

TEMENOS ACADEMY

PATRON HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



MICHAELMAS TERM

2018

The Temenos Academy

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MICHAELMAS TERM 2018 *14 September – 6 December*

Office closed 22 – 26 October

The Temenos Academy (a Company Limited by Guarantee No.2994834) is a Registered Charity (No.1043015) which offers education in philosophy and the arts in the light of the sacred traditions of East and West

www.temenosacademy.org

The Temenos Academy is pleased to announce its Programme for the Michaelmas Term 2018. The addresses of the venues and instructions for booking appear on page 2.

Students in full-time education may attend lectures for free and should bring their student card with them. If using the booking form they must include their student card number.

The Temenos Academy is among the organisations participating in a day conference to celebrate the 70th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales. The conference will be held in Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on Saturday 17 November. Temenos will be represented by the Chairman Ian Skelly and, in a specially commissioned filmed-interview, its President Emeritus Professor Keith Critchlow.

The Michaelmas Term Programme includes three more lectures in the series 'Spirit & Nature', by Professor John Carey, Valentin Gerlier and Dr Terry McCormick; the first of three Annual Yeats Lectures, kindly sponsored by the Toureen Group, inaugurated by the distinguished Yeats scholar Professor Warwick Gould, and a Study Day devoted to Yeats led by Jules Cashford and James Harpur; two lectures by the Dante expert Andrew Frisardi, visiting from Italy; and lectures by Professor Ravi Ravindra, Dr Jeremy Reed and Sir Richard Temple.

There will be a Temenos Academy Young Scholars Day on the theme 'The Gift of Language' on Saturday 27 October.

The Reading Essential Texts seminars are Shakespeare's *King Lear* with Dr Joseph Milne and The Gospel of John with Valentin Gerlier.

For information about becoming a Member of the Temenos Academy please see page 3.

The Venues

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
Canterbury Cathedral Precinct
Kent CT1 2EH
Nearest railway station *Canterbury West*

The Essex Unitarian Church
112 Palace Gardens Terrace
London W8 4RT
Nearest Underground *Notting Hill Gate*

The Lincoln Centre
18 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3ED
Nearest Underground *Holborn*

The Royal Asiatic Society
14 Stephenson Way
London NW1 2HD
Nearest Underground *Euston / Euston Square*

The School of Economic Science
11 Mandeville Place
London W1U 3AJ
Nearest Underground *Bond Street*

Rudolf Steiner House
35 Park Road
London NW1 6XT
Nearest Underground *Baker Street*

Booking

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE by post using the booking form or by telephone and email but PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE YOUR RESERVATION.

Please note that a seminar course may be cancelled if there are insufficient bookings.

Membership

Please support the Temenos Academy by becoming a Member or Friend. On joining, new Members or Friends are sent the current issue of the *Temenos Academy Review*, and three other publications, *Lighting a Candle – Kathleen Raine and Temenos*, a collection of tributes to Kathleen Raine which also includes many examples of her own writing on the purpose and aims of Temenos, *Ten Basic Principles That Inspire the Work of Temenos* by John Carey and *A Human Approach to World Peace, the 2004 L M Singhvi-Temenos Lecture* by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. The other Member or Friend benefits are:

- the concessionary admission rate to lectures and seminars
- free copies of all new Temenos Academy publications as they are issued

To join, please complete the Membership section of the Booking Form at the back of this programme.

Thank you!

Mailing List & Privacy Policy

If you wish to join the free postal mailing list, and/or subscribe to the free monthly email newsletter you must give your consent, either by signing and dating the name and address section of the Booking Form and returning it to us, or by making your request by email or letter.

The information you provide will be securely stored, never disclosed to anyone else without your permission, and deleted when you request it. Our Privacy Policy is published on the Temenos Academy website under 'Newsletter Subscription'. Please refer to https://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_newsletter.html

Administration

Stephen & Genevieve Overy

The Temenos Academy

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Media Archive

The Temenos Academy website includes a freely available archive of audio and video recordings of lectures, digital versions of all thirteen issues of *Temenos*, and the full texts of seventy articles from the *Temenos Academy Review*. Please refer to:

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_media_archive.html

Temenos Academy Review and Temenos Academy Papers

The Temenos Academy publishes an annual journal, the *Temenos Academy Review*, the successor to *Temenos* (founded by Keith Critchlow, Brian Keeble, Kathleen Raine and Philip Sherrard), published in thirteen issues between 1981 and 1992 and available digitally on our website. The *Review* contains papers given at the Academy and new work, including translations, poetry, art and reviews. The editors are John Carey, James Harpur and Valentin Gerlier.

