Dear Herbert in Cambridge Participants:

The bad non-news first: as will come as a surprise to practically no one, Cambridge University and our four partner colleges—Peterhouse, Trinity, Magdalene, and Girton—are being forced by the unprecedented international COVID-19 health crisis to cancel all public events at least through June 2020, including ours.

Now the good news, the gist of which is—Herbert in Cambridge, 2021!

--All of our plenary speakers (Sidney Gottlieb, Helen Wilcox, Rowan Williams, Malcolm Guite, and Seamus Perry) are in principle still committed for a rescheduled Herbert in Cambridge conference;

--All panelists for 2020 automatically will be offered berths for 2021;

--All currently paid registrations will be rolled over into 2021 at no further charge, and registrants who need to withdraw may request a refund;

--Refunds will consist of all meal charges plus 75% of each particular registration fee—and by special application, 100%;

--Those cancelling may, if they wish, treat their fees as donations to GHS, for which they will receive giving receipts;

--All those not yet registered for 2020 will be allowed to register for 2021 at the same rates;

--Our partner colleges, as well as our friends at Leighton Bromswold and Little Gidding, are responding to our requests to re-open their books. **We expect to confirm exact dates for the conference reasonably soon at some or many of the same venues—we are still aiming for some time in June;**

--As soon as the new conference dates are clear, we will announce a reasonable deadline for participants to recommit or cancel, and then if necessary we will issue a CFP to solicit more submissions that may fill the gaps;

--Though the 2021 program inevitably will be shaped somewhat differently from the one currently posted—“They say amiss / This or that IS”—the 2021 gathering will reflect a similar scope and variety, and we can hope for a good deal of continuity.

We are deeply grateful for your patience during these uncertain times—three-quarters of you had already registered, and we have so far had not a single cancellation!—and we also wish to thank our plenary speakers and the staff at each college for their extraordinary kindness and cooperation. The worst brings out the best, as they say.

For questions, concerns, and suggestions, please contact herbconf@uncg.edu.

The Conference Planning Committee:

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