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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

While the preparation of the publication of the proceedings from our meeting in Lisbon under the direction of the organisers Margarida Madureira, Ana Paiva Morais and Carlos Carreto is moving along, the preparation of the 15th congress is already in full swing. According to our society's tradition that likes to alternate our meetings between Europe and America, the proposition made by Gloria Allaire, to welcome us at the University of Kentucky, has been accepted by the General Assembly in Lisbon. Many thanks to Margarida, Ana and Carlos for all the time and energy they put into their task, making the Portuguese Conference such a huge success. All our gratitude also goes to Gloria for the efforts that she is currently making. Any colleagues interested in hosting the 16th congress are invited to get in touch with the International Bureau.

The General Assembly in Lisbon has also approved the partial renewal of our Bureau. After many years of service for the International Society of Courtly Literature, Tania Van Hemelryck (Chief Bibliographer), Emma Cayley (Secretary) and Keith Busby (President) have stepped down. Many thanks to all of them for their great work! The new team will contain, in addition to Kristin Burr who will continue her work as our treasurer, Rebecca Dixon, who has accepted to take over the task of the secretary, and Logan Whalen, who will be our new vice-president. All our gratitude goes to them as well.

For *Encomia*, the following months will be important in terms of the transition towards a new formula and a new publishing house. I know for sure that Logan is already doing all that is necessary so that the change to the digital format and towards a procedure that combines efficiency with simplicity will take place in the smoothest manner possible. In collaboration with the bibliographers of the national branches he will

be working in order to promote both *Encomia* and our publications included therein on the largest scale possible.

Ever since the beginning, our society and congresses have been a place for exchange of experiences and a meeting point for scholars from different countries and disciplines, but also, and perhaps even more so, for established researchers and younger colleagues. In that sense, it is essential that we all continue to encourage researchers that are still at the beginning of their careers to join the *ICLS*.

I'm looking forward to meeting you in Kentucky in the summer of 2016!

Richard TRACHSLER
International President, ICLS