

ACMRS NEWS

MARCH 2015

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL CONFERENCE!

Thank you to all of our conference attendees, performers, staff, volunteers, and chairs for an unforgettable conference this year! We hope you all enjoyed your time here and that you'll be back next year for another excellent conference where we'll explore "Marginal Figures in the Global Middle Ages and Renaissance" among other topics. Thank you all for your ongoing support of the center and medieval and Renaissance studies. We look forward to seeing you in 2016!



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HYGIENE, MEDICINE, AND WELL-BEING IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE EARLY MODERN AGE

Upcoming international symposium at the University of Arizona:

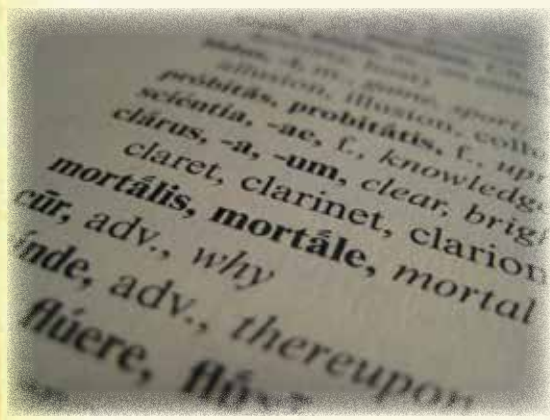
"Hygiene, Medicine, and Well-Being in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age" will be the theme for the 2015 conference, at the University of Arizona, May 1-3, 2015. This conference is organized and conducted by Prof. Albrecht Classen, University Distinguished Professor, University of Arizona. Please send inquiries and abstracts to aclassen@u.arizona.edu.

Concept: Modern myths about medieval and early modern ideas concerning hygiene and health continue to dominate our understanding of the premodern world. People in the past used different approaches to hygiene and interpreted well-being perhaps differently than we do today, but they were neither dirty nor sickly. Their societies worked well because they pursued their own hygiene and had, relatively speaking, a functioning medical system in place. For more information, visit: <http://aclassen.faculty.arizona.edu/content/2015-conference-hygiene-medicine-and-well-being>.



DATABASE OF LATIN DICTIONARIES NOW AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FOR A LIMITED TIME

ASU's libraries are now providing trial access to another Brepols product: the Database of Latin Dictionaries. This tool allows researchers to search a large number of Medieval Latin dictionaries through one search platform.



The trial will run from now through Monday, March 23, 2015, so we encourage those of you at ASU to test out the really helpful possibilities offered by this search platform. If enough people use the database, the libraries will subscribe to it.

Go to <http://www.brepolis.net.ezproxy1.lib.asu.edu/> and click-on "Enter databases" and scroll down or use the following direct hyperlink: <http://clt.brepolis.net.ezproxy1.lib.asu.edu/dld/Default.aspx>.

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SLAVERY IN THE WEST INDIES: THE DIRTY BUSINESS OF THE RENAISSANCE

Sharonah Fredrick, PhD, Asst. Director ACMRS

Lucille Mathurin Mair and Richard Hart are two outstanding historians of Jamaica's colonial past, whose work sheds light on Caribbean society during the Early Modern period. Known today for its extraordinary natural beauty, the Caribbean in the Renaissance was a site of mayhem and colonial bloodshed. Spain, England, Holland and France played out their territorial ambitions in the islands, gateways to the Empires on the American mainland. What happened in the islands determined what happened on the mainland, so the area famous in pirate lore as the *Spanish Main* became a testing ground for the colonial superpowers of the Early Modern period, England and France. Mathurin Mair and Richard Hart have researched the underside of the Renaissance—the trade in human beings, over 10,000,000 of them shipped from West and East Africa, during the time period that spans the early 16th century through the end of the 18th (and, illegally, into the 19th century, in Cuba, the USA and Brazil, the last hold-outs of slavery in the New World). That trade involved the machinations of European and African monarchs, for whom the life of a slave was equivalent to x-amount of rum, guns or molasses. Hart and Mathurin Mair demonstrate how, bereft of support from Africa and prisoners of a racialized class system in the Americas, the human beings taken as slaves managed to exercise their personal agency in a stratified society.

