

Medieval Memoria Research

Newsletter

Erat aut iter eos ifatulus? aniculus? qui inter brachia matris
et na ubera sugens gestabatur: qui cum digitis videtur preciosa statim
quasi spreto verbo serena faciecula succisq; manibus? tam seiose tam
quod reuerentem oculos in digitum defixit: ut et aspicientes puo-
carum ad lacrimas. et lapidei spiritus viros ac mulieres ad reuerentem
dum digitum pignus? immoliret. Dabat? etiam singulis pueris
et ac ifatulus patris? in memoria mirabilium quod tunc temporis
dominus faciebus: vni letantes admodum et gaudentes quasi de nuptiis
ad propria remeabant. Sic igitur a nonnullis venerabatur?
quod multis se propter christum debitrice effecerat. Sic filie tiri vultum
eius reuerentibus: sic nonnullae filiae babilonis misere. cuius
uis sex? status. honor et dignitatis ad sacrosanctum hoc
funus? veniebatur et reuertebatur cum lacrimis et exultatione



September, 2011

Issue 8

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- › Does Memory Have a History? – Part III
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- › International Conference: Gesellschaft im Gebetsgedenken
- › 1st Arenberg Conference for History: Dynastic Identity in Early Modern Europe

Other news

- › Memorial register from Zutphen digitized
- › New website: *Digitaal Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant*
- › The members of the Brotherhood of Saint Mary in 's-Hertogenbosch 1330-1620
- › New Project at Ghent University: “Sources from the Medieval Low Countries (SMLC).”

We would like to thank the Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht for giving us permission to publish images of the works of art in its collection.

Frontpage: *The burial of Lidwina van Schiedam*, Johannes Brugman, *Vita alme virginis Lijdwine*, Schiedam, [Otgier Pietersz. Nachtegael], 1498. Woodcut (hand coloured), anonymous. Paper, 205 x 135 mm. Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, BMH i44, fol. 114v.

Beyond the Low Countries

Welcome to the eighth issue of the newsletter *Medieval Memoria Research* (MMR). In this online newsletter you will find information on the work of scholars who research medieval *memoria* in the broad sense of the word.

MMR was originally created in 2008, under the title *Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries*, to inform scholars and other interested people of current developments concerning the research of the commemoration of the dead, and of commemorative practices in the Low Countries. MMR is part of the Utrecht research project *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria* and works closely with the project *Medieval Memoria Online* (MeMO). In the next issue of MMR you will find a status update on the MeMO project, including a description of MeMO's ongoing internationalisation activities. As a direct result of these activities, we have chosen to go international with MMR as well. Starting with this issue, MMR will host international news about *memoria* research!

The set up of MMR remains unchanged. *Medieval Memoria Research* contains three sections: 'publications', 'symposiums and congresses', and 'other news'. In the section 'other news', you will find information about for instance new Ph.D. researchers, new projects or other new initiatives concerning medieval *memoria* research. Every now and then there will be extra sections, such as the 'MeMO news' section in the current issue.

In this issue of MMR you will also find announcements for several new websites relevant to *memoria* researchers. There are also new books and publications, several interesting congresses and symposiums in the Fall, and a book review.

As always, we warmly invite our readers to share news about congresses, publications, projects and other related subjects with us, so that these subjects may be announced in our future issues. Please consult the colophon for our contact details. On a final note; MMR will now be published twice per year, instead of three times per year. We realise this may be inconvenient for the announcement of symposiums, congresses and similar activities operating within certain time constraints. It will still be worthwhile to inform us of such events throughout the year, because we will maintain an agenda on our website.

Charlotte Dikken
Editor of *Medieval Memoria Research* (MMR)

MeMO project news – new websites

As many of you may already know, the MeMO project recently launched a new website, called *The floor slabs of Oudewater* (<http://memo.hum.uu.nl/oudewater/index.html>). This website was created to provide a first impression of the MeMO activities involving tomb monuments and tomb slabs.

