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News from the Faculty of English, Cambridge





english.cam.ac.uk

vol. 17, spring 2018

Chair's letter...



Now one year into the post of Chair of the Faculty Board I have a better sense of what is entailed. Meetings. Meetings. Meetings. A typical day has at least one. Most have many more. Why do academics spend so much time talking to each other, usually in different buildings across the centre of Cambridge, and frequently with the same people? Could we not do it all at one time and in one place? Maybe just set aside a whole, long day – say 8.00am until 8.00pm? Alas we know the answer: these meetings have to be organised around other meetings and obligations like teaching, writing papers for the meetings, reading papers for the meetings and arranging more meetings that come out of each meeting. Google calendar is a fine invention.

Aside from the frequency of these events there are other collateral effects: doing business with the same people but in different constellations helps one construct a fairly detailed (though undoubtedly unfair) profile of my counterparts, the heads of the other institutions in our School (Divinity, AMES Philosophy, MML, Art History and Architecture, Music, Classics). Most, I note, seem to be as concerned as I am about the status and wider perception of the university sector. Here I am thinking not only of Brexit (the topic of my previous letter and prompt for the largest mailbag in the history of 9 West Road) but also the continuing pressure to widen access and the role of Oxbridge in the wider national context, the ongoing debate over fees, the impending restructuring of USS pension plans, the REF...We are a worrisome lot. Most days I receive and, alas, send emails with time stamps that most definitely do not fall within the university's guidelines about 'family friendly' working hours. It seems that many of my colleagues suffer from insomnia, or have adopted the infamous

working day of Mr Prynne (apologies Jeremy if this is wildly inaccurate) which in fact was the working night.

There are upsides. The country at large, it appears, has a keen interest in what we do and what we teach. My postbag has recently contained letters sent from places as distant as Bangkok, Sydney, Paincourtville, Louisiana, Bromley (Kent). Closer to home we have been engaging in lively discussion and debate on all manner of things, but when was life in Cambridge and in particular the English Faculty not so? To date we have yet to launch into a full scale Senate House debate (memories of 1981 flood back, the two days I spent listening to some of the grandest and wisest local academic celebrities) but nothing should be ruled out. To many outsiders and quite a few insiders this appetite for selfinvestigation and continuous reflection on all aspects of what we do is difficult to understand, but seen from the position I occupy it has a sense of inevitability. We challenge our students and expect them to achieve at the very highest levels, and they in turn challenge us, returning the gift that is good teaching. Long may it continue to be so.

Peter de Bolla King's College

Meetings. Meetings. Meetings.

CHANGES IN FACULTY **MEMBERSHIP** 2017-18

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the **English Faculty:**

Lucy Allen

Scott Annett

Newnham College

Robinson College

Jessica Berenbeim

College Teaching Associate

College Teaching Officer

Kanta Dihal Sidney Sussex College

Tania Demetriou

Junior Research Fellow Hunter Dukes Peterhouse

Junior Research Fellow Dennis Duncan

Darwin College

Diarmuid Hester

English Faculty

Jesus College University Teaching Officer

Stewart Brookes **English Faculty Teaching Associate**

Lee Ann Brown **English Faculty** Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow

Charis Charalampous St Edmund's College Junior Research Fellow Kirsten Macfarlane Trinity College Junior Research Fellow

Alicia Rix Peterhouse College Teaching Associate



Sidney Sussex College University Teaching Officer

Munby Fellow in Bibliography

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow

Daniel Tyler Trinity Hall College Teaching Officer

David Winters Fitzwilliam Junior Research Fellow

Retirement We wish Barry Windeatt, Professor of English and Fellow of Emmanuel College, well in his retirement.

In Memoriam

We are sorry to report the death of John Beer, Fellow of Peterhouse and Retired Professor of English, in December 2017.



SAMUEL PEPYS UNPLUGGED

While searching through the financial records of King Charles II in the Dorset County Archives I found a record that Charles paid for a guitar in April 1660. By the standards of a seventeenth-century king, he had been living in penury for some time by this date with linen and plate that could be inventoried on half a page. Yet there is the entry: by the Spring of 1660 Charles had acquired a guitar through agents in Paris and was paying 50 livres to have it brought, with a number of tennis raquets, to the Coudenberg Palace in Brussels, then the scene of his exile.

Soon afterwards Samuel Pepys was deputed to carry Charles's guitar – perhaps the very instrument mentioned in the accounts – from the English coast to Whitehall upon the king's return to the bells and bonfires of London. Pepys's diary records several encounters with the guitar but his attitude to the instrument is always either detached or disparaging, and the diary provides no indication that he took it up during the period that it covers, ending in May 1669. So it is all the more surprising that Pepys eventually commissioned the largest collection of guitar-accompanied song to survive from seventeenth century Europe. The four manuscripts which contain this music remain little known today, like the remarkable fact that they contain a complete setting of Hamlet's soliloquy 'To be or not to be' with chords for Pepys to strum as he sang.

My encounter with Pepys the guitarist has been one of the keen pleasures of completing the second part of a three-book history of the guitar in England from 1550 to the accession of Victoria in 1837. (The first part, *The Guitar in Tudor England*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2015). Pepys began to cultivate the guitar because he loved to sing. He had a more than acceptable bass and sang whenever the opportunity arose: in boats on the Thames, in echoing and unfurnished rooms, on the leads of his house by moonshine. Italian song made a particular impression upon him during the diary years, but he did not understand Italian.

When he heard anything sung in that language he was therefore especially sensitive to the sonority of the language and the singer's declamation. Various entries in the diary find him reflecting that there is a 'proper accent' in the discourse of every country, where the meaning of the term 'accent' evidently reaches beyond mere emphasis on syllables to a more comprehensive sense of musicality. Pepys reasoned that the distinctive accent of each language ensured that nobody could find a song in a foreign tongue as natural or pleasing as one in their own. What he desired, it seems, was not only to hear Italian song but also to enjoy (and indeed to compose) English song marked by an Italianate concern for the sense, the rhetorical movement and the spoken enunciation of the words, the melody declaimed over a bed of block harmonies or chords. This was exactly what the baroque guitar was able to provide.

