

HIU33105 Froissart, Chivalry and Warfare

Jean Froissart was one of the most famous and prolific chroniclers of the fourteenth century. He travelled widely and was especially interested in feats of chivalry and in the recurrent warfare between England, France and their respective allies, better known as the Hundred Years War. He met and interviewed many of the key participants in the wars and has been dubbed Europe's first war reporter. In this module we will examine selected passages from Froissart's chronicles, in translation. Our aim will be to discuss and analyse what Froissart wrote, why he wrote, his sources and their reliability, and the value of his writing. Among the events upon which we may focus are the sea battle of Sluis, the siege of Calais, the popular revolt known as the Jacquerie, the Franco-Scottish invasion of England in 1385, the battle of Otterburn and Queen Isabelle's entry to Paris in 1389. After an introductory lecture, the format of the class will be a weekly one-hour seminar. Students are expected to complete two documentary commentaries.

