

Record of Business Meeting of CARMEN
at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds on Wednesday, 14 July 2010

Those **present** included the following plus approximately 3-5 others not recorded on the attendance sheet:

Anna Adamska	Utrecht
Miriam Ali-de-Unzaga	Wien
Arnoud-Jan Bijsterveld	Tilburg
Dick de Boer	Groningen
Giorgio Canellini	Lausanne
Miriam Czock	Freie Universität Berlin
Simon Forde	Executive Director, CARMEN
Kateřina Horníčková	Filosofický ústav, Akademie věd ČR (General Secretary, CARMEN)
Gerhard Jaritz	Österreichische Akademie, Krems & CEU (Academic Director, CARMEN)
Kurt Villads Jensen	Syddansk (Odense)
Pamela King	Bristol
Nicholas Koss	Taiwan and Beijing
Christian Krötzl	Tampere
Cynthia Lin (Chih-hsin Lin)	National Chengchi University, Taiwan
James Murray	Western Michigan
Balázs Nagy	Central European University, Budapest
Nils Holger Petersen	København
Brian Reynolds	Fu Jen Catholic Universit, Taiwan
Flocel Sabaté	Lleida
Felicitas Schmieder	Fern Uni., Hagen
Anne Scott	University of Western Australia
Alexandru Simon	Cluj
Blair Sullivan	Univ. of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
Paul E. Szarmach	Medieval Academy of America
Elizabeth Tyler	York (UK)
Lena Wahlgren-Smith	Southampton
Sæbjorg Walaker Nordeide	Bergen

Apologies:

Johannes Heil	Heidelberg & Mediävistenverband
Bob Bjork	Arizona State

The meeting in the Bodington Hall Senior Common Room commenced at 13.15 and the following short reports were made:

1. Elizabeth Tyler reported on fund-raising successes with the Worldwide Universities Fund, with sizeable contributions made by the WUN universities at Bristol, Bergen and Western Australia and York. Additional funding from Arizona State University meant that CARMEN now had sustainable funding for the coming two years. However it had to become sustainable thereafter.
2. Elizabeth Tyler pointed out that €3000 (euro) was available to support the attendance at the forthcoming CARMEN annual meeting of representatives from Eastern Europe and

continents that were not yet active in CARMEN (particularly East Asia and Latin America). A call for granting such bursaries had been made; the deadline was 31 July.

3. Kateřina Horníčková described the ethos and format of the annual meeting and conference at Tallinn on 17-19 September 2010. She welcomed all new participants to attend.
4. Elizabeth Tyler explained the purpose of the “Market-Place” session at the Annual Meeting. In order to maximise the benefit of such an opportunity, she had circulated to all potential participants a request for information on projects, both large and small, where scholars were seeking international partners. She hoped that the “match-making” function of CARMEN would be helped in this way. She emphasised that projects of all sizes and natures were welcome to become active and assisted by CARMEN.
5. Simon Forde explained a funding proposal that the Executive Group of CARMEN had submitted in to the European Science Foundation, for an Exploratory Workshop during 2011. It was intended, in short, to profile the work of medievalists to policy-makers at European (and national) levels, and show how the research of medievalists did have application to issues of current social and political concern. The document identified a number of overarching themes and topics that might serve as a research strategy for CARMEN in the coming years.
6. Dick de Boer reported on work that he had undertaken on behalf of the CARMEN Advocacy Group, auditing the strategic topics that were in place at national research funding agencies. It appeared that such strategic plans were not available or been fixed, particularly as it related to the humanities. He also stressed the importance of pro-actively approaching policy-makers to ensure topics of interest to medievalists are given adequate space.

A brief discussion followed during which participants addressed ways by which medievalists could engage with scholars of modernity and Antiquity or prehistory, or scholars of social and natural sciences, and how to involve a wide range of institutions interesting to policy-makers. Among the areas discussed as likely to be particularly interesting in the coming decades were: food production, an ageing society, the multilingual society and techniques of translating, religious identity (particularly in relation to Islam) and (political and nationalistic) appropriations of the past.

After some brief questions, the meeting concluded at 14.05.

Dr Simon Forde, 27 July 2010.