In 1665 Pepys had heard an especially influential advocate make an enthusiastic case for the guitar: his distant cousin and patron Edward Montagu, earl of Sandwich. On 17 November that year Pepys found Sandwich playing a guitar aboard his flagship and praising it 'above all Musique in the world, because it is bass enough for a single voice, and is so portable, and manageable without much trouble'. This was a lordly commendation indeed.

The Guitar in Stuart England: A Social and Music History (2017) is published by Cambridge University Press.

Christopher Page Sidney Sussex College

THE POETRY OF **KISSING IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE**

Although the title of this book cheerfully follows the format of *The* Poetry of Architecture, The Romance of the Gas Industry, etc., it is also meant to suggest that my topic is not simply 'Kissing in Early Modern Poetry', but a particular kind of poetry. A small handful of kiss-laden poems by the Roman poet Catullus, becoming fashionable with fifteenth-century Italian humanists, gave the chief precedents for the 'Neo-Catulluan' Renaissance kiss-poem, which is my subject. The Dutch Neo-Latin poet Janus Secundus (1511-36) turned the trend into a fully-fledged genre when he composed a sequence of nineteen Basia ('Kisses'). Each poem is notionally a 'kiss', and stylistic variety is playfully equated with the variety of kisses in the repertoire of the erotic savant. Published in 1541, the Basia were a great success, and over the next century, across Europe, Neo-Latin and vernacular poets took up and elaborated the 'basium' form.

It is the English vernacular reception of this tradition that emerges as the final focus of my study. I look closely at the continued life of the *basium* in works by a range of English poets, major and minor, including Sidney, Shakespeare, Drummond and Donne, as well as some less canonical authors such as Thomas Stanley and the Scottish Latin

poet John Leech. By establishing the pervasive influence of one particular (and rather peculiar) genre, I hope to have suggested that the influence of continental Neo-Latin poetry on the early modern literary culture of the British Isles is too often seriously underestimated.

The book argues that the *basium* had a complex underlying rationale and a clear but flexible set of conventions, including an ironic treatment of masculine sexuality, as well as formal and tonal characteristics that had farreaching influence. The poetry of kissing has tended to be regarded as a dull matter of reiterated motifs. But with its petulant wit and ostentatious gestures of imitation and repetitiousness, I see it as a space in which poetic theory, eroticism (sometimes obscenity), and *mores* surrounding gender and flirtation, could all be playfully explored – often in terms of one another, and with extreme self-consciousness.

It might be mentioned that the copy of this book residing in the English Faculty Library has had a few misprints and blunders corrected by the author's penitent hand.

Alex Wong St John's College







CET POETA ELEGANTISS

DANIEL TYLER FELLOW AND DIRECTOR OF STUDIES, **TRINITY HALL**



I have arrived at Trinity Hall after spending many years at Oxford, most recently as a Departmental Lecturer in English based at Balliol. The focus of my research is primarily in the literature of the nineteenth century, with a particular interest in the diverse ways that language, style and technique shape meaning. I am finishing a book on The Art of Anticipation in the Nineteenth-Century Novel which considers the way that novels in the period

frequently both describe and elicit thoughts about the future – most carefully so when they are thoughts about the future of the story in hand. The book discusses the device of prolepsis, the rhetorical figure of anticipation, as well as other forward-looking hints and suggestions, to show the subtle interdependence, in many of the period's novels, of an ethics of anticipation and a prospective narration. The attention to the verbal textures of the writing itself, common to all of my work, became the specific object of interest in a collection of essays I edited on *Dickens's Style* as well as in a forthcoming, follow-up volume, working across an extended range, On Style in Victorian Fiction (both from Cambridge University Press).

My second major project investigates Dickens's creative practices by examining the manuscript drafts of his novels. These remarkable documents show innumerable revisions made in the process of composition. They tell us much about Dickens's artistic choices and priorities and they also record an experience of writing that in various ways informs the novels themselves. My interest in manuscript drafts has led to a collection of essays on the composition of Victorian poems, Poetry in the Making, forthcoming from Oxford University Press. My work on Dickens has also included, again from OUP, an edition of The Uncommercial Traveller, a series of sketches written at the height of his career, showcasing his unique combination of comedy, pathos and stinging social critique.





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THOM GUNN, SELECTED POEMS, ed. Clive Wilmer

(FABER & FABER, 2017)



I met Thom Gunn for the first time in Cambridge. It was Michaelmas Term in 1964, in my first month as an undergraduate reading English at King's. A card arrived from Tony Tanner, our charismatic Director of Studies: I was invited to attend a reading by 'Mr Thom Gunn', who was briefly visiting Cambridge.I couldn't quite believe it. Of the younger poets, only Ted Hughes was that famous and Thom had the added attractionof looking like a rock star. But I had also been reading him for a couple of years and knew his work fairly well. It would be wonderful to hear him read it.

Thom did not disappoint. He read in particular from a work in progress, the long poem 'Misanthropos', and I still sometimes hear him in my head reading the sixth poem of the sequence with its imitation of birdsong, much like Sir Philip Sidney or some other Elizabethan pastoralist:

[1] have heard all afternoon, over and over,
Two falling notes – a sweet disconsolate tune,
As if the bird called, from its twiggy cover,
Nót now, nót now, nót now.

After the reading I managed to talk to him and, a few days later, the medieval scholar Helena Mennie Shire, who had taught Thom at Trinity and was now supervising me, arranged for me to meet him again in London. To my great pleasure he and I hit it off. He was in London on a bursary, staying for one year after exactly ten spent in the US, and enjoying the new sights and sounds of 'swinging London'. I managed to see him again a couple of times before he returned to San Francisco.

Of course, though we remained friends for forty years, I didn't get to see him that often. He lived too far away. But we wrote one another letters – I've something like 190 of his – and met whenever we could. I last saw him in 2003, when he came to London to receive a literary prize. Less than six months later he was dead.