Jamaica illustrates this point. Claimed by the Spanish crown on Columbus' second voyage in 1494, its indigenous Taino population succumbed to harsh colonization methods and disease; those that survived intermarried with both Spanish and African settlers. Jamaica passed to British hands in the course of Anglo-Spanish conflict in the West Indies, in 1655. That made little difference in the lives of African (and some white British and Spanish) slaves, whose fate was not ameliorated by the new owners. However, the influence of so-called illegal trade throughout the island (Port Royal, the now submerged port of Kingston, was a pirate lair popularly known as "that wicked, wicked town") benefitted the slave population. Slaves created economic bases for themselves that official imperial policy denied. This helped to transcend the color barrier. An African attempting to escape from slavery and a white British indentured servant, whose lowly accent condemned him, in Jamaica's class-based society, almost as much as the African's skin color, could and did frequently join forces to maneuver within the colonial system.

Richard Hart notes that many free African communities in Jamaica, the "Maroons" whose name derived from the Spanish term 'cimarron' meaning "wild, untamed," actually entered into co-existence agreements with British authorities who first attempted to extirpate them in the 17th century. British policy decided by the 18th century that the Maroons were too much of a force to be reckoned with. (There were still attempts in the late 18th century to stamp these communities out). Their parallels are found in Brazil, where the multiracial 'quilombos' are settlements whose roots derive from self-freed slaves, primarily African but also Native American and white Portuguese. Lucille Mathurin Mair notes that the status of a female slave in Jamaica was very different depending upon her racial classification: there was no white/black paradigm, but rather a whole ladder of intermediate ranks. Jamaica's multi-racial society of today, therefore, is not the end-result of colonialism. Instead, modern Jamaican culture is an evolution away from Renaissance era colonialism that is, as Jamaican social critics point out, far from complete.

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DARKNESS AND ILLUMINATION: THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLD

Medieval and Early Modern Student Association, Durham University
Ninth Annual Postgraduate Conference
15-17 July 2015

The pursuit of knowledge has had an essential and constant influence upon the shaping of society. The means of its acquisition, interpretation, and dissemination informs the way in which people interact with the world around them, forming religious and cultural identities, scientific knowledge, and gender roles among other things. This was as much true in the past as it is today.

This year's Medieval and Early Modern Student Association conference will focus upon aspects of knowledge, learning, and control over information in the medieval and early modern periods and in doing so broaden perspectives not just about how people perceived their world, but also how they interpreted the past and the idea of progress.

We welcome abstract from postgraduates and early career researchers on all aspects of this topic in medieval and early modern archaeology, history, literature, theology, art, music, and culture. Presentation topics may include, but are not limited to:

- The 'myths' of the Dark Ages and the Renaissance
- The limits of archaeological, literary, and historical evidence
- The creation of the 'primitive' past
- Ideas of spiritual progression and improvement
- The growth of networks of learning
- Historical characterisations of race
- Scientific knowledge and discovery
- The expansion of the known and unknown world
- Gendered control of knowledge
- Urban and rural centres of learning
- Heretics, mystics, and conflicts over belief
- Publication, translation, and the availability of texts
- Artistic, musical, and cultural innovation

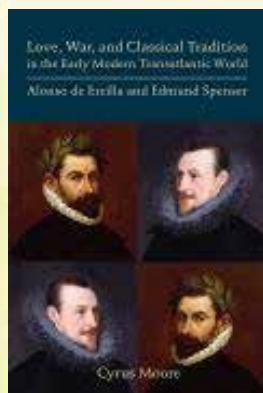
Postgraduate and postdoctoral students are welcome to apply for presentations. In addition to the panels, the conference will offer two keynote addresses (TBA). Tours of Durham Cathedral and Castle as well as a visit to Durham Museum and Heritage Centre are scheduled for any interested delegates. Please send abstracts of 200-300 words to memsaconference2015@gmail.com for papers no longer than 20 minutes by Friday 17 April 2015.