The current issue of the *Review*, no. 20, may be ordered using the Booking Form; a list of its contents appears on page 29.

Thirty-nine Temenos Academy Papers have been published. They are usually single lectures or lecture series that have been given as part of the Academy's programme. The most recent to appear is *Temenos – An Index 1981–1992*.

A Publications Catalogue – a descriptive list of all Temenos publications – can be viewed on the Temenos Academy website.

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_journal.html

Temenos Academy Young Scholars

The Temenos Academy Young Scholars are an informal grouping of young students who are attracted to the Temenos Academy's approach to learning *from*, and not merely *about*, the great religious and philosophical traditions.

The Young Scholars organise Study Days or Conferences of which there have so far been four:

Cosmos – the Order of Things and Our Place in the World (2015)

Finding Common Ground: Exploring Unifying Principles in Poetry, Geometry, Philosophy and Music (2016)

Making A Good Society (2017)

Religious Thought in Today's World (May 2018)

The next Young Scholars Day, **The Gift of Language**, will be held on Saturday 27 October at the Essex Church in London. Please see page 18 for more information.

The Study Days include talks by keynote speakers and contributions from the Young Scholars themselves and are entirely free of charge.

Temenos Academy Young Scholars is open to anyone aged 18–35 years who wishes to take part in the Study Days. Young Scholars may on request receive the Temenos Academy termly programme or monthly email newsletter, and/or join as ordinary Members of Temenos by making a donation (see page 3).

Additionally, and for those interested, Young Scholars may propose and submit an *original* paper on a topic of their choice written in a way that emulates the first five of the 'Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos'. The subject may be drawn from the Humanities in general – art, philosophy, poetry, religion. For guidance look at the work of the numerous contributors to the *Temenos Academy Review* over the last 18 years. The essay should be at least 2,000 words in length. Essays will be appraised by the Temenos Academy Academic Board or a Temenos Academy Fellow and if accepted the author will be entitled to Membership of the Academy and a free subscription to the *Temenos Academy*

Review until the age of 35. Some Young Scholars' essays may be read on the website; those of exceptional merit will be considered for publication in the *Review*.

For further information and an essay application form please refer to

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_young_scholars.html

or contact the Administrators

Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy

A Two Year Part-Time Diploma Course

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the universal tradition that is our spiritual heritage, through direct engagement with key texts of philosophy, poetry and mysticism. By exploring perennial teachings, which for centuries have renewed and sustained our culture, it offers a vital counterbalance to prevailing assumptions and values. The expertise of the tutors is devoted to providing the most direct encounter possible with the teachings themselves, which, springing from the love of wisdom and the quest for truth, open up infinite riches for study and contemplation. The authors and texts studied will be: in the first year, Plato and Plotinus, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, St Bernard of Clairvaux and Meister Eckhart; in the second year, the Upanishads and *Bhagavad Gita*, Lao Tzu, Chuang Tzu and the *Huai Nan Tzu*, Ibn 'Arabi, and Attar's *The Conference of the Birds*.

The course is divided into six modules, or three per year, with weekly meetings in Central London led by the module tutor on Tuesday evenings from 7–9pm. Students will be expected to read approximately 30–40 pages of text each week. Tuition will be conducted by lectures and guided discussions of the content of the previous week's reading. *Applicants must be aged 18 or over.*

The next Part 2 commences in October 2018.

Please contact Emma Clark, the Registrar, for further information

Email temenosacademy@myfastmail.com

http://www.temenosacademy.org/temenos_foundationcourse.html

Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship

The Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is an award made in memory of the artist Thetis Blacker to further the study of the art of batik. The award is administered by the Temenos Academy in association with the Batik Guild, a UK-based non-profit organization, which exists to encourage a wider appreciation and understanding of batik as a centuries-old craft which continues to meet the needs of creative artists working today. Thetis Blacker was a member of the Batik Guild. More information about its work can be found on its website <http://www.batikguild.org.uk>

The award, which is made every 2 years, is open to members of the Batik Guild, and other batik artists. The next award will be made in 2019. Please contact the Batik Guild for an application form.

