

NOTES AND QUERIES

'DU MANUSCRIT À LA TABLE': A CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON MEDIEVAL COOKERY from Carole Lambert

The Institut d'études médiévales of the University of Montréal, in collaboration with the Osler Library and the French Language and Literature Department of McGill University, is holding a conference at Montréal from 3 to 6 May of this year. The Osler Library will present an exhibition, 'La santé à table au Moyen Age', at this time. A medieval banquet for participants is planned.

The provisional program provides for sessions on: la cuisine et les réceptaires; leur diffusion; la cuisine méditerranéenne; la cuisine germanique; cuisine, banquets et distinctions sociales; cuisine et contraintes; cuisine et médecine; cuisine et équipement; symbolisme et alimentation. Experts from Canada, the USA, Australia, France Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands have been invited and will deliver papers.

For further information, or to register for participation, apply either to XV^e Colloque, Institut d'études médiévales, Université de Montréal, CP 6128 succursale A, Montréal (Québec), Canada H3C 3J7 (tel 514 343-6486); or to Carole Lambert, 6655 de Saint-Vallier, Montréal (Québec), Canada HS2 2P8 (tel 514 276-6563). The registration fee is 25 Canadian dollars (15 for students) and cheques should be made out to 'XV^e Colloque, Institut d'études médiévales'.

[Note from editors: we understand that this conference is open to all who are interested – and from wherever, not just the countries from which experts have been invited. It promises to be a really important occasion, at which a high proportion of the best known authorities on the subject will be speaking. It looks to us as though there will be 27 papers in French and 4 in English.]

'BATLER'

from A T Brissenden

The *OED* defines 'batler' as: 'Probably a "beetle" for battling clothes: see Battle v.4'; and gives Touchstone's use of the word as its first example of usage. However, in *As You Like It* (which I am at present editing for the OUP), Touchstone remembers 'the kissing' of Jane Smiles' 'batler', and the cow's dugs that her pretty chapped hands had milked (2.4.44-5), so Jane is clearly a milkmaid. Have any of your readers evidence that a batler was used in the dairy (for making butter pats perhaps?) as well as or instead of in the laundry. I should be grateful for any help.

My address is: Department of English Language and Literature, the University of Adelaide, Box 498, GPO, Adelaide SA 5001, Australia.