

Saturday, 10 April 2010

4:00–5:30

Biblioteca Marciana

THOMAS MORE, THE ENGLISH HUMANISTS, AND THE CITIES OF EUROPE

Sponsor: AMICI THOMAE MORI *Organizer:* MARIE-CLAIRE PHÉLIPPEAU, LYCÉE JOFFRE, MONTPELLIER

Chair: JAIME L. GOODRICH, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY *Respondent:* MARY NORTH CLOW, THE TYNDALE SOCIETY

ANNE GEOFFROY, *UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES*, *ST. QUENTIN* Thomas Nashe's Anatomy of Venice in *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594): Utopia Revisited *The Unfortunate Traveller, or the Life of Jack Wilton* by Thomas Nashe is a prose fiction set during the early years of Henry VIII's reign at the time of the siege of Tournai (1513). After a few adventures in the English camp and back at court, the narrator makes it clear that Italy, and more specifically Venice, is the aim of his next travels. Interestingly enough, the passage devoted to Venice is preceded by a portrait of Erasmus and Thomas More in Rotterdam. This paper argues that Thomas Nashe's representation of Venice in *The Unfortunate Traveller* needs to be reassessed in the context of More's *Utopia* and the question of the ideal commonwealth. Notwithstanding the author's reliance on pervasive irony, Nashe's provides an image of the citystate that, thanks to a retrospective approach, puts the topic of alternative urban spaces in the early modern period into perspective.

BRIAN CUMMINGS, *UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX* Utopian Antwerp *Utopia* famously begins at mass in the cathedral of Onze Lieve Vrouwe in Antwerp, "the fayrest, the moste gorgious and curyous churche." It is here that More encounters Peter Gilles in conversation with the strange figure of Raphael Hythlodæus. It is a classic collision between the real and the fictive. The shock of the real is one of the central interpretative problems of *Utopia*. Yet it tends to be formulated in terms of the reality of the fictional world that More creates. This paper will instead investigate the presence of the real city within the same world as the city of Utopos, including Antwerp and also Bruges, the "Venice of the North." It will do so by following the itineraries taken by that intimate circle of Gilles, More, and Erasmus through the intellectual corridor that links the maritime cities of Flanders, England, and the Netherlands.

GUIDO LATRÉ, *UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN* More and Tyndale in Antwerp Antwerp was an important place for Thomas More. He negotiated with its magistrates and used it as the backdrop for the encounter between himself and Hythlodæus in his *Utopia*. Between 1527 and 1535, it was the dwelling place of his Protestant opponent, the Bible translator William Tyndale. In 2002–03, Peter Ackroyd wrote the script for Tim Niel's docudrama entitled *Devil's Words: The Battle for an English Bible*, which stages a meeting between More and Tyndale in Antwerp. Elements of the polemical writings of More, Tyndale, and Luther are woven into their fierce debate. This paper investigates More's and Tyndale's perception of Antwerp. It looks at the representation of the city in Ackroyd and Niel's docudrama, and the ways in which historical fact and scholarly discussions between More and Tyndale are turned into drama for the presentday television viewer.