

# Concordia

Newsletter of the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture

2008

## Welcome to *Concordia* the newsletter of the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture at the University of Southampton.

CMRC supports the research of more than thirty staff and fellows, and a growing number of research and MA students, working in the disciplines of Archaeology, English, History, Material Culture, Music, Theatre History, and Performance. Our objective is to encourage research and teaching in and between all these disciplines, and across the medieval/renaissance divide. We also run a lively and varied fortnightly seminar series with both visiting and 'home-grown' speakers. These talks are open to all, and we welcome audiences from outside the university: from local schools, colleges and universities, museums and galleries, and members of the public. As you will see from the various reports in this newsletter, we are keen to establish links and research networks with other organisations in the South of England

We have had a very busy first year, hosting conferences and talks on a wide range of different topics. We inaugurated CMRC with a study day on lute song and the 'lure of opera' in the early seventeenth century, followed by an international conference, *Partners both in Throne and Grave*,



on the reigns of two formidable Tudor monarchs, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Both of these events included concerts of related music given by the noted lutenist, and AHRC Research Fellow in Music at Southampton, Elizabeth Kenny, with other leading musicians, including singers Robin Blaze and Catherine Bott. Papers from the Mary and Elizabeth conference are shortly to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in a book edited by the organizers, Alice Hunt (Southampton) and Anna Whitlock (Cambridge).

### **Ros King**

Professor of English Studies, Director CMRC

Alice Hunt and Anna Whitlock organizers of *Partners both in Throne and Grave* conference at the opening reception at Chawton House



## Reuter Lecture and Masterclass

We have been pleased to take over the organization of the established Reuter lecture series in memory of Tim Reuter, Professor of Medieval History at Southampton. This year's lecture was given by Professor Bill Jordan of Princeton University, whose talk 'Anti-corruption campaigns in the thirteenth century' drew striking parallels with contemporary anxieties concerning political lobbying.

This year, for the first time, we mounted a Reuter Masterclass in conjunction with the lecture. Promising young scholars from Kent, London, Oxford, Southampton, and York, competed for a prize given by the publishers Elsevier, and judged by Professor Jordan. Topics ranged from student riots in thirteenth-century Paris, to questions of fitting obsequies for plague victims in fifteenth-century England, and the evidence for different ethnic marriage customs in multi-cultural southern Italy in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The winning paper, by Barbara Gaspar, from University College London, was on the politics of rival cults of the Virgin Mary amongst fifteenth-century confraternities.

# Presenting the past

CMRC is sponsoring a seminar on the theoretical and practical problems of staging and interpreting the past to modern audiences at the Theoretical Archaeology Group conference to be held at Southampton in December. Presenting the past, whether in the most scholarly of monographs, in museum displays, or in popular reconstructions of buildings, battles or drama always involves a combination of evidence-based interpretation, imagination, art, and performance. These acts need to take place within a general awareness that our experience of the past changes in fundamental ways over time, and that no matter how much we try to be historically accurate we can never recreate the historical audience. Presenters therefore often find themselves caught between the demands of accurate scholarship, and of the spectacular, engaging or entertaining show. They risk charges of popularisation, simplification, cultural tourism, and vulgarisation on the one hand, and politicisation, hybridity, and experimentation on the other. But while the concept of 'authentic' presentations of the art and culture of the past is now deemed in most scholarly circles to be impossible, the extreme result of that can be a relativist free-for-all where any one presentation is as valid as any other.

Archaeology is only one of the disciplines that engage with these problems. This session will revisit the debate, including speakers from backgrounds in Music, English, History, Art History and Material Culture, together with archaeologists. The ultimate aim is to move beyond the battle lines of the presentism/historicism argument as it has been played out recently in these several disciplines. It will draw together different theoretical outlooks on ways in which presentations of the past can function as a useful tool for the academic community, and ask whether it is now time to explore a more fruitful tension between the separate and conflicting authenticities of historical object, interpreter, and modern audience/ community, and ask whether it is now time to explore a more fruitful tension between the separate and conflicting authenticities of historical object, interpreter, and modern audience.

Further details from Ros King, [r.king@soton.ac.uk](mailto:r.king@soton.ac.uk)

## The Dorset County Boundary Survey

Readers of this newsletter may be interested in the work of the Dorset County Boundary survey. In April 2006 members of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society launched a unique exercise combining the expertise of both 'arms' of the Society in an exploration of Dorset's boundary which represents many miles of unexplored linear 'landscape feature' of considerable topographical, archaeological and botanical significance on which – as yet – no systematic work has been undertaken. Already well-established by Domesday, Dorset was to remain largely unchanged until the revisions of the nineteenth century. Older lengths of the boundary have been established long enough to have given rise to some distinctive borderlands.

