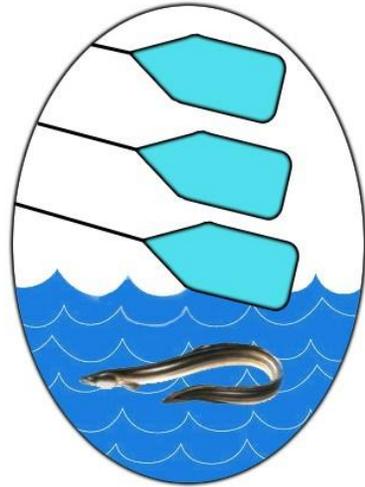


# INTERNATIONAL HOCCLEVE SOCIETY



The Newsletter of the  
International Hoccleve Society  
Volume 3 Issue 1 (2015)

## A Message from our Organizational Committee

Greetings colleagues! We are happy to announce that, due to a steady growth of interest in our activities and the launch of our own new initiatives, we are beginning to publish our newsletter semi-annually. The Society continues to serve as a productive and collegial grassroots forum for any scholar or student interested in Thomas Hoccleve, his works, his cultural context, and his milieu. Through our Zotero bibliography, our conference sessions, Hoccleve Recovery Day, and several social media channels (including the extremely entertaining *Hoccleve, Lyfe Coache*, twitter feed @THoccleve), we attempt to produce creative content that responds to emerging trends in academic and intellectual life. Our core mission is to be open, online, and collaborative, and to develop as a learned society around the needs and interests of scholars, educators, and enthusiasts at all levels. In this academic year, we especially want to hear from YOU—whether you count yourself as a member, reader, or just an interested but casual observer of our work—we want you to tell us what you would like to see our organization do for you. How can the International Hoccleve Society help you sustain and advance your interest in Hoccleve and late-Middle English literature in your research, professional development, and teaching? Please reach out to us via social media as described below and follow our work there! Please especially help us add entries to the Hoccleve Bibliography with your recent articles and books and other sources that you use in your work!

The IHS loves to keep the scholarly community updated on our Society. Please feel free to review the Organizational Committee's most recent meeting minutes [here](http://tinyurl.com/minutes-Fall2015):  
<http://tinyurl.com/minutes-Fall2015>.

Thank you for your continued interest and remember to join us on November 1 of this year for our [2nd Annual Hoccleve Recovery Day](http://tinyurl.com/HocclRecovDay2) (<http://tinyurl.com/HocclRecovDay2>).

-Elon Lang, Director

## Hoccleve Archive

This October, Robin Wharton and Elon Lang rolled out a redesigned website for the [Hoccleve Archive](http://hocclevearchive.org) (<http://hocclevearchive.org>). This new design features an adaptive mobile-friendly interface that will allow users to easily navigate between our 5 main projects and will eventually allow colleagues to participate in and collaborate on the development of the Archive's resources.

Big achievements over the last several months include the release of a beta digital edition of the [Hoccleve Holograph Manuscripts](http://tinyurl.com/hoccl-holographs) (<http://tinyurl.com/hoccl-holographs>) based on transcription files recovered from David Greetham's early 1990s HOCCLLEX project. Ongoing work is being done to make Charles Blyth's 7000-page collection of hard-copy manuscript collation notes available as digital images. The images are already available for public use at the [Texas ScholarWorks digital repository](http://tinyurl.com/RofP-collations) (<http://tinyurl.com/RofP-collations>), but we seek to improve upon this interface over the next year.

We're also going to be relaunching Karen Smyth's *Concordance of Time Referents for the Regiment of Princes*, in an interactive, sortable version. Smyth's excellent work and the process of publishing it online has inspired us to develop a concordance-building tool for other poetic texts encoded in XML on our site and elsewhere, that is currently mocked-up [here](http://hoccleve-concordance.la.utexas.edu/hoccl/). (<http://hoccleve-concordance.la.utexas.edu/hoccl/>).

Finally, we are also happy to announce that we will soon be posting Helen Hickey's digital transcription of Elna-Jean Young Bentley's 1965 dissertation-edition of Hoccleve's *Formulary* on the site. We intend to release it before it is complete so that we can receive feedback from this community about how to format it in the most useful ways.

Wharton and Lang will be discussing the work on the Archive, its goals, and its core development principles at the Medieval Academy of America and New Chaucer Society meetings in 2016, but please let us know if you have feedback about the content currently on the site at [hocclevearchive@gmail.com](mailto:hocclevearchive@gmail.com).

