2011

The John Gower Society is holding its Second International Congress at the University of Valladolid, Spain, in July 2011. Spain has been chosen as a site for this Congress in recognition of Gower's unique transnational presence, as *Confessio Amantis* was the first English work ever translated into Continental languages –first Portuguese, and then Castilian, both in the fifteenth century. The Second International Congress of the John Gower Society has therefore a double purpose, the study of John Gower in his historical, political, social, cultural and literary context, and the promotion of a more in-depth knowledge of the Spanish and Portuguese translations of *Confessio Amantis* as well as the Anglo-Spanish historical, political and cultural relations in the Late Middle Ages.

Brief proposals (250 words max.) are invited for 20-minute papers addressing any aspect of Gowerian studies. Email the submission form below BOTH to the Organizing Committee (jgs.valladolid2011@gmail.com) and to RF Yeager (rfyeager@hotmail.com).

Topics include –but are not limited to– the following areas: Biographical aspects \* Manuscripts \* French works \* Latin works \* English works \* Antiquity and classics \* French influence and contemporary French authors \* Chaucer \* Linguistics, literary language and dialects \* Influence in later authors \* Influence in Iberian authors \* English politics and usurpation \* Iberian (historical) context \* Literary theory and critical approaches \* Narratology \* Women and gender \* Multilingualism \* Cinema and theatre \* Animals \* London \* Aesthetics \* Law \* Philosophy and theology \* Gower and the Mediterranean \* Gower and the Other \* Gower and the material

Participants may also propose thematic panels, to include papers delivered by 3 or 4 participants. Please contact directly RF Yeager (rfyeager@hotmail.com).

The abstracts will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, and the authors will be notified the results of the selection process.

Submission deadline: Jan 1st 2010; Confirmation of acceptance: Jan 15th 2010

## Publication Announcements

### A New Interactive Resource for Research and Teaching

The Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York has just published *The English Parish Church through the Centuries: daily life & spirituality, art & architecture, literature & music*. This DVD-ROM provides accessible introductions to the latest research on parish churches and the influence of Christianity on literature, music, art and society from nearly 230 leading scholars. Contributors include Helen Cooper, Eamon Duffy, Robert Swanson, Tom Hanks, Alan Baragona, Julia Barrow, Gloria Betcher, Sarah Blick, Brenda Bolton, Laurel Broughton, Michelle Brown, Sarah Brown, Clive Burgess, Arthur Burns, Mary Clayton, Mary Clemente Davlin, Warren Edminster, Rosalind Field, Sarah Foot, Paul Fouracre, Katherine French, Jeremy Goldberg, David Griffith, Jane Hawkes, Richard Helmholz, Alexandra Johnston, Beat Kümin, Hugh Magennis, Richard Marks, Richard Newhauser, Ann Nichols, Éamonn Ó Carragáin, Richard Pfaff, Helen Phillips, Sarah Rees-Jones, Michelle Sauer, Robert Swanson, Paul Szarmach, Norman Tanner, Diana Webb, Barry Windeatt and Barbara Yorke.

The DVD-ROM includes well over one million words of text, nearly 2000 images from parish churches, the British Museum, the British Library, the Bodleian, the V&A, Lambeth Palace Library and many other institutions, together with recordings of Anglo-Saxon Church music, Sarum chant, medieval carols, 3-D modelling of the evolution of churches from Anglo-Saxon to late medieval, and case studies of over 30 churches. Order online from [www.york.ac.uk/projects/christianityandculture/](http://www.york.ac.uk/projects/christianityandculture/) or contact [dee.dyas@york.ac.uk](mailto:dee.dyas@york.ac.uk) for more information. Class orders for North America (at a discounted price) can be placed through Chaucer Studio.

### *Classroom Commentaries: Teaching the Poetria nova across Medieval and Renaissance Europe*

Ohio State University Press, 2010

Marjorie Curry Woods

Marjorie Curry Woods would like to announce the publication of *Classroom Commentaries: Teaching the Poetria nova across Medieval and Renaissance Europe*. The work provides a synoptic picture of medieval and early modern instruction in rhetoric, poetics, and composition theory and practice.

