



HOSTS

SHAKESPEARE & THOMAS MORE ON LAW & CITIZENSHIP

OFFERED WITH THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE OF THE APGAR FOUNDATION

Friday-Saturday, 5-6 November 2010

Major Focus

Thomas More and Shakespeare both began their literary careers wrestling with the “sickness” of civil war in England. Shakespeare knew well More’s *History of Richard III*, a history that is rich in allusions to Greeks and Romans who investigated the nature and causes of civil war. They, like the American Founders, all agreed that “faction” is a major cause. What solutions do More and Shakespeare suggest for those who are “first” or leading citizens in such trying conditions? What skills and virtues do these leading citizens need? What role does law play?

Texts

Thomas More’s English version of *History of King Richard III* (as it appeared in Holinshed’s *Chronicle*)
Shakespeare’s *History of King Henry VI.3* (depicting the height of England’s civil war)
Shakespeare’s *Tragedy of Richard III* (still one of Shakespeare’s most popular and most frequently performed plays)
Shakespeare, Munday, et al’s *Sir Thomas More* (a collaborative work of 5 London playwrights)

Major Lecturer and Seminar Participant

Dr. Robert S. Miola, Professor of English and Professor of Classics at Loyola College in Maryland
Among his publications are *Shakespeare’s Rome* (Cambridge UP, 2004), *Shakespeare’s Reading* (Oxford UP, 2000), *Shakespeare and Classical Comedy: The Influence of Plautus and Terence* (1997), *Shakespeare and Classical Tragedy: The Influence of Seneca* (1992); and editor of *Much Ado about Nothing* (Barnes & Noble, 2007), *Measure for Measure* (Apprentice House, 2007), *Macbeth* (Norton Critical Edition, 2003), *A Comedy of Errors: Critical Essays* (1997).

Friday, November 5, 2010

4:00—5:30 Dr. Gerard Wegemer: Citizenship, Law, & Self-Government in Thomas More’s *Richard III*
7:30—9:00 p.m. Plenary Address. Dr. Robert Miola: Shakespeare and *The Book of Sir Thomas More*

Saturday, November 6, 2010

9:00 a.m.—10:30 Seminar for paper presenters: More’s *History of Richard III* and Shakespeare’s Use of It in His *Richard III*
11—12:30 p.m. Seminar for paper presenters: Shakespeare’s *Henry VI* and His Scenes in *Sir Thomas More*
2:30—4:00 p.m. Dr. John Alvis: Citizenship & Law in Shakespeare’s First Tetralogy & in *Sir Thomas More*
4:30—6:00 p.m. Final Panel and Discussion: How did Thomas More influence Shakespeare? What are the most fruitful ways to explore the question of "influence"? What work remains if we are to understand better the relation between More's writing and Shakespeare's?

For more information, go to www.thomasmorestudies.org/conference.html or call 972-265-5741.