The first **Dorset County Boundary Survey Report** appeared in Dorset *Proceedings* 128 for 2007 and a second report – considerably longer – is forthcoming in vol 129. This includes a paper by James Campbell given at a Day School held in Dorchester last November, work by Iain Hewitt of Bournemouth University on the south-eastern corner of the county and Katherine Barker on the south-western corner at Lyme. The Group has already conducted pilot field surveys along the north/east Dorset border at Kingsettle Wood, at [Sixpenny] Handley and at Woodyates and in the west at Corscombe-Halstock, at Perrott and at Lyme and has already made a number of discoveries as interesting as they are unexpected.

Further information from Katherine Barker, convenor, 01935 816764 or [katherinebarker@lanprobi.org.uk](mailto:katherinebarker@lanprobi.org.uk)

## Major Research Projects

Amongst the major research projects currently being undertaken by members of CMRC, are one on the medieval soldier, and one on all the theatres in Shakespeare's London that were situated north of the Thames. Both are funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

**Anne Curry** is co-director with Adrian Bell (Reading) of 'The Soldier in Later Medieval England'. She says, "We are aiming to create an on-line database of all known soldiers between 1369 and 1453. We have already placed over 100,000 names on line (see [www.medievalsoldier.org](http://www.medievalsoldier.org)), and given well-received demonstrations in the UK and also at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo in May 2008." Connected to this project is the doctoral work of **Adam Chapman** on the Welsh soldier. Initial findings suggest that Edward I's military revolution would not have been possible without the huge recruitment of Welshmen into the armies which he led to Scotland and Gascony.

**John McGavin**, in collaboration with Dr John Bradley of the Centre for Computing in the Humanities at King's College, London, is working on the theatres: the Red Lion (1567), the Theatre (1576), the Curtain (1577), the Fortune (1600), the Red Bull (1604), the Boar's Head (1602), the Phoenix or Cockpit (1616), and Salisbury Court (1629). The object is to locate and edit all pre-1642 records relating to these theatres, providing this material in a freely accessible bibliographic database on the web. This project helps to consolidate the links between Southampton and *Records of Early English Drama*, based in Toronto. Dr Jessica Freeman (Southampton) is undertaking the primary manuscript work and is the designated editor for *REED: Middlesex*.

# CMRC launch event, 21 April 2007

## Beyond the Golden Age and The Masque of Moments – a study day, workshop performance and international tour

In April 2007 Southampton University hosted a one-day conference called “Beyond the Golden Age: lutes, lute song and the lure of opera in 17th century England”. After morning and early afternoon paper sessions doors opened to the public for a semi-staged concert in Turner Sims Concert Hall – repertoire stretching from Campion and Ferrabosco through to the Lawes brothers and Matthew Locke. Students from Southampton and the Royal Academy of Music (London) performed alongside Sophie Daneman, Robin Blaze and a professional band of strings and lutes. Mary Collins choreographed fully-costumed dances. CMRC’s Maria Hayward had selected images for a slideshow accompanying the performance, to give at least a hint of the masques’ original visual splendour. With funding from Arts Council England a fully professional version of the same programme toured over the summer. It was broadcast on BBC Radio 3, German radio and Belgian radio.

CMRC’s Liz Kenny planned and directed the whole day along with Professor Jeanice Brooks. A reception to mark the launch of CMRC rounded it off. Two papers presented in conference sessions have since appeared in the Oxford Journal Early Music (May 2008 issue), one by Liz Kenny herself.

### Reviews

The Masque of Moments was the happiest [event] ... audience and performers were wreathed in smiles during the brilliantly devised masques and antimasques of English songs and instrumental music of the 17th century ...

*The Times*, June 2007 (Aldeburgh Festival performance)

An evening of exquisite quality. Elizabeth Kenny’s achievement was to rescue from old manuscripts the rarely known music of the masques ... brought alive by singers whose vocal skill, clear diction and total dedication to their art were very warmly appreciated by the audience ... Much to smile about and applaud.

