

Heirs and Spares (Oxford, 19–20 Sep 13)

University of Oxford, Kellogg College, Sep 19–20, 2013

Deadline: Jun 1, 2013

Catriona Murray

Heirs and Spares Conference

The Society for Court Studies is pleased to announce a two-day conference on the theme of royal 'heirs and spares' in early modern Europe, to be held in Oxford on 19-20 September 2013. The focus of the conference will be on heirs to the throne or those who might have been considered 'extras', security in case of the death of the heir. Too often the focus of historical research has been on those in the primary seat of power and authority, and rarely on those hovering in the wings, waiting for their big entrance. In many cases, this cue never came, and these heirs have been virtually written out of history, certainly in the public consciousness. Sometimes these heirs and their siblings were in the process of being prepared for rule, but in others their training was oddly ignored. Some spent much of their time chaffing at the restraints on their power—in court intrigues, or even open rebellion—while others focused their energies elsewhere, in patronage of the arts, building projects, or religious devotion. As historiographical emphasis of courts and court cultures shifts away from solely monolithic monarch-centred models towards a multi-polar system, this conference aims to focus not on the sun but its satellites.

We invite proposals for papers of twenty minutes in length on a broad spectrum of topics relating to royal heirs and second sons (or indeed daughters) in the early modern period. The focus of the conference will primarily be on the 16th to 18th centuries in France and Britain, but we are open to proposals that stretch these parameters, chronologically or geographically. We are also keen to stress interdisciplinarity, so suggest papers focusing on aspects of the heirs' and spares' literary, artistic, and musical representation and its public reception. Themes to consider include the education of heirs or of younger royal children; their households and finances; their position in court politics; the manner in which they were perceived by the wider public (their 'image'); their role as patrons of the arts or military leaders; their place in

royal ceremonial (baptisms, weddings, funerals), or in royal dynasticism, as marriage partners in international diplomacy, and so on. Royal families in their widest sense will also be considered, thus inclusive of illegitimate offspring.

The event will be held at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, with keynote speakers tentatively including Glenn Richardson (on Henri II of France as the 'spare' of Francis I), and Anne Somerset (on Princess Anne of York, the future Queen Anne), among others.

Please submit paper proposals (300 words), for papers (to be given in English), by June 1st to Dr Jonathan Spangler and Dr Catriona Murray at heirsandspares@hotmail.com. Further details will be posted on the Society for Court Studies Website <http://www.courtstudies.org/>

Reference:

CFP: Heirs and Spares (Oxford, 19-20 Sep 13). In: Arthist.net, Mar 9, 2013 (accessed Sep 11, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/4830>>.