## Other News

### METRO

(Middle English Teaching Resources Online)

<http://metro.fas.harvard.edu>

Over the past several years, teachers of Middle English at Harvard have been working to develop a new electronic resource for Middle English language learning. Classroom time is always limited; we therefore developed a web-based program that students can use outside class to master some basic linguistic and analytical skills, in a variety of Middle English dialects. Now, through a collaborative effort between faculty members and graduate students in the Department of English, we are happy to announce the public release of METRO (Middle English Teaching Resources Online). This project was financed and developed under the auspices of Harvard's FAS Presidential Instructional Technology Fellows (PITF) program, with support from the Academic Technology Group, FAS Information Technology.

METRO is a virtual classroom designed to teach students how to read and analyze Middle English texts. Through a series of self-testing exercises, students are invited to explore the meter, grammar, syntax, diction, and figural language used by a variety of Middle English poets.

METRO has already been used successfully in a number of Harvard English courses, and it is completely free and available to the public.

### Chaucer Audioglossed

Michael Murphy has made available on the Web an audioglossed version of Chaucer's General Prologue and several tales. It is free to all, and may be downloaded at will.

The Website is ThomondGate.net. Google requires users to go through links to Chaucer and James Joyce → Canterbury Tales. Downloading takes a minute or two.

The audiogloss is a new method of glossing a text which modern technology makes possible, and will be particularly useful to beginning students. It works like this: the user is reading an old-spelling text and at the same time is hearing on the computer a recording of the same words read in modern pronunciation. This alone provides a kind of gloss that will solve many of the difficulties presented by unfamiliar spelling. Readers see the original old-spelling word on the page, and hear its modern sound in the audio instead of having to look away from the text for a visual gloss: *hir(e)* is *her* or *their*; *seigh*, *say*, *saugh* are heard as the familiar *saw*; *reed* is pronounced *red*; *woltow* = *wilt thou*; etc. This says nothing about the sounds of Chaucer's own English. It is simply a modern gloss.

In the case of totally obsolete words, a modern word of the same meaning and syllable count is substituted on the audio for the obsolete or archaic word on the page. The user sees *pardee* and hears *by God*; *I know* in place of *I wot*; *cleped* = *called*, etc.

Use of the audiogloss should make understanding an old spelling Chaucer text much more speedy and enjoyable for the student.

Bear in mind that this is not an attempt at an edition; it is a gloss for a standard edition.

Teachers who find this method useful are encouraged to make their own audioglossed recordings.

Feedback is welcome from teachers and students who have used the audiogloss.

Michael Murphy, email: Sarsfield78@optonline.net

### 2010 Christian Gauss Award

V.A. Kolve will receive the Christian Gauss Award for *Telling Images: Chaucer and the Imagery of Narrative II* (Stanford University Press, 2009). This award, given for books in the field of literary scholarship and criticism, was created in 1950 to honor a former Phi Beta Kappa president and distinguished scholar at Princeton University. The Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards are given each year in December for outstanding scholarly works published in the United States. These awards support the general mission of the Society to advocate for excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and to promote dialogue about important issues and ideas of our time in an environment of intellectual fellowship.

#### REMINDER:

Please have publishers mail books to be reviewed in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* to:

Alfred Hiatt, Book Review Editor  
*Studies in the Age of Chaucer*  
 School of English and Drama  
 Queen Mary, University of London  
 Mile End Road  
 London E1 4NS  
 United Kingdom

### The New Chaucer Society

**President:** Carolyn Dinshaw

**Executive Director:** David Lawton

**2008 - 2012 Trustees:** Christopher Cannon, Juliette Dor, Ruth Evans and Stephanie Trigg  
**2010-2014:** Alcuin Blamires, Frank Grady, Larry Scanlon

**Editor, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*:** David Matthews

**Book Review Editor, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*:** Alfred Hiatt

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