I was pleased but not greatly surprised when his publishers asked me to edit his *Selected Poems*. I had already edited a volume of his prose and had written a number of articles about his poetry. From the mid-1980s onwards, he used me as a sounding board for more or less everything he wrote. But I was surprised at the form my editor wanted the book to take. I had been expecting to do a new *Collected Poems*. He had published one in 1993. Seven years later, a new collection appeared – *Boss Cupid* – and then, for whatever reason, he stopped writing poems. So, sad though it was, the picture was complete. Why not add *Boss Cupid* to the *Collected*, write a biographical introduction, append a few extra notes and float the full record out into the world?

Things were not as simple as that. It appeared that the *Collected Poems* had not done well – surprisingly, because *The Man with Night Sweats*, with its elegies for friends who had died of AIDS, had been published the previous year and sold better than any of his collections. I suppose Thom had lost the glamorous image he'd had when young and, despite this recent success, the impression it made does not seem to have stuck. So my editor Paul Keegan suggested that I edit a large hard-covered selection, the very best of Gunn, and supplement it with notes drawn from his writings and conversation. Over the next few years, I worked my way through multitudes of letters, notebooks, diaries, interviews, notes for poetry readings, essays and articles, at the same time dredging my memory for things I remembered him saying.

I hugely enjoyed putting the book together and I think the result is very nearly unique. Thom's prose is beautiful – spare, limpid, accurate, memorable but not at all ostentatious. He also wrote terrific letters and talked compellingly. His conversations with himself in the notebooks and diaries came as a complete surprise and similarly stick in the mind. Nothing he says challenges the primacy of the poems, but all of it, in my view, illuminates those poems to some degree.

As for the poems themselves, I am sure fellow enthusiasts will quarrel with my selection, but they remain for me what they already seemed in the early 1960s: the best poems in English by anyone of the post-war generations.

Clive Wilmer

Emeritus Fellow in English Sidney Sussex College

Link to recording of Clive's talk about Thom Gunn: <https://specialcollections-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=15664>.

CROSSROADS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Faculty of English has been hosting, jointly with CRASSH, our 5-year interdisciplinary project, Crossroads of Knowledge in Early Modern England: The Place of Literature (2014–19), funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant of 2 million Euros, and led by Subha Mukherji, Principle Investigator. The team includes four Post-Doctoral Research Associates: Rachel Holmes, Elizabeth Swann, Rebecca Tomlin, Tim Stuart-Buttle (an active alumnus and consultant as of September 2017), and, joining in January, George Oppitz-Trotman and Joe Jarrett. Koji Yamamoto was part of the team in 2014–15. Gaenor Moore, the Project Co-ordinator, has ably steered us from the start till now; we bid farewell to her, with sadness and gratitude, and welcome Rachael Taylor who takes over from January.



Through ongoing reading groups, workshops, major international and interdisciplinary conferences (7 of them hosted by Crossroads at Cambridge so far), we have been working to uncover the specific intervention of literary texts and approaches in a wider conversation about the process, ethics and psychology of knowing in the period, more obviously ongoing between Theology, Natural Philosophy, Economics and Law: why we need it, how to get there, where to stop, and how to recognise it once it has been attained as well as the places where it cannot go. Subsequent disciplinary segregation has obscured the understood relations among these fields: epistemic transactions which vexed and shaped the period's experience of knowledge, and its textures. In examining intersections between literary forms and apparently disparate areas of thinking about ways of knowing, we address certain key research questions. How best can we recover unexpected transactions across what may now seem distinct areas of thinking? What happens to the story of early modern knowledge as we know it, once we take on board the evidence of imaginative writing and practice? What does literature know, or tell us, that other discourses cannot, or do not, because of their particular institutional interests? What aspirations to objectivity or assurance will it

not share with science, religion or the law? How does it bring economic ideas of insurance into dialogue with notions of risk and surety in emotional lives? And crucially, how do these cognate practices engage with literary constitutions of knowledge?

But the interrelation does not stop at affiliation and extraction. Literary forms bring their own predilections and tyrannies: so it can also take the form of self-critique, or complicity. At stake, methodologically, is the yield of disciplinary thresholds and crossings over: what is the aesthetic, ethical or epistemological purchase of a particular imaginary speaking withershins, disrupting or coming up short against a different mimetic paradigm? A founding concept that we have had to re-examine radically as our research has unfolded is that of the 'literary'. We have found that literature is a methodologically productive thread to run through our fields, precisely because it registers the emergence of a discursive self-understanding in conversation with other, more defined domains. For the boundaries between the disciplines we explore turn out to be fluid and porous in this period, but sometimes also resistant.



The project's outputs have taken the form of innovative and boldly interdisciplinary workshops, ambitious collaborative volumes (both of essays and of primary material – the latter in progress), and individual publications of essays or monographs by the team-members. In addition, we have a stand-alone series of four

edited volumes with Palgrave Macmillan, each dedicated to one of the project's four main interdisciplinary strands: *Crossroads of Knowledge in Early Modern Literature* (2018–20). The first of these volumes, *Literature, Belief and Knowledge in Early Modern England: Knowing Faith*, edited by Subha Mukherji and Tim Stuart-Buttle, is due to be published early in 2018; the subsequent volumes of the series are in the works: *Change and Exchange: Literature and Economics in Early Modern England*; 'Devices of Fancy': *Literature and Scientia in Early Modern England*; Knowing *Justice: Law and Poetics, Early Modern and Beyond*. A mouldbreaking collaborative volume, *Blind Spots of Knowledge in Shakespeare and his World: a Conversation*, edited by Subha Mukherji, is also forthcoming early in 2018 with MIP University Press.

Our robust Visiting Fellowship programme has brought distinguished scholars to Cambridge, who have contributed richly not only to the project's work but also, often, to CRASSH and to various early modern research fora at English: these include Michael Witmore, Deborah Shuger, Regina Schwartz, Lorraine Daston, Brian Cummings, Valerie Forman, Jonathan Sawday and Ceri Sullivan; in 2018, we look forward to welcoming Kathy Eden, Lorna Hutson, Torrance Kirby and Richard Sherwin.