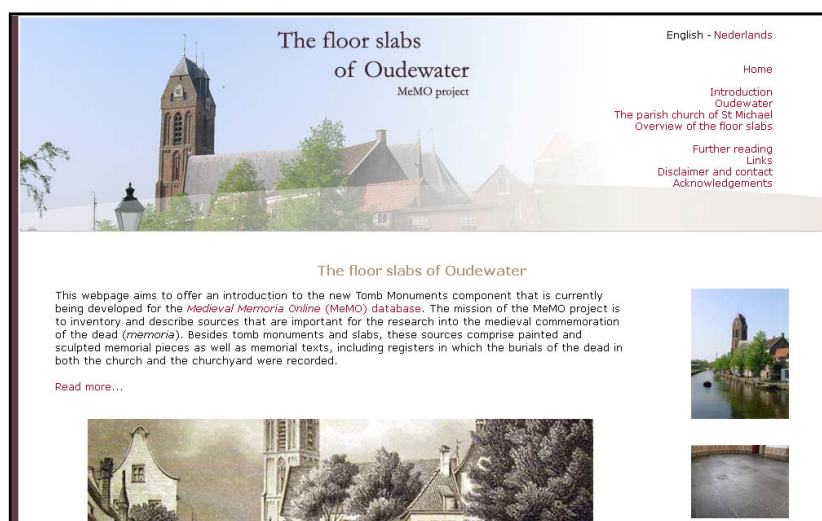
The coming academic year MeMO will publish two new websites, which will be set up similarly to the Oudewater site. The first website will be called *Representations of pilgrims to Jerusalem*. It was already announced in an earlier issue of this newsletter. This website has been in production for several years now, and it has passed through the hands of Louise van Tongerlo, Maartje van Dijk, Truus van Bueren and Kim Ragetli. The website will contain photographs of works of art showing the portraits of pilgrims who visited the Holy Land. For as far as we know, this type of portrait was mainly found in the Low Countries, and can be considered rare elsewhere. However, as always, tips and suggestions about any pilgrim portraits which are not from the Low Countries are very welcome.

The second website will contain information about memorial works of art, which were situated near tombs and graves in Flemish churches. This website will be based on the research project of Douglas Brine for his dissertation: *Piety and Purgatory: Wall-mounted memorials from the southern Netherlands, c.1380-1520* (London, 2006). Like the first website, this second website is meant as an introduction to the MeMO project's activities. It will contain photographs and information which will eventually be included in the international version of the MeMO database.

This second website is also part of MeMO's preparations to go international. A more in-depth status update for MeMO, as well as any developments concerning the internationalisation, will be presented in the next issue of this newsletter.

MeMO website: <http://memo.hum.uu.nl/>

E-mail: memo.gw@uu.nl



The new MeMO website, “The floor slabs of Oudewater”
<http://memo.hum.uu.nl/oudewater/index.html>

Recent publications

The following list of publications does not represent a complete bibliography about medieval *memoria* and related subjects, but is only intended to provide the reader with the most recent titles. This list is an addition to the original list published in the first newsletter. For the complete list of publications featured in MMR, please visit our website: <http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pages/archive-publications.html>. For the *memoria* bibliography please visit: <http://memo.hum.uu.nl/pdf/Bibliography-Memoria.pdf>.

2009

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- Thomas Coomans and Anna Bergmans, 'L'église Notre-Dame des Dominicains à Louvain (1251-1276). Le mémorial d'Henri III, duc de Brabant, et d'Alix de Bourgogne', in: *Bulletin monumental* 167/2 (2009) 99-125.
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- Monika Escher-Apsner, 'Dedes of charyte and to the commen-welth. Bruderschaften und ihre baulichen und karitativen Beiträge zur *utilitas communis*', in: *Mittelalterliche Bruderschaften in europäischen Städten. Funktionen, Formen, Akteure*, eds. Monika Escher-Apsner, (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2009) 209-253.
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- Benjamin Laqua, 'Erzbischof, Bruderschaft und Hospital in Köln. Die Lupusbrüder während des hohen Mittelalters', in: *Mittelalterliche Bruderschaften in europäischen Städten. Funktionen, Formen, Akteure*, eds. Monika Escher-Apsner, (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2009) 111-141.
- Klaus Militzer, 'Genossenschaftliche und bruderschaftliche Organisationsformen im mittelalterlichen Köln', in: *Mittelalterliche Bruderschaften in europäischen Städten. Funktionen, Formen, Akteure*, eds. Monika Escher-Apsner, (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2009) 143-157.

