



**2012 Congress
Portland, July 23-26, 2012**

**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Dear NCS members,

Arrangements for the Portland congress continue apace, and the congress website will be online this month for registration. For those applying for funding, the dates are July 23 through 26, as on the NCS website, with the congress dinner on July 26. The registration is yet to be fixed, but will be under \$200 for a regular member, with 50% discount for graduate and other students. (There will also be a concessional price for retirees.)

The congress will take place at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, and rooms may already be booked at discount rate (including nights before and after the congress).

I paid my second visit to the organizing committee in Portland in December. Warren Ginsberg, local chair, and other local committee members, met with me, and worked with Warren (to whom many thanks are due) on the final arrangements. There will be

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**Future Relocation of
the New Chaucer Society and
New Executive Director**

In August 2012, after the Portland congress, the New Chaucer Society will move its headquarters from Washington University in St Louis about three miles east to St Louis University, and Ruth Evans will succeed David Lawton as Executive Director. The decision was reached unanimously by the Trustees after a lengthy process headed by NCS President, Carolyn Dinshaw. (Neither Ruth Evans nor David Lawton took part in the selection vote). We are deeply grateful to those who expressed interest.

David Lawton is now the longest-serving Executive Director, and will have completed two terms, a total of of ten years, after the Portland congress. He will remain in charge through the congress, and the changeover will occur soon after. Washington University has given the Society generous support throughout this period, and has seen us unscathed through the recession.

Ruth Evans is the Dorothy McBride Orthwein Chair of English at Saint Louis University, a specialist in later medieval

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activities on the Sunday, before congress, on the Tuesday afternoon (walking tours and brewery visits), and day trips on the day after the congress. These all need to be booked in advance. Receptions will be held in the hotel, at the University's wonderful downtime heritage site, and at the Chinese Garden. The final dinner is scheduled to be at the Portland Art Museum.

This will be a memorable congress! Everyone concerned is anxious for it to be a worthy successor to Siena, and in its own, West coast way, equally distinctive. The local sponsorship has matched Siena levels at \$30 000 in cash alone. There will rarely be a better way of enjoying the Portland experience, even without the benefit of a superb congress program – as convened by the program committee, with Karma Lochrie and Patty Ingham as co-chairs.

Watch the NCS website for program updates. We'll email all members as soon as registration is open. Graduate students and recent Ph.Ds can now begin applying for Donald Howard Travel Scholarships by emailing the Society, chaucer@artsci.wustl.edu, or the ED, dalawton@wustl.edu. Decisions will be speedy – round 1 by March.

All best wishes, for my last congress as ED,
David Lawton.

PS I'm thoroughly delighted with the choice of Ruth Evans to take over as ED after Portland. I'll have more to say in due course about what we've achieved in the last few years and where I think or hope we're going, but just want to express optimism for NCS's future as the Society for all specialists at all levels in later medieval literature, mainly but not exclusively in English. Given the recession and contraction of recent years, the future looks surprisingly bright - as long as the weight of our efforts is directed to helping younger scholars, from high school onwards.

(Relocation of the NCS, continued)

English literature with interests in gender, sexuality and memory. She is perhaps best known for *The Idea of the Vernacular: An Anthology of Middle English Literary Theory, 1280-1530*, co-edited with Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Nicholas Watson and Andrew Taylor (1999). Her most recent book is an edited volume, *A Cultural History of Sexuality in the Middle Ages* (2011). Before moving to SLU, she was Professor and Head of Department at the University of Stirling, Scotland. She was Chair of the Program Committee for the 16th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society (Swansea, 2008), and is currently a Trustee of the New Chaucer Society, a Fellow of the UK English Association, and a member of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College. She is currently working with Valerie Allen on a co-edited volume on medieval roads, and writing a book on Chaucer and memory.

NCS President, Carolyn Dinshaw, comments: "This is an exciting time for the NCS: to have the opportunity to move the Society from its current institutional home to a new one, and to shift from its very able Executive Director, David Lawton, to its very promising new ED, Ruth Evans -- with barely a change in the zip code, as it turns out -- speaks volumes about the health of the Society even in these challenging financial times."