On 2–4 July 2018, we will hold a major conference in Cambridge, on 'Law and Poetics: Early Modern and Beyond'. This will have an innovative format and embed a public event, *Law and the Arts*, consisting of a talk/demonstration by artist Carey Young (creator, *Before the Law*); a theatrical show, *Staging Trials, Performing Law*, directed by Adele Thomas (Globe/*Oresteia*); and a high-profile interprofessional round table including a judge and a jury advisor. The award of a CHRG grant of £20,000 has equipped us, through a collaborative programme with *The Humanities*



Change and Exchange 29 & 30 April 2016





Trinity Hall, Graham Storey Room

Convened by Subha Mukherji, Rachel E. Holmes, Tim Stuart-Buttle, Elizabeth L. Swann and Rebecca Tomlin

Details and registration: http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/ 26483

Supported by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanitie Funded by the European Research Council

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

RASSH

Digital Workshop at Washington University, St Louis, to use digital text-mining tools to chart early modern semantic registers of knowing; and to set up a collaborative pilot-study with Anupam Basu (Washington University) on 'Mapping Renaissance Literary Knowledge' which is to continue into 2018. Subha Mukherji, Jane Partner (CR Visual Arts Advisor) and Lizzie Swann are also working towards an online exhibition on Renaissance Spaces of Knowing: Privacy and Performance (2018), in collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum, to bring the material and textual cultures of knowledge into dialogue, and disseminate our findings to a broader public audience.

The project has energised the research culture of the Faculty, and drawn on other research initiatives currently ongoing, as well as creating synergies with the interdisciplinary culture of CRASSH. Our reading groups have brought together members from Humanities departments across Cambridge, as well as Visiting Scholars. It has created widely international networks and collaborations, on a variety of scales, and taken its members across the world to disseminate their findings and to learn from other projects and scholars

in diverse fields in the US, Europe and Asia. Visiting Fellows and speakers have kept returning and participating in our project activities. But it has been particularly heartening to receive support from so many of our colleagues here (in English and other Departments), who have been absorbed into the growing Honorary membership of the Crossroads community. We are also delighted by the participation of graduate students and younger members of the research community from the English Faculty in our events. We very much hope to continue involving the wider Faculty in our ongoing work.

Subha Mukherji, on behalf of the Crossroads team Fitzwilliam College

Note: The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/ ERC grant agreement no. 617849.

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Interdisciplines: Drama, Economics and Law in Early Modern England

Saturday 17 October 2015, **Trust Room, Fitzwilliam College**



Convenors: Rachel Holmes, Subha Mukherji, Tim Stuart-Buttle, Elizabeth L. Swann, Koji Yamamoto UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Speakers: Maria Fusaro, Quentin Skinner, Rebecca Tomlin, Andy Wood Details and registration: http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/26308 upported by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Funded by the European Research Council

Jessica Berenbeim

LECTURER IN LITERATURE AND VISUAL CULTURE. FELLOW OF JESUS COLLEGE

I grew up in New York City, and I studied at Harvard for both my BA and PhD; my first real experience of the UK was here in Cambridge, when I came to study for the MPhil in the History of Art department. Then I was a Junior Research Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford, from 2012 to 2016, and most recently a Research Fellow at the Warburg Institute in 2016–17. Before fully realising my academic vocation, I worked at literary and art magazines, first at Grand Street and later at Artforum, with a stop in-between to write for an Eastern Europe travel guide.



My research so far has principally been in the fields of medieval studies, material texts, and archival history and theory. Its central themes are the aesthetics and materiality of writing, and the role of visual culture in documentation, historical knowledge, and political power. I wrote about many of these in my first book, Art of Documentation: Documents and Visual Culture in Medieval England (2015), which looks at the fundamental connection between documentary writing and English art of the twelfth to fifteenth centuries. I argued that the discourses of documentation suggest an essential and consequential connection between objects and events: written documents offered a powerful and widely disseminated model for how ephemeral actions and relationships can manifest themselves in enduring material form. Literary and visual culture embraced and reinforced that model, such that the real-life authority of the document has come to be taken for granted - whether in systems of social control such as passports, or in cultural rituals such as the veneration of Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence.

In the course of this research, I've written about a wide range of texts and images, from illuminated manuscripts, commonplace books, maps, archival inventories, chronicles, poetry, polemic, stained glass, sculpture, and architecture. A lot of my research involves manuscripts and documents, which one reason I am particularly excited to join the English Faculty, with its strength in material text studies and the wonderful collections here in Cambridge. I only just began to explore these as a student here, and then came back for more as a Research Assistant for manuscript catalogue projects at the University Library and the Fitzwilliam Museum and Colleges.

This research has also led me to many other enjoyable collaborations with a range of institutions. I've had a longstanding relationship with the Paul Mellon Centre, and I recently co-edited a special issue of their journal British Art Studies; I'm also co-editing a forthcoming volume of British Museum Research Publications. This is part of a collaboration with the Museum's Prehistory and Europe department on a project called 'Seals and Status, 800–1700', about the constitutive role of seals and sealing - as both sculptural objects and performative practices - in hierarchies of social, institutional, and representational status.

My research continues to develop interests in medieval literature and visual culture, in documents and archives, and in the cultural construction of historical knowledge. Some current projects investigate: the image of the bureaucratic text; the theoretical implications of non-textual objects in archives; and 'the past of the past'. Specifically, the last is an endeavour to understand the significance both medieval and modern authors ascribe to vision in historical knowledge, and ultimately the wider role of visuality in constructing both the medieval idea of antiquity and the modern idea of the Middle Ages.

THEY TAUGHT ME LAUGHING TO KEEP FROM CRYING: A PERFORMANCE LECTURE

How, in fact, do we 'animate' the archive? What kind of responsibility do we have to its subjects? As academics, as artists, as interested observers – how do we negotiate the archive's silences and the inevitable gaps in the materials at our disposal? Is there room for the imagination in the telling of history? These are just some of the questions They Taught Me Laughing to *Keep From Crying* attempted to engage with.

