



## Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies 2014-2015

### TCMRS REPORT FOR THE DEAN OF RESEARCH 2014-2015 (summary)

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies had a very fruitful year in terms of research output (conferences, seminars, publications), promotion of the early period through its various activities (public lectures, conferences, seminars, research networks) and engagement with the public. In these various ways the Centre has continued to enhance the research profile of its host unit (SLLCs) and of the College.

The Centre began the academic year with the launch of two very successful lecture series, Medieval Manuscripts and Aspects of the Early Modern Period which ran throughout the academic year. These brought a range of eminent scholars of international standing to the College and were very well received by staff, students and members of the public. They also permitted vital research conversations to take place with a view to future collaboration with these scholars and their institutions.

#### Medieval Manuscripts:

On 3 December 2014, Dr Bernard Meehan, Head of Research Collections and Keeper of Manuscripts in the College, presented a paper to the Centre in the Trinity Long Room Hub. The paper, 'The St Cuthbert Gospel, John, and the Irish 'pocket' Gospels', was very well-attended. The talk focused on the St Cuthbert Gospel (British Library MS 89000), which is the most famous of the Irish pocket Gospels to have survived. Dr Meehan, who is involved in the project to produce a facsimile and commentary volume of the Cuthbert manuscript, drew comparisons with other manuscripts, notably the 5th/6th-century copy of John in Bibliothèque nationale de France Latin MS 10439, and the volume containing extracts from that Gospel bound with the Stowe Missal (Royal Irish Academy MS D.II.3), the Stowe Missal, the Cadmug Gospels (Fulda, Landesbibliothek, Codex Bonifatianus 3) and the Book of Armagh (TCD MS 59). Dr Meehan also discussed how Irish attitudes to John seem to be reflected in the layout and decoration of the Stowe John, the Book of Armagh and the Book of Dimma (TCD MS 59).

On 8 April 2015, Dr Erik Kwakkel of the University of Leiden visited the Centre and hosted a palaeography Workshop for staff and PhD and MPhil students in the Long Room Hub. He also delivered a very interesting lecture in the Long Room Hub on 'The Script of the Twelfth-Century Renaissance'. This attracted students and colleagues from across the disciplines as well as members of the public. The question session proved particularly stimulating.

On 20 May 2015, Dr Alixe Bovey of the Courtauld Institute spoke in the Long Room Hub on 'Tales from the Margins of a 14th-Century London Lawbook: the Smithfield Decretals (BL, Royal 10E IV)'. This lecture drew a particularly large audience of research students who visibly enjoyed the opportunity to engage directly with Dr Bovey's research.

On 24 June 2015, the final lecture in the series was held. This was given by Dr Sarah Peverley of the University of Liverpool. She spoke on "Ricardus Franciscus Scripsit": Expanding the Œuvre and Patronage of a Late Medieval Scribe'. This was a most informative lecture and a most fitting conclusion to the series as it picked up on a number of the issues which had arisen in the earlier papers.

### **Aspects of the Early Modern Period:**

On 2 October 2014, Professor Michael Moriarty of Peterhouse College, University of Cambridge, gave a paper in The Swift Theatre entitled 'Jansenism: France and Europe'. This very erudite talk set Jansenism in its wider cultural and historical context and stimulated a lively debate afterwards. The talk was part of the Centre's Research Project, France and the Construction of Europe.

Professor Jeff Rider of the Wesleyan University was scheduled to visit the Centre to give two talks, the first on 14 April 2015 entitled 'The Uses of the Middle Ages', and the second on

15 April 2015 entitled 'Translating Medieval Literature into Modern English'. Unfortunately, Dr Rider was detained at the airport and was unable to travel at the last moment. The two talks, both on highly topical subjects, were, however, delivered by Professor Jane Alden of the Music Department. The two talks were organized in collaboration with the Department of Music.