## Hoccleve Bibliography

The Hoccleve Bibliography, available online via Zotero, continues to grow steadily, and now has 282 entries. Additions are welcome, and can be submitted via the [IHS' bibliography page](http://hocclevesociety.org/the-hoccleve-bibliography/) (<http://hocclevesociety.org/the-hoccleve-bibliography/>). Let's see if we can get to 300 entries by the end of 2016!

## Hoccleve Events

[The 2nd Annual Hoccleve Recovery Day Presents “Touching Hoccleve: The Social Cure”](http://tinyurl.com/HocclRecovDay2)  
(<http://tinyurl.com/HocclRecovDay2>)

Although Hoccleve traces his recovery from mental illness to a spiritual intervention on All Hallows, his social recovery required the society of his peers. Hoccleve encoded this recovery into his *Series*, depicting a conversation with a friend about his stability and desire to continue writing. Similarly, a conversation with an old man dominated the prologue to the *Regiment of Princes*, in which Hoccleve sought career and life advice from a wise and caring passer-by. His contacts and connections were remedy as well as motivation to overcome his ills. Much critical work on Hoccleve centers on the emotions he portrays, and how his life was touched by the poverty, precarity, and anonymity of late medieval England. Hoccleve imagined a recovery jointly financial, psychic, and physical, one that required an unraveling of his social disaffection. Join us in celebrating Hoccleve’s recovery of his London community by participating in this social media event, in which we touch on Hoccleve’s struggle with mental health by exploring the ways our lives touch each other within networks of wellness and support.

On November 1, we invite you to post passages or images related to Hoccleve or his medieval peers to your social media platforms. Perhaps post favorite lines from his poetry, a testimonial on why these verses should be remembered, or encouragement to Hoccleve and to each other in our daily efforts at the Privy Seal and in the academy. Please identify your posts and tweets with the hashtag #Hoccleve, and feel free to “like” or retweet thematically pertinent items throughout the day under this hashtag. You may also attach other tags (#memory, #medievalistproblems, #emotion, #MSilluminations, etc.) after #Hoccleve as they are relevant. We will kick off the event with posts on our Twitter feed, [Facebook](#) account, and [Instagram](#) page. So please follow us there and on our webpage!

## Conferences & Talks 2015-2016

### International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo—2015

The International Hoccleve Society’s 2015 Kalamazoo session entitled “Hoccleve Less Studied” balanced the themes of instability and control. Underscoring Hoccleve’s metrical idiosyncrasy, Nicholas Myklebust argued in his paper “‘English Deschamps’: Thomas Hoccleve’s Metrical Rivalry with Chaucer,” that our man is best understood as a self-conscious competitor with Chaucer rather than a fawning epigone. Myklebust demonstrated that Hoccleve’s meter does not mimic Chaucer’s but revises it, inverting metrical structure following systematic and controlled patterns. Hoccleve’s common poetical form of petitioning as well as his modesty tropes are firmly, Myklebust claimed, part of the poet’s mythmaking and reputation-building endeavor.

Likewise, Eleanor Johnson, in “Hoccleve’s Theoretical Iconoclasm,” described Hoccleve as a manipulator of tradition rather than a passive recipient. His *Series* engineers what Johnson called a “late medieval experimental poetics,” engaging conventional understandings of prose and poetry, mixed-form consolation, the commentary tradition, and translation processes in order to comment satirically on the relationship between form and content. As Myklebust noted, form is currency, and for the late-medieval administrator and poet with loyalties to his language, his king, and his purse, poetry had tremendous potential as what Johnson called a “truth-bearing device.”

This truth was slippery, as Jessica Auz indicated in her paper “Counterfeiting God: A Reading of Thomas Hoccleve’s Complaint and Dialogue.” These poems offer various examples of false friends, so that the instability of friendship and its inability to reliably mediate social relations comments on the instability of language to represent. Auz reads the coin-clipping passage of the *Dialogue* as Hoccleve’s anxiety over his sinful, counterfeited life and subsequent failure to repent. If form is currency, here is Hoccleve’s mandate to collect and better spend his clipped coins on a chance at salvation. Intended to destabilize common critical interpretations of his work by defamiliarizing the poet, this panel succeeded in revealing how a familiar a human Hoccleve could be—questioning, scheming, and coping in a rapidly-changing world.