Part academic talk, part performance piece, the show was devised for *Being Human*: A Festival of the Humanities, a UK-wide series of public events showcasing humanities research, by a small team of interdisciplinary scholars and artists. I joined up with Doug Haynes and Joanna Pawlik from the University of Sussex, Cambridge-based performance artist Harold Offeh, and actor Jamal Johnson to undertake almost a year of research, writing, and rehearsal based on the University of Sussex's archives. The show was finally performed in November to a large, appreciative audience at the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, where it was supported by other events exploring similar themes as part of As Waves of One Sea: Transatlantic Encounters in African American Culture. The keystone of the project was the archive of Rosey E. Pool (1905-1971), held by the University of Sussex. Scholar, poet, Civil Rights activist, and sometime tutor of Anne Frank, Pool led a remarkable life: as a Dutch Jew she was interned by the Nazis, only to dramatically escape with the

help of her Dutch Resistance comrades. After the War she returned to her passion for African American poetry and spent the rest of her life supporting the work of African American writers such as Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes. She became good friends with Hughes and with his assistance she encountered the work of other writers such as Owen Dodson and Chester Himes.

We thought more people should know about this incredible woman and, through telling her story, we hoped to introduce our audience to some of the more obscure African American writers she championed. But we also didn't want to shy away from the ethical issues that attend to the representation of an archival subject who can no longer speak for herself: how, for instance, were we to deal with Rosey Pool's sexuality, given that she lived with a female companion for most of her life but died before the heyday of Gay Liberation, when she might have been more likely to declare a same-sex attachment? Through the show we also attempted to tease out some of the more problematic aspects of Pool's identification with African Americans' oppression: eliding the differences between their respective experiences, she famously wrote of the yellow Star of David she was forced by the Nazis to wear, 'that piece of yellow cotton became my black skin'. Against the historical



backdrop of anti-Fascist and African American activism, we encouraged the audience to reflect on the potential problems implied by that elision.

Combining the experience and expertise of both academics and performing arts professionals and presented in an entertaining, slightly surreal style (our model was BBC's The One Show albeit at an unusual angle!), we found the 'performance lecture' was a format flexible enough to deal with these kinds of critical issues in a non-didactic fashion – in a way that a broad pubic could engage with and enjoy.

More information at: http://diarmuidhester.com/blog/

Diarmuid Hester Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow Faculty of English

20 - 21 November 2017





	20th	A theatrical lecture with Harold Offeh, Doug and Joanna Pawlik
	21st	Treasures from the Rosey P Short, dynamic introductions to key works in Af by academic experts
	21st	Looking for Langston followed by Q&A with dired Black queer cinema classic introduced by the

Cambridge REVELATIONS

Julian of Norwich REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE BARRY WINDEATT

The year has brought us a new gold standard in medieval studies with the publication of Barry Windeatt's edition of the *Revelations* of Julian of Norwich. Those who first came to the works of the Middle English mystics through Barry Windeatt's lectures, or who know Julian's writings through his

excellent Oxford World's Classics translation, will be particularly pleased to see the *Revelations* given the scholarly treatment they deserve by someone who has done so much to ensure the promotion of women's writing in Middle English. The anchoress Julian of Norwich is the earliest author writing in English who can be securely identified as a woman, and her work is among the most profound and beautiful of all medieval religious texts. At the age of thirty and believing herself to be on the brink of death, Julian recounts that she had a vision in which the image of a crucifix held before her eyes began to trickle blood. What followed were sixteen revelations which, once recovered, she would contemplate for the rest of her life.

As her revelations remained for her the source of an ongoing process of interpretation and exploration, she produced two versions of her text. The Short Text with its circumstantial details of the night on which she expected to die – her mother at the foot of her bed and the posture of her body as she lay - is preserved in a single fifteenth-century copy, and is thought to have preceded the Long Text by about twenty years. The Long Text, four times the size of the earlier work, in turn alters and develops its themes and provides further insights into an experience understood cumulatively over time. Even then, the final chapter, as we have it, declares the

book to be not yet complete, and the text is perhaps best described as a sensitive and lovingly crafted working draft.

One of the many achievements of the new Windeatt edition is the presentation of the Long and Short texts in parallel, allowing the reader to see at once where there have been additions, shifts in emphasis, and revisions around the vivid core of the original work. In addition, the volume presents us with a text as close to Julian's original language as the complicated history of the text's survival allows. With its meticulous textual and linguistic apparatus, it is a true scholarly edition, and it will be an invaluable asset to all those working in the field of medieval religious writing. The notes and commentary engage with responses to Julian from the texts' survival of the Reformation to the most recent critical works, and the whole is placed within an intellectual framework that elucidates the principal themes. These are, of course, themes that have struck the modern consciousness, for this is a bold medieval work in which Christ becomes feminised, in which the focus is more on spiritual generosity than on sin, and in which substance must be fused with sensuality.

Julian was a source of inspiration for some of the greatest writers of the last century: famously, for T. S. Eliot, but also D. H. Lawrence, Iris Murdoch, and many others. Barry Windeatt has now provided us with a text for the twentyfirst century, and new readers and medieval scholars alike will find themselves expertly guided by this major contribution to the discipline.

Barry Windeatt, ed., Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love: The Short Text and the Long Text (Oxford University Press, 2016), lxviii + 378pp. ISBN 978 0198112068.

Jacqueline Tasioulas Clare College

LISTENING TO THE UNKNOWN: Ghostly sounds in Thomas Hardy and Walter de la Mare

One night in January 1928, three days before his death, Hardy listened to Florence read aloud de la Mare's 'The Listeners' (1911). When 'the silence surged softly backward' after the final line, he said, 'That is possibly the finest poem of this century!' It was the only poem by a living writer that Hardy asked for on his deathbed. For de la Mare, Hardy's poetry was indelible. 'Your poems are another life to me', he wrote in 1918, '[they] just know me by heart'.