- Gervase Rosser, 'Finding Oneself in a Medieval Fraternity: Individual and Collective Identities in the English Guilds', in: *Mittelalterliche Bruderschaften in europäischen Städten. Funktionen, Formen, Akteure*, eds. Monika Escher-Apsner, (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2009) 29-46.
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- Robert Stein, 'De groei van Scheut', in: *De kartuijze van Scheut en Rogier van der Weyden. Millennium: Tijdschrift voor middeleeuwse studies* 23 (2009-1-2) 38-43.
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- Anett Ladegast, 'Gesichter des Todes – Gesichter des Lebens. Zum Verhältnis von Körper und Porträt an römischen Grabmälern um 1500', in: *Grabmal und Körper – Zwischen Repräsentation und Realpräsenz in der Frühen Neuzeit*, eds. Philipp Zitzlsperger, published on: *kunsttexte.de* (<http://www.kunsttexte.de/>) 4 (2010, section "Renaissance").
- Kristin Marek, 'Erscheinungsweisen bildlicher Präsenz: Körper, Verkörperung und Repräsentation am Grabmal', in: *Grabmal und Körper – Zwischen Repräsentation und Realpräsenz in der Frühen Neuzeit*, eds. Philipp Zitzlsperger, published on: *kunsttexte.de* (<http://www.kunsttexte.de/>) 4 (2010, section "Renaissance").
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- Louis van Tongeren, 'Use and Function of Altars in Liturgical Practice According to the Libri ordinarii in the Low Countries', in: *The Altar and its Environment, 1150-1400*, eds. J. E.A. Kroesen, V. M. Schmidt (Turnhout, 2010) 261-274.
- Philipp Zitzlsperger (eds.), *Grabmal und Körper – Zwischen Repräsentation und Realpräsenz in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Published on: *kunsttexte.de* (<http://www.kunsttexte.de/>) 4 (2010, section "Renaissance").
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- Charlotte J.C. Broer, *Monniken in het moeras: de vroegste geschiedenis van de abdij van Sint-Laurens in het Oostbroek bij Utrecht* (Utrecht, 2011).
- Truus van Bueren, Bas Dudok van Heel, 'Een Amsterdams raadsel: wie is wie op de memorietafel van Margriet Boelen?', in: *Jacobsbode* 20 (Jul. 2011) 1-6.
- Maïke Christadler, 'From Allegory to Anatomy: Femininity and the *Danse Macabre*', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 101-131.
- Frances Eustace, Pamela King, 'Dances of the Living and the Dead: A Study of *Danse Macabre* Imagery within the Context of Late-Medieval Dance Culture', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 43-72.
- Stefanie Knöll, 'Mix and Match: Huldreich Fröhlich's *Danse Macabre* Editions', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 387-407.
- Lenke Kovács, 'Frightened or Fearless: Different Ways of Facing Death in the Sixteenth-Century Majorcan Play *Representació de la Mort*', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 207-236.
- Christine Kralik, 'Dialogue and Violence in Medieval Illuminations of the Three Living and the Three Dead', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 133-154.
- Jeannie Labno, *Commemorating the Polish Renaissance Child. Funeral Monuments and their European Context* (Abingdon, 2011).
- Kristiane Lemé-Hébuterne, 'Places for Reflection: Death Imagery in Medieval Choir Stalls', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 271-292.
- Renée Nip, 'Liturgische herdenkingspraktijken in de late middeleeuwen in de stad Groningen', in: *Stedelijke verleden in veelvoud. Opstellen over laatmiddeleeuwse stadsgeschiedenis in de Nederlanden*, eds. Hanno Brand, Jeroen Benders en Renée Nip (Hilversum, 2011) 229-244.
- Sophie Oosterwijk, 'Dance, Dialogue and Duality: Fatal Encounters in the Medieval *Danse Macabre*', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 9-42.

- Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (eds.), *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011).
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- Charlotte A. Stanford, *Commemorating the Dead in Late Medieval Strasbourg. The Cathedral's Book of Donors and Its Use (1320-1521)* (Abingdon, 2011).
- Tomislav Vignjević, 'The Istrian Danse Macabre: Beram and Hrastovlje', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 293-312.
- Susanne Warda, 'Dance, Music, and Inversion: The Reversal of the Natural Order in the Medieval Danse Macabre', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 73-100.
- Jean Wilson, 'The Kiss of Death: Death as a Lover in Early Modern English Literature and Art', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 237-269.
- Caroline Zöhl, 'A Phenomenon of Parallel Reading in the Office of the Dead', in: *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, eds. Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011) 327-362.

