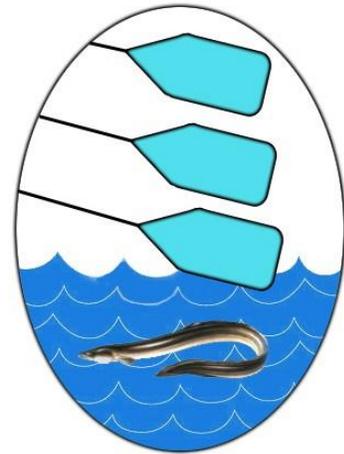


# INTERNATIONAL HOCCLEVE SOCIETY



*The Newsletter of the International Hoccleve Society  
Volume 6 Issue 1 (Summer 2021)*

## **A Message from our Organizing Committee**

Dear fellow Hoccleveans,

The International Hoccleve Society has strived to maintain a vibrant, collegial atmosphere for scholars interested in Hoccleve to come together (virtually) and reaffirm our appreciation of an author whose reflections on illness, vulnerability, and public perception have taken on renewed relevance during the global pandemic. Although some of our efforts have been put on hold, we are delighted that “Hoccleve at Home,” our online seminar series launched last June, has hosted monthly talks by leading and emerging Hoccleve scholars and attracted a dedicated global audience spanning (at least) 8 countries and 18 time zones. It has been heartening to see “Hoccleve at Home” become a venue for dynamic exchanges and discussions that cover such wide-ranging topics as language, poetic form, critical theory, scribal culture, manuscript studies, and many other lines of inquiry.

Looking ahead, as co-organizers of “Hoccleve at Home,” Sebastian Langdell and I have been putting together an exciting line-up of talks for 2021-22 academic year. For the second year of our series, we are following the arc of Hoccleve’s *Series* and aiming for “Dialogue” as our theme. Alongside lecture-style presentations with Q&A, we are planning several panel events, featuring 2-3 scholars discussing a Hocclevean theme with each other and with attendees. Information about these events can be found on the following pages of this newsletter.

Although most of our efforts have been online over the past year, the society continues to promote Hoccleve studies in a variety of avenues. *Thomas Hoccleve: New Approaches*, a volume of essays edited by Jenni Nuttall and David Watt and based on papers from our inaugural 2018 conference “The Making of Thomas Hoccleve,” is now under final review at Boydell and Brewer and slated for publication in 2022. The society continues to sponsor sessions at ICMS Kalamazoo, most recently “Re-discovering Hoccleve” (organized by Arwen Taylor) in 2021. For ICMS 2022, which will be held virtually, we are planning an online workshop and discussion on Hoccleve’s May Poems. These poems include “The Court of Good Company,” “L’epistre de Cupide,” and the “Ballad for Master Robert Chichele,” all set in the month of May, coinciding with the date of ICMS. We hope you will join us for this virtual event next spring.

Our social media channels have been a vital means of encouraging engagement with Hoccleve and with society events. We are grateful for the generous and on-going undergraduate internship provided by Eastern Connecticut State University’s English Department and overseen by Meredith Clermont-Ferrand. Hoccleve maintains a lively, humorous Twitter persona ([@THoccleve](#)) with references to academic work and labor, manuscript illustrations, and the general spirit of the times, whether medieval or modern. We are also grateful to Helen Hickey for maintaining the society Twitter and Instagram accounts, and to Elon Lang for updates to society’s Facebook page.

As always, we welcome new committee members to our organizing team to invigorate our efforts to promote community among Hoccleve scholars and enthusiasts worldwide. Please contact the Director or Assistant Director to learn more.

Best regards,

[Ruen-chuan Ma](#)

Director, International Hoccleve Society

# “Hoccleve at Home” Online Seminars

## Upcoming Events

We are delighted to be continuing the “Hoccleve at Home” series that began in 2020 as a response to the global pandemic, and that brought together a large international community of Hoccleve scholars and aficionados. We are proud to announce this year’s “Hoccleve at Home” events, which will be broadly inspired by the Hocclevean idea of “Dialogue,” and will feature conversations between pairs or trios of scholars, as well as individual presentations:

### Fall 2021

- October 11, 1 PM CT: **Nicholas Perkins** (Oxford Univ.) and **Ethan Knapp** (Ohio State Univ.), in dialogue on the evolution of Hoccleve scholarship, on the 20th anniversary of their respective Hoccleve monographs, moderated by Sebastian Langdell
- November 1, 1 PM CT: **Amy Appleford** (Boston Univ.) and **Christopher Baswell** (Columbia Univ. and Barnard Coll.), in dialogue on Hoccleve and disability studies, moderated by Ruen-chuan Ma
- December 13, 1 PM CT: **Laurie Atkinson** (Durham Univ.), “Hoccleve’s Nearly-Dream Poem, *The Regiment of Princes*, 1-2016,” moderated by Ruen-chuan Ma

