



Amsterdam School for Heritage, Memory and Material Culture

AHM LECTURE SERIES

In collaboration with Allard Pierson Museum

Digital Pasts and Virtual Futures: Recreating an English Poet's Irish Castle on the Web

Prof. Dr. Thomas Herron (East Carolina University, USA)

*Friday, 15 June 2018, 14:30-15:30 (open to all) & 15:30-17:00 (limited access)
Allard Pierson Museum, Nina van Leerzaal, Oude Turfmarkt, entry via no. 129*

PROGRAM

- 14.30 – 14.40 Welcome, Prof. Dr. Hanneke Ronnes
- 14.40 – 15.30 Lecture, Prof. Dr. Thomas Herron (open to all)
- 15.40 – 17.00 VR Demonstration (**limited access**)

please register [here](#)

This talk will consider past and future developments on the open-access digital humanities website Centering Spenser: A Digital Resource for Kilcolman Castle, which went on-line in 2013 and has been actively developed as a research and teaching resource ever since. The website recreates the domestic environment of the canonical English poet and administrator Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) in southwestern Ireland, where he lived as a colonist in an Irish tower house in the 1590s. Both the castle and Ireland figure prominently in Spenser's creative and administrative writing. The website relies on expert testimony from archaeologists and contains extensive essays and analyses as well as teaching resources, bibliographies, photographs, maps, diagrams and 3-D computerized reconstructions of the castle. No other website attempts to reconstruct a late-medieval/early modern Irish tower house and compound in its exterior and interior details. Recent developments include experimentation with virtual reality and augmented reality devices using the castle model. A workshop demonstrating two of these devices (a VR Gear with phone and a Microsoft hololens) will accompany the presentation.

Thomas Herron (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is a Professor of English at East Carolina University in eastern North Carolina. He works on early modern English literature, with a particular focus on the poet Edmund Spenser and Irish colonialism. He also writes on Sir Walter Raleigh, Shakespeare and other authors. He has a strong interest in medieval and early modern Irish history, archaeology, and culture. His teaching experience and interests include Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Philip Sidney, James Joyce, Irish literature, composition, creative writing (poetry) and general literature surveys. He has co-edited two multidisciplinary books on Ireland in the Renaissance (Four Courts Press 2007 and 2011) and co-curated an exhibit at the Folger Shakespeare Library on *Nobility and Newcomers in Renaissance Ireland* (Spring 2013), including catalog (Folger Shakespeare Library, 2013). His recent articles include "The Munster Plantation." *Edmund Spenser in Context*. Ed. Andrew Escobedo (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 72-82, and "Titus, Hell, and the Elements." *Shakespeare* 13 (2017), 1-19. He has published a monograph, *Spenser's Irish Work: Poetry, Plantation, and Colonial Reformation* (Ashgate, 2007). He is former editor of the multidisciplinary journal *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* and current director of the website *Centering Spenser: a digital resource for Kilcolman Castle*.

This AHM Lecture Series is co-organized with the Allard Pierson Museum. For the VR Demonstration, please register in advance at ahm.allard-pierson.lecture@gmail.com. AHM Lecture Series Coordinator: Dr. Ihab Saloul