On 6 May 2015, Professor Rory McTurk, Emeritus Professor at the University of Leeds, gave a very interesting talk in the Trinity Long Room Hub on 'Modern Translations of Beowulf by Seamus Heaney and J.R.R. Tolkien'. This talk was of particular interest to Medievalists but also attracted modernists and scholars working in the field of translation. A very useful discussion followed the talk and was indicative of the multi-disciplinary audiences the Centre attracts.

On 7 May 2015 Professor McTurk gave a second lecture in the Trinity Long Room Hub, 'Translations from Modern Icelandic Novels into English and French: The Thief of Time/Le Voleur de vie/Timaþjófurinn'. This talk complemented very well the previous one and highlighted the trans-historical and trans-cultural links between texts, with references ranging across Old Norse, Modern Icelandic, French and English language and literature.

The Chaucer Seminar, an initiative launched by the Centre in the academic year 2011-2012 (and specifically by the Research Network 'Chaucer in Context' in conjunction with the Chaucer Hub), continued to run with its usual success, attracting both past and present students and members of the public.

On Friday 3 October 2014, the Centre, in collaboration with the Chaucer Hub, offered a talk as part of its commitment to Outreach. This was a very well attended lecture held in the United Arts Club on 'Chaucer's The Wife of Bath', followed by a screening and discussion of director John McKay's cinema version of the tale. The lecture was given by Dr Gerald Morgan, the renowned Chaucerian who has worked closely with the Centre since its inception.

On 28 May 2015, the Centre launched a new Research Network, 'The Irish Conflict Archaeology Network', headed by Dr Gavin Hughes, the eminent military historian and medievalist who has worked closely with the Centre for a number of years. An inaugural event, held in the Trinity Long Room Hub,

launched the Network; with the joint aim of both commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Bruce campaign in Ireland and exploring the aims and widespread interest in this flourishing discipline. Guest speakers included; Dr Tony Pollard (Senior Lecturer in History and Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University), Damian Shiels, Rubicon Heritage), Dr Susan Foran (Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, TCD), Stephen Rooke (Managing Director Tile Films) and David Ryan (Head of Research and Development, Tile Films). The topics covered included Barbour's Bruce, the potential of Irish 'battlefield' archaeology and current international approaches within conflict archaeology and anthropology. The event concluded with an appreciation of Tile Film's *After Braveheart* (BBC/RTE) and a discussion of how military history or conflict archaeology can be successfully explained or translated to a television audience. Sincere thanks are duly give to all those at Tile Films (particularly Stephen Rooke, David Ryan and Sarah Keogh) and to Deirdre Devlin, Executive Producer, BBCNI, for their generous co-operation and assistance. Mention should be made of the considerable media publicity the Centre received through Dr Hughes' activity: he was historical advisor on *After Braveheart* (BBC/RTE) and his affiliation to the Centre was given.

In the course of the year, the Centre's refereed publication series 'Court Cultures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance' published three books. The subventions for these books were paid for by the Trinity Trust whose support the Centre most gratefully acknowledges. The first of these appeared in October 2014. Entitled 'Truthe is the beste': a Festschrift in Honour of A.V.C. Schmidt, this volume of essays was edited by Nicolas Jacobs and Gerald Morgan. The Centre was invited to launch the volume in the Master's Lodgings at Balliol College in the University of Oxford on 7 October 2014. The contributors include the foremost medievalists of their generation: Seamus Perry, J.A.Burrow, Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper, Mary Clemente Davlin, P.J.C.Field, Alan Fletcher, Vincent Gillespie, Nicolas Jacobs, Rory McTurk, Gerald Morgan, Thorlac Turville-Petre, and Barry Windeat. The volume offers new insights on a range of subjects, ranging from Chaucer to Piers Plowman, from Middle English Alliterative poetry to Julian of Norwich and Medieval English visual culture to name but some of the topics covered.

The second book, *Patterns of Patronage in Renaissance Rome: Francesco Sperulo: Poet, Prelate, Soldier, Spy*, volume 1 is by Paul Gwynne and is the first full length study of the life and works of Francesco Sperulo of Camerino (1463-1531). It contains invaluable hitherto unpublished archival material.

