



Volume 2 (1) - Spring 2009

Considerations of Audience in Medieval & Early Modern Studies

Audience and Amendment of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 383 in the first half of the twelfth century

Thomas Gobbit (Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds)

Text and context: author and audience in John Lydgate's *Life of St Edmund*

Rebecca Pinner (University of East Anglia)

Audience and Quattrocento Pastoral: the Case of Jacopo Sannazaro's *Arcadia*

Matteo Soranzo (McGill University)

"Some will judge too trivial, some too grave": Audience and Interpretation in Thomas Heywood's *A Woman Killed with Kindness*

Scott Stephen (University of Aberdeen)

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Skepsi is a research online journal based in the School of European Culture and Languages at the University of Kent, and is entirely run by research students. *Skepsi* originally means ‘thought’ in Greek, and symbolizes our will to explore new areas and new methods in the traditional fields of academic research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Skepsi editorial board’s aim is to honour the spirit of the School of European Culture and Languages, working hard to take advantage of its unique position as a crossroads in academic studies in Europe. Our hope is to develop collective thinking processes in the context of academic research, and to become a forum for European postgraduate researchers and postdoctoral scholars.



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Note from the Editors

Skepsi editorial board is delighted to present its second issue, consisting of a selection of papers from the Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Humanities Colloquium 'Considerations of Audience in Medieval and Early Modern Studies' – which was held at the University of Kent in December 2008 – together with an external contribution.

This issue is the result of a productive collaboration between *Skepsi* and postgraduate students from the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of Kent. For this reason, this volume does not just reflect our wish to create a forum for researchers, enabling them to share their ideas and to demonstrate their academic skills, in a context of enthusiastic exchanges; but also reflects one of *Skepsi's* main aims, which is enhancing academic research in a dynamic and collective spirit.

Foreword

Audience forms a vital consideration for all postgraduate students of the Medieval and Early Modern Period. The evidence and sources around which enquiries are centred, regardless of discipline, topic or approach, be those sources, textual, visual or physical are created with an intended audience in mind. This primary audience forms a significant component that is inseparable from considerations of form and function. There is also a second audience – that is the actual audience. Yet inevitably both the intended audience, who often are only a projection in the mind of the creator, and the actual audience rarely leave us the information that we seek. Thus although an appreciation of audience is encompassed in all relationships between producer and recipient(s) this appreciation and anticipated appreciation mostly has to be constructed afresh. Therefore, although identifying the Medieval and Early Modern Audience secures the foundation of our understanding of the period's culture paradoxically this knowledge and awareness of the audience is frequently assumed with the result that neither the intended or actual audience is explored, clearly identified, or even alluded to.

The Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Humanities Colloquium, under the title, 'Considerations of Audience in Medieval and Early Modern Studies' set out to explore and foster a greater understanding of the concepts of 'Audience'. One of its main aims was to look at the strategies that can be employed to construct audience in relation to the period's studies. The papers embraced a wide spectrum of topics and it was clear from the positive responses of those attending the colloquium that ultimately audience is a topic that unites rather than divides us and one that should continue to be held at the forefront of our analysis and investigation into the period.

As the organisers of the colloquium we were delighted when the Editorial Board of *Skepsi* offered to use a selection of the papers from the colloquium to form their second issue.

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