

Friday Sep. 14, 9:00-12:00 pm

“Richard III - History & Philosophy”

Chair : Dr. Marie-Claire Phélippeau (*Amici Thomae Mori*)

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More's *History of Richard III* : bilingual writing and renovation of historiography

Why did Thomas More write two versions of his *History of Richard III*, one in English and the other in Latin? Critics tend to answer that these two versions were not destined to the same audience: the Latin one was intended for a continental elite, the vernacular one for a larger British readership. Though perfectly sound, this explanation may not be the only one; I'd like to underline the existence of another motivation, of a literary nature. The *History of Richard III* indeed combines two historiographical models: the ancient and classical monography, as illustrated by Sallust; and the medieval tradition of the chronicle. I argue that the oscillation between English and Latin reflects More's wish to renovate the genre of the medieval chronicle, thanks to an hybridation with classical Latin models – as if More tried to grasp the best of both worlds, in order to initiate a new way of writing history.

