

Thursday, Sep. 13, 9:30-11:50 am – “More in History”

Chair: Prof. Elizabeth McCutcheon (U. of Hawaii)

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History's judgment of Thomas More through fiction

This paper proposes a review of Thomas More as a fiction character throughout history, from Ellis Heywood's dialogue *Il Moro* (1556), to the recent 21st novels and films where More appears as a historical character (Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, the TV series *The Tudors*). A number of genres will be considered such as the Jesuit Latin drama (16th and 17th centuries), the Italian and French tragedies (17th to 19th centuries), as well as a small number of more specific works like an *opera scenica*, a 19th century diary, and a novel of the same era. This rapid overview intends to visualize the evolution of the figure of Thomas More throughout history, and account for it looking at the great ideological or intellectual movements prevalent in the culture of each time. Of course, this will be a very brief and general study, but one, we hope, that may elicit further scholarship.

