CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals for papers are invited for

The Culture of Literature and Language in Medieval and Renaissance Scotland

15th International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Literature and Language (ICMRSLL)

University of Glasgow, Scotland, 24-28 July 2017


Work in the field of medieval and early modern Scottish literature and language presented at this series of triennial conferences and elsewhere has made visible what can now confidently be called an Older Scots literary culture. From the 14th to the 17th century, a literature in Scots grew as an articulation of identity and nation (the key topics of the last two conferences). Language played a vital role in this, too, through interaction of Scots with other languages (Gaelic, Latin, English, French), translation, and a profound interest in language as a phenomenon in itself.

The study of Older Scots literature as a discipline is now at a point where many smaller-scale studies and a few key monographs allow informed suggestions towards interrelated cultural narratives, making careful connections both synchronically and within a longue durée perspective and with interdisciplinary impact on the academic level as well as opening out to a wider public. Within this context, the conference seeks to provide a platform not only for further detailed studies of individual texts and authors but also for discussions on how these details may add up to more than the sum of their parts. Therefore, papers on any aspect of the culture of literature and language in medieval and Renaissance Scotland or related interdisciplinary areas (some suggestions below) and including theoretical approaches are warmly welcomed; but we particularly invite delegates to consider contacting other interested parties and submit paper proposals that can be combined as a session of related papers.

Papers should not be more than 20 minutes. Please send a 300-word max. abstract and a very brief CV to the conference organisers at scotmedren2017@glasgow.ac.uk. Deadline for submission of abstracts is 3 October 2016.

You can find out more about this series of conferences on the ICMRSLL website at http://www.icmrsll.org/ which will be populated with more details on the 2017 conference in due course. We will also use www.facebook.com/ScotMedRen2017 and www.twitter.com/ScotMedRen to keep in touch and circulate news, and bring colleagues into contact with one another.

We look forward to seeing you in Glasgow in July 2017.

Theo van Heijnsbergen
Philippa Osmond-Williams
***Note that the timing of the conference allows delegates to attend the Coronation Lecture on Saturday 29 July 2017 (and other celebratory events in the run-up to that lecture) in the Church of the Holy Rude just outside Stirling Castle to mark the 450th anniversary of King James VI’s coronation (1567). We’ll keep you tweeted about such events.***

For those looking for ideas for topics: in addition to individual texts, themes, or authors, possible topics for papers / sessions could also include (always with primary, if not exclusive, reference to late medieval and early modern writing in Scots):

- The 1617 royal progress in Scotland
- Myln’s Lives of the Bishops (1517): a forgotten text
- The Book of hours of James IV and Margaret Tudor (a priceless facsimile of this understudied manuscript was recently donated to Glasgow University Library)
- Manuscript circulation
- Early Scottish libraries
- James VI
- 17th century Scottish literature
- Scottish Neo-Latin culture
- Drama in Scotland pre-1700
- Interdisciplinary and cultural-historical perspectives: music, architectural history, visual and material culture, philosophy, etc.)
- The heritage industry and Scottish literature: memorialising Older Scots writing
- Older Scots and / in the media: a lost cause?
- (Representing) Masculinities
- Early Scottish Prose
- English literature in Scotland before 1700
- Comic literature
- Eldritch writing and fantasy literature
- Satirical poems before the Reformation
Pre-1700 travel writing by Scottish writers or about journeys in or to Scotland

The figure / uses of King Arthur

Feminist readings of the makars

Book and manuscript culture in Scotland before c.1700

The interaction between literature in Gaelic and literature in Scots

Scottish contributions to the study of language, grammar, and rhetoric

Literary ‘coteries’

Scottish Chaucer

(The continued importance of) Dream vision in the late medieval and early modern Scottish literary tradition

Psalms in early modern Scotland

Saints lives

The re-assessment of the impact of the Reformation on Scottish literature

Literary anthologies and miscellanies in late medieval and early modern Scotland

Chronicles and literature

The legal tradition and literary writing

Scots Romance

Politics and narrative

Theorising early Scots texts

Comparative perspectives (interaction between Scottish and other literatures)

Ballads and makars: mutually exclusive?

Was there a 16th-century court culture?

The language of literature

Scottish printers / printing

The emblem and / in Scottish literature

The nature and importance of patronage
Play and games as a motif in Scottish writing

Paratexts, prologues, and dedications

Scottish readers

Metafiction in older Scots writing

The history of reading in Scotland

The sonnet in Scotland

Presbyterian poetics

‘Not Burns, not even Dunbar’: New Texts / Directions in Older Scottish Literature

etc., etc., ...

John Cunningham, ‘The Mirriest of Nichtis’, after Dunbar’s ‘Tretis of the Tua Mariit Wemen and the Wedo’ (©Alan Riach)