Note: the Fall Newsletter has been delayed in order to contain this announcement. The spring newsletter, which will follow in April will update the program for the Portland congress.

CONFERENCES, CALLS, AND SEMINARS

MAMA Annual Conference XXXVI

Where: Kansas State University
When: Saturday, February 25, 2012
Theme: Encountering the Other

The Mid-America Medieval Association has recently invited paper proposals for its annual conference. Papers on all aspects of medieval literature, history, art, and culture were welcome, especially those that address the conference theme of "Encountering the Other."

In 2001, the members of MAMA created the Jim Falls Paper Prize, to be awarded to the best paper delivered at the annual conference by a graduate student. The prize includes a monetary award of \$100. Graduate student participants who wish to be considered for the prize are requested to send a completed copy of their paper along with their name, university institution and graduate status and address to rclark@ksu.edu no later than Feb. 1, 2012.

Location: The main campus of Kansas State University is located in Manhattan, Kansas. The "Little Apple" is a classic college town with a zoo, a mall, 21 parks, and a recreation trail that circles the city.

Accommodations: MAMA 2012 participants please note that there is block of rooms that has been set aside for MAMA for both Friday and Saturday nights at the Parkwood Inn & Suites. The hotel is 9 blocks from campus, and its website says that there is shuttle service to and from the Manhattan airport and conferences on campus. The rate is \$85 plus tax per night. Use "MAMA" for the conference rate.

For more information about MAMA visit
<http://www.midamericamedievalassociation.org>

Insular Books: Vernacular Miscellanies in Late Medieval Britain

Location: The British Academy

Dates: 21-23 June 2012

Organizers: Dr Raluca Radulescu (Bangor University; r.radulescu@bangor.ac.uk) and Dr Margaret Connolly (University of St Andrews; mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Funded and hosted by the British Academy, this conference brings a new and multi-disciplinary focus to the late medieval miscellany, a little-investigated and poorly understood type of manuscript. The main aim of the conference is to foster academic interest in vernacular manuscript miscellanies from the period 1300-1550 written in a mixture of medieval languages (English, Anglo-Norman, Welsh, Scots). Attention will be paid to the interactions between literary and non-literary texts in miscellanies, and to evidence of exchange between different communities, including dialogue across the Welsh and Scottish borders. A main objective is to achieve agreement in the area of taxonomy; at present there is no agreed definition of the medieval miscellany which is treated variously by specialists in different disciplines and by cataloguers. The discussion will thus address four main inter-related concerns: how to achieve a definition for the miscellany which distinguishes it from other mixed-content manuscripts (anthologies, collections, composite volumes); how to make manuscript miscellanies and their textual contents accessible to modern readers, including scholars, students, archivists, and general readers; how to develop a coherent scholarly methodology for dealing with volumes whose contents are intrinsically multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary; how to understand and represent the complex relationships between manuscript miscellanies.

The organizers are happy to receive additional proposals for 20 minute papers which focus on any of the four areas of interest outlined above. Though the original deadline was 31 December 2011, organizers will accept abstracts (maximum 150 words) until **mid-January**. It is hoped that small bursaries (to cover the registration fee) may be made available to doctoral students and early career researchers in financial need.

**Magdalene College
Cambridge, UK**

Saturday January 21st 9.30am-6.30pm

**The Medieval Image in the Twenty-First Century
(ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM)**

Chairs: Dr M E J Hughes and Dr Michael Hrebeniak
ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED -
REGISTRATION FEE £20/£8 including lunch,
refreshments and reception.

In this all-day symposium, we consider how the medieval image is significant in the twenty-first century. There will be lectures and panel sessions on how modern theories and approaches have altered our perception of medieval images, how twenty-first century writers, film-makers and poets have used such images, and how we now see the role of the twenty-first century in shaping the conservation of these images. There will also be the world premiere of a setting by Gerard McBurney of a Dunbar lyric, with Christopher Lowrey (alto) and Neil Heyde ('cello).