Reviews: Jan van Oudheusden, Harry Tummers, eds., *De grafzerken van de Sint-Jan te 's-Hertogenbosch* (2010).

- Sophie Oosterwijk, Jan van Oudheusden and Harry Tummers (eds.), *De grafzerken van de Sint-Jan te 's-Hertogenbosch*, in: *MMR* 8 (2011) see: http://www.let.uu.nl/mmr/pdf/Oosterwijk-book_review-grafzerken_van_de_Sint-Jan.pdf

Books (tables of contents)

Charlotte J.C. Broer, *Monniken in het moeras: de vroegste geschiedenis van de abdij van Sint-Laurens in het Oostbroek bij Utrecht* (Utrecht, 2011). ISBN 978-90-805772-5-1.
<http://www.broerendebrijn.nl/>

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Woord vooraf
 Inhoudsopgave
 Inleiding

1. Het ontstaan en de vroegste ontwikkeling van Sint-Laurens: vragen en een eerste verkenning

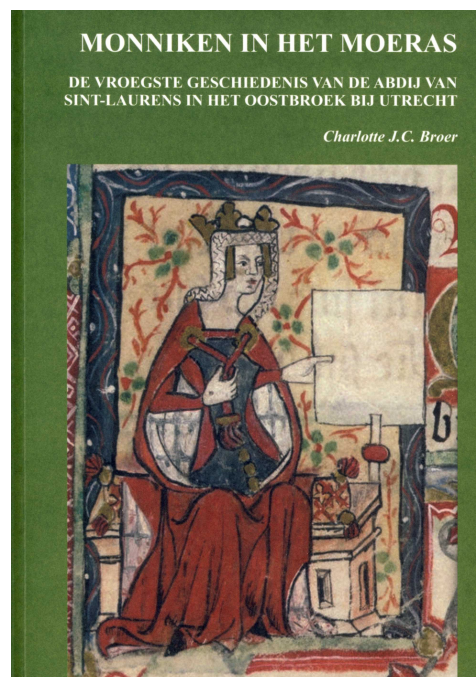
- 1.1 Het oudste bronnenmateriaal: de oorkonden van 1122 en 1125
- 1.2 Een oudere oorkonde uit 1113?
- 1.3 De datering van de oorkonden van keizerin Mathilde uit 1122 en bisschop Godebald uit 1125
- 1.4 Ook de oorkonde van Godebald uit 1125 vals of geïnterpoleerd?
- 1.5 Het begin en de eerste jaren van de kloostergemeenschap in het Oostbroek
- 1.6 Sint-Laurens als benedictijner abdij

2. De algemene politiek-kerkelijke en monastieke ontwikkelingen vanaf de tiende tot in de vroege twaalfde eeuw in Utrecht en elders

- 2.1 Het 'rijkskerkstelsel'
- 2.2 Uniek in de stad: de Sint-Paulusabdij in Utrecht als bisschoppelijk eigenklooster
- 2.3 De Gregoriaanse hervorming en de Investituurstrijd
- 2.4 Monastiek leven en de veranderende opvattingen hierover in de loop van de elfde en twaalfde eeuw

3. Nadere beschouwingen rond het ontstaan en de vroegste ontwikkeling van de Sint-Laurensabdij

- 3.1 Ontwikkelingen en veranderingen in Utrecht in de loop van de twaalfde eeuw: de positie van bisschop Godebald en zijn betrekkingen tot kerkelijk en monastiek hervormingsgezinde kringen in zijn tijd
- 3.2 Ludolf van Affligem, eerste abt van Sint-Laurens
- 3.3 De oorkonde van 1125: vraagtekens rond de echtheid en de strekking van de bepalingen met betrekking tot de nadere organisatie van Sint-Laurens



4. De dotering van de abdij: de schenkingen van koningin Mathilde in 1122 en van bisschop Godebald in 1125 betreffende het Oostbroek

- 4.1 De omschrijving, inhoud en strekking van de schenkingen: het moeras- en veengebied Oostbroek met toebehoren
- 4.2 De dotering van de Sint-Laurensabdij in relatie tot het proces van goederendeling binnen het vermogen van de Utrechtse kerk
- 4.3 De ontwikkeling van het oudste bezit van de Sint-Laurensabdij na de schenkingen van 1122 en 1125: Oostbroek *cum annexis*
- 4.4 Een nadere schenking van bisschop Godebald: de hof Scherpenburg bij Werkhoven