Many reciprocal echoes can be heard between Hardy's and de la Mare's works. Their writings resonate most in moments of listening to the unknown, which seem to evoke an elusive presence. My thesis explores this shared preoccupation: to reach beyond the known through writing. The uncertainties of auditory perception and both writers' attention to minute, ghostly sounds that escape recognition correlate with their provisional ways of thinking and (un)believing. Each engages with ghostly sensations inherent in readerly experience: of recalling voices, of invoking presences, of waiting in expectancy, and of moving through the subvocal and physical sounds of words.

Echoes resound in hollows. In the vacant church, the ear strains for a hint of something beyond. Reading gravestones seems to become a metaphor for reading poetry: one pauses and endeavours to understand words of the absent. Names recall voices. Is it ever possible to hear such voices: what happens when one encounters indecipherable inscriptions? The question of 'whither' also permeates both poets' writings concerning suicide. A crucial issue is miscommunication between the living and the dead, the writer and the reader. Like heliographic signals, messages from the absent carry secrets that can only be shared by those who know the language. These enquiries culminate in displaced sounds that almost convey meaning,

but are hollow, sounding in the self's absence: 'strange ventriloquisms', in Hardy's words, such as a bird's wing creaking, water dripping, or wind rustling over a spectral lyre.

Alongside their poetry and prose, I draw on unpublished manuscripts, such as essays, plays, and fragmentary notes. Both writers listen for voices of the dead not only of those in their lives, but also in literary language. I interweave other writers into my analysis: Thomas Browne, Robert Burton, William Wordsworth, and Emily Brontë.

I am organising a conference with Anna Nickerson: Reading Walter de la Mare, 1873-1956: 'a voice which has no fellow' (20-21 September 2018). This will explore de la Mare's wide-ranging oeuvre and re-evaluate his place in literary history, with a concert featuring musical adaptations of his poetry. https://readingwalterdelamare.wordpress.com/

Yui Kaiita PhD student, Newnham College

CARCANET



In Darkest Capital The Collected Poems of Drew Milne

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'Drew Milne is a formalist par excellence. He is a syllable counter, a shape shifter, and above all he is a sonic machine. His native inclination as a formalist is at once modernist and Marxist. But one could also say, simply, that Milne is a late Romantic lyric-poet with a political imagination. His latest turn to lichen introduces a sense of scale to the vulnerable and tenuous relationship we have to the natural world and gives a plaintive urgency to his song.' **Peter Gizzi**

In Darkest Capital gathers all of Drew Milne's poems up to 2017, including two major uncollected sequences, 'Blueprints & Ziggurats' and 'Lichens for Marxists'. A Scottish poet working out of the modernist avant-garde, through pop and art rock,

Milne moves between Beckett and Brecht, through punk and beyond. Along the way there are homages to Mina Loy, Gertrude Stein, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Frank O'Hara, Kurt Schwitters, Ian Hamilton Finlay, John Cage and Tom Raworth. His poems do not break down into form and content but insist on a continuity between lyrical purpose and critical thinking. An ark of ecological resistances to late capitalism, Milne's *Collected Poems* captures the 'skewed luxuriance' (Guardian) of his eco-socialist poetics.

Drew Milne was born in 1964 and grew up in Scotland. He lives and works in Cambridge. In 1995 he was Writer in Residence at the Tate Gallery, London. His books of poetry include *Sheet Mettle* (1994), *Bench Marks* (1998), *The Damage* (2001), *Mars Disarmed* (2001), and *Go Figure* (2003), and, with John Kinsella, *Reactor Red Shoes* (2013). He edited *Marxist Literary Theory* (1996), with Terry Eagleton, and *Modern Critical Thought* (2003). Since 1997 he's been the Judith E Wilson Lecturer in Drama & Poetry, Faculty of English, Cambridge.



Available at **www.carcanet.co.uk**

NEW EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE'S POEMS

In November Routledge published a new edition of Shakespeare's *Complete Poems* by me and Cathy Shrank, who teaches at the University of Sheffield. It's an addition to the *Annotated English Poets* series, which used to be published by Longman. Unlike other prominent editions of Shakespeare, the emphasis is more on the commentary than on a long critical introduction. We hope we've provided notes which explain the language of the poems, but which also bring it to life in its contemporary context. This might be a sense that Shakespeare was exploring a new or emerging meaning for a word, or it could be that it had some specific resonances inside or outside literature.

It was a great pleasure to collaborate with someone I've known since we were both undergraduates in Cambridge. In fact we met while writing for the university newspaper, *Varsity*. Once or twice I was reminded of those days by the awkwardness of spacing when text is squeezed into narrow columns, but (not surprisingly) that is handled by the technical experts, not by the editors.

My part of the edition is the narrative poems, *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece*. The most challenging thing about annotation, I found, was the need to restrain most of my impulses towards interpretation and appreciation. We want to enable readers to get the most out of the poems, not to tell them 'this bit's so great!' or 'this bit's so strange!'. I'm pleased to say that I now think the poems are considerably greater and stranger than I did when we started, and I believe that must be a good sign. Cathy Shrank took on the rest, a task dominated by the Sonnets, which pose many difficult questions to an editor; I think she has done superb work, showing both the careful consistency and the creative





imagination that those questions require. One thing we haven't done is rock the scholarly boat by claiming a new poem for the Shakespeare canon, or controversially omitting one; but then again, that boat's always already rocking, so one person's prudent shrewdness is another person's wild speculation.

Raphael Lyne Murray Edwards College

NEW BOOK ON T. S. ELIOI



How is a poem made? From what constellation of inner and outer worlds does it issue forth? In her forthcoming book *T. S. Eliot and the Dynamic Imagination*, Sarah Kennedy (Downing College) asks these questions in relation to T. S. Eliot's poetics. Seeking out those dynamic

images most striking in their resonance and recurrence: the 'sea-change', the 'light invisible' and the 'dark ghost', she makes the case for these sustained metaphors as constitutive of the poet's imagination and art.