THETIS BLACKER (1927–2006) made a notable contribution to Temenos as an artist and lecturer. Her work was first featured in *Temenos 4*, and her ‘Phoenix Egg’, designed specially for the journal, appeared on the covers of issues 6–9. During her life-time she was regarded as the pre-eminent batik artist in the West. Her brilliantly colourful and masterfully executed dye paintings were commissioned for and exhibited in cathedrals and churches in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. She was also a writer and the author of *A Pilgrimage of Dreams* (1973), an account of her own vivid dreams.

As a Churchill Fellow, Thetis Blacker studied the craft of batik in South East Asia. The purpose of the Thetis Blacker Temenos Batik Scholarship is primarily, but not exclusively, to support overseas research, study and travel in the field of batik creation.

AGAINST the *nihil*
One candle-flame, one blade of grass,
One thought suffices
To affirm all.

KATHLEEN RAINE

From *The Collected Poems of Kathleen Raine*
(Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 2000)

Reading Essential Texts and the Art of Study

One of the principal aims of the Temenos Academy is to rediscover the art of study. It is commonly thought that learning is simply the acquisition of facts, of committing information to memory or, in the arts, making a critical judgement. But this conception of learning leaves out of account its true purpose, which is to come to a new level of understanding and a new order of being.

Here the Temenos Academy Reading Essential Texts seminars have a special place. In them we are engaged in exploring seminal texts which embody the finest thought, reflection and insight of mankind. Works that bear the spiritual and cultural inheritance of mankind require a special quality of study which can penetrate their essence and engage directly with the source of wisdom from whence they came. This special quality of study aims at learning from these works, not simply about them.

Therefore, the first aim of study in these seminars is to apprehend and understand texts accurately. This is the first discipline of learning. The simple discipline of accurate reading is necessary because it brings precision to the mind and opens the way to deeper reading. Without this initial precision, no deeper understanding is possible, because no contact is made with the inner order and working of the text. The mind remains outside the world of the text.

This precise and accurate reading is greatly facilitated by carefully reading aloud. Language is a spoken medium and the printed word comes fully alive and reveals all its subtleties only when spoken. Until a text begins to render up its own inherent meaning, until it begins to speak directly to us, it will only call to mind associative ideas and opinions – meanings imposed upon the text from outside. All too easily this can pass for interpretation.

Ideally, a seminar is an exploration between students in a common search for new understanding and insight. The seminar leader has the task of focussing and guiding the study towards this object. Working together in harmony is the second discipline of learning. A seminar works at its finest when it works with one mind.

Unity of purpose and unity of mind go together and create a propitious atmosphere for study. This unity arises quite naturally through the love of the work being studied and through the common quest for understanding. In true study the heart and the reason work together. Through love of a great work the heart embraces its fineness and beauty, and this fineness and beauty is an aspect of its truth, while through careful exploration the intellect discerns its wisdom. Love moves naturally to the essence of the text, while intellect naturally discerns its parts, coherence and implications. These two actions of heart and intellect are mutually reciprocal and sustain one another. Together they lead to deeper engagement with the text, and open the way to insight.

When this deeper engagement is established significant questions spontaneously emerge from the text, and these are the appropriate questions to pursue. Such questions always illuminate the text being studied. These questions lead, in turn, to a contemplative reading in which the text comes alive and its meaning becomes actually present in itself; this contemplative reading represents a higher order reading than 'critical' or 'comparative' readings.

Given this process of full engagement with the text being studied, of learning directly from the text, scholarship then finds its natural place. Learning and research may then be called upon to facilitate penetration of the text. This is the rightful place for previously acquired knowledge. Temenos seminars are not concerned with disputations between different schools of thought about the work being studied. These are matters for lectures or private study. Yet seminars ought to lay the foundations for good scholarship. For it is only through a deeper reading of the text being studied that useful and pertinent scholarly questions arise.

In summary, true study arises by three stages: accurate reading, reflective engagement, and contemplative insight.