For more information, please visit our blog, website, or sponsor's pages:
durhammemsa.wordpress.com * dur.ac.uk/imems/memsa * dur.ac.uk/imems

Arranged with the support of Durham University's Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

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THE BOOK NOOK: FEATURING ACMRS PUBLICATIONS AND BAGWYN BOOKS

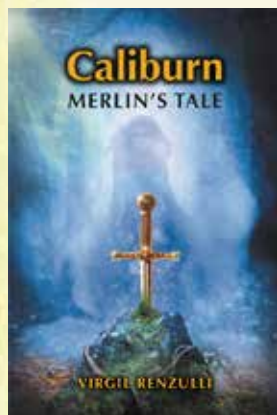


Love, War, and Classical Tradition in the Early Modern Transatlantic World: Alonso de Ercilla and Edmund Spenser By Cyrus Moore

In *La Araucana* Alonso de Ercilla undertakes a *renovatio* of classical epic, spurred on by personal participation in the events he describes. Drawing on the same storehouse of classical imagery, but impelled by reformed religion, Spenser sets out in *The Faerie Queene* on a *transformatio* of the heroic poem, raising the stakes from the potential for shame and dishonor in the ancient, epic world to the possibility of damnation in the modern, Protestant one. The present study explores the insights offered by the juxtaposition of these two masterworks in the social and literary praxis of the early modern transatlantic world, from the Irish archipelago to the Southern Cone of the Americas. <https://acmrs.org/publications/catalog/love-war-and-classical-tradition-early-modern-transatlantic-world-alonso-de>.

CYRUS MOORE was born in Hereford, Texas, attended The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut, and was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago and at Hunter College in New York. In addition to an MFA in writing from Brooklyn College, he holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York.

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Caliburn: Merlin's Tale By Virgil Renzulli

Some thought the old man a specter; he purported himself none other than the Wizard Merlin. Whoever he was, he told a story about Arthur that no one had heard before, a tale of victory and disgrace, love and treachery, arrogance and destiny. It was a time of great turmoil in Britain. A ruthless Saxon warlord was planning to invade. The Norsemen continued their coastal raids. The Picts of north Britain were growing bolder. And the British were not unified. Merlin had groomed young Arthur to deal with threats such as these, but neither master nor pupil was prepared for what they encountered at the annual tournament in Londinium: a beautiful, dark-haired girl named Brenna. Check out this title and others by Bagwyn Books at <http://bagwynbooks.com>.

VIRGIL RENZULLI: A long-time writer and former newspaper reporter and editor, Virgil Renzulli is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and completed graduate work in script writing at Temple University and novel development at New York University. He is currently professor of practice, strategic communications, at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. His earlier novels are *Beyond the Edge of the Universe* and *Kaleidoscope*.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS



MARCH

ACMRS AD HOC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY ZAELLOTIUS WILSON

“Sancha’s Palace-Monastery Complex: The Rebuilding of the Leonese Community in the 11th Century”

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00pm - Coor Hall, Room 4403

Click here to RSVP: <https://medieval-leon.eventbrite.com>

SHAKESPEARE READING GROUP - “WOMEN IN SHAKESPEARE”

Wednesday, March 4 and 18, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00pm in Coor Hall, Room 4403

Questions? Email acmrs@acmrs.org.

ACMRS PUBLIC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY KIMBERLY MARSHALL & SHARONAH FREDRICK

“The Renaissance in the Southwest: Musical Defiance of the Conquest”

Sunday, March 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:30pm - ASU Organ Hall

Click here to RSVP: <https://renaissancemusic.eventbrite.com>

ACMRS AD HOC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY ERIC BREAUT

“The Grim Reaper as Religious Icon”

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 11:00am - Coor Hall, Room 4403

Click here to RSVP: <https://grimreaper.eventbrite.com>

ACMRS PUBLIC LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING, PRESENTED BY LORI ESHLEMAN

“Shamans, Jesuits, and Rebels: Encounters in the New World”

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00pm at Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

Click here to RSVP: <https://pachacutibooksigning.eventbrite.com>

APRIL

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE FEATURING TOM SHIPPEY

“Politics in Tolkien: What We Can Learn From Hobbits”

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00pm - ASU Old Main, Carson Ballroom

FEARLESS FEMALES LECTURE PRESENTED BY DR. SHARONAH FREDRICK

“Lilith: She-Devil in the Garden of Eden”

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00pm at Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

Click here to RSVP: <https://lilithacmrs.eventbrite.com>

ACMRS AD HOC LECTURE, PRESENTED BY YAMROT TESHOME

“Challenging Social Norms: Ethiopian Women in the Medieval Era”

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 11:00am - Coor Hall, Room 4403

Click here to RSVP: <http://medievalethiopia.eventbrite.com>

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