### **Huntington Library Conference**

“The Provocative Fifteenth Century” is a small conference that took place on October 15-16 2015 at the Huntington Library in California. The conference’s goal was to bring together “international leaders in the field of medieval studies, this conference focuses interdisciplinary attention on the recent resurgence of interest in fifteenth-century texts and manuscripts and reshapes the dialogue about this decisive moment in English literary history.” [Click here to read Dr. Jenni Nuttal’s blog about the event.](#)  
(<http://stylisticienne.com/the-provocative-fifteenth-century-conference/>)

### **International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo—2016**

Our panel for Kalamazoo 2016 seeks papers that extend work along these critical interventions, organizing our thought around the metaphors of “touching” and “recovering.” Thomas Hoccleve’s affective and emotional economies stage the categories of wellness, malady, (dis)ability, precarity, and recovery in quixotic and often thought-provoking ways. The blurring languages of financial, mental, and physical recovery in Hoccleve’s poetics present a complex interaction between the physical and psychic burdens of a precarious life. We hope to offer a more nuanced and sensitive account of the affects, emotions, bodies, and texts engendered by Hoccleve’s poetics of recovering while also remaining open to the ways that recovery and the poetics of touch can be risky (or risqué). We recognize that touching the past can be dangerous or have the potential to diminish or destroy the very material we seek to handle. Similarly, we are sensitive to the ways in which thinking, writing, and speaking about recovery and non-normative bodies or subject positions can be difficult, uncomfortable, potentially offensive, or otherwise disaffecting. To touch the past can be exposing. Yet, the past’s provocative power resides in its very exposures to us and its power to expose us in its brief brushes and gentle caresses. We take up Hocclevean recovery, then, in order to ask whether, how, and why it touches us and how we might continue to reach back a recovering hand to our Hocclevean texts.

[Thomas Prendergast](#) of the College of Wooster will preside over our panel. And we are very fortunate to have three fantastic papers that address our call:

[Justin L. Barker](#) (Purdue University) “Unstable Matter and Poetic Authority in the *Series*”  
[Melissa Pankake](#) (Princeton University) “Hoccleve’s *Lerne to Dye* and Narrating Despair”  
[Paul Megna](#) (University of California, Santa Barbara) “Hoccleve’s Existential Crisis”

Please view our [Call for Papers](#) for more information!  
(<http://hocclevesociety.org/2015/08/20/call-for-papers-kalamazoo-2016/>)

### TEDx Sydney Talk on Hoccleve’s *Complaint*

On 21 May 2015, [Prof. Stephanie Trigg](#), Professor of Medieval English Literature at the University of Melbourne, (pictured below), presented a [TEDx](#) talk on Hoccleve at the Sydney Opera House, Australia.

Dr. Trigg’s talk focused on Hoccleve’s *Complaint*, where he describes his depression and anxiety about not being able to convince his friends and co-workers that he has recovered. His life has become meaningless, as he treads the streets of London on his way to and from work. He describes how he tries out various facial expressions in the mirror, trying to look “normal.” She posed the question—what kinds of emotional connections can we make with Hoccleve today?

For the link to the full talk, [click here](#).  
(<http://tedxsydney.com/site/item.cfm?item=D18CC9B2FEE917DC44D143EBAE04508C>).



## Publications & Dissertations of Interest

### Books:

- Sobecki, Sebastian. *Unwritten Verities: The Making of England's Vernacular Legal Culture, 1463-1549*. Notre Dame: U of Notre Dame, 2015. Academia.edu. Web. 3 Oct. 2015.
- Appleford, Amy. *Learning to Die in London, 1380-1540*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. Print.
- Boboc, Andreea. *Theorizing Legal Personhood in Late Medieval England*. 2015. Print.

### Essays/Articles:

- Bennett, Kristen Abbott. "At the Crossroads: Intersections of Classical and Vernacular English Protest Literature in Pierce Penilesse." *Upstart: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies* (2015): Academia.edu. Web. 3 Oct. 2015.
- Heather Blurton. and Hannah Johnson. "Reading the Prioress's Tale in the Fifteenth Century: Lydgate, Hoccleve, and Marian Devotion." *The Chaucer Review* 50.1 (2015): 134-158.
- Deborah Thorpe. "Heated Words: The Politics and Poetics of Work in 'A Complaint against Blacksmiths'." *Parergon* 32.1 (2015): 77-101.
- Sebastian Sobecki. "Lydgate's Kneeling Retraction: The Testament as a Literary Palinode." *The Chaucer Review* 49.3 (2015): 265-293.
- Thomas J. Farrell. "The Meanings of Middle English Wight." *The Chaucer Review* 50.1 (2015): 178-197.
- Sokolov, Danila. "Renaissance Petrarchism and Medieval Begging In Robert Sidney's Sonnets." *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* 55.1 (2015): 21-43.