DR JOSEPH MILNE

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

King Lear

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Leader Dr Joseph Milne

Text the Arden edition

26 September – 28 November

Wednesdays, 10 weekly sessions

Time 3 – 4.30pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue The School of Economic Science

A tragedy springs from an error of judgement. In *King Lear* we see this writ large, both in the person of Lear himself and in the chaos England is thrown into as a consequence. In seeking to be flattered by his daughters' declarations of love, Lear forgets that kingship involves holding the kingdom together, that there are higher loyalties to be honoured than those of the immediate family. There is a cosmic law which kingship must adhere to and manifest in the order of the kingdom. A departure from this great law leads to chaos. So England falls into turmoil, divisions and factions. And yet the same law also has within it a purificatory power, through which Lear is brought to face himself and to see the great depth of his misjudgement. For to misjudge love, as Lear does, is for Shakespeare to misjudge the greatest law of all. Yet, unlike justice, to abuse the law of love provokes love to redemptive healing. This journey, from love to chaos, and from chaos to redemption, is the journey we shall explore in this strange and haunting play of Shakespeare's.

JOSEPH MILNE is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and a member of its Academic Board. He is author of the Temenos Academy Papers *The Ground of Being – Foundations of Christian Mysticism, Metaphysics and the Cosmic Order* and *The Mystical Cosmos*.

Course cost

£100 or £75 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions.

Those attending must be aged 18 or over.

The study of key texts in small seminar groups

The Gospel of John

Leader Valentin Gerlier

Texts The King James Version and *The New Testament: A Translation* by David Bentley Hart (Yale University Press, 2018). The first text is required and the second recommended reading.

1 October – 3 December

Mondays, 10 weekly sessions

Time 6.45 – 8.15pm (please arrive promptly)

Venue London SW10; full address on booking

A text both familiar and mysterious, The Gospel of John awakens, right from its very prologue, a sense of wonder in the face of the dazzling mysteries that it evokes. Born out of the creative synthesis of profound elements in both Hellenistic and Jewish cultures, this text has, over the centuries, been of inspiration for poets, artists, philosophers and mystics from all walks of life. This seminar will attempt to bring out and learn from the profound and timeless insights that this sacred text communicates.

Those attending are asked to bring their own copies of the required text.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician. He is currently engaged in doctoral research on Shakespeare and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge. A member of the Temenos Academy Academic Board, he teaches the 'Metaphysics' module of the Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy.

Course cost

£75 or £60 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions.

Those attending must be aged 18 or over.

Limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

Inner Transformation According to the Yoga of the Bhagavad Gita

PROFESSOR RAVI RAVINDRA

Friday 14 September

In the chair M. R. Ry. Ravi Kandamath

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

A very skilful warrior named Arjuna has a crisis of *dharma*—duty, responsibility, obligation, right action—in the middle of a battle, and he turns to Krishna who reveals himself as an incarnation of the Highest Divinity present everywhere, including in Arjuna's deepest self. Krishna teaches that no action can be right until the actor is right. In order for Arjuna to become the right actor he needs to undertake the discipline of *Yoga* which will bring about a radical transformation of his being. However, *yoga* cannot be accomplished without *yajña*—sacrificing one's attachment to the way one now is and involving the benediction of a *deva* representing a subtler level of energy. We will explore some of the ways Krishna describes the various yogas necessary for inner transformation.

RAVI RAVINDRA is Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Ravi Ravindra's spiritual search has led him to the teachings of J. Krishnamurti, G. I. Gurdjieff, Zen, Yoga, and a deep immersion in the mystical teachings of the Indian and Christian classical traditions. He is the author of several books on religion, science, mysticism, and spirituality. His most recent book is *The Bhagavad Gita – A Guide to Navigating the Battle of Life* (Shambhala Publications, 2017). He is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Lake District Fell Farmers: A Case Study for a Sustainable Cultural Ecology

DR TERRY MCCORMICK

Tuesday 25 September

In the chair Grevel Lindop

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

The wider context for this talk is the culture versus nature debate which has been enlivened recently through increasing support for ‘re-wilding’. This debate became especially intense for the Lake District as it developed its World Heritage bid from 2009–2017. A wider context still, is the approach to minority cultures by a dominant mainstream ‘English’ culture. This has been most painful and vivid over the centuries in Wales. Something similar was going on in the engagement and lack of it with fell farmers from 1750 onwards.