5. De laatste jaren van het episcopaat van Godebald en de regeringsperiode van bisschop Andries van Cuijk: de positie en verdere ontwikkeling van Sint-Laurens na 1125 tot eind jaren dertig van de twaalfde eeuw

- 5.1 Politiek-kerkelijke verhoudingen in de periode 1125-1139
- 5.2 De positie van Sint-Laurens naast en in relatie tot verschillende andere, deels nieuwe kloosters en abdijen in het bisdom
- 5.3 Monialen in het moeras. Over de aanwezigheid van vrouwen in Oostbroek, Sint-Laurens als dubbelklooster en het ontstaan van een afzonderlijk Vrouwenklooster in De Bilt
- 5.4 Schenkingen aan Sint-Laurens in de jaren dertig en vroege jaren veertig van de twaalfde eeuw

6. Terugblik: van monastiek buitenbeentje tot gerespecteerde instelling naast ‘de Utrechtse kerk’

Bijlage I

Keizerin Mathilde schenkt aan de Sint-Laurensabdij in het Oostbroek het gebied Oostbroek en het daaraan grenzende veen. Utrecht, 1122 mei 14. (*OSU I*, nr. 302).

Bijlage II

Bisschop Godebald schenkt aan de Sint-Laurensabdij in het Oostbroek rechten ten aanzien van het gebied Oostbroek en het daaraan grenzende veen, waarbij tevens een aantal nadere organisatorische kwesties alsmede de verhouding tot de bisschop worden geregeld. (Utrecht), 1125 (waarschijnlijk mei, vóór 23 mei). (*OSU I*, nr. 313).

Bijlage III

Ludolf, eerste abt van Sint-Laurens in het Oostbroek, geeft een verklaring af omtrent de oorsprong en de rechten van Vrouwenklooster. 1113 november 1 (vervalst dan wel foutief gedateerd). (*OSU I*, nr. 282).

Bijlage IV

Keizer Frederik Barbarossa neemt de abdij van Sint-Laurens in het Oostbroek met al haar bezittingen en privileges onder zijn bescherming. Utrecht, 1165 november 25. (*OSU I*, nr. 447).

Bijlage V

Sporen van Cluny? De abdijen van Sint-Paulus in Utrecht en Sint-Laurens in Oostbroek-De Bilt
(Lezing gehouden voor de Contactgroep Signum op 6 november 2009 in Utrecht).

Bijlage VI

Repliek aan Peter Henderikx en anderen.

Gebruikte afkortingen

Ongedrukte bronnen

Gedrukte bronnen en literatuur

Noten

Sophie Oosterwijk, Stefanie Knöll (eds.), *Mixed Metaphors: The Danse Macabre in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2011). Hardback 491 pp. incl. 116 b/w illustrations and 16 colour plates Cambridge Scholars Publishing. ISBN 978-1-4438-2900-7.

This groundbreaking collection of eighteen essays by a host of international authorities addresses the many aspects of the *Danse Macabre*, a subject that has been too often overlooked in Anglo-American scholarship. The *Danse* was once a major motif that occurred in many different media and spread across Europe in the course of the fifteenth century, from France to England, Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, Spain, Italy and Istria. Yet the *Danse* is hard to define because it mixes metaphors, such as dance, dialogue and violence.

The *Danse Macabre* aimed to confront viewers and readers with the prospect of their own demise by showing how Death summons each and every one of us – whether high or low, young or old, rich or poor. It functioned both as a text and as a visual theme, and often in combination, while also lending itself well to performance. Now best known through the satirical woodcuts of Hans Holbein the Younger, the motif was one of several ‘macabre’ themes that developed alongside the moralising tale of the Three Living and the Three Dead and the stark depiction of the cadaver on tomb monuments.

As this corpus of innovative research shows, the *Danse* inspired sculptors, portrait artists, authors and dramatists such as Shakespeare far more than has been fully recognised until now. From the mural in 1420s Paris and John Lydgate’s poem to the subsequent dissemination in tomb iconography and print, *Mixed Metaphors* reveals the lasting influence of the *Danse* on European culture from the Middle Ages to the present day.

