



SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE RENARDIENNE

ÉPOPÉE ANIMALE, FABLE ET FABLIAU

INTERNATIONAL REYNARD SOCIETY

BEAST EPIC, FABLE & FABLIAU

16ème Colloque international, Münster, 1-5 août 2005

16th International Colloquium, Münster, 1-5 August 2005

First Circular

Münster, May 2004

Dear Friends of the Red-coated Gentleman,

Last November the general committee of the International Reynard Society decided, that after 26 years, the University of Münster is once again to host our Society's colloquium. We are delighted to welcome all Reynardians to attend this 16th International Colloquium, from 1st-5th August 2005, and also to celebrate the Society's own 30th anniversary. The conference will be hosted and organized by the Department of Dutch Philology, while the venue for the sessions themselves will be the Agora, Münster's recently-built modern conference centre. Lunch, coffee-breaks and refreshments throughout the day can very easily be programmed into the scheduling of the sessions, because the Agora offers all the facilities one might wish for in a conference. Münster is a neat and very attractive university town, with its historical centre rebuilt after 1945 with great attention to detail. 'Downtown Münster' is located within easy walking distance from the Agora (less than 10 minutes). Accommodation for participants will similarly be available conveniently close to the conference and to the city centre. The hotels listed below offer special conditions for guests of the university, if you quote 'Reineke Fuchs' in correspondence. We invite you to contact these hotels and visit their websites as soon as possible: the Agora Hotel am Aasee, Bismarckallee 5, D-48151 Münster (www.agora-muenster.de), and the Kolping Tagungshotel, Aegidiistraße 21, D-48143 Münster (www.kolping-tagungshotel.de). And we trust that there will equally be no obstacles to a smooth 'Après-colloque' in any one of the town's numerous cosy inns! More detailed information will be provided in our Second Circular (November/ December 2004), which will be sent to all those who have returned the attached Registration form.

An excursion is planned to the Schnütgen Museum in Cologne, which reopened its doors in 2003 after extensive renovation and which hosts an exquisite collection of medieval treasures. Moreover, our local University Library has offered to organize a fine exhibition of manuscripts and early printed books related to our traditional fields of study. The library preserves one of the most outstanding examples of medieval Dutch literature and culture: the Dyck Manuscript, containing the *Van den vos Reinaerde* and Jacob van Maerlant's *Der naturen bloeme*.

Given the ever-increasing budgetary restrictions in the humanities, we shall be applying for public and private funding. So we should be grateful if you would indicate, by 15 September 2004 at the very latest, whether you wish to attend our 16th Colloquium and whether you will be reading a paper (and on which subject). Please let us know, too, if you are happy to receive further information from us via e-mail, or if you would prefer to continue to be contacted via good old snail-mail. We are going to provide a Website for our conference as soon as possible, so that you may check the actual state of affairs any time you want. We also intend to post on this website some more information about the town, the countryside, maps etc. You will find the site via the Dutch Department's homepage (www.hausderniederlande.de); the menu will lead you to the rubric 'Aktuelles' and connect you to the relevant information.

The academic programme of the Münster Colloquium will cover the Society's traditional and mainly (but not exclusively) medieval fields of study (beast epic, fable, fabliau, bestiary, satire, etc.). In addition to these general areas, we should like to propose a special thematic strand, illustrated by the suggested motto: "**Consortia Vulpis – Cultivating the Untruth**". We hope that this topic will lead to vigorous discussion and interesting papers, all the more so since our particular red-coated hero seems to be inseparably linked to the telling of lies – and to the telling lie. This link seems moreover to be a generally valid one, regardless of the nature or the cultural background of any given text. The questions arising out of this particular theme would seem to be appropriate to any scholarly discipline, and will – we trust – elicit fruitful answers. How does a lie work in a given cultural context? How may characters present their lies in socially acceptable ways? What kind or concept of 'truth' is implicit in any construct of untruths? Do pictures or images 'lie', and if so, how? Which characters are supposed not to lie at all? Does the topical invention of the lie or the liar in different cultural, geographical or historical contexts adopt different criteria for judging the lie as such? What is regarded as a lie anyway? Does something like a 'fake lie' exist? We would be delighted if these thoughts were to encourage several papers from all our disciplines...

We very much look forward to welcoming you all in Münster!

In the meantime, with all our best wishes,

Amand Berteloot, Günther Rohr, Beatrix Zumbült
(local organizing committee)

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