THE WORLD OF
ROBERT GROSSETESTE
1170-1253

MEDIEVAL SCIENCE AND THE
MODERN CURRICULUM
27th October:

Arrivals of external participants in Durham

Accommodation at the Royal County, Marriott Hotel

7.00 Dinner: Capriccio Restaurant Durham

Giles and team members will meet everyone in the lobby of the Marriott and we’ll walk up to the restaurant together.
28th October: Programme

9.30-10.00 Welcome coffee at the Birley Room, Hatfield College

10.00-11.30 Session 1
- Welcomes
- Review of Durham Grosseteste Project
- Introductions:
  - Medieval and Science Teams, Educational Teams
  - Scope of the Meeting and Questions from Participants
- Grosseteste the Medievalist
- Grosseteste the Scientist
Session leaders Giles Gasper, Hannah Smithson, Tom McLeish, Vanessa Kind and Per Kind, and Mike Huxtable

11.30-12.00 Coffee/Tea Break

12.00-1.30 Session 2
- Grosseteste and Experiment
- Science Education and Grosseteste
Session leaders Brian Tanner and Per Kind

1.30-2.30 Buffet Lunch: Hatfield College

3.00-4.30 Session 3
Exploration of the Grosseteste’s treatises:
- De colore ‘On Colour’
- De Luce ‘On Light’
- De iride ‘On the Rainbow’
Guided collaborative reading: extracts to be provided

4.30-5.00 Closing Session: Q&A

Diagrams & Designers
Brian Tanner and Tom McLeish puzzle through Grosseteste’s rainbow;
Hannah Smithson and Philip Anderson with their completed exposition;
Faith Wallis gets the rainbow going.
28th October: Evening Activities

The Medieval Cosmos

We are delighted to present the work to date on a 2D and 3D rendering of the Medieval Cosmos as conceived by Grosseteste. This is a collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Research Computing at Durham, and Professor Nick Holliman, Head of Interactive Media at the University of York. We were able, through seed-corn funding to initiate work carried out by Adam Harries on the visualisation of the formation of the cosmos as outlined in Grosseteste’s treatise on light, and sections of the treatise on colour. The initial realisation of the treatise in mathematically manipulable form was made by Richard Bower.

The script was written by Giles with help from Brian, Tom and Paul Ging, and the voice-overs have been recorded by Sally Hodgkiss, Durham alumna and actor, and the University’s Chancellor, Sir Thomas Allen.

In its complete form the visualization will last about 6 minutes, and will be screened, hopefully at the Science Museum, London, as well as in Durham. It can also be reproduce on disc for resource packs. The Medieval Cosmos film drew considerable inspiration from Richard and Nick’s earlier collaboration on the modern understanding of the beginning of the universe, a 3D film: Cosmic Origins.

Venue for Film-Showing, and brief talk: Birley Room, Hatfield College.

Time: 5.15 pm

Drinks Reception: The Tunstall Gallery, University College, ‘The Castle’

Time: 7.15

Dinner: The Senate Suite, University College

Time: 7.45

Menu: Field Mushroom and Tarragon Soup

Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken, with wild mushroom and confit leg tartlet, onion purée, Heritage creamed potato, carrot crisp and tarragon jus

V: Garden pea and courgette risotto, poached Lanchester duck egg on toast, Northumbrian leek and heritage potato cake with confit vine tomato

Lemon Cream Tart with Raspberry Sorbet
29th October: Programme

9.30-10.00 Coffee/Tea, Birley Room, Hatfield College

10.00-11.30 Session 1

Resource Pack Design around the following:

- The Medieval World
- Light and Colour
- The Nature of Scientific Problems

The three topics are designed around a cultural, conceptual and reflexive responses, respectively, to the medieval science material and what it inspires among its modern interpreters.

Session leaders Dorothy Warren, Vanessa Kind and Per Kind. We will divide into groups and work together on the resource packs. Materials will be supplied.

11.30-12.00 Coffee/Tea Break

12.00-1.30 Session 2


1.30-2.30 Buffet Lunch: Hatfield College

2.45-4.30 Session 3

Resource Pack Design:
Review and Presentation of results

Future Directions and Feedback

Session Leaders Dorothy, Vanessa, Per, Tom McLeish, Hannah and Giles.

Team Talkers

Giles with an older fashioned writing technology;
Mike and Ulrike Nowak;
Giles, Per, Lydia, Dorothy and Sam on their way to a conference – travel and talking at the same time.
29th October: Evening Activity: Dinner at Blackfriars Restaurant, Newcastle

We will take a bus to Newcastle, leaving from the Marriott Hotel in Durham, and dropping us back there after dinner.

