

Nineteenth International Congress on Medievalism in Fredericton

On October 1-2, 2004, the 19th International Congress on Medievalism took place on the campus the University of New Brunswick, in Fredericton, NB, Canada. Christa Canitz, the excellent conference host, welcomed more than 30 scholars from Canada, Australia, Denmark, Great Britain, and the United States to an interdisciplinary meeting discussing a wide range of examples of the creative and scholarly reception of the Middle Ages in postmedieval times. Clare Simmons (Ohio State U) and Judith R. Cohen (York U) delivered plenary lectures on “Does Medievalism have a Sense of Humour?” and “It only matters that they think it’s medieval’: Music in Would-be Medieval Festivals in Spain”, and a roundtable of specialists discussed “The Making of Medievalism” as an academic field since its official inception by Leslie Workman in the late 1970s.

A group of participants met during the conference and decided to move forward and found an organization, the International Association for the Study of Medievalism (IASM), to give the various individual efforts to study medievalism a more visible and lasting framework. In addition to deciding on drafting a constitution and by-laws for the new organization (a task to be undertaken by Jane Toswell of the U of Western Ontario), participants suggested the possibility of turning the Year’s Work in Medievalism from a conference proceedings series into a fully-fledged journal; to revive the Medievalism newsletter (founded by Leslie Workman and Kathleen Verduin) to inform members about Association news and review new books on medievalism; to create a Leslie J. Workman Center for the Study of Medievalism which could serve as a source for information on medievalism worldwide. Gwendolyn Morgan agreed to continue her outstanding service as Director of Conferences for the organization and as General Editor for The Year’s Work in Medievalism. Richard Utz agreed to serving as Executive Director for the new organization and to edit the Medievalism Newsletter. Karl Fugelso (Towson U) graciously agreed to hosting the 20th International Congress on Medievalism at his institution in the fall of 2005. Since the conference, Clare Simmons has confirmed that she will bring the 21st Congress to Ohio State University in 2006.

Please find below a complete list of sessions and papers delivered at the conference:

The Making of Medievalism

Chair: Christa Canitz (U of New Brunswick); Panel: Richard Utz (U of Northern Iowa), Kathleen Verduin (Hope College), William Calin (U of Florida)

Respondents: Clare A. Simmons (Ohio State U), Gwendolyn Morgan (Montana State U), Nils Holger Petersen (U of Copenhagen)

Medievalist Magic

Chair: James Weldon (Wilfrid Laurier U); Edward Tabri (U of Texas at Tyler), “An Authentic Medieval Magical Text: The *Picatrix* and its Influence through the Ages”; Renée Ward (U of Alberta), “Remus Lupin and the Werewolf Tradition: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*”

Recovering the Middle Ages

Chair: Lianne McTavish (U of New Brunswick); Bonnie Effros (SUNY Binghamton), "Excavating the Christian Dark Ages: Clerics as Archaeologists in Nineteenth-Century France"; Nancy M. Thompson (St. Olaf College), "Ulis De Matteis and Viollet le Duc: Restoring and Reviving Stained Glass in Nineteenth-Century Florence"

Medievalist Fantasy

Chair: Ruth Wehlau (Queen's U); Gwendolyn Morgan (Montana State U), "The Popular Academy: Creating Academic Authority through the Medieval in Contemporary Fiction"; M. Jane Toswell (U of Western Ontario), "Guy Gavriel Kay: Medieval High Fantasy to Realist Recreation?"; Kathleen Barnes (U of New Brunswick), "Making Space for the Goddess: Feminism and Paganism in Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Mists of Avalon*"

Plenary Lecture

Chair: Richard Utz (U of Northern Iowa); Clare A. Simmons (Ohio State University), "Does Medievalism Have a Sense of Humour? Small-scale Humor in the British Medieval Revival"

Literature and Politics

Chair: Mary P. Rimmer (U of New Brunswick); Ruth Wehlau (Queen's U), "Alfred the Great and Ireland: Three Alfred Plays of the 1790's"; Louise D'Arcens (U of Wollongong), "'A white man born a slave': Saxons, Normans, and Aborigines in *A Sydney-Side Saxon*"; A.S.G. Edwards (U of Glamorgan), "Waugh's *Handful of Dust* and Malory"

Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*

Chair: M. Jane Toswell (U of Western Ontario); James Weldon (Wilfrid Laurier U), "Rewriting the Past and Narrative Agency in *The Lord of the Rings*: The Case of Arwen"; Anna Smol (Mount Saint Vincent U), "Medieval Heroism and Modern Masculinity in *The Lord of the Rings*"; Michael R. Kightley (U of Western Ontario), "A new line shall be put in the old lists": Racial Definition in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*"

Medievalism in the Public Realm

Chair: Clare A. Simmons; Nils Holger Petersen (U of Copenhagen), "A Royal Enlightenment Funeral (1792) and Medieval Ritual Practices"; Barbara L. Gribling (McMaster U), "The Death of a Hero: National Identity, Culture, and the Image of Edward the Black Prince"; Kay Harris (U of Southern Mississippi - Gulf Coast), "Medieval Law and the Trial of William Jefferson Clinton"

Plenary Lecture

Chair: Christa Canitz (U of New Brunswick); Judith R. Cohen (York U), "It only matters that they think it's medieval": Music in Wouldbe Medieval Festivals in Spain"

The Afterlife of Jeanne d'Arc

Chair: Gwendolyn Morgan (Montana State U); Rachel Golden Carlson (U of Tennessee), "Polyphonies of Sound and Space: Voices of Light and *La Passion de Jeanne*

d'Arc as Medieval Motet"; Peter G. Christensen (Cardinal Stritch U), "Retrying Gilles de Rais in Recent Literature"

Medievalism in Visual Art

Chair: Kathleen Verduin (Hope College); Karl Fugelso (Towson U), "Dante for Romantics: Nineteenth-Century Echoes of *Commedia* Miniatures"; Michael Grillo (U of Maine), "Denied Genealogy: Gothic Voices in the Italian Renaissance"

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