The Société Rencesvals pour l’étude des épopée romanes, is holding its 21st triennial international congress in Toronto. This association brings together scholars working in the field of medieval epic in Romance languages (Old French and Old Occitan chansons de geste, Old Castilian cantares de gesta or Italian cantari, as well as their adaptations and other derived texts. Epic was one of the most important and most productive literary genres of European vernacular literatures from the appearance of the vernacular languages until the end of the Middle Ages, and it has exerted an enormous influence throughout Europe even beyond that period. Old French chansons de geste were adapted in Irish, Welsh, English, Norse, German, Dutch, Italian, Yiddish, and Latin. Through the prose versions of the 15th century, the romanzi cavallereschi of the Italian Renaissance, chapbooks, opera, theatre, film, children’s literature, and other more or less popular art forms, its subject matter (in particular the “matter of France”) remained an important part of the cultural heritage of Europeans, spread into other parts of the world, and still is relevant in our own time.

The Toronto congress will center around four major themes:
1. **Chansons de geste between France and England.**
2. **Travel and exchange: diversity, cultural contacts, Romance epic in the Americas.**
3. **Family structures, kinship, bastards.**
4. **Centres of production of the chansons de geste.**

A workshop on manuscript fragments, moderated by Prof. Gabriele Giannini, Université de Montréal, is attached to this last theme.

Connected events include:
13-14 August, Trinity College: “Narrative Performances” (an event sponsored by the Jackman Humanities Institute within their Program for the Arts 2018/19 “Reading Faces, reading Minds”). The Pneuma Ensemble (Toronto) will perform Marie de France’s Bisclavret, and Prof. Antoni Rossell (Universidad Autónoma de Barceloan) will present extracts from his reconstructed performance of the Cantar de mio Cid. The two performances will be followed by a panel discussion on the performance of vernacular narrative texts in the Middle Ages.
16 August, Victoria College: a performance by The Mexicans Folk Ballet (Toronto), including a “Moros y Cristianos” dance.

For more information about the congress and about registration, please visit the website: [https://rencesvals2018.utoronto.ca](https://rencesvals2018.utoronto.ca), or contact the organizers at rencesvals2018@chass.utoronto.ca.