T. S. Eliot was a poet haunted by recurrence. His work is full of moments of luminous recognitions, moments in which a

writer discovers both subject and proleptic image of the imaginative process. Kennedy's book examines such moments of recognition and invocation by reference to three clusters of imagery, drawing on the contemporary languages of literary criticism, psychology, physics and anthropology. Eliot's transposition of these registers, at turns wary and beguiled, interweaves modern understandings of originary processes in the human and natural world with a poet's preoccupation with language. The metaphors arising from these intersections generate the imaginative logic of Eliot's poetry.

T. S. Eliot and the Dynamic Imagination will be published by Cambridge University Press in March 2018.

LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING COURSES AT THE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Institute of Continuing Education, based at Madingley Hall, has just launched the University of Cambridge Centre for Creative Writing.

The Centre aims to offer a home and meeting place for writers and readers in Cambridge and beyond. It will provide lively events, courses and performances, and a place for retreats, reflection and inspiration. If you'd like to join us in building this exciting new phase in the development of the centre, please do get in touch (www.ice.cam.ac.uk/centre-creative-writing). We're delighted to be supporting the BBC National Short Story Award in a three-year partnership starting in 2018 and will be celebrating the form with a day symposium at Madingley Hall on 7 July 2018. The symposium will be open to all and will offer opportunities for reading and discussion of the most interesting examples of the genre, past and present, as well as writing workshops.

We've also been hymning the A14, hosting the road's first official writer-in-residence. Daisy Johnson has been collecting stories and encouraging creative responses to this seemingly unpromising landscape for a new anthology and talked about the experience on the BBC's PM programme www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b098bsyl (at about 52 minutes in). There's still time to join in: www.facebook.com/groups/A14stories.



The University's regular programme of day schools, weekend courses and part-time qualifications in English Literature and Creative Writing continue. Topics for 2017-18 day schools include the work of Zadie Smith, *Mansfield Park*, and a special Christmas edition day school looking at Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. In February, Tolkien expert Dr John Lennard will give a day to *Lord of the Rings* and Dr Andy Wimbush offers a day on Beckett's first published novel, *Murphy*, a rare opportunity to discuss Beckett's prose in depth. If you can come for whole weekend of study, there are upcoming courses on *The Winter's Tale*, Edward Thomas, and poetry and theology in the long nineteenth century. Details here: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/courses/search/subject/literaturefilm-and-creative-writing.

Applications have also opened for ICE's part-time Master's in Creative Writing. We held an open day at Madingley Hall on Friday 15 December, 10.30am-12.30am.

Please contact Midge Gillies if you have any queries about the new centre or would like to attend a future open day.

Midge.Gillies@tutor.ice.cam.ac.uk or follow us on twitter at @litandcw_ice

Jennifer Bavidge Murray Edwards College

ENGLISH FACULTY NEWS SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS, 2016-17



The Faculty of English is part of a new collaboration between the BBC and the University of Cambridge to support the BBC National Short Story Award, the BBC Young Writers' Award and the BBC Student Critics' Award. www.english.cam.ac.uk/bbcshortstory/

The Centre for John Clare Studies organised a symposium on 'John Clare and the Art of Bird Watching' in September 2017. www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/poetactivist-bird-watcher-exploring-johnclare-as-nature-writer

A new medieval studies website was launched in January 2017. www.medievalstudies.group.cam.ac.uk.

PhD student Alex Assaly convened a series of film screenings in the Faculty:



From Swing to Afro Futurism, alongside an exhibition of books and LPs: *Reclaiming the Legends: Myth and the* Black Arts Movement.



Gillian Beer has won the Truman Capote Prize for her book, Alice in Space: The Sideways Victorian World of Lewis Carroll.

Joanna Bellis has published The Hundred Years War in Literature, 1337-1600.

THE OXFORD EDITION OF THE SERMONS OF John Donne 680090080080080080080080080080

> VOLUME V SERMONS PREACHED AT LINCOLN'S INN, 1620-1621

COLLEGE BY KATRIN ETTENHUBER

OSTORD

Philip Connell published Secular Chains: Poetry and the Politics of Religion from Milton to Pope.

Steven Connor's book Dream Machines was published by Open Humanities Press.

www.openhumanitiespress.org/books/tit les/dream-machines/

PhD student Holly Corfield Carr was Poet-in-Residence at the Wordsworth Trust, January–February 2017.

Katrin Ettenhuber has edited Donne's Sermons Preached at Lincoln's Inn. 1620-23 for the Oxford Edition of the Sermons of John Donne.

MPhil student Jamie Fenton was selected as a BMI Woody Guthrie Fellow for 2017.

Paul Hartle has edited the first complete edition of the poetry of Charles Cotton (1630-1687).

Jane Hughes has published The Pepys Library and the Historic Collections of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Mary Jacobus has published Reading Cy Twombly: Poetry in Paint.

Louise Joy has co-edited The Aesthetics of Children's Poetry: A Study of Children's Verse in English.

John Kerrigan's book Shakespeare's Binding Language won the 2016 Roland H. Bainton Book Prize in Literature.

Hester Lee-Jefferies has prepared for publication the final book of the late Anne Barton, The Shakespearean Forest. www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/intothe-woods-with-shakespeare



Angela Leighton and Adrian Poole have edited Trinity Poets: An Anthology of Poems by Members of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Isobel Maddison edited a special issue of the journal Women: A Cultural Review on the writing of Elizabeth von Arnim.

Robert Macfarlane has published *The Lost Words* (with Jackie Morris) and The Gifts of Reading.

Robert Macfarlane and Orietta da Rold have been awarded British Academy mid-career fellowships.

Joe Moshenska has published A Stain in the Blood: The Remarkable Voyage of Sir Kenelm Digby.

Ian Patterson won the Forward Prize for best single poem for The Plenty of Nothing, an elegy for his late wife, Jenny Diski.