### Book Reviews:

- Robertson, Elizabeth. "Reviewed Work: English Poets in the Late Middle Ages: Chaucer, Langland and Others. By John A. Burrow." *Rev. of English Poets in the Late Middle Ages: Chaucer, Langland and Others*, by John A. Burrow. *The Modern Language Review* 110.3 (2015): 808-10.
- Rosenfeld, Jessica. "Reviewed Work: Eleanor Johnson, Practicing Literary Theory in the Middle Ages: Ethics and the Mixed Form in Chaucer, Gower, Usk, and Hoccleve." *Modern Philology* (2015): n. pag.
- Radulescu, Raluca. "Reviewed Work: A Companion to Fifteenth-Century English Poetry by Julia Boffey and A. S. G. Edwards." *The Modern Language Review* 110.3 (2015): 815-16.
- Lang, Elon. "Reviewed Work: The Making of Thomas Hoccleve's 'Series' by David Watt." *Digital Philology* 4.1 (Spring 2015): 134-136.

## Dissertations:

- Capdevielle, Elizabeth Gibbons. "Mediation And Ethics In Late Medieval English Literature." Dissertation Abstracts International 76.1 (2015): *MLA International Bibliography*.
- Farley, Mary H. "My Body in the World: Medieval Concepts of Healing and Cure." Los Angeles, California: University of Southern California, 2015.

## Social Media

Our Social Media team, consisting of Elon Lang, Helen Hickey, Meredith Clermont-Ferrand, and International Hoccleve Society Undergraduate Intern Kelly Huhtanen, are committed to advancing global awareness of the exciting and fluid developments in Middle English and Hoccleve Studies day to day across multiple digital platforms. We have a number of exciting developments to report and sites that any Hoccleve reader would want to visit.

**Twitter**



Helen Hickey remains the curator of the [IHS's twitter feed](#) @HoccleveSociety. She is a superb keeper of all things academic related to Hoccleve, his world, and medieval studies.

Kelly Huhtanen and Meredith Clermont-Ferrand are currently curating the [Hoccleve, Lyfe Coache twitter feed](#) @THoccleve. We are engaged in dispensing Hocclevean wisdom to our growing number of followers. We welcome you and your students to engage with this feed to suggest topics and ask for advice (in Middle or Modern English)!

**[Facebook](#)**



Elon Lang maintains the IHS's Facebook page, a vibrant clearinghouse for information related to the Society. Visit our Facebook site to find Calls for Papers, breaking Hoccleve news, and publications related to Hoccleve. We crossed the 100-like threshold this past summer and are eager to keep growing!

In addition to the Society's Facebook page, the Social Media team at Eastern Connecticut State has made a Facebook Page for *Thomas Hoccleve, Lyfe Coache*. The goal for the Hoccleve, Lyfe Coache's Facebook page is interact regularly with scholars and non-scholars alike who have visited our page and stayed to ask the poet for his advice and opinions on what is trending.



The IHS's Instagram following is growing every week. On our Instagram feed, we keep track of Hoccleve scholars, to note who participates in Hoccleve-related conferences and publications. We also post rare manuscript images of Hoccleve's works and let our followers know what will be in store at Kalamazoo 2016. Follow us!



Using Storify, we have collected and published what happened at both the First Annual Hoccleve Recovery Day and The International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo 2015. Our plan is to also have a new Storify feed after 1 November, the second observation of Hoccleve Recovery Day.

### Organization Committee Members List & Contact Information

Director:	<a href="#">Elon Lang</a> (University of Texas at Austin)
Asst. Director:	<a href="#">David Watt</a> (University of Manitoba)
Webmaster:	<a href="#">Robin Wharton</a> (Georgia State University)
Bibliographer:	<a href="#">Helen Killick</a> (University of Reading)
Social Media Coordinator and Twitter @THoccleve:	<a href="#">Meredith Clermont-Ferrand</a> (Eastern Connecticut University)
Twitter @HoccleveSociety:	<a href="#">Helen Hickey</a> (University of Melbourne)
Special Projects:	<a href="#">Aditi Nafde</a> (University of Newcastle)
Advisers:	<a href="#">Danielle Bradley</a> (Rutgers University) <a href="#">Amanda Walling</a> (University of Hartford)
Hoccleve Intern Fall 2015:	<a href="#">Kelly Huhtanen</a> (Eastern Connecticut University)