### Spring 2022 (dates to be announced)

- February 2022: **Philip Knox** (Cambridge Univ.), “Debating the Romance of the Rose across the Channel: Thomas Hoccleve and Christine de Pizan,” moderated by Sebastian Langdell
- March 2022: **Sonja Drimmer** (Univ. Massachusetts, Amherst), **Jonathan Hsy** (George Washington Univ.), **Bridget Whearty** (Binghamton Univ.-SUNY), a roundtable discussion in honor of the twentieth anniversary of the Burrow-Doyle facsimile, moderated by Sebastian Langdell
- May 2022: Grad student mini-paper roundtable (details TBA)

If you would like to join us for future events, please email us at [hocclevesociety@gmail.com](mailto:hocclevesociety@gmail.com) to receive a meeting link. We will add you to a dedicated mailing list for future announcements and seminar materials. We also welcome proposals for future “Hoccleve at Home” events!

## 2020-2021 Presentations

In its inaugural year, “Hoccleve at Home” featured talks touching on a variety of Hocclevean issues such as language and form, psychology and religion, historical interpretive contexts, manuscript studies and scribal culture, and creative adaptations. We are grateful to all our speakers for their rich presentations, which provided an invaluable opportunity for intellectual community and collegial discussion during the global pandemic. The 2020-2021 series featured the following events:

- Jenni Nuttall (Oxford): “Hoccleve’s Neologisms”
- David Watt (University of Manitoba): “You’re So Vain, You Probably Think This Psalm is About You: Awkwardness in Thomas Hoccleve’s *Series*”
- Nicholas Myklebust (Regis): “Hoccleve’s Metrical Game, or The Discreet Charm of the Bureaucrat”
- Liza Strakhov (Marquette University), “Making a Man out of Hoccleve”
- Misty Schieberle (University of Kansas): ““What stiketh by?”: The Letter of Cupid and The Harley 219 Glossary”
- Sebastian Sobecki (Groningen): “Life Imitates Art: MS Harley 219, The *Gesta Romanorum*, and Hoccleve’s Poetics of Autobiography”
- Jane Griffiths (Oxford): ““Whi stant this word heer?” Glossing and Reading in Hoccleve’s ‘Remonstrance to Oldcastle’”
- Rebecca Clark (Dartmouth): “My Comics Compleinte”
- Daniel Wakelin (Oxford): “Hoccleve and Ruling”

Many thanks to the presenters and to all who attended!

# Upcoming Events and Publications

## Hoccleve at Kalamazoo (2022)

### The May Poems of Thomas Hoccleve: a ‘Hoccleve at Home’ Workshop and Discussion

As that I walkid in the monthe of May  
Besyde a groue in an heuy musynge,  
Floures dyuerse I sy, right fressh and gay,  
And briddes herde, I eek lustyly synge,  
That to myn herte yaf a confortynge.  
(“Ballad for Master Robert Chichele” lines 1-5)

As participants of the International Congress on Medieval Studies, we fondly recall spending the early Michigan springtime together walking around the verdant campus of WMU and the flowering tree-lined streets of Kalamazoo, and we long to do so again soon. To honor the conviviality of this medievalist tradition, the International Hoccleve Society has invited a diverse group of scholars to join us for a workshop and discussion on Thomas Hoccleve’s “May Poems.” These mid-length lyrics, including the “The Court of Good Company,” “L’epistre de Cupide”, and the “Ballad for Master Robert Chichele” are rarely discussed together because of their very different occasions of composition: one is a begging poem, another a defense of women, and the third an appeal to the Virgin for spiritual absolution. That said, they are all explicitly set in the month of May and they all share formal and thematic qualities that Hoccleve is known for throughout his oeuvre, including a sustained use of seasonal symbolism to create motifs of rebirth and renewal.

For this 90-minute workshop, the Hoccleve Society is assembling an online panel of workshop facilitators to share their approaches to teaching and analyzing these poems and to lead an interactive discussion about the relationships between these texts. This format is designed to build on our very successful “Hoccleve at Home” series, and will leave plenty of time for a discussion of the readings among facilitators and attendees, and the readings will be made available in advance of the Congress on our website. We hope you will join us for the workshop next May!

