41st Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum

Scent and Fragrance in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, 2021
Welcome

It seems like a very long time since we were last together in Keene. 2020 turned out to be a strange and difficult year indeed, though perhaps we, as medievalists and early modernists, might feel better equipped to endure a year of plague than our modernist colleagues. As we enter the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will once again feel the limitations placed on us by this global crisis. We will meet virtually, unable to share the hugs and lively banter so typical of our usual meetings.

But we will get to meet this year, finally resuming our exploration of the five senses in medieval and early modern culture, history, and literature. Following upon the 39th and 40th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Fora, two events that focused on the senses of sight and hearing, we are finally turning to a third sense, the sense of smell. In honor of medieval and early modern scents and fragrances, our keynote address this year will be delivered by Ms. Deirdre Larkin, an expert on medieval gardens to whom we owe the magnificent beauty of the gardens of The Cloisters in New York City.

Inspired by our theme and keynote speaker, a majority of the presentations you will hear over the course of the next two days will focus on scent and fragrance in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The papers prepared for this year’s Forum approach scent and fragrance from a variety of different angles, investigating perfumes, food, and the more practical aspects of smell as well as the aesthetic function of scent and fragrance in medieval and Early Modern works of art, history, and literature.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID crisis, we will not be able to converge, as many of us are wont to do, on Centennial Hall on Saturday night. Instead, we hope that you will join us for a social hour and some medieval trivia fun after our last session on Saturday afternoon. Let the (virtual) games begin!
FRIDAY APRIL 16, 2021

8:45-9:15 AM Opening Ceremonies
Welcome by Meriem Pagès, Forum Director
Opening Poem, Phil O’Mara, Poet Laureate of the Forum
Gaudeamus Igitur, everyone—led by Phil O’Mara

Friday Session I: 9:30 – 10:50 AM

Scent and Fragrance in Practice (Breakout Option A)
Moderator: June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

What is an Odor? Smells and their Importance in the Central and Late Middle Ages
Katelynn Robinson, Neosho County Community College

Smells Delicious: Status and Spice in the Late Middle Ages
Libby Karlinger Escobedo, Aurora University

Methods of Fragrance Extraction and Use during the Middle Ages; Their Relevance Today
Regina McIlvain, Independent Scholar

Medieval Animals (Breakout Option B)
Moderator: Michael Torregrossa, Independent Scholar

“Kek, kek! Kukkow! Quek, quek!”: Nonsense and Rhetoric in the Parliament of Fowls
Nat Rivkin, University of Pennsylvania

How to Ride the Zodiac Horse: Horse/Human Medicine in MS M.735
Miranda Hajduk, Graduate Center, CUNY

Of Smelly Leopards and Perfumed Panthers: Allegorizing Olfactory Power in Medieval and Early Modern Writing
Lorenz Hindrichsen, Independent Scholar
Shakespeare (Breakout Option C)
Moderator: Emily Sun, Harvard University

The Smell of Dover: Stink and (In)spiration in Shakespeare’s Canon
Nichole DeWall, McKendree University

Shakespeare and the Tudors: Toeing the Party Line
Haia R'nana Behiri, University of California—San Diego

“The King hath many marching in his coats”: Metatheater and Kingship in 1 King Henry IV
Emily Parise, University of California—Irvine
Friday Session II: 11:05 – 12:25 PM

Scent, Fragrance, and the Other (Breakout Option A)
Moderator: Albert Lloret, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

  Rumi, Shakespeare and the Smell of Deeds
  Davood Khazaie, Independent Scholar

  Blackness, Flesh, and Early-Modern Scent
  Isaac Jean-François, Yale University

The Canterbury Tales (Breakout Option B)
Moderator: Miranda Hajduk, Graduate Center, CUNY

  Foeter Judaicus: Call and Response Anti-Semitism in Chaucer
  Arielle Moscati, UCLA

  “Compassion, my faire Canacee”: Gender and Nature in Chaucer’s Animal World
  Kyle R. Gaydo, Seton Hall University

