

BSDN Lisbon 2015

Shakespeare and the Idea of the Canon

...he was not of an age; but for whose time?

Hosted by the
Departamento de Línguas, Culturas e Literaturas Modernas
Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas
Universidade Nova de Lisboa

With grateful acknowledgments to
Professor Maria Zulmira Castanheira
Professor Carlos Ceia
Professor Leonor Santa Bárbara de Cavalho

Programme

All meetings will be at 26, Av. de Berna, Edifício ID, room 0.06 (first door after the main entrance of the Faculty) - See map. The room is at the main entrance of this building.

Coffee and lunch will be available at the coffee-shop/restaurant the first floor of the building.

Tuesday 27 October

7.00pm Opening reception

Room 06, Edifício ID

Individual arrangements for dinner – there are many restaurants in the locality, and so there will be plenty of scope for choice.

Wednesday 28 Oct: Session 1

9.30 Casting the Canon: questions and definitions

SJS

10.30 The Canon and Shakespeare

Dr Charles Moseley

Is there the idea of a canon (what does that mean?) of English writing when Shakespeare started (and obviously I argue there was) and how did he deal with it.

11.30 ‘The Centre Cannot Hold, or, The Canon Astray: Shakespeare and Translation in Portugal’.

Professor Rui Carvalho Homem

Department of Anglo-American Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Oporto, Portugal.

A talk on behalf of the research group, ‘Shakespeare and the English Canon: a Research and Translation Project’, from the Università Nuova, Lisbon and the University of Oporto

12.00 Discussion, followed by, and continued at, lunch

Thursday 29 Oct: Session 2

2.30 Repertoires not Canons: Shakespeare's Globe, and the Misappropriation of *King John* for 2015

Professor Michael Hattaway

The paper will examine how a descriptive term has been made instrumental, how too many scholars concentrate on printed rather than theatrical 'publications', and will look at what the Magna Carta anniversary did to Shakespeare's *King John*.

10.30 Coffee

11.00 *Hamlet* and Hamlets in 19th century Italy: the canonization of Shakespeare on page and on stage

Professor Fernando Cioni

A discussion of the play's assumption into Italian culture, with special reference to Ernesto Rossi's *Hamlet*

12.00 Shakespearespace in an African curriculum

James Taabu Busimba

A discussion of the selection of literature set books for Ugandan secondary schools, and the place of Shakespearean texts within teaching and performance.

2.00 Guided tour of Lisbon

Details to follow

Friday 30 Oct: Session 3

9.30 Tudor history in the Shakespeare apocrypha

Professor Helen Cooper

The paper will concentrate on two plays of the Shakespeare Apocrypha, *Sir Thomas More* and *Thomas Lord Cromwell*, especially in relation to the risks of dramatizing Tudor history while Elizabeth was still alive.

10.30 Arthurian Myth in Shakespeare: The English Historical Narrative and Canonical Shakespeare

John-Wilhelm Flottun

While many of his contemporaries had the mythical King Arthur as part of the Tudor and Stuart canon, the canonical works by William Shakespeare include only a handful of scattered literal references to Arthurian myth, almost all of them just in passing. This absence of the otherwise popular and culturally canonical British king poses questions of both myth and history in Shakespeare and his time.

Coffee

12.00 Political Shakespeare and the Blessing of Art

Perry McPartland

The paper will attempt to develop our understanding of the plays' relationship to ideology through a discussion of strategies of subversion and containment found in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and to explore the consequences that such a relationship suggests for the canon's socio-political appropriation.

1.00 Conspiracy and the Canon

Dr Sverre Arve Myklebost

I will address a peculiar specimen of canon-affecting Shakespeare reception focusing on The First Folio, secret codes, conspiracy theories, astronomy and buried treasure. For about a decade, the theories of the church organist and hobby cryptographer Petter Amundsen have received much attention and airtime in Norwegian media. He has produced a book, a lecture tour, an e-book, a TV series and film where he presents his theories about Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, Rosicrucianism, and Oak Island in Nova Scotia.

I will present Amundsen's "findings" before I move on to look at some intriguing points of convergence between his approach to Shakespeare and that of the academe. I will discuss his work in relation to Shakespeare studies as well as the burgeoning field of Western Esotericism, in the process teasing out some perspectives and facts he seemingly would prefer to conceal.

Friday 30 Oct: Session 4

3.00 Round table discussion and closing remarks

Evening: Conference Dinner at *Oh Lacerda* restaurant (Av. De Berna)