Invited Speakers: Dr Nora Berend (University of Cambridge), Dr Alixe Bovey (University of Kent), Dr Bill Burgwinkle (Cambridge University), Professor Ardis Butterfield (University College, London), Dr Lesley A Coote (University of Hull), Dr Kathleen Davis (University of Rhode Island), Professor Carolyn Dinshaw (University of New York), Dr Charles Moseley (University of Cambridge), Dr Stella Panayotova (Fitzwilliam Museum), Dr Elisabeth Taburet-Delahaye (Musée de Cluny, Paris), Dr Jacqueline Tasioulas (University of Cambridge).

**Booking forms at www.magd.cam.ac.uk (Festival)
or email litfest@magd.cam.ac.uk**

**Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe
University of Missouri-Kansas City
5-9 June 2012**

This the second of three conferences designed to bring together specialists working on diverse geographical areas to create a dialogue about the Latin and vernacular texts nuns read, wrote, and exchanged, primarily from the seventh to the mid-sixteenth centuries. The programme and registration details will be posted to the conference website at:

<http://www.nuns-literacies.org/>.

Conference on Julian of Norwich

The conference is to be held tentatively at Carrow Abbey, Norwich, 11 May, 2013. We would be particularly interested in research concerning Cardinal Adam Easton OSB, St Cecilia in Trastevere, and Norwich's Jewry, in relation to Chaucer and Julian.

Please contact Julia Bolton Holloway at holloway.julia@tiscali.it for more information.

Remembered Places and Invented Traditions: Thinking about the Holy Land in the Late Medieval West.

An AHRC Research Network. Hosted by the Material Texts Network at Birkbeck College, University of London.

This research network explores the European memory of the Crusades, and cultural consequences of the loss of the Latin Kingdom, in the centuries after 1291. As Jerusalem and the Holy Land once more came under Islamic control, European culture had to re-imagine its relationship to holy sites and especially to Jerusalem, the 'centre' or 'navel' of the known world.

Far from abandoning its desire for Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Western Europe - Christian and non-Christian - besieged the Holy Land with an array of cultural and imaginative artefacts in the post-crusade era. These artefacts will be the focus of this research project and include travel narratives; pilgrimage itineraries; maps; Islamophobia, antisemitism, nationalism, and prehistories of 'Orientalism' and 'Occidentalism'; architectural copies and simulacra; renewed calls to Crusade and the rhetoric of crusading.

The Network will host workshops and public lectures in June and September 2012. For further details see the project website at **<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/arts/our-research/centres/remembered-places/>** or contact Anthony Bale (a.bale@bbk.ac.uk).

Medieval Academy of America 2012 Annual Meeting

**Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO)
22-24 March**

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America will be held on March 22-24 on the campus of Saint Louis University, nestled in the heart of midtown Saint Louis, Missouri. It will be hosted by the Saint Louis University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. The university has extensive manuscript and rare book holdings and is also the home of the Knights of Columbus Vatican Film Library, a microfilm copy of thousands of manuscripts in the Vatican Library in Rome.

This year's meeting will feature nearly fifty sessions from a wide range of disciplines and approaches. Plenary speakers will include William Chester Jordan (Princeton University), Caroline A. Bruzelius (Duke University), and Alice Mary Talbot (Dumbarton Oaks). All sessions, lectures, meetings, and receptions will be held in Busch Memorial Center and DuBourg Hall on the Saint Louis University campus. Hotel accommodations are provided at the nearby Chase Park Plaza, an elegant and fully-restored hotel built during the 1920s. It is within walking distance of an array of excellent restaurants and bars in the Central West End district as well as Forest Park, the site of the 1904 World's Fair. The Chase Park Plaza has its own selection of restaurants too, as well as assorted bars and even a movie theater. It also offers pools, recreation facilities, and complete spa services.

For more details, including registration information, see the CMRS website at <http://cmrs.slu.edu> and click on "Medieval Academy of America Meeting." You can also email cmrs@slu.edu.

NEH Seminar for School Teachers

The Chaucer Review editors Susanna Fein and David Raybin will direct an NEH Seminar for School Teachers on *The Canterbury Tales* in **London, June 24 - July 21, 2012.**

The seminar is open to school teachers (K-12) and graduate students planning to become school teachers.

