

# CHARLES IV: An Emperor in Europe (1316–2016)

13-14 October, 2016

This year marks the 700th anniversary of the birth of Charles IV (1316-1378), the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, the author of the Golden Bull, the "second Constantine," the "Last Emperor," the proponent of a Church Union, the founder of the first university in Central and Eastern Europe, a correspondent of Petrarch, and a patron of all humanist scholars and artists. In what we would now call a "pan-European" effort, he strove to create a dominant dynasty that would shift the political center of gravity to Prague, Europe's geographic center, and aspired to unite East and West under one Christian faith. Charles turned Prague from a provincial capital of the Bohemian kingdom into the cosmopolitan administrative, cultural, educational and religious hub of the entire empire – a "new Rome."



Charles's ideas and aspirations are as relevant to those concerned with contemporary Europe as they are to those studying medieval European civilization. The era of his reign, described as the Golden Age of Czech history, offers many parallels with contemporary affairs. Few European monarchs had as great an influence on the culture of their own and future generations as Charles, whom the Czech people consider to be "the father of the nation."

The symposium is free and open to the public. To register please go to:

[http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/charles\\_iv.html](http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/charles_iv.html)

Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts  
University of Pennsylvania, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, 6th floor  
3420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA

## Sponsors

The symposium is hosted and co-sponsored by Penn Libraries' Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS). Generous support has been provided by the Centre for Medieval Literature (University of York & University of Southern Denmark) and the Penn School of Arts and Sciences. Other co-sponsors include the Penn Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Department of History, French and Francophone Studies, the Department of English, Italian Studies, and Comparative Literature.

# SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**Thursday, October 13**

**5:00 – 5:15PM Symposium Opening**

**5:15 – 6:30PM. Session 1. Chair: William Noel (SIMS, University of Pennsylvania)**

**Eva Schlotheuber** (University of Düsseldorf)

*The Preaching and Praying King: Charles IV and His Role Models*

**Milada Studničková** (Institute of Art History, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, Prague)

*“Faces of Power, Wisdom and Grace: Contemporary Portraits of Charles IV and the Medieval Bohemian Visual Tradition of the Good Ruler”*

**6:30 – 7:00PM – Symposium Opening Reception**

**Friday, October 14**

**9:30 – 10:45AM. Session 2. Chair: Nicholas Herman (SIMS, University of Pennsylvania)**

**David Mengel** (Xavier University)

*The Emperor and his City*

**Zoë Opačić** (University of London, Birkbeck)

*Prague's New Town and Religious Plurality under Charles IV*

**Coffee break**

**11:00AM – 12:15PM. Session 3. Chair: Lynn Ransom (SIMS, University of Pennsylvania)**

**Julia Verkholtantsev** (University of Pennsylvania)

*Charles IV as Historiographer*

**Kevin Brownlee** (University of Pennsylvania)

*Machaut and Petrarch Interact with Charles IV: French Narrative and Italian Epistolarity*

**Lunch, 12:15 – 1:45PM**

**1:45 – 3:00PM. Session 4. Chair: Emily Steiner (English, University of Pennsylvania)**

**Peter Rückert** (National Archives of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart)

*Charles IV and the Golden Bull: Political Ranking in Cultural Dimensions*

**Michael Van Dussen** (McGill University)

*Richard II and Imperial Politics*

**Coffee Break**

**3:15 – 4:30PM. Session 5. Chair: Mary Channen Caldwell (Music, University of Pennsylvania)**

**Petra Mutlová** (Masaryk University, Brno)

*Spiritual Life after Charles IV: Augustinian Canons in Roudnice and Petrus Clarifcator*

**Kateřina Horníčková** (FWF SFB 42 Visions of Community, Vienna; U. of South Bohemia, České Budějovice)

*Presence, Memoria, and Authenticity in the Painting of the Era of Charles IV and his Sons*

**Coffee Break**

**4:45 – 6:00PM. Session 6. Chair: Ada Kuskowski (History, University of Pennsylvania)**

**Balázs Nagy** (Eötvös Loránd University and Central European University, Budapest)

*Convergences and Divergences: The Changing Face of Central Europe in the Mid-Fourteenth Century*

**David Wallace** (University of Pennsylvania)

*Charles IV, Prague, and Europe*

**6:00- 7:00PM, Symposium Closing Reception**