The third volume was published in August 2015 and comprises the second volume of *Patterns of Patronage in Renaissance Rome: Francesco Sperulo: Poet, Prelate, Soldier, Spy* by Paul Gwynne. This volume comprises a complete critical edition of all of Sperulo's surviving Latin works in poetry and prose with translations and commentary. Like the first volume, it is an invaluable resource for scholars of the Italian and European Renaissance.

Preparation of further volumes is underway and these are scheduled to appear in the next academic year.

In January 2015 the Centre made a successful bid for funding (E2,400) from the College Research Incentive Scheme to finance a research project which will be organized under the aegis of its Research Network, 'Early Modern Gardens in Perspective'.

With a view to promoting and broadening its Outreach activities, its cross-cultural and trans-historical interests, and its research conversations with colleagues across the disciplines, the Centre collaborated with WISER (Women in Science and Engineering) to offer a film series on the representation of women in international film. The series was not restricted to historical film

representing the early-modern period. The series was very well attended and it will be repeated in the next academic year.

The Centre's MPhil in Medieval Language, Literature and Culture had a further successful year with seven students enrolled on it. Applications for the forthcoming year appear buoyant.

Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, FTCD, Académie de Savoie,  
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COLLEGE

20 January 2016

**Provide a short (approx. 200 word) summary of all activities for inclusion in the 2014-15 Dean of Research Annual Report.**

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies had a most fruitful year in terms of research output (conferences, seminars, publications), promotion of the early period through its various activities (public lectures, conferences, seminars, research networks) and engagement with the public. In these various ways the Centre has continued to enhance the research profile of its host unit (SLLCs) and of the College. Highlights of the year include the following:

- two very successful lecture series, Medieval Manuscripts and Aspects of the Early Modern Period which ran throughout the academic year. These brought a range of eminent scholars of international standing to the College and were very well received by staff, students and members of the public. They also permitted vital research conversations to take place with a view to future collaboration with these scholars and their institutions.
- The Chaucer Seminar, which continues to attract students, staff and public and is led by the eminent Chaucerian, Dr Gerald Morgan.
- Outreach Lectures
- Collaboration with other bodies (the United Arts Club; WISER; Tile films)
- Launch of a new Research Network, 'The Irish Conflict Archaeology Network', headed by Dr Gavin Hughes, the eminent military historian and medievalist who has worked closely with the Centre for a number of years.
- Media publicity through Dr Hughes' activity (he was historical advisor on *After Braveheart* (BBC/RTE) and gave his affiliation to the Centre).
- Three publications in the Centre's refereed publication series 'Court Cultures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance' :

-*'Truthe is the beste'*: a Festschrift in Honour of A.V.C. Schmidt, ed. Nicolas Jacobs and Gerald Morgan. The Centre was invited to launch the volume in the Master's Lodgings at Balliol College in the University of Oxford on 7 October 2014. The contributors include the foremost medievalists of their generation: Seamus Perry, J.A.Burrow, Mary Carruthers, Helen Cooper, Mary Clemente Davlin, P.J.C.Field, Alan Fletcher, Vincent Gillespie, Nicolas Jacobs, Rory McTurk, Gerald Morgan, Thorlac Turville-Petre, and Barry Windeat. The volume offers new insights on a range of subjects, ranging from Chaucer to *Piers Plowman*, from Middle English Alliterative poetry to Julian of Norwich and Medieval English visual culture to name but some of the topics covered.

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Further manuscripts received for consideration in the series

- Successful procurement of funding for the Centre's activities (College Research Incentive Scheme; SLLCs; Trinity Trust).
- Launch of a new research project organized under the aegis of its Research Network, 'Early Modern Gardens in Perspective'. The project will involve a range of international scholars and will lead to various publications and collaborations. It will also draw on a range of College holdings in the Library. It will reinforce the profile of the Centre's network at an international level.
- Continued success of the Centre's MPhil in Medieval Language, Literature and Culture (seven students enrolled on it. Applications for the forthcoming year appear buoyant.
- Ongoing collaborative research on the project 'France and the Construction of Europe' (launched 2013-2014)

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**20 January 2016**