20 September 2021: The Mise en texte of American Identity
16h30 – 18h30, salle de colloques 1, bâtiment multimédia.

Florence Petroff (La Rochelle), « Le concours du College of Philadelphia: les contours d'une identité britannico-américaine pendant la crise du Stamp Act (1766) »

Au moment de la crise du Stamp Act (1765-1766), le College of Philadelphia organise un concours sur « les avantages réciproques d'une union perpétuelle » de la Grande-Bretagne et de ses treize colonies nord-américaines. Les quatre mémoires qui y répondent tombent d'accord sur le fait qu'il est souhaitable que les colonies américaines maintiennent leurs liens avec la métropole mais à la condition que leurs libertés soient reconnues. Cette communication replace cette mise en texte du double sentiment d'une spécificité américaine et de l'attachement à l'Empire britannique dans le contexte de la production pamphlétaire américaine des premières années de la crise impériale. Dans quelle mesure ces prises de position sont-elles représentatives des opinions des élites coloniales ? Quel rôle a pu jouer le cadre très particulier du concours universitaire dans cette expression d'une double loyauté britannico-américaine ?

Bertrand Van Ruyembek (Paris 8) « Construire un récit français de la révolution américaine: le concours de l'Académie de Toulouse de 1784 »

La France du second XVIIIe siècle connaît une véritable passion pour les concours. Toutes les Académies en organisent. En 1784, au lendemain de l’indépendance des États-Unis, l’Académie des Jeux Floraux de Toulouse propose le sujet suivant: « La grandeur et l’importance de la révolution qui vient de s’opérer dans l’Amérique septentrionale ». Ce concours, dont le prix est en partie financé par Vergennes lui-même, est l’occasion d’une première mise en récit en français de la révolution américaine et de sa portée. Cette communication propose de reconstituer le contexte autour de ce concours et d’étudier les réflexions, l’enthousiasme et les espoirs que suscite la naissance des États-Unis dans la France pré-révolutionnaire.
**Florence Petroff** est maîtresse de conférence en histoire moderne à l’université de La Rochelle. Elle a soutenu une thèse sur la Révolution américaine et l’Écosse sous la direction de Bertrand Van Ruymbeke à Paris 8 qui sera publiée aux Editions Champion en 2022.


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**24 January 2022, Mise en texte and Communities : Writing the convent, writing the self**

16.30-18.30 on Zoom

**Jaime Goodrich,** *(Wayne State University)* “Mise en texte in early modern English Benedictine convents”

This talk will present an introduction to mise en texte within the setting of the English Benedictine convents founded on the Continent during the 17th century. As a brief opening discussion of mise en texte in the genres of statutes and chapter speeches will demonstrate, this phenomenon was essential to textual production within the convent setting since generations nuns rewrote the texts of their monastic predecessors for new purposes. The remainder of the talk will focus on the role of mise en texte in Abbess Anne Neville’s comparative history of English Benedictine convents, entitled The beginning of the Congregation of the English Benedictin Dames (c. 1672-89). The most complex and comprehensive piece of historical writing to survive from the English Benedictine convents, Neville’s account has served as an important source of historical information for historians and literary scholars. Yet it also deserves consideration as a literary text, particularly for the way that Neville weaves together various sources, most notably letters from Abbess Mary Vavasour of the Brussels Benedictines. Through an examination of the way that Neville incorporates these sources, I will show how she used mise en texte to construct an authorial persona in keeping with the primary Benedictine value of humility.