The question for re-wilders and ecologists is this: why threaten a community which for over a thousand years has a remarkable record for sustaining livelihoods and tough marginal land, while producing high quality protein and a landscape recognised globally for its beauty. Part of the answer to this question is simple: durable ignorance. This has been fostered by historians and writers over decades until its assumptions have appeared to be beyond question. When ‘high’ art is brought to bear on this as well, then the alerts should be set off and attention drawn to what has been going on. This lecture sets out a proud history of community resilience and land management alongside a range of literary and historical interpretations which, at times, have become a serious challenge to this important national asset.

TERRY MCCORMICK has lived and worked in the Lake District in Cumbria for forty years. After completing a PhD on Wordsworth’s Poetry and Place, he was

Curator for the Wordsworth Trust at Dove Cottage. He then ran 'Learning Cultures', undertaking research and development initiatives with the region's cultural sector. From 2004–2006, Terry was a dry stone waller and assistant shepherd on a hill farm and then, until 2014, through Action with Communities in Cumbria worked on behalf of the hill farming community. He was a member of the technical and advisory group which steered the Lake District to a successful World Heritage submission in 2017. He is the author of *Wordsworth and Shepherds* (2015) and *Lake District Fell Farming: Historical and Literary Perspectives 1750–2017* (2017). He has taken care of a six-acre intake high above Grasmere valley since 1989.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

The Annual Yeats Lecture

Yeats's Book of 'Numberless Dreams': his Notebook, 'Visions: 1898–1901', and the Irish 'Unwritten Tradition'

PROFESSOR WARWICK GOULD FRSL

Monday 8 October

In the chair Grevel Lindop

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lecture begins promptly at 6.45pm

Concludes 8pm

The 'Visions' Notebook has no connexion with Yeats's much later theory of everything, *A Vision* of 1925 and 1937. It records his visions induced by meditation upon Irish and universal symbols, as well as his resultant dreams, at a time when he was collecting Irish folklore from the Galway peasantry, planning a Celtic Mystical Order with Maud Gonne – as ever at cross-purposes in love – and writing poems for *The Wind Among the Reeds* (1899).

WARWICK GOULD is a leading Yeats scholar, and since 1983 has edited the journal *Yeats Annual* (www.openbookpublishers.com). An editor of Yeats's *Collected Letters* and author of many articles on Yeats's life and writings, he has edited (with Deirdre Toomey) *Mythologies*, Yeats's early fiction and writings on folklore. His other books include *Joachim of Fiore and the Myth of the Eternal Evangel in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Oxford: Clarendon, 2001 with Marjorie Reeves). He was Founder-Director (1999–2013) of the Institute of English Studies at the University of London, and in 2012 received the President's Medal of the British Academy, for 'signal service to the cause of the Humanities'.

The first of three Annual Yeats Lectures generously sponsored by the Toureen Group.

Admission free

The Gift of Language

Saturday 27 October

In the chair Adele Guyton

Venue The Essex Unitarian Church

Doors open at 9am

Concludes 5pm

Speakers

HILARY DAVIES

DR JOSEPH MILNE

JENNY RALLENS

The fourth annual Young Scholars Day will bring together young writers, linguists, and philosophers to explore the many ways in which language shapes our world. **Hilary Davies** will speak on poetry and translation, **Jenny Rallens** will present on language and memory, and **Joseph Milne** and Hilary Davies will explore Shakespeare's sonnets and more in the afternoon seminars. Additionally, Young Scholars from various disciplines will present creative and academic work related to our theme.

HILARY DAVIES is a poet and a member of the Temenos Academy Academic Board.

DR JOSEPH MILNE teaches the 'Mysticism' module of the Temenos Academy Foundation Course.

JENNY RALLENS is a PhD student at the University of Oxford where she is working on language and memory in St Augustine.

ADELE GUYTON is a Temenos Academy Young Scholar and a student of literature.

