

Paul Claudel: The World Is One

Paul Claudel: poète de l'unité du monde

a bilingual international conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of Paul Claudel's birth



May 18-19, 2018
University of Chicago
Franke Institute for the Humanities
1100 E. 57th St. • Chicago, IL

Friday May 18, 2018

- 10:00 am Welcome
- 10:15 am *Claudél, poet of Asia*
Moderator: Françoise Meltzer (University of Chicago)
- Haun Saussy (University of Chicago) « On *La Connaissance de l'Est* (1900) »
- Claude-Pierre Perez (Université de Provence) « Un, et deux »
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm *Between a Country and the World*
Moderator: Robert Morrissey (University of Chicago)
- Akayo Nishino (Keio University, Japan), « Le mondialisme de Claudel au Japon »
- Yvan Daniel (Université de La Rochelle), « Claudel, ambassadeur du monde en France »
- 3:15 pm Break
- 3:30 pm *Claudél and America*
Moderator: Haun Saussy (University of Chicago)
- Thomas Pavel (Université de Chicago), « *Le Soulier de Satin*: the Old and the New World »
- Didier Alexandre (Sorbonne Université, Faculté des Lettres), « Claudel's Reflections on the United States »
- 5:30 pm Reception

Saturday, May 19, 2018

- 9:45 am Welcome
- 10:00 am *Claudél and Europe's Past and Present*
Moderator: Didier Alexandre (Sorbonne Université, Faculté des Lettres)
- Lauren Bergier (University of Chicago), « *Les Cinq Grandes Odes*
and their Sources »
- Michel Jarrety (Sorbonne Université, Faculté des Lettres),
« Claudel, Valéry et l'Europe »
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Conference Ends

This colloquium is organized by Thomas Pavel and Didier Alexandre and is made possible through the generous financial support of the France Chicago Center, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, Sorbonne Université, The Committee on Social Thought, and the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. The Lumen Christi Institute provided valuable in-kind support. The organizers also thank the France Chicago Center for providing valuable administrative and logistic support and the Franke Institute for the Humanities for hosting this gathering of scholars.



Paul Claudel (1868-1955), brought to France the grand rhetorical poetry couched in long verses reminiscent of Walt Whitman and the Psalms. As a member of the French diplomacy, Claudel served in various parts of Europe, Asia and the Americas, including as Ambassador of France in Washington. Sensitive to the specific poetic and cultural traditions of each place, he incorporated them in his creative work. His conversion to the Catholic religion (1886), far from turning him into a nostalgic admirer of the past, encouraged his desire to reconcile all aspects of modern life and promote the unity of the world. The conference will examine the ways in which Claudel's poetry and plays foresaw some of our own present-day debates concerning global concord and local specificity. The conversations at Chicago will continue during a major international conference organized by Didier Alexandre that will take place in Paris in September of 2018.