## Forthcoming Publications:

***Thomas Hoccleve: New Approaches***, edited by Jenni Nuttall and David Watt, is currently under review at Boydell and Brewer, with a view to publication in 2022. The volume features contributions from Nicholas Myklebust (on Hoccleve's metre), A. Arwen Taylor (on speech acts and conversation), R. D. Perry (on the incomplete form of the *Series*), Laurie Atkinson (on the *Regiment* as a 'nearly-dream poem'), Michelle Ripplinger (on Hoccleve's women readers), Spencer Strub (on the imagery of swelling and bursting), Stephanie Trigg (on body, soul and death in the 'Learn to Die'), Taylor Cowdery (on Hoccleve's *Formulary* and his poetry), Helen M. Hickey (on Hoccleve's feet), Ruen-chuan Ma (on 'curatorial Hoccleve') and Sebastian Langdell (on connections between Hoccleve's 'major' and 'minor' works). The volume's introduction, 'Hoccleve Then and Now', surveys references to the poet and his works from his death to the present day, as well as evaluating current trends in Hoccleve studies.

In other Hoccleve news, Sebastian Langdell is currently at work on **a new critical edition of Hoccleve's shorter poems** -- the contents of the Huntington holographs. The edition will appear in the Exeter Medieval Texts and Studies Series (Liverpool University Press). It will be the first complete edition of Hoccleve's shorter poems since the Furnivall/Gollancz editions (1892; 1925) -- and will be the first to offer a full critical apparatus for the poems, including notes for all poems, and collation of all non-autograph witnesses.

## Online Texts and Teaching Resources

Over the last two years, we have been expanding our website to offer more resources for teachers and students of Hoccleve's works. The [Texts and Resources](#) section of our website includes a series of texts and translations that can be used to teach Hoccleve to today's students. Currently the page includes links both to online Middle English versions of Hoccleve's works and a growing list of new translations by Jenni Nuttall, Emily Price, and Laura Varnam, which we hope will help our colleagues bring Hoccleve's work to broader audiences. Looking ahead, we aim to develop the website further and build a resource hub for studying and teaching Hoccleve.

We are also developing a new [Teaching](#) area of the website where we hope to feature reflections on teaching Hoccleve and pedagogical materials shared by our members. As our

first entry in the series, we are proud to share a short essay by Brendan O’Connell, Assistant Professor of English at Trinity College Dublin, “‘Communing is the best assay’: Teaching Hoccleve’s *Complaint* Remotely,” reflecting on the poetics of trauma and survival through the lens of the *Complaint*. Brendan has also shared slides, a lesson plan, and student responses from this work, which will be a terrific resource for many teachers. We are grateful to Brendan and we welcome new submissions of your teaching texts and ideas on a rolling basis. Please contact Elon Lang ([elon.lang@gmail.com](mailto:elon.lang@gmail.com)), cc Ruen-chuan Ma ([rma@uvu.edu](mailto:rma@uvu.edu)) if you are interested in contributing.

## Recent Conferences & Events

### Hoccleve at Kalamazoo (2021)

With the postponement of our panel originally scheduled for Kalamazoo 2020, only one of our original presenters was able to appear in 2021. However, this offered attendees a rare opportunity for more in-depth discussion of a single paper. Misty Schieberle (Univ. of Kansas) delivered a talk entitled “Linguistic Play and Loss in Hoccleve’s French Glossary (BL, Harley MS 219),” which explored Hoccleve’s glossary of French terms in the context of other language-learning tools of the period, examined its use of wordplay and humorous juxtapositions, and connected later additions at the end of the glossary to Hoccleve’s meditations on the death of his colleague John Bailey. Our warmest thanks to Misty for her outstanding presentation and to panel organizer Arwen Taylor, as well as to all who participated in the lively discussion afterwards.

## Hoccleve Bibliography

For the last several years, IHS has been compiling the [Hoccleve Bibliography](#), which is available on our website via Zotero, and which includes listings for over 300 books, articles, and theses relating to Hoccleve. We are always on the lookout for new publications of interest! Please notify IHS Bibliographer Helen Hickey ([hhickey@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hhickey@unimelb.edu.au)) of any items that should be added to the collection, especially new work by IHS members and fellow-travelers. Many thanks!

