

First Circular

Zurich and Basel, 7 September 2013

Dear colleagues and friends,

it gives us great pleasure to invite you to Zurich and Basel for the Sixteenth International Saga Conference, 9-15 August 2015.

This is the first of four circulars to be sent over the next two years, keeping you informed of developments and letting you know what you need to do should you wish to attend, as we hope many of you will.

Another important source of information – perhaps the most important – is our conference website, <http://sagaconference.unibas.ch/>. We encourage you to check it often!

The conference theme is 'Sagas and Space'. Questions such as how Old Norse texts construct space, how space is created, narrated, and mediated, which indigenous and international traditions come into play, and what kinds of thinking about and in space took place in the medieval North could be discussed, and many more besides. The thematic strands planned so far are *Constructing Space*, *Mediality, Textuality and Manuscript Transmission*, *Bodies and Senses in the Scandinavian Middle Ages*, *Continental Europe and Medieval Scandinavia*, *Literatures of Eastern Scandinavia*, and *Reception of Old Norse-Icelandic Literature*. As usual there will also be an open session, and suggestions for further strands relevant to the conference theme are welcome.

Following on from the success of the poster presentations at the last Saga Conference, we will be including a number of alternative formats alongside the traditional paper. *Posters* and *project presentations* give the opportunity to report on and discuss currently active projects in a congenial setting; both formats will have sessions devoted specifically to them. *Roundtables* on topics of broad interest and *plenary lectures* round out the academic programme.

The conference will be held in Zurich, with one full day of sessions in Basel and one day reserved for excursions. For further details of the provisional programme, please see the website.



The Sixteenth International Saga Conference, 2015, Switzerland

Registration will take place in 2015 via the website, where information on travel and accommodation may already be found. Participants are responsible for booking their own arrangements, and we strongly advise you to do so as early as you can. This is particularly important because the annual 'Street Parade' event is currently scheduled for the Saturday preceding the conference and usually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to Zurich.

Some dates for your calendars:

September 2013	First circular: General information about the conference
June 2014	Second circular: Call for papers
October 2014	Deadline for abstracts
February 2015	Third circular: Online registration opens
May 2015	Online registration closes (late registration possible, increased fee)
July 2015	Fourth circular: Definitive programme, final information
August 2015	Sunday 9 th to Saturday 15 th : Sixteenth International Saga Conference

This circular has been sent to all participants in the last three saga conferences. Please pass it on to your colleagues and students, post it on your noticeboards, and (if possible) link to our homepage on your websites. If you have any queries or suggestions, please send an email to sagaconference@unibas.ch.

We look forward to welcoming you to Zurich and Basel in 2015!

Best wishes,

Jürg Glauser

Klaus Müller-Wille

Kate Heslop

Matthias Hauck

