Four Weddings and a Funeral or Two: Ceremonials of Celebration in the Early Modern Era

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Course Description

This course will examine a set of case studies of Western European celebrations – both nuptial and funereal -- from the late Middle Ages to the eighteenth century.

Together we will review music, art, fashion, and pageantry surrounding these significant life events at high and middle echelons of society.

We will also examine the materials and methods available for reconstruction of these highly symbolic ceremonies, along with the gaps in our knowledge.
## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS #</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Exempla</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Iconographical, cultural</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
<td>Paintings and illuminations, mystical marriage, Fauvel and the charivari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Iconographical, liturgical, poetic</td>
<td>Later Medieval</td>
<td>Requiems, office of the dead, déplorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reconstructing “stages”; documentary and musical evidence</td>
<td>14th-15th century</td>
<td>Dedication motets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gifts, parties, and cultural meaning</td>
<td>16th c</td>
<td>Catherine of Aragon et al., peasant weddings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Festival books and ceremonial posturing</td>
<td>Late 16th c</td>
<td>Lasso, Troiano, and the Bavarian nuptials of 1568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Narratives, advertisements, regional folk tradition</td>
<td>18th c</td>
<td>Bidden weddings, public wills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you were a medieval illuminator....

PLEASE BRAINSTORM WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR:

Imagine you’re a medieval artist. You may use five things (objects, places, people) to symbolize marriage. What do you include?
A. AND THE BRIDE WORE....
The betrothal of Alphonso of Castile and Eleanor Plantagenet
Marie of Brabant, Marriage
Wedding of Louis X of France and Clemance of Hongrie, Grand Chronique fol. 313v
Marriage scene initial 'G', Delcampe auction house [http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/258/183/793_001.jpg]

https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&chunk.id=d0e5802&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress
B. Rings vs handfasting
A man places a ring on a woman’s finger. c. 1370. (British Library): Royal 6 E VI f. 104 Anulus (ring)
https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft1d5nb0d9&chunk.id=d0e5802&toc.depth=1&toc.id=&brand=ucpress
Mystic Marriage of St Catherine: Christ giving the ring to Catherine of Alexandria (and below, smaller, Christ child the ring to Catherine of Siena, right side ?), Barna da Siena, c. 1340, Boston MFA [source: Wikipedia]
Cut coins

Kingdom of England Richard I (r. 1189-99) AR Short Cross Penny 18mm x 1.3 grams Seaby 1347 Moneyer - Ricard; Mint - London (Cited from: https://www.cointalk.com/threads/medieval-cut-pennies.266902/)

Richard I (r. 1189-119) or John (r. 1199-1216) Cut AR Short Cross Penny 15mm. x 0.7 grams Seaby 1350 to 52, or 1355 Moneyer - Samuel; Mint - Canterbury (Cited from: https://www.cointalk.com/threads/medieval-cut-pennies.266902/)
B1. Handfast
James le Palmer: Omne Bonum, *BL MS Royal 6 E VI, f. 375r.*
Gratian's *Decretum* (c. 1300-1330), Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, MS 262 fol. 86v
Henricus Bohic, Distinctiones in Decretales Gregori i IX, Paris - Bibl. Mazarine - ms. 1334 f. 149
http://initiale.irht.cnrs.fr/codex/7067
Psalter and Hours (the 'Bedford Psalter and Hours'): f. 151v, Marriage of David and Michal, daughter of Saul (Psalm 80).
Marriage scene: Nuptial of Bohemond I of Antioch and Constance de France

Bohemond came to France to seek by any means he could the hand of the Lord Louis' sister Constance, a young lady of excellent breeding, elegant appearance and beautiful face. So great was the reputation for valour of the French kingdom and of the Lord Louis that even the Saracens were terrified by the prospect of that marriage. She was not engaged since she had broken off her agreement to wed Hugh, count of Troyes, and wished to avoid another unsuitable match. The prince of Antioch was experienced and rich both in gifts and promises; he fully deserved the marriage, which was celebrated with great pomp by the bishop of Chartres in the presence of the king, the Lord Louis, and many archbishops, bishops and noblemen of the realm.

Note: The groom took the opportunity to encourage the nobility to fight in the Holy Land, and also negotiated for a marriage between Bohemond's nephew Tancred, Prince of Galilee and Constance's half-sister Cecile of France.
C. Porches, houses, and other locations
http://www.medievalists.net/2013/11/love-and-marriage-medieval-style/
VANNI, Lippo
The Betrothal of the Virgin
1360s
Fresco
San Leonardo al Lago, Siena
BOCCACCINO, Boccaccio
Betrothal of Mary
1514-15
Fresco
Cathedral, Cremona
CARPACCIO, Vittore
Meeting of the Betrothed Couple (detail)
1495
Tempera on canvas
Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice
Blessings
D. Musicians
Shown at right is detail from the 1350s, *The Marriage* by Nicolo da Bologna. The bride wears her best dress and is accompanied by musicians and female friends or relatives.
GIOTTO di Bondone

No. 12 Scenes from the Life of the Virgin: 6. Wedding Procession
1304-06
Fresco, 200 x 185 cm
Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua
GIOTTO di Bondone

No. 12 Scenes from the Life of the Virgin: 6. Wedding Procession
1304-06

Fresco, 200 x 185 cm

Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua
The scene on the south wall depicts the wedding festivities of Theodolinda and Authari in Verona.
The wedding of saints Joachim and Anne, considered to be the parents of Mary, the mother of God. Codex of Predis (1476). (Photo by Prisma/UIG/Getty Images)
E. Public Beddings
(Bodleian MS Douce 6, f.160v): 14th c Flemish Psalter
F. Charivari
Roman de Fauvel, 1314, with additions 1316-18

• Fauvel is a dun(g) colored donkey who leaves his stable

• Fortune makes him master of the royal household...

• And then things really go wrong!
Roman de Fauvel

- Initial version
  - 3280 lines
  - Gervais de Bus

- “Additions”
  - 3000 lines
  - 169 musical exs
  - 77 illustrations
  - Chaillou de Pesstain
Since Fortune has treated Fauvel so well, he thinks he should marry her.
Fortune won’t marry him—
she has him marry Vaingloire
There’s a banquet
It has at least three courses
Eventually, it’s time for the bedding ceremony
Charivari: folk ritual

- Folk parade
- Masks
- Home-made and “found” instruments
- Loud noises
- Element of riot
Charivari: social functions

• Social functions:

  • Celebrate marriage (scare off evil spirits)

  • Used as form of social control: adultery, misalliance, etc.
Nef des fous

• Sebastien Brandt, French XVe s.
• Notice the window
• ...and the lass
Charivari/shivaree and mumming continue as folk rituals
Fauvel Charivari, by Collage

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuX7e36hfvY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuX7e36hfvY)
  - .42 to 1.42
Charivari from “The Return of Martin Guerre”

• Such rituals had a threatening and coercive element
• The distance between this and the Ku Klux Klan not so great
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zi-UJ9Ouki8
Riotous behavior—Sotes chansons
ce qui le deme alistr diam curate
si dis le sour de gaigm le mar
ny corps

Et l'autre de hors piquegn fr. r

dur en seuul. dit que estousen lundi.
Sotes chansons = foolish songs
Ullus est nur di nos ames

De la que tte pez vos ho ere

Ostre bcle bow de besera mon cul

De un les per de mon cul en.

Dame se dso souro est chanter et.