INTERNATIONAL REYNARD SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE RENARDIENNE

First circular
XVIIIth Colloquium, Utrecht, 21-24 July 2009

Dear colleagues,

As was decided in Ventimiglia the next colloquium of our Society will be held in the Low Countries; or, to be more precise, in Utrecht. The period of time will be 21-24 July, the week after the International Medieval Congress in Leeds. The colloquium will be held in buildings of the Faculty of Humanities in the historical centre of the town.
We have chosen two themes for this colloquium: 'border cases' and 'collections'.
One of the most important instruments for scholars to order their textual material is the use of genres. For every genre definition chosen, however, there are texts which conform only partly to the definition. The texts in the *Dialogus creaturarum*, for instance, show many characteristics of fables but in some aspects they differ widely from traditional fables. How should we handle these 'border cases'? Most often they are disregarded because they tend to present difficulties and to prevent a completely coherent analysis. But they are texts in their own right. This is the reason why they are put into the spotlight for once.
Often short texts are after a period of time collected into larger wholes. And sometimes manuscripts contain several texts which seem to be gathered because they show a certain unity. This is true for all types of texts, but in the field of our Society this is especially important because two of our three central genres consist of short texts. Collections are often at the centre of our research. This is the reason why this theme has been chosen. Especially for manuscript collections it might give new insights and opinions.
However, papers do not need to be restricted to one of these themes. As in all previous colloquia colleagues who want to present a paper on any aspect of one of the subjects of our Society are cordially invited to do so.

We plan to send out a second circular, containing information about all practical matters, at the end of this year, and a third one with the definite programme at the end of May 2009.
If you are planning to attend this colloquium, please send an email to:
paul.wackers@let.uu.nl

Paul Wackers (president); Departement Nederlands UU, Trans 4, NL-3512 JK Utrecht

and state whether you will give a paper or will only attend the colloquium; and whether you will come alone or will have company.
We plan to spread the news about this colloquium electronically. If you know of a colleague who might be interested but is perhaps not on the list of members of our Society, please forward this message.

We hope to see many of you in a year's time but wish all of you a pleasant holiday and a good start of the new academic year.

Paul Wackers

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