**Victoria Van Hyning,** *(University of Maryland)* "Mise en Texte in the Conversion Narrative of Catherine Holland"

This talk will focus on the autobiographical conversion narrative of the Augustinian nun, Catherine Holland, who was the daughter of a Protestant father and a Catholic mother. Holland ran away from home in order to join the Nazareth convent in Bruges. She wrote her autobiography shortly after becoming a nun. The text was written in order to articulate her commitment to her new chosen life, and to signal her belonging in her
community. Holland drew on Augustine’s Confessions when she wrote her own autobiography. Confessions is one of the most important autobiographical works ever written, and was of course particularly important for an Augustinian nun. Protestants and Catholics in the early modern period regularly disputed ownership of the Church Fathers (Augustine among them), and accused one another of falsely claiming theological lineage to these important thinkers and writers. As a result, so much early modern literature is filled with polemical arguments about these writers, and it was common for people on most sides of the argument to deploy certain ideas, textual passages, and sayings to signal their understanding of these issues, and thus their belonging within a particular religious community. Mise en texte in these cases was about belonging. Catherine Holland’s text is a valuable example of mise en texte many times over. It reveals how her reading practices shaped her autobiographical impulses, while the physical manuscript itself reveals how later generations of nuns kept reading and interacting with the narrative.

Jaime Goodrich is Professor of English at Wayne State University. She specializes in early modern literature, with a particular focus on early modern women writers and religion, especially Catholicism. Her first monograph analyzed early modern Englishwomen’s devotional translations (Faithful Translators: Authorship, Gender, and Religion in Early Modern England, 2014), and her second monograph discusses the philosophical implications of spiritual texts written by English Benedictine nuns (Writing Habits: Historicism, Philosophy, and English Benedictine Convents, 1600-1800, 2021). In collaboration with Laurence Lux-Sterritt, she is currently finishing an edition of documents related to spiritual quarrels among the Brussels Benedictines during the 17th century.

Victoria Van Hyning is an assistant professor of Library Innovation at the College of Information Studies (iSchool) at the University of Maryland, College Park, where teaches subjects related to archives, crowdsourcing, librarianship, outreach, engagement, inclusivity, and design. She has a background in medieval and early modern English literature, and much of her work is concerned with women’s writing and the material contexts of literary production. She has published several articles on early modern Catholic culture, and her first book, Convent Autobiography: Early Modern English Nuns in Exile was published by OUP in 2019. In addition to her literary work she researches and creates crowdsourcing projects that invite members of the public to learn about primary source documents and transcribe them for research and cultural heritage institutions. She joined the UMD iSchool in 2020 after two years at the Library of Congress where she worked with a team to design and launch the crowdsourcing transcription project By the People (crowd.loc.gov). Previously, she worked with Zooniverse.org in Oxford as a Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow (2014-2015) and Humanities PI (2015-2018), leading the development of several humanities projects including AnnoTate, Shakespeare’s World, and Science Gossip.

28 March 2022, Mise en texte and Early Modern Textual Transformations
16.30-18.30 on Zoom

A joint presentation by Neil Keeble (Stirling University, UK) and Tessa Whitehouse (QMUL, UK)
Early modern books were not stable or settled outputs of the press but dynamic shape-changers, subject to reworking, re-presentation, revision and reinterpretation. Their history is often the history of multiple, sometimes competing, agencies as their texts were re-packaged, redirected and transformed in ways that their original authors might hardly recognize. This session will investigate processes of editing, glossing, disputation and posthumous publication that resulted in textual mobility and varieties of authorship, using specific examples from the activities of the nonconformist ministers Richard Baxter (1615-1689) and Isaac Watts (1674-1748). We shall also consider the ways in which such textual histories and complexities can be represented in modern editions.

**Neil Keeble** is Professor Emeritus of English Studies at Stirling University, Scotland. His academic and research interests lie in English cultural (and especially literary and religious history) of the period, 1500-1725. He has published widely in this field, in particular on the Puritan tradition and the Restoration period. He has edited five collections of original essays, texts by John Bunyan, Daniel Defoe, Lucy Hutchinson, Andrew Marvell and John Milton. With John Coffey, Tim Cooper and Thomas Charlton he edited Richard Baxter’s autobiographical *Reliquiae Baxterianae* (5 vols, Oxford University Press, 2020).