Pick-up: 6.30
Dinner: 7.00-7.15
Leave Newcastle: 10.15
Arrive Durham: 10.45

The Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies (IMEMS) enjoys a fruitful collaboration with Blackfriars Restaurant. We have developed a partnership exploring medieval food in a modern commercial setting, we organize public lectures together, food experience days for the public and MA students at Durham, and most recently a recreation of the earliest food recipes in the western medieval tradition, discovered in a manuscript from medieval Durham. We will enjoy some of these recipes this evening. This evening will make the formal end to the workshop.

Cooks in Collaboration: (clockwise from top-left), Sam Wood, Jacky Pankhurst, Sam Ellis, Lydia, Andy Hook (Managing Director, Blackfriars), Head Chef Dan Duggan and Giles in the Blackfriars kitchen, the Banqueting Hall, Sam, Sam, Lydia, Giles and Andy with a copy of the 12th century recipes, lunchtime!, Sam, Lydia and Andy preparing a sauce.
Durham City Centre: the Marriott is at the junction of Old Elvet and New Elvet; Hatfield College number 10 on the Bailey, University College at number 5.
Newcastle City Centre: Blackfriars Restaurant is at ‘A’ – parking is available on street behind the restaurant on Friars Street, or in the Gates Carpark off Stowell Street; if parking at the Gates come up through Dispensary Lane of Low Friars Street (see inset). Left below is Blackfriars from Dispensary Lane, right below from Friars Street.
The Ordered Universe Project

The Ordered Universe project, which incorporates the current network, sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, exists to explore the scientific works of Robert Grosseteste, c.1170-1253. One of the most dazzling minds of his generation, Grosseteste lived a full and rich life: by turns scholar, church reformer, musician, teacher, bishop, political advisor and spiritual guide. Although well known his texts remain mostly inaccessible: something that we aim to change.

Grosseteste was one of the first western thinkers to grapple with Aristotle’s natural philosophy newly translated into Latin. An ancient and respected authority Aristotle commanded the attention and fascination of scholars within Christian Europe, whose attempts to understand his works, and to reconcile them (or not) to a Christian understanding of the world would remain a dominant theme.

Our team is multi-disciplinary: at its core meetings of medievalists, scientists and educationalists, to explore the meaning of Grosseteste’s text, to provide new editions of the Latin text, and to share the process of translation. Indeed, translation has become one of the fundamental concepts on our collaborative methodology: translating past cultures into the present, and, in some measure the present into the past, translating linguistically, and then mathematically to puzzle out the purpose and design of the text, and translating our own disciplinary cultures to each other. Translating what happens in our meetings to the wider public and to the education sector is also essential to the process of getting the interpretation and its challenges clear.

We have worked with Grosseteste on Colour, on Light and on the Rainbow – and there are many more texts to pursue. The AHRC Network, and support from Durham’s Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, has allowed us to meet more often and to expand our range of contacts. We are very much looking forward to expanding our programme of work, and having more fun together.

Our first edition, the treatise on colour

The Ordered Universe researchers are drawn from the UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Norway, including the Universities of Oxford, Durham, Rome, McGill Montreal, Georgetown, Copenhagen and Bergen. It is based at Durham and Oxford and directed by Giles Gasper and Hannah Smithson. Right, the team, June 2013.
Workshop delegates

1. Dr Giles Gasper, History, Durham
2. Dr Hannah Smithson, Experimental Psychology, Oxford
3. Prof. Tom McLeish, Physics, Durham
4. Dr Vanessa Kind, Education, Durham
5. Dr Per Kind, Education, Durham
6. Dr Dorothy Warren, Education, Durham
7. Prof. Brian Tanner, Physics, Durham
8. Dr Michael Huxtable, English Studies, Durham
9. Dr Gemma Wain, History, Durham
10. Prof. Richard Bower, Physics, Durham
11. Dr Pierre Dechant, Physics, Durham
12. Andrew Powney, Ampleforth College
13. Sarah Ward, Northumberland Church of England Academy
14. Chris Harris, NCEA
15. Neil McLeod, NCEA
16. Drou Easton, Lynnfield Primary, Hartlepool
17. Dr Mark Robson, St Robert of Newminster RC School, Washington
18. Steven Burdon, St Bede’s School, Lanchester
19. Mary Howell, Education Consultant
20. Charlie Rozier, History, Durham
22. Samuel Sargeant, History/English
23. Stephanie Britton, History, Durham
24. Lydia Harris, History/English, Durham
25. Katherine Bader, History, Durham
26. Ulrike Nowak, Psychology, Oxford
27. Michael Gasper, Education Consultant
28. Dr Peter Claus, Access Fellow & Senior Research Fellow in History, Pembroke College, Oxford
29. Sue McLeish, Education Consultant
30. Professor Nick Holliman, Film, Media and Television, York
31. Janet Smithson, Education Consultant
32. Dr Sigmund Sonnensyn, History, Bergen and Copenhagen
33. Professor David Cowling, Director IMEMS, Durham

Useful Contacts

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