Those interested should contact us at draybin@eiu.edu or through the seminar website: www.eiu.edu/~neh. Numerous Summer Scholars from past seminars plan to attend the 2012 NCS Congress in Portland, where there will be two roundtables on "Teaching Chaucer in the Secondary Schools."

In addition, *The Chaucer Review* will sponsor three sessions at Kalamazoo 2012 on "Insular Perspectives":

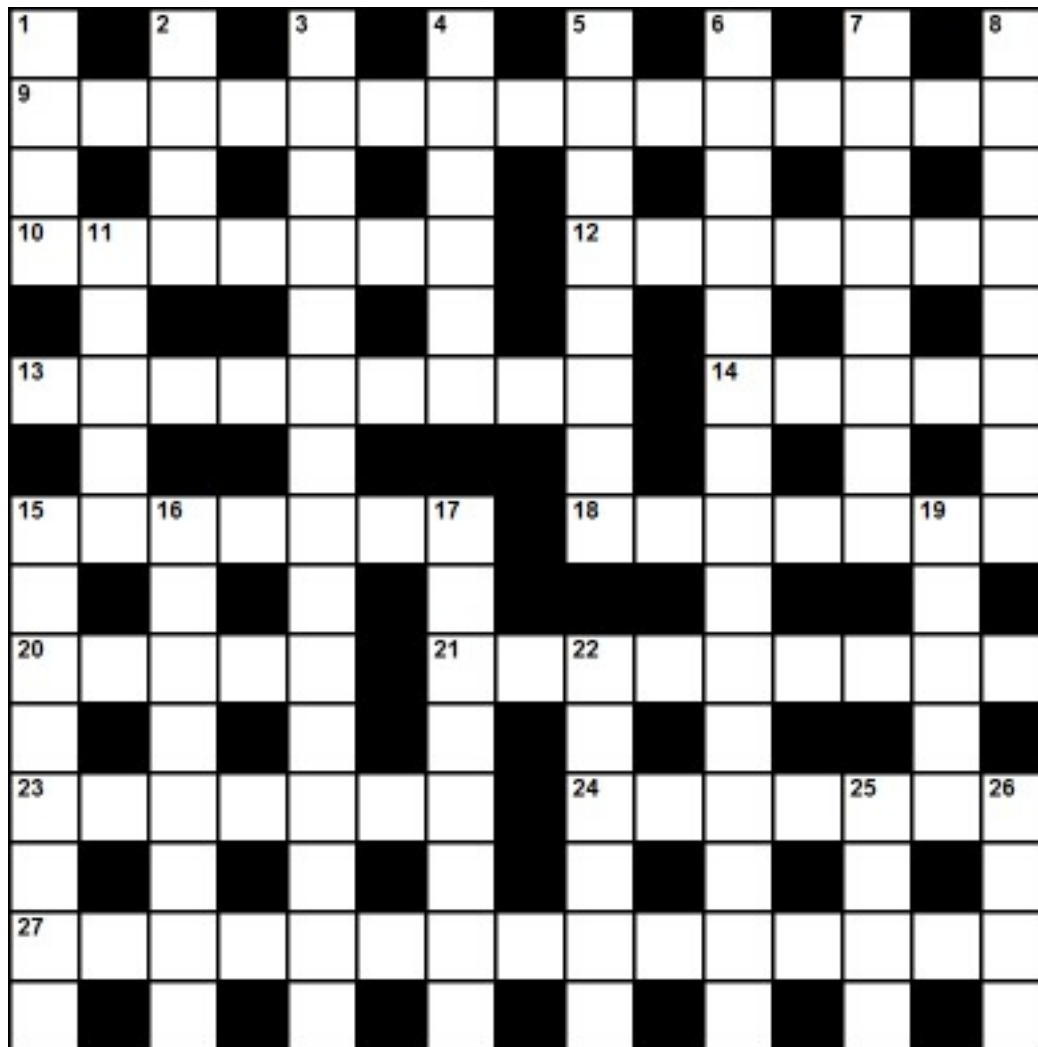
Chaucer and the Pearl-Poet (Presider: Susanna Fein), with Michael Bennett, Francis Ingledew, and Carter Revard

