

‘Stasis in the Medieval World’

13th-14th April 2013

The Institute of Archaeology, University College London

'Had people ever been as nasty, as self-indulgent, as dull, as miserable, as cocksure, as bad at art, as dismally ludicrous, or as wrong as they'd been in the Middle Age(s)?'

Kingsley Amis, *Lucky Jim*

Continuing the discussion begun by the University of York's 'Transition in the Medieval World' conferences in 2012, the Early Medieval Interdisciplinary Conference Series (EMICS) is pleased to present 'Stasis in the Medieval World',

The Middle Ages are popularly represented as an age of repetition and stagnation in terms of their political, religious, and artistic culture. Medieval Studies bear the burden of popular conceptions of the 'Dark Age', before the flowerings of the Renaissance ushered a return to the progressive wisdom of the Classical era. The reality familiar to scholars and students of the Middle Ages – that theirs was a time of immense transition and transformation – requires no rehearsal. But is there an extent to which medievalism's reaction to this marginalization has generated a desire to emphasize the period as one of change and development? Might there be equal value in reexamining those things which, conversely, remained static?

This conference approaches the theme of stasis in the broadest possible terms, from the early Anglo-Saxon period to the late medieval. Papers will seek to establish what really did remain static in the medieval period, and how the political and cultural upheavals generated stasis in the form of deadlock or preservation of traditions. The validity of the terms 'stasis' and 'transition' will be discussed, as well as current perceptions of medieval studies as themselves 'static', and the effects of disciplinary constraints.

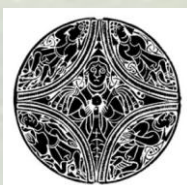
Registration is essential

Attendance both days (including wine reception): £20.00 waged / £15 unwaged

For enquiries and registration please contact: victoria.symons@ucl.ac.uk

mary.wellesley.09@ucl.ac.uk

martindavidlocker@hotmail.com



This conference is organised as part of the Early Medieval Interdisciplinary Conference Series (EMICS)