The day is open to anyone aged 18–35. **Admission is free.**

Booking

Please register in advance using the form on the Temenos Academy website

<http://www.temenosacademy.org/2018-October-Young-Scholars-Flyer.pdf>

Shakespeare and the Unity of Nature and Humanity

VALENTIN GERLIER

Thursday 8 November

In the chair David Brazier

Venue The Essex Unitarian Church

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Shakespeare's lifetime saw some fundamental and decisive changes in humanity's conception of Nature. From the ancient world to the end of the Middle Ages, Nature had been interpreted as a unified and harmonious all-encompassing cosmic principle. Yet with the advent of early modern science and philosophy, Nature became increasingly seen as a 'merely' physical or inert material reality, devoid of inherent intelligence, a bloody theatre for an endless struggle for survival, dominance and power. Bereft of any sense of place in the cosmos, humanity re-interpreted itself as an isolated and disembodied thinking 'self', whose role it was to subdue and control Nature for its own purposes.

Shakespeare occupies a unique place in this cosmic drama. A poet both ancient and modern, at once concerned to preserve aspects of ancient wisdom yet anxious to bring visionary renewal, Shakespeare saw that the continuation of an ancient idea of Nature as cosmic harmony was wholly dependent on a renewed understanding of humanity as a community transformed by love and forgiveness. Looking particularly at *King Lear* and *The Winter's Tale*, this lecture will show how, for Shakespeare, human communities aim at this transformed way of being, that is, a pastoral 'second innocence' in which our care for Nature is the same as our care for one another. To love Nature is thus also to love one another, and only our love for one another can ultimately guarantee love, care and respect for the cosmos in which we dwell. Shakespeare's early

modern insights, timeless in their spirit, are thus also compellingly relevant to our present situation.

VALENTIN GERLIER is a teacher, novelist and musician. He is currently engaged in doctoral research on Shakespeare and the Language of Grace at the University of Cambridge. A member of the Temenos Academy Academic Board, he teaches the 'Metaphysics' module of the Foundation Course in the Perennial Philosophy.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

A lecture to mark the occasion of our Patron, The Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday

Spirit & Nature

Natura: A Goddess of Medieval Christendom

PROFESSOR JOHN CAREY

Monday 12 November

In the chair Ian Skelly

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

Although 'Mother Nature' is a well-worn expression in contemporary English, this personification has no close counterpart in the mythologies of the ancient world. Apart from a few cursory foreshadowings, the goddess Natura first fully emerges in the Christian Platonism of twelfth-century France – more specifically, in the *Cosmographia* of Bernardus Silvestris. This talk will examine how Natura is portrayed by Bernardus, and the ways in which her image was inherited and transformed by later medieval writers. Natura's story can serve as a starting-point for reflection on a variety of questions: alternative understandings of what 'nature' is; the relationship between the natural and the transcendent; and the continuing vitality of the polytheistic imagination within a Christian cosmos.

JOHN CAREY is Professor of Early and Medieval Irish at University College, Cork. He is also a Fellow of the Temenos Academy; a member of its Council and Academic Board, and General Editor of the *Temenos Academy Review*. His *Magic, Metallurgy and Imagination in Three Studies* (Celtic Studies Publications) will be published later this year.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

A Day Conference to mark the 70th Birthday of The Prince of Wales

The Quest for Harmony: A Unifying Principle in Spirituality, Science, Sustainability and Healthcare

The Temenos Academy, and its partner organisations, the Scientific and Medical Network, the Resurgence Trust, the College of Medicine, the Health and Wellbeing Trust and the Sustainable Food Trust, will be taking part in this special conference held in Canterbury Cathedral Lodge in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral and including Evensong in the Cathedral at 3.30pm.

Saturday 17 November

9.30am (registration) – c. 6pm

The 70th birthday of HRH the Prince of Wales provides an occasion to review and celebrate his lifetime of inclusive visionary idealism expressed in practical projects across numerous fields. The conference will be based on the fundamental spiritual principle of harmony underpinning his philosophy and articulated in his book Harmony (2010). Please join us for this unique celebratory event!

Contributors

Professor Keith Critchlow (on film only) – Temenos Academy

Dr Rosy Daniel – Health and Wellbeing Trust

Richard Dunne – Health and Wellbeing Trust

Patrick Holden CBE – Sustainable Food Trust

Satish Kumar – Resurgence Trust

Dr Tony Juniper CBE – Resurgence Trust

David Lorimer – Scientific and Medical Network

Ian Skelly – Temenos Academy

David Wilson LVO – Sustainable Food Trust

For further information and to book places please refer to <http://www.scimednet.org> and click on 'Events', or contact the Temenos Academy office.