Early Modern Literature and Culture (Breakout Option C)
Moderator: Laura Price, University of Minnesota

  'On Neptunes Watry Realmes': Michael Drayton’s Poly-Olbion and the Lord Admiral’s Jurisdiction
  Hayley Cotter, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

  In the Name of the (Impotent) Father, (Sweet-Talking) Son, and (Absent) Holy Spirit: Examining Milton’s Heterodox Holy Dyad in Paradise Lost
  Margaret M. Cross, Harvard Business School
“Every Fragrant Herb: The Medieval Garden and the Gardens of the Cloisters”

Deirdre Larkin

FRIDAY APRIL 16 1:30-3:00 PM

Deirdre Larkin is a horticulturist and historian of plants and gardens. She holds an MA in the history of religions from Princeton University and received her horticultural training at the New York Botanical Garden. She was associated with the Gardens of The Cloisters for more than twenty years and was responsible for all aspects of their development, design, and interpretation. Ms. Larkin was the originator of and principal contributor to the Medieval Garden Enclosed blog, published on the MMA website from 2008 through 2013. Ms. Larkin lectures frequently for museums, historical societies, and horticultural organizations. In 2017, she was a Mellon Visiting Scholar at the Humanities Institute of the New York Botanical Garden, where she researched the fortunes and reputations of medieval European plants now naturalized in North America. Her gardens in upstate New York serve as a laboratory for further investigations in the field.
SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021

Saturday Session III: 9:00 – 10:20 AM

**Sensory Excess (Breakout Option A)**
Moderator: Anna Czarnowus, University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland)

An Excess of the Repressed: Medieval Monsters as Expressions of Excess Human Sensation
In the *Beowulf* Manuscript
Trisha Gupta, New York University

Oddities, Anomalies, and Dance Iconographic Complexities in the Garden of Love:
Exceptional Renderings of Body, Space, and Movement-in-Time in Depictions of the
*Roman de la Rose’s Karole au Dieu d’Amour*
Donna LaRue, Independent Scholar

(Scent)sory Manipulation in *The Faerie Queene’s Book of Temperance*
Laura Price, University of Minnesota

**Medieval Friendship (Breakout Option B)**
Moderator: Dena Arguelles, Drew University

The Charter: John and Aethelstan, King of the English
Paulette E. Barton, University of Maine—Orono

The Gregorian Reform, Spiritual Friendship, and Syneisaktism in the Anglo-Norman World
Holle Canatella, Lock Haven University

Francis and Friends: An Informed Speculation about the Cultural History of a Concept
Philip F. O'Mara, Bridgewater State College, Emeritus
Scent and Fragrance in the Renaissance (Breakout Option C)
Moderator: Nichole DeWall, McKendree University

“The courtier’s hands are perfumed with civet”: Perfume and Vexed Masculinity on the Early Modern Stage
Colleen E. Kennedy, Independent Scholar

Citrus Cultivation in Early Medici Villas
Emma Iadanza, Vassar College

Follow Your Nose: Making sense of New World plants
Karen Reeds, Princeton Research Forum
Saturday Session IV: 10:35 – 11:55 AM

Scent, Fragrance, and Religion (Breakout Option A)
Moderator: Isaac Jean-François, Yale University

‘Routed’ in Scent: The Very Smelly Route to the Holy Land in the *Historia Jerusolimitana* of Baudri of Bourgueil
Chris Freeman, University of Wisconsin—Stout

The Pope and the Golden Rose: Smelling *plenitudo potestatis*
Joëlle Koster, University of Rhode Island

The Tastes and Scents of Medieval Travel: Friar William of Rubruck and His Journey East
June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

The Middle Ages in the Contemporary Imaginary (Breakout Option B)
Moderator: Sarah Gordon, Utah State University

The Magical and Miraculous Healing in Adaptations and Appropriations of Arthurian Legend
Rachael K. Warmington, Seton Hall University