Jason Scott Warren and Andrew Zurcher have edited Text, Food and the Early Modern Reader: Eating Words.

David Trotter has co-edited Writing, Medium, Machine: Modern Technographies.

James Wade has edited Sir Torrent of Portingale.

Edward Wilson-Lee has published Shakespeare in Swahililand: Adventures with the Ever-Living Poet.

Laura Wright has co-edited *Multilingual* Practices in Language History.

Other items of news can be found at: www.english.cam.ac.uk/





READING DYLAN THOMAS edited by Edward Allen

(EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2018)

Reclining quietly with a book; an ear glued to the Hi-Fi; sifting a library stack; the TV flickering; a website gone live. Few poets have inspired such remarkable scenes and modes of interpretation, and in this respect Dylan Thomas demands special attention. Our means of access and response to Thomas's work have never been more eclectic, and the purpose of this essay collection is to throw new light on what it means to 'read' such a various art. In thinking beyond the parameters of lingering interpretative communities, the contributors to *Reading Dylan Thomas* each attend in detail to the problems and pleasures of deciphering Thomas in the wake of his centenary year - 2014 - teasing out his debts and influences, and suggesting ways to understand his own

idiosyncratic reading practices. From short stories to memoirs, poems to broadcasts, letters to films, manuscripts to LPs, paintings to websites, the material considered in this volume lays the groundwork for a new consideration of Thomas's distinctive versatility, and his importance as a multimedia modernist.

The volume started life as a conference in October 2014, hosted and generously supported by the Faculty of English. Among its contributors are Deborah Bowman, Leo Mellor, and Rod Mengham; the person responsible for its cover-art is India Lewis, an alumna of Jesus College.

Ned Allen Christ's College





I tuke conclusioun Sum new thing to write. I set me doun And furthwithall my pen in hand I tuke And maid a cross and thus begouth my buke. (I decided to compose a new piece of writing; sitting down, I took pen in hand, made a cross on the paper, and began my work.)



The fifteenth-century Scottish dream poem, the Kingis Quair, begins with an act of composition. Its narrator, the imprisoned James I of Scotland resolves to record the circumstances of his capture; to create a written record, a testament to his existence. We can

sense a similar desire for posterity behind the work of the Pre-Raphaelite artist and poet, William Bell Scott. In August, 1868, Bell Scott published a series of etchings illustrating the medieval poem. For several summers previously, Bell Scott had been engaged in decorating Penkill Castle, Ayrshire, a popular gathering-place for the Pre-Raphaelite circle, with a series of frescoes depicting key scenes from the Quair. However, the pernicious effects of the Scottish climate, coupled with Scott's decision not to prepare the walls he painted upon, led to the devastating corruption of the images. The solution was clear: print, or lose everything.

I recently assisted the Rare Books Department in obtaining a copy of of these etchings, dedicated to Alfred Lord Tennyson by the author, as part of my PhD research on medieval dream poetry. Both a fascinating illustration of a rich and allusive poem, and a compelling record of a contemporary interest in a medieval work, the etchings have been previously overlooked by medievalists. It's my hope that the University's acquisition of the etchings will inspire new interest, both in medieval dream poetry and its cultural legacy: that, like the Kingis Quair, the page will represent not the culmination of our work, but a new beginning.

Lotte Reinbold **Robinson** College

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LITERATURE Cambridge

We had a most rewarding year in 2017, with two intensive summer courses at Homerton College on **Woolf's Rooms** and **Reading Bloomsbury**, and Study Days at Stapleford Granary, taught almost entirely by members of the Cambridge English Faculty. We ranged across *Alice in Wonderland*, Tragedy, *Pride and Prejudice*, Creative Writing, *The Waste Land*, and *Mrs Dalloway*. We ended the year with a dazzling afternoon of conversation and reading with Ali Smith and Gillian Beer, following the publication of Ali's new novel, *Winter*.

In spring 2018 we have another great programme of Study Days at Stapleford Granary, taught by Cambridge scholars: http://staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/.

28 January, Reading *Great Expectations* with Corinna Russell and Jan-Melissa Schramm

18 February, Introduction to Tennyson with Ewan Jones and Oliver Goldstein

17 March, E. M. Forster: For Love of Italy with Alison Hennegan and Jeremy Thurlow.

Our autumn courses in 2018 include: Reading *A Room* of One's Own, Understanding King Lear, and First World War Writing. We are also planning a charity study day in 2018 on Refugee Writings with Ali Smith and others to raise money for refugee support. Details will be posted on our website. www.literaturecambridge.co.uk/study-days/.

In 2018, our Woolf summer course will be on **Woolf and Politics**, exploring her thinking on education, women, and above all the pressing matters of peace and war in the 1920s and 1930s. With lectures by Frances Spalding,



Peter Jones, Trudi Tate, Alison Hennegan, and Claire Nicholson. Our inspiring supervisors include Alison Hennegan, Steve Watts, Clare Walker Gore, Aoife Byrne, and Nadine Tschacksch. There will be lectures, supervisions, walks, talks, and readings,

as well as time to read and think and visit Cambridge bookshops.

Further details: www.literaturecambridge.co.uk/2018/.

Our second summer course in 2018 is on Women Writers: Emily Bronte to Elizabeth Bowen. www.literaturecambridge.co.uk/women-2018/. Emily Bronte, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield, and Elizabeth Bowen.

Finally, in partnership with Lucy Cavendish College, we continue to offer a series of free talks on Virginia Woolf and her contemporaries. We have had superb talks by Gillian Beer, Nanette O'Brien, Susan Sellers, Frances Spalding, and Claire Davison and look forward in spring 2018 to David Trotter on Katherine Mansfield and Aoife Byrne on Elizabeth Bowen. We hope to put on an all-day reading of *To the Lighthouse* at Lucy Cavendish, later in the year. Details will be posted on the website. **www.literaturecambridge.co.uk/virginia-woolf-talks/** Town and gown all welcome.

Trudi Tate Clare Hall Literature Cambridge www.literaturecambridge.co.uk/





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