*The Gloucester Echo*, July 2007 (Cheltenham Festival performance)

# Recent Work on Monasticism

In January we were joined by colleagues from Winchester and Kent to celebrate the range of new work on monasticism and the medieval religious life that is being undertaken by members of CMRC. All the papers demonstrated how the seemingly dry bones of financial and legal records can reveal intriguing glimpses of human lives, rivalries, behaviour – and perhaps most appealing of all, misbehaviour. Drawing on records in the Papal Penitentiary in Rome, Peter Clarke revealed what drove some religious to leave their monasteries without permission. Nicholas Karn demonstrated how much potential there was in the letters of Herbert Losinga for the study of the social relations of Benedictines in the twelfth century, while Liz Eastlake described the contents of some of the archives at the Cistercian abbey in Boxley, Kent. Bella Millett’s talk on the *Ancrene Wisse* (‘A rule, as it were, for your way of life: regulations for recluses’) set the scene for the work of Cate Gunn (who had studied for her PhD under Bella’s supervision) on the vexed question of whether canons were monks. We were reminded of the wide variety of forms the religious life could take by Barbara Bombi who considered the general proctors of the Teutonic knights. Chris Woolgar then transported us into the Bishop’s chamber, drawing on his new project on episcopal inventories. A physical world of a rather different kind was presented by Alison Gascoigne through her study of the ‘monastic town’ of Ansina in Middle Egypt, while Cindy Wood (Winchester) brought us home with a discussion of the chantries of Winchester Cathedral, itself a Benedictine house at this period. Finally, Leonie Hicks took us out into the wilderness—ever a key issue in monastic foundations and revivals—through a study of an eleventh century monastic landscape in Normandy. Why, she asked, did the monks so often need angels to tell them where to put their monastery?

### Monastic Book Launch

The Monasticism Study Day closed with a party to launch three new books by members of CMRC demonstrating the range of approaches to the medieval religious life in Europe that is currently being undertaken in the Centre:

Peter Clarke, *The Interdict in the Thirteenth Century: A Question of Collective Guilt* (OUP 2007)

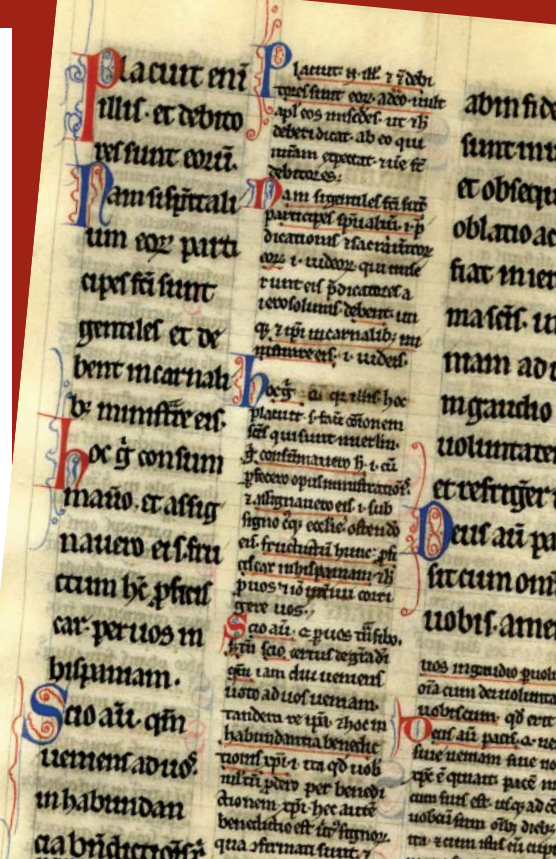
Bella Millett, *Ancrene Wisse* vol 2 (Early English Text Society 2007)

Leonie Hicks, *Religious Life in Normandy 1050-1300: Space, Gender and Social Pressure* (Boydell, 2007)



Leonie Hicks, Bella Millett, Mike Kelly (Head of the School of Humanities), Ros King, Peter Clarke.

**Bella Millett’s** edition of *Ancrene Wisse* (‘Guide for Anchoresses’) for the Early English Text Society is a remarkable work of scholarship. Composed in the West Midlands in the early thirteenth century, the initial audience for this text was a group of ‘lay anchoresses’, women who had renounced the world for a solitary religious life spent in a cell attached to a church. But much of the moral and spiritual advice it contains is more generally applicable, and from an early date it was adapted for other audiences, at first for religious communities and later for the pious laity. It is written, Bella says, ‘with exceptional skill, as well as considerable charm’ but the complexity of its textual tradition has deterred scholars from undertaking a full-scale edition; this edition (which draws on the edition left uncompleted by the late E. J. Dobson) is the first to be based on the evidence of all the manuscripts.



