

# SEFR

*Society for European Festivals Research*

## ***THE CONFERENCE***

***Monday 30 April and Tuesday 1 May 2018, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge UK***

***Crossing Boundaries: confessional, political and cultural interactions in early modern festivals and diplomatic encounters***

In the early modern world, festivals and diplomatic ceremonial often involved the movement of individuals and courtly retinues across borders. They could therefore serve as sites of interaction between religious, political, linguistic, visual, musical, literary, theatrical and material cultures. Often this was accompanied by inherent underlying tensions, which could be made more or less explicit in the diverse ‘languages’ of festival, depending on their historical contexts and the objectives of organisers and participants. Interactions might be direct, as in the case of rulers, courtiers or ambassadors travelling between territories to attend or participate in festival or diplomatic occasions, or indirect, through visual or performed representations of other cultures. Such encounters could involve claims to, and negotiations of, status and precedence, and permit the inclusion of multiple layers of meaning, enabling different parties to participate in the associated ceremonies.

The conference, led by Richard Morris, will foreground recent research by doctoral and early-career colleagues, together with papers from experienced scholars, and will focus on the period from approximately 1500 to 1750. Papers will be welcome relating to any region of Europe, or any other area of the early-modern world with which Europeans had come into contact.

## ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

If you would like to propose a paper for inclusion, please email a brief abstract, not exceeding 300 words, to Richard Morris ([richardmorris@cantab.net](mailto:richardmorris@cantab.net)). Please add a short cv, including current academic/museum/gallery affiliation, together with a note of academic experience and/or the titles of up to 3 publications.

**Please copy** your email to Margaret Shewring ([m.e.shewring@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:m.e.shewring@warwick.ac.uk)) and Ronnie Mulryne ([ronnie@mulryne.net](mailto:ronnie@mulryne.net)).

Your outline proposal must be received by **Friday 23 February 2018**. The number of conference sessions is limited, so it may not be possible under some circumstances, chiefly shortage of conference time, to accept all of the proposed papers. When delivered, papers will typically be 20 minutes in length, and may have to be restricted by conference chairmen to this stipulation. The conference language is English.

## ***EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST***

If you do not wish to contribute a paper but would nevertheless wish to attend the conference, please send an email to the same addresses as above, by the same date. This will help us with planning, budgeting and the circulation of information.

## ***THE VENUE***

The conference will be held at Trinity Hall, one of the oldest Colleges of the University of Cambridge (founded 1350). Trinity Hall enjoys a beautiful site on the banks of the river Cam, and offers high-quality day-conference accommodation, including up-to-date A/V facilities.

Please consult the Trinity Hall website for further details. Useful information, including directions to the College and photographs of conference facilities will be found on this website, especially under the heading 'Conferences' with its associated sub-entries. Some conference members may like to know that Choral Evensong, open to all, is sung in the medieval College Chapel on Sunday evenings at 6.00 pm.

Please note that the College is unable to offer overnight accommodation to conference members. The 'Cambridge Hotels' website offers details of a wide range of accommodation from Guest Houses and B&Bs to expensive hotels.

## ***COSTS***

The Society for European Festivals Research charges no annual fees and has no accumulated financial reserves. We aim to hold conferences which 'break even'. This depends on our success in attracting support from academic and grant-giving organisations. The University of Warwick has in the past been especially generous, though we have also enjoyed substantial support from other sources. Trinity Hall has shown great generosity in relation to the costs of our forthcoming conference. We are still actively seeking further sources of funding.

At this stage, we anticipate we shall have to charge a conference fee of **£40**, to include accommodation for conference sessions, lunch and tea/coffee breaks on both days. Conference members, including those who have signified an interest in attending the conference, without a definite commitment to do so, will be informed of the eventual conference fee when it is possible to calculate this.

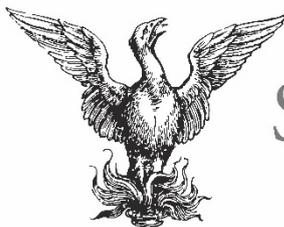
In accordance with the Society's policy, we hope it may be possible to offer a reduced fee for students and recent graduates. Further details will be sent as soon as we can to those intending to become members of the conference. Preference in distributing limited funds will be given to students/ recent graduates who will be presenting a paper. Please be sure to bring with you your student ID.

All conference members will be responsible for their own travel to, and accommodation in, Cambridge.

## ***CONFERENCE DINNER***

An optional conference dinner will be held in College on the first evening (Monday, 30 April). Those attending will be required to pay a reasonable cost. We shall inform intending conference members about the cost nearer the time.

RLMM, JRM, MEM, MMMcG and M-CC-G



Society for Renaissance Studies