Anglo-Saxon Elements in Medieval Literature (Presider, Dominique Battles), with Paul A. Broyles III, Mary Kate Hurley, Timothy Jordan, and Andrew M. Pfrenger

English Affiliations (Presider: David Raybin), with Arthur W. Bahr, Susan Phillips, William Racicot, and Christina von Nolcken

CHAUCER CROSSWORD

Thank you to Richard Firth Green for reinstating the Chaucer Crossword! One lucky New Chaucer Society member will receive a special prize from Boydell & Brewer for correctly solving the puzzle. Please email your solutions to chaucer@artsci.wustl.edu by March 1, 2012, when all correct submissions will be entered in a random draw. The winner and solutions will appear in the Spring Newsletter.



Across

9. Chaucer's "neiges d'antan" (4,2,5,4)
 10. Gets gnat out of overgarment; ruined for good? (7)
 12. What Piramus and Thisbe would do (7)
 13. Dragging giant lyre around (9)
 14. Crumbling levee? That's bad! (5)
 15. The Pardoner says his shoulder does, the heel! (7)
 18. Bona fide teetotaler takes water pitcher back on Saturday (7)
 20. As thick as friars (5) 21. Green's sly distress earns remission of sins (9)
 21. Green's sly distress earns remission of sins (9)
 23. General manager is taller (no anagram, anagram) (7)
 24. They go to and fro in the grove and in the answer, Desmond (7)
 27. Teen elusiveness leaves a mark on Alice (6,5,4)

Down

1. Look out eyes! (4)
 2. Possible translation of confusio? (4)
 3. A reason to eat licorice? (2,7,6)
 4. Unfaithful wives can't do this (6)
 5. You're afraid DDT damages reeds? (8)
 6. What comes from sloggy slombrynge (14)
 7. Quick release (8)
 8. Honorable veneer ends right maybe (8)
 11. No head for throwing stones (5)
 15. You demean the meanest (8)
 16. Focussed with care outside messy internet cafe' (8)
 17. Thisbe painted this with her lover's blood (8)
 19. Nosed out messenger (5)
 22. Strangely no art is stranger—not true! (6)
 25. Cast them for the stage (4)
 26. Poor and ignorant, but happy (4)

OTHER NEWS

Upcoming Publication

Boccaccio's Decameron and the Ciceronian Renaissance, co-authored by Michaela Paasche Grudin and Robert Grudin (Palgrave Macmillan (in *The New Middle Ages* series); pub date June, 2012

**Online Resource:
Late Medieval English Scribes**

Linne Mooney, Estelle Stubbs and Simon Horobin have a new website of the scribes of all manuscripts of the English works of Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, John Trevisa, William Langland and Thomas Hoccleve available free of access at www.medievalscribes.com.

The website was created with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and features one full page for each scribe in each manuscript plus a detailed analysis of letter forms.

The International Hoccleve Society

<http://artsci.wustl.edu/~emlang/index.html>

We are proud to announce the formation of the International Hoccleve Society. The society was formed at Kalamazoo 2011 to promote scholarship on Thomas Hoccleve, to provide a community for Hoccleve scholars, and to provoke innovative research into the late-medieval poet's works, manuscripts, and life. Our inaugural "official" event will be a Sponsored Session at Kalamazoo 2012. In addition to sponsoring conference sessions in the future, we are planning to support a newsletter, a rolling bibliography, an online archive (featuring manuscript collations of the Regiment of Princes), a website, and a social networking presence. For more information about membership and current activities, we invite you to visit our website or to contact Elon Lang (emlang@wustl.edu) or any of the founding members listed there.

THE NEW CHAUCER SOCIETY

President: Carolyn Dinshaw

Executive Director: David Lawton

Trustees 2008-2012: Christopher Cannon, Juliette Dor, Ruth Evans, Stephanie Trigg

Trustees 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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