**Reassessing Courtliness in Medieval Literature**

The British Branch of the International Courtly Literature Society held its annual conference at the University of Warwick, 14–15 April 2015. The event, which critically reassessed the value of courtliness for contemporary approaches to medieval literature, welcomed delegates from the UK, the US, and Switzerland. The conference featured a roundtable discussion with Dr Jane Gilbert (UCL), Professor Ad Putter (University of Bristol), and Professor Emma Dillon (KCL) which explored different aspects of the central debate, including the application of courtly norms in society; music and courtly values; and the differences between early and later notions of courtliness. Papers were spread across five panels examining the idea of courtliness historically, linguistically, and culturally. The first panel on ‘Courtliness, Shape-shifting, and the *Merveilleux*’called into question the boundaries of the courtly in the Middle Ages by examining the representation of marvel and animal behaviour in lais and romance. The second panel on ‘Courtliness and Intertextuality’ sought to examine how useful the notion of courtliness is for thinking about medieval texts of different kinds, including those not conventionally considered as courtly. Papers in ‘Reassessing Courtliness in Later Medieval Literature’ considered how courtly discourse was used to articulate both private experiences of grief and public expressions of political loyalty. The final panels were on ‘Courtliness in Translation’, and ‘Putting the Court back into Courtliness: Courtly Literature and Law’. These sessions explored the extent to which courtliness is a notion that translates between or among texts written in different languages or associated with particular cultural and historical contexts. Papers at the conference included discussions of religious writing in a courtly mode; interlinguistic approaches to Latin, French, German, and Occitan romance; law and chivalric pedagogy in text and image; and legalistic rhetoric in Troubadour poetry. Ahead of the International Congress of the ICLS next year in Kentucky, this meeting provided a space to readdress the key concepts underpinning the research that the ICLS fosters. Funding was generously provided by the Society for French Studies and the Humanities Research Centre at the University of Warwick.

(Report by Emma Campbell, Liam Lewis, and Merryn Everitt, University of Warwick)