Two lectures on Dante

ANDREW FRISARDI

Venue The Lincoln Centre

Doors open at 6.15pm

Lectures begins promptly at 6.45pm

Conclude 8pm

The Dream of Leah and Rachel: Art and Purification in *Purgatorio*

Monday 19 November

In the chair Professor John Carey

In the understanding that Dante was heir to, art is an intellectual virtue. Artistic making requires that the mirror of the artist's intellect be clear and receptive, enabling him or her to glimpse the nature of the thing to be made or represented. But such lucidity is inaccessible to the soul that has not been liberated to some extent from the illusions and aberrations of the ego. This talk will explore how several of the cantos in *Purgatorio* can be read as an account of artistic purification, culminating in the full realization of art in its most profound sense in the Earthly Paradise.

The Seed of Nobility

Tuesday 20 November

In the chair Dr Jeremy Naydler

The last section of Dante's pre-*Comedy* work the *Convivio* is an essay on nobility. In it, Dante argues that true nobility is not based on family wealth and status, as his contemporaries commonly believed. Rather, nobility is a spiritual seed that is planted in the individual soul by God, which may be cultivated with love of wisdom and virtue. Dante urgently wants to clarify this, since to be in error about the 'human goodness which is sown in us by nature' is to lose the point of what it means to be human. This talk will consider these ideas, including Dante's portrayal of nobility in the *Divine Comedy*.

ANDREW FRISARDI is a writer, translator and independent scholar from Boston who lives in central Italy. He is the author of Temenos Academy Papers 36 and 38, *The Young Dante and the One Love* and *The Quest for Knowledge in Dante's Convivio*, which were based on talks given at the Temenos Academy in 2012 and 2014. His edition of Dante's *Vita Nova* was published by Northwestern University Press in 2012; and his annotated translation of Dante's unfinished philosophical work, the *Convivio*, was published in 2017 by Cambridge University Press.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions per lecture

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Sailing to Byzantium

A One-Day Voyage in the Company of W. B. Yeats

JULES CASHFORD

JAMES HARPUR

Saturday 24 November

In the chair Julia Cleave

Venue Rudolf Steiner House (2nd Floor Lecture Room)

9.45am (registration) – c. 5pm

Jules Cashford and James Harpur will conduct a study day on W. B. Yeats, Ireland's greatest poet. Born in Sligo in 1865, Yeats was central to the Irish literary revival at the end of the 19th century and a force behind the nationalist drive towards Irish independence. More than that, Yeats was a profound spiritual poet who drew inspiration from the great mythic tradition of the *anima mundi*, connecting himself to past thinkers and poets such as Plato, Plotinus, Blake and Swedenborg.

Jules and James will explore different aspects of Yeats's varied life and poetry in a one-day session of four one-hour talks, two in the morning, two in the afternoon. There will also be opportunity for questions and discussion in a friendly but focused atmosphere.

- 1 JAMES HARPUR **The Life and Work of Yeats**
- 2 JULES CASHFORD **'Whatever the passions of man have gathered about, becomes a symbol in the Great Memory'**

Lunch break

- 3 JAMES HARPUR **The Wanderings of Oisín: An Exhilarating Journey to the Otherworld**
- 4 JULES CASHFORD **Imagining a Second Self: Yeats and the Daimon**

JULES CASHFORD was educated at St Andrews and Cambridge universities. She is a Fellow of the Temenos Academy and has lectured for Temenos on the Egyptian and Greek Mysteries, Wolfram's *Parzival*, and Imagination in Blake, Coleridge and Yeats.

JAMES HARPUR is a poet and poetry editor of the *Temenos Academy Review*. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied Yeats. He lives in Ireland in a landscape of fairy forts, bogs and lakes of the sort that inspired Yeats's imagination.

Admission

Limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

£55 or £50 Members of the Temenos Academy/
Concessions.

The price does not include refreshments. Tea/coffee and lunch may be obtained from the Rudolf Steiner House café which will be open all day.