A page from a commentary by Peter Lombard on the Epistle to the Romans, c. 1220

# CMRC Members at Leeds

CMRC was extremely well represented this year at the major annual conference of the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds. Nick Karn, Lynda Pidgeon, and Chris Woolgar took part in a CMRC sponsored session on *Medieval English Wills, 1150-1500*. Anne Curry's AHRC project, on the Soldier in Late Medieval England sponsored two sessions, one on *Defences and Recruitment in Later Medieval Wales and England*, and one on *War, Kindred, and Affinity in the Anglo-Scottish Marches* at which Adam Chapman and Randall Moffatt and Andy King delivered some of the project's initial findings. Deputy Director of CMRC, Peter Clarke, was likewise to be found in two sessions, organizing one panel for the Ecclesiastical History Society on Medieval Canon Law, Courts and Cases, and one for the Church Law and Society in the Middle Ages Research Network. Other papers were given by Peter Happé on Playing Conventions in Medieval Drama, by David Hinton on Textiles and Jewellery in Anglo-Saxon England, and Leonie Hicks in a session on 'Borders and Boundaries'. CMRC external members Cate Gunn and Mandy Richardson (Chichester) also delivered papers, on Julian of Norwich and Forest Utility respectively.

## Outreach and continuing education

Visiting fellow, **Lynn Forest-Hill** continues to run Saturday afternoon Reading Groups on Shakespeare, on Poetry and on Medievalism and Modern Fantasy, in the Central Library, Southampton. Her current series of courses is entitled 'English in the Afternoon'. It began with an *Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Literature*, which was well attended throughout its six weekly meetings, and was followed by a course on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Participants are now eager for her course on Middle English Romances, to start in the autumn. In all instances, thanks are due to the Central Library for their generous provision of free accommodation for all these activities. Details are available from the Library.

## Masters and Doctoral studies

We welcome enquiries from potential Masters and Doctoral students. Our new **MA in Medieval and Renaissance Culture** reflects the wide range of approaches to the Medieval and Renaissance periods practiced by the staff of CMRC. Students on this MA (and the related MRes) have the opportunity to develop their skills and ideas in one of the most diverse and exciting research environments for Medieval and Renaissance studies in the country. Units are designed to develop students' research skills, provide them with a broad interdisciplinary education in medieval and renaissance culture, and allow them to follow their own research interests.

Our website provides a complete set of staff profiles and suggests areas in which they would welcome applications from potential PhD students.

# CMRC seminar series 2007-08

This year's seminar series was well attended. Papers have ranged widely in their scope, from Anglo-Saxon settlements to Masculinities and have generated a great deal of discussion. There was a particular focus on Tudor society, politics and culture this year as an extension to the conference on Mary and Elizabeth, *Partners Both in Throne and Grave* held in September 2007. We also mounted two roundtables: 'Senses and Sensuality' and 'Identities', the latter organised by our postgraduates. My co-organiser Alice Hunt and I would like to thank all those who chaired papers and hosted speakers. We look forward to seeing you all on **13 October 2008** for the first paper of the new series.

**Leonie Hicks** (lvh@soton.ac.uk)

### CMRC seminars 2008-09

**Seminars, which are free and open to all**, take place on Mondays at 6pm in Room 1173, Avenue Campus, Highfield Road, Southampton, SO17 1BF.

#### Autumn

- 13 Oct Rebecca Rist (Reading University): Salvation and the Albigensian Crusade: the 40-Day Indulgence of 1210
- 27 Oct Helen Deeming (CMRC): Contemplating Music in the Twelfth Century
- 3 Nov Nigel Saul (Royal Holloway): Chivalry and Commemoration in Late Medieval England
- 17 Nov Sarah Hamilton: A Bloodless Sword? Early Medieval Excommunication in Practice
- 1 Dec Rosanna Cox (Kent): John Milton, Citizenship and Masculinity

#### Spring

- 9 Feb Peter Sarris (Trinity, Cambridge): Late antiquity, Byzantium
- 2 March Marianne O'Doherty (CMRC)
- 16 March Ardis Butterfield (UCL)
- 27 April James Clark (Bristol): Book collections in the later medieval and renaissance periods
- 11 May Marta Ajmar-Wollheim (V&A): Renaissance interiors

Wine and nibbles are provided.

For more information contact:

**Dr Alice Hunt** (a.hunt@soton.ac.uk)  
or **Dr Leonie Hicks** (lvh@soton.ac.uk)

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