

Conference Report

The Bible in the Seventeenth Century: The AV Quatercentenary

July 7th - 9th 2011, CREMS, University of York.



An international conference on The Bible in the Seventeenth Century, held at CREMS, University of York, with sponsorship from the British Academy, the Society for Renaissance Studies and the Royal Historical Society. Some 200 delegates (120 presenting papers) attended the three-day conference. It addressed a topic that was both focused and broad: what did people do with the Bible in the Seventeenth Century? With plenary lectures given by Lori Anne Ferrell (Claremont), Barbara Lewalski (Harvard) and Peter Lake (Vanderbilt), the conference addressed its central question from a number of angles, historical, theological, literary and political and heard papers from many of the most recognisable names in Anglophone Renaissance studies, as well as emerging and younger academics. A rich vein on the scholarship of the Early Modern Bible ran through the conference - assessing the ways in which the scriptures attracted learned attention and some of the most formidable minds of the early modern era. It attended also to the ways the Bible permeated every level of society and the ways it was read and deployed in early modern culture. The conference was tied, in the loosest of ways, to the 400th anniversary of Authorised Version itself and was the national academic centrepiece of this anniversary. It was also a central part of the York Festival of Ideas, 2011.

Speakers included (to take a small selection) Hugh Adlington (Birmingham), Andrew Bradstock (Otago), Elizabeth Clarke (Warwick), Gordon Campbell (Leicester), Karen Edwards (Exeter), Noam Flinker (Haifa), Neil Forsyth (Lausanne), Ian Green (Edinburgh), Paul Hammond (Leeds), Hannibal Hamlin (Ohio), Ariel Hessayon (Goldsmiths), Torrance Kirby (McGill), Russ Leo (Princeton), Paul Lim (Vanderbilt), Erica Longfellow (Oxford), Scott Mandelbrote (Cambridge), Mary Morrissey (Reading), Nicholas McDowell (Exeter), Peter McCullough (Cambridge), Michele Osherow (Maryland), Roger Pooley (Keele), Jane Rickard (Leeds), Emma Rhatigan (Sheffield), Anne Prescott (Barnard), Nancy Rosenfeld (Max Stern), Zur Shalev (Haifa), Yvonne Sherwood (Glasgow), Debora Shuger (UCLA), Nigel Smith (Princeton), Naomi Tadmor (Lancaster), Susan Wabuda, (Fordham), Gary Waller (SUNY), Helen Wilcox (Bangor).