David Gascoyne's Journey Through Madness

DR JEREMY REED

Wednesday 28 November

In the chair Grevel Lindop

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

In the characteristically flamboyant and engagingly original style for which Jeremy Reed's Temenos talks are noted, he will discuss not only David Gascoyne's visionary quest as a youthful poet in search of the midnight sun, but also Gascoyne's early attachment to surrealism, his abuse of the drug benzedrine, his alienating homosexuality, and his periodic descents into madness and hospitalisation that ultimately destroyed his creative momentum. A close personal friend of Gascoyne's in the last decades of the poet's life, Jeremy Reed's talk is enriched not only by this retrospective aspect, but additionally by his own experiences of breakdown in a lifetime devoted totally to the pursuit of poetry.

JEREMY REED has been called 'British poetry's glam, spangly, shape-shifting answer to David Bowie', something he has always owned to in both his writing and performances of his work. A prolific author of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, his most recent books include *Piccadilly Bongo*, *Sooner or Later Frank*, *Voodoo Excess*, *Waiting For The Man*, *I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Asa Benveniste and Trigram Press* and *Shakespeare in Soho*.

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions
Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Born of the Virgin Mary – A Study in Hidden Aspects of Christianity

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE Bt

Thursday 6 December

In the chair Sir Nick Pearson Bt

Venue The Royal Asiatic Society

Doors open at 6.30pm

Lecture begins promptly at 7pm

Concludes 8.30pm

This illustrated lecture considers Mary's cosmic status and identifies stages in her journey from human existence to her higher life in Eternity. The tradition of the Virgin Queen of Heaven long predates Christianity and manifests in various goddesses whose feminine qualities become attributes of Mary. The Byzantine epithet *Theotokos*, 'Bearer of God', implies celestial events on a scale we cannot fathom. All this can be inferred from a reading of the symbolism in icons and reference to apocryphal writings. Orthodox sacred imagery illustrates Mary's rôle in sacred tradition, her practice of contemplative prayer and her ascent to the highest levels of realisation and enlightenment.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE founded The Temple Gallery in London in 1959 as a centre for the study, restoration and exhibition of ancient icons and sacred art. He is the author of *Icons and the Mystical Origins of Christianity* (1990, 2001) and *Icons Divine Beauty* (2004).

Admission

£8 or £5 Members of the Temenos Academy/Concessions

Full-time students with student ID card FREE

Temenos Academy Review 20

Edited by John Carey, Valentin Gerlier and James Harpur

HRH The Prince of Wales *True Renaissance*

John Carey (trans.) *Orlando in the Forest of Wonders*

Emma Clark *Images by Staff and Alumni of The Prince's
School of Traditional Arts*

Ananda Coomaraswamy *Art in Education*

David Fideler *From Plato's Academy to the Era of
Hyperspecialization: Rediscovering the Lost Spirit of the
Humanities*

Kevin Fischer *Imagination and Experience: Jacob Boehme
and William Blake*

Andrew Frisardi *Peter Russell's Albae Meditatio*

Valentin Gerlier *Reading Plato's Meno: Memory,
Education and Holy Speech*

Malcolm Guite *Owen Barfield: Science, Poetry and
Consciousness*

Grevel Lindop *T. S. Eliot and Kathleen Raine:
Two Contemplative Poets*

Diane de Margerie *From The Woman of Stone*

John Matthews *Remembering David Jones*

Joseph Milne *Meister Eckhart and the Purpose of
the Creation*

Kathleen Raine *Poetic Symbols as a Vehicle of Tradition:
The Crisis of the Present in English Poetry*

Varatha Shanmuganathan *Ananda Coomaraswamy:
A View from the East*

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Ten Basic Principles that inspire the work of Temenos

Acknowledgement of Divinity

Love of Wisdom, as the essential
basis of civilization

Spiritual vision as the life-breath of civilization

Maintenance of the revered traditions
of mankind

Understanding of tradition as
continual renewal

The provision of teaching by the best
teachers available in their disciplines and of
publications which set the highest standard
in both content and design

Mindfulness that the purpose of teaching
is to enable students to apply in their own lives
that which they learn

To make Temenos known to all those
who may benefit from its work

Reminding ourselves and those we teach
to look up and not down

Governance of the Temenos Academy itself
in the light of the above principles

Cover motif by Cecil Collins