## Hoccleve Archive

Currently *The Hoccleve Archive* is in a phase of revision and redesign. That said, the Archive's 'old' site is still accessible at <https://hocclevearchive.org>. There you can still access unedited free online texts of Hoccleve's Holograph MSS Poems, links to digital images of Charles Blyth's collection of line-by-line handwritten manuscript collations for the *Regiment of Princes*, Karen Smyth's *Concordance of Time Referents for the Regiment of Princes*, and Helen Hickey's transcription of Elna-Jean Young Bentley's edition of *The Formulary* (in spreadsheet form). Also accessible is a beta version of a collaborative transcription project for the collation tables that we are going to repurpose as a platform for displaying and allowing for collaborative transcriptions of images from all manuscripts of the *Regiment*.

-- [Elon Lang](#)

## Social Media

The Hoccleve Society social media platforms have been engaged and growing! Why not? We serve as an outlet for the IHS to inform the world of all the smart, hard work medieval scholars and thinkers engage in daily. The Hoccleve community is international, expanding, and unbelievably vigorous!

We have been so fortunate that our social media engagement has increased over the past year. The IHS now has over 1000 Twitter followers—thanks in large part to our intern Jordan Corey. As a result of her valiant efforts, our Twitter impressions have gone up by 196.4% and his profile visits have gone up by 109.9% in 2021. Part of what has consistently made Hoccleve's Twitter successful is posting in correlation to major holidays or relevant events. Even less conventional audiences, like medievalists, tend to fall into predictable online patterns of what content is appealing and when.

Hoccleve is social media thirsty. We use other platforms to keep his name and work generating clicks. Jordan does the scheduling, posting, and cross posting to our Pinterest, Instagram, and even LinkedIn platforms; while not as active as Twitter, cross-posting keeps the IHS in the social media feeds of likeminded people.

Our strategy over the past year has been threefold. First, we strove to post interactive content to encourage engagement. For those of us who are teachers, we know that interactive content is a type of material—polls, stories, opinion pieces—that requires

audiences do something other than passively watching or reading. As a result, we ran Twitter polls, hosted Q&A sessions through Instagram Stories and asked our followers to share their own narratives.

Second, we worked to include hashtags to increase our reach. As a small, though intellectually mighty academic society, we know that branding with a hashtag can increase our organic reach because it allows the content to be found in native search. We bragged on our highly successful #HoccleveAtHome series and #LancastrianOfficeProblems to discuss the difficulties of government work. Some other favorites were: #RecoveryDay, #TeachingHoccleve, #MondayBlues, #MentalHealthMonday, and #TodayILearned. After all, all of the big platforms—including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn—have their own search features, and with millions of users visiting those sites each day, why wouldn't we want to position all the brilliant work IHS scholars and affiliate organizations in front of the world?

Third and finally, we used visuals to drive website traffic. Perhaps our most successful social media reach has been Jordan's masterful use of images. People are three times more likely to engage with Tweets that contain photos and videos. The IHS is committed to mainstreaming the beauty of manuscripts that were hidden before the digital age. Our most successful post in 2021 was for Easter- thanks in large part to the image from the British Library.

What Jordan Corey, the IHS's social media guru has succeeded in doing throughout 2021, is cohering an image of Hoccleve across platforms. In other words, his profile is very cohesive, aesthetically appealing, and on-brand for Hoccleve's longsuffering, writerly, differently-abled, and penurious character. We use Twitter as our center axis and move outward from there.

Thanks to Jordan's hard work Hoccleve's number of cross-app posts has increased by hundreds, up to 819 photos which display a beautiful collection of manuscripts captioned with Middle English. We've never repeated the same manuscript. (Though we are desperately thirsty for more reposts from the British Library!)



## Organizing Committee

<b>Director:</b>	<a href="#">Ruen-chuan Ma</a> , Utah Valley University
<b>Asst. Director:</b>	<a href="#">Sebastian Langdell</a> , Baylor University
<b>Kalamazoo Organizer:</b>	<a href="#">Elon Lang</a> , University of Texas at Austin
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<a href="#">Spencer Strub</a> , Princeton University
<b>Bibliographer:</b>	<a href="#">Helen Hickey</a> , University of Melbourne
<b>Social Media Editors:</b>	<a href="#">Meredith Clermont-Ferrand</a> , Eastern Connecticut State University (Twitter & Instagram: <a href="#">@THoccleve</a> ; Facebook: <a href="#">Hoccleve Society</a> ) <a href="#">Helen Hickey</a> , University of Melbourne (Twitter: <a href="#">@HoccleveSociety</a> )
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<b>Adviser:</b>	<a href="#">Aditi Nafde</a> , Newcastle University