

Summer School in Historical Languages 2012

# Old and Middle French

24 - 26 September 2012  
Ghent



**Cy apres seuhnt le plogue  
sur icelle meisme oeuvre.**

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This Summer School is designed for two groups of students:

- Firstly, it is aimed at MA and PhD-students in art history, history and philosophy who are required to work with documents in medieval languages. Libraries and archives preserve a huge amount of material written in Old and Middle French for the territories that were once conquered by France, or that had a French speaking elite. As a consequence, many art historians, historians and philosophers worldwide experience difficulty in reading and interpreting their source material; yet very few universities worldwide offer courses of help to such researchers.

- Secondly, this specialist course welcomes postgraduate students in French Studies who want to learn more about the medieval history of the language they are studying. Indeed, we have observed that a medieval component is often altogether absent from programmes of French Studies worldwide.

The Summer School starts with two days of courses in Old and Middle French taught by a leading expert in the field and ends with the presentation of different case studies on the use of Old and Middle French during the third and final day. During this time, students will acquire a basic knowledge of Old and Middle French — enough to grasp the meaning of historical documents — and they will learn the elementary skills needed to work through historical documents.

No previous knowledge of Old or Middle French is required; a basic working knowledge of Modern French is highly recommended. The course and lectures are given in English.

Organizing committee

Prof. dr. Jan Dumolyn (Department of History, Ghent University)

Dr. Helen Swift (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, University of Oxford)

Prof. Dr. Wim Verbaal (Department of Literature, Ghent University)

Dr. Martine De Reu (Secretary for the MA in Historical Linguistics and Literature, Ghent University).

# PROGRAMME

## MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2012

*Ghent, Blandijnberg 2, Faculty Council Room*

**Thelma Fenster** (Fordham University, NY) with the collaboration of **Marieke Van Acker** (Ghent University)

8.30 – 9.00: registration  
9.00 – 10.45: session 1  
10.45 – 11.00: coffee break  
11.00 – 12.45: workshop 1

*lunch*

13.45 – 15.30: session 2  
15.30 – 15.45: coffee break  
15.45 – 17.30: workshop 2

Evening session, open to all

18.00 – 19.00: **Julia Szirmai**, University of Leiden  
Transmission of profane elements in Old French  
Bible adaptations

## TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2012

*Ghent, Blandijnberg 2, Faculty Council Room*

**Thelma Fenster** (Fordham University, NY) with the collaboration of **Marieke Van Acker** (Ghent University)

9.00 – 10.45: session 3  
10.45 – 11.00: coffee break  
11.00 – 12.45: workshop 3

*lunch*

13.45 – 15.30: session 4  
15.30 – 15.45: coffee break  
15.45 – 17.30: workshop 4

Evening session, open to all

18.00 – 19.00: **Marc Van Uytendaele**, Ghent University  
Entre le latin et le roman: les prétendus premiers  
textes français (lecture in French)

## WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2012

*Ghent, Koningstraat 18, KANTL*

9.15 – 9.30: registration for those not attending the classes on Monday and Tuesday

9.30 – 9.40: **Wim Verbaal**, Ghent University  
Welcome

SESSION I – Chair: Wim Verbaal

9.40 – 10.20: **Thérèse de Hemptinne**, Ghent University  
Paleography of Middle French archival records

10.20 – 11.00: **Jelle Koopmans**, University of Amsterdam  
What can administrative sources tell us, and what do they hide?

*coffee break*

11.20 – 12.00: **Jan Dumolyn**, Ghent University  
Medieval French and Problems of Diplomats

12.00 – 12.40: **Jelle Koopmans**, University of Amsterdam  
Variations in a language that wasn't

*lunch (not provided by the organizers)*

SESSION II – Chair: Helen Swift, University of Oxford

14.00 – 14.40: **Rika Van Deyck**, Ghent University  
The *scripta* of the charters of Hainault (13th-14th centuries): a composite language

14.40 – 15.20: **Leah Tether**, Anglia Ruskin University  
Cambridge & Chelmsford  
The importance of medieval French literary traditions

*coffee break*

15.40 – 16.20: **Graeme Small**, Glasgow University  
History, prose and the growth of the vernacular in northern France, 14th-15th centuries

16.20 – 17.00: **Leah Tether**, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge & Chelmsford  
Medieval French Manuscripts and the Digital Humanities

17.00 – 17.40: **Jan Dumolyn**, Ghent University  
Medieval French and Chronology and Historical Metrology

Each paper includes a presentation (30 min) and a discussion (10 min)

17.45 – 19.00: informal drinks reception

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## APPLICATION

The application deadline for the entire course (three days) is June 30, 2012. There will be a maximum of 20 participants. Applications should be sent to [Martine.DeReu@UGent.be](mailto:Martine.DeReu@UGent.be) and must contain the following information: university where the MA or PhD will be obtained, mother tongue, level of English, level of French, research topic for the master's or doctoral thesis.

Interested students and scholars can attend the sessions on Wednesday for free; they are kindly asked to register before September 10, 2012 with [Martine.DeReu@UGent.be](mailto:Martine.DeReu@UGent.be).

## ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

Participants need to provide for their own lodging and transport. Useful information can be found on the following websites:

*for accommodation:*

[www.vjh.be/gent.htm](http://www.vjh.be/gent.htm) (Youth Hostel)  
[www.visitgent.be/eCache/VGG/3/516.dmdfbGFuZz1FTg.html](http://www.visitgent.be/eCache/VGG/3/516.dmdfbGFuZz1FTg.html)  
[www.gent-hotels.eu/en](http://www.gent-hotels.eu/en)  
[www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/belgium/ghent/](http://www.hostelbookers.com/hostels/belgium/ghent/)  
[www.hotelspecials.be/be/oost-vlaanderen/gent.html](http://www.hotelspecials.be/be/oost-vlaanderen/gent.html)

*for trains:*

[www.b-rail.be/nat/E/](http://www.b-rail.be/nat/E/)

## MEALS

Lunches on Monday and Tuesday will be organized by the H. Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies. Evening meals and lunch on Wednesday are not provided by the organizers.

## REGISTRATION FEE

There is a registration fee of 50 EUR for those who want to attend the entire course (three days). This fee is to be paid – after confirmation has been received of a place on the summer school – into the account of Ghent University, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, B-9000 GHENT. Account details: IBAN: BE59-3900-9658-0026 – SWIFT: BBRU BE BB 900. The VAT-number of Ghent University is BE 0248.015.142. The bank transfer should mention “Historical Languages 2012”. Payment of this fee is considered as confirmation of registration.

The registration fee is waived for MA and PhD students from Ghent University, from the Onderzoeksschool Mediëvistiek (Netherlands) and from the University of Oxford. Students and scholars attending only the sessions on Wednesday are not required to pay a registration fee.

This project is organized by the H. Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies in collaboration with

**HENRI PIRENNE**  
INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES



**MEDIUM ÆVUM**

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

 **Onderzoeksschool  
Mediëvistiek**

**KANTL**

KONINKLIJKE ACADEMIE  
VOOR NEDERLANDSE  
TAAL-EN LETTERKUNDE