Kings and Queens: Medieval Queens in Popular Culture Today
Meriem Pagès, Keene State College

Medieval and Early Modern Perfume (Breakout Option C)
Moderator: Colleen E. Kennedy, Independent Scholar

The Evocative Scents of Cleansing and Disease: Medieval Italian Perfumers and The Stand
Dena Arguelles, Drew University

Kiralyneviz Or Hungarian Water, The First Alcohol Based Perfume
Katherine Gatto, John Carroll University

Musk, Medicine, and Unkept Secrets: Perfumed Remedies in Italian Renaissance Books of Secrets
Madison Clyburn, Bard Graduate Center
Saturday Session V: 1:30 – 2:50 PM

**Scent, Fragrance, and Food (Breakout Option A)**
Moderator: Rachael K. Warmington, Seton Hall University

- Global Spicery: What the Middle Ages might have Smelled Like
  Angela Jane Weisl, Seton Hall University

- How to “Smell” a Text: Olfactory Descriptions in Jean Bruyérin-Champier’s *De re cibaria*
  Wendy Pfeffer, University of Louisville and University of Pennsylvania

- Questions of Taste: The Cultural Meanings of Medieval Cookery
  Robert Kellerman, University of Maine—Augusta

**Chaucer (Breakout Option B)**
Moderator: Robert G. Sullivan, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

- Harry Bailly: Innkeeper, Host—and Rhetor?
  Thomas Napierkowski, University of Colorado—Colorado Springs

- Reading Chaucer’s *Fortune*
  Brian Campbell, Independent Scholar

**Medieval and Early Modern Spain (Breakout Option C)**
Moderator: Gennifer Dorgan, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

- Smell and Fragrance in the Poetry of al-Andalus
  Wilson Garcia, Plymouth State University

- Space, Authorship, and Lyric Voice
  Albert Lloret, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

- “Ni soy muerto ni soy vivo”: An Approximation to Isabel de Vega’s Petrarchism
  Simón Andrés Villegas, University of Massachusetts—Amherst
Saturday Session VI: 3:00 – 4:20 PM

**Medicinal Smells (Breakout Option A)**
Moderator: Regina McIlvain, Independent Scholar

- Sniffing Our Way through the Voynich Manuscript
  Keagan Brewer, Macquarie University

- ‘aromacite’ and ‘stinkyng thinges’: Smells that Warn and Smells that Cure in Henry Daniel’s Aaron Danielis
  Iona Lister and Una Creedon-Carey, University of Toronto

- Witches and the Odour of Death
  Gráinne Aspel, Independent Scholar

**Scent and Fragrance in the Early Middle Ages (Breakout Option B)**
Moderator: Katelynn Robinson, Neosho County Community College

- Fragrance as Celestial Medicine and Invisible Armor: Olfactory Healing and Defense against Evil in the Case of Symeon the Stylite the Younger
  Yingxue Wang, Harvard University

- Sniffing out the Divine: The Sense of Smell in Ælfric’s Lives of Saints
  Emily Sun, Harvard University

- Stench and the Finality of Death in Old English Poetry
  Gennifer Dorgan, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

**Arthurian Comics (Breakout Option C)**
Moderator: Hayley Cotter, University of Massachusetts—Amherst

- From Canon to Comics: Adaptations of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight in the Comics Medium
  Michael Torregrossa, Independent Scholar

- Old Norse Gods and Ethnically Different Slaves in the Comic Book Series Thorgal
  Anna Czarnowus, University of Silesia, Katowice (Poland)

- Vampires, Zombies, Aliens, and Superheroes: Reimaginings of Arthurian Legend in Comics
  Rachael K. Warmington, Seton Hall University
MEDIEVAL TRIVIA
And Social Hour....

4:30-5:30 PM
SAVE THE DATE!

42nd Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum

April 22-23, 2022
The Forum Advisory Board would like to thank the following people for their hard work and support of the Forum:

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