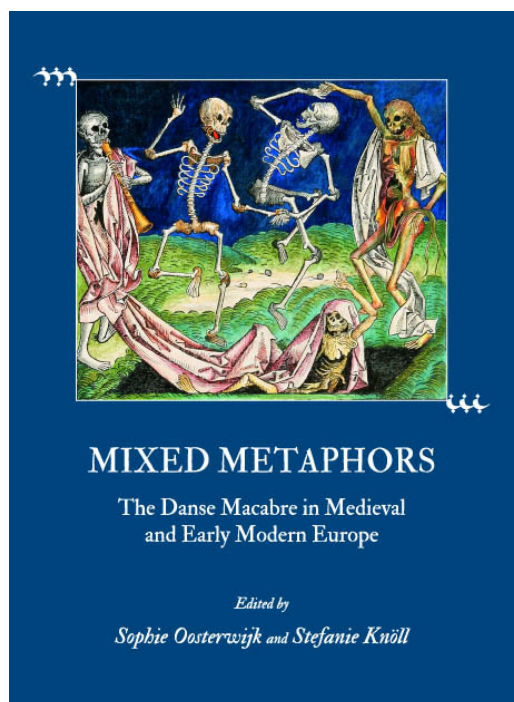


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Susanne Warda

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Portrait of John Isham (1567), by an anonymous artist, oil on panel, Lamport Hall (Northamptonshire), reproduced courtesy of the Lamport Hall Trust.

Skulls are more than just symbolic objects. They represent both a once living – and recognisable – human being and a portent of our own future condition. Although the inclusion of skulls and other death emblems may signal a posthumous portrait, the majority of *vanitas* portraits are contemplative in nature, *i.e.* a demonstration of the sitters' awareness of their own mortality and a recognition that their portraits will outlive them. This can be seen in the anonymous 1567 portrait of John Isham (1525-96) at Lamport Hall (Northamptonshire), which shows the founder of the dynasty resting his right hand on a skull. There is a clock on the wall behind him as a warning about the passage of time, and he is moreover wearing a skull-ring on the left index finger with which he points at the skull. This painting thus serves both as a portrait and as a *vanitas* reminder about Death coming to us all,

thereby echoing the message of the *Danse*. After all, every portrait eventually becomes a memorial to the sitter whose features will ultimately be reduced to just that – a skull – once he has had his own fatal encounter with Death, as Isham makes clear in a mute but telling dialogue with the beholder.

- Sophie Oosterwijk, 'Dance, Dialogue and Duality: Fatal Encounters in the Medieval *Danse Macabre*'.

Philipp Zitzlsperger (eds.), *Grabmal und Körper – Zwischen Repräsentation und Realpräsenz in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Published on: *kunsttexte.de* (<http://www.kunsttexte.de/>) 4 (2010, section “Renaissance”).

Kunsttexte.de – A Journal on Visual and Art History

Kunsttexte is an online journal, set up as a platform for academic writing in the areas of art history and visual history. It is also open to other academic disciplines in so far as they address the production and reception of art and images. Article contributions to the journal may be supplemented by illustrated essays, video and audio material. Kunsttexte also invites artistic productions that correspond to the profile of the journal’s individual sections.

Kunsttexte supports the central principles of the Open Access movement; therefore all of the e-journal's publications are publicly accessible and free of charge. Kunsttexte is an online journal, but print copies can be made on request, following the link to epubli, a commercial print on demand provider.

Articles published in this e-journal adhere to the standards of printed academic publications. They are listed on the website with an abstract and are available as PDFs for reading, printing, copying, and sharing publications are subject to a review process that is carried out by the editors with support from academic advisors.

Issue 4.2010, which was published in November, is of particular interest to *memoria* researchers. For the overview, abstracts and full-text PDFs of this issue, please visit: <http://www.kunsttexte.de/index.php?id=721&ausgabe=37133&zu=896&L=1>

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Kristin Marek	Erscheinungsweisen bildlicher Präsenz: Körper, Verkörperung und Repräsentation am Grabmal

J. E.A. Kroesen, V. M. Schmidt (eds.), *The Altar and its Environment, 1150-1400* (Turnhout, 2010). Brepols Publishers. VI+314 p., 200 b/w ill. + 100 colour ill., 220 x 280 mm. ISBN: 978-2-503-53044-4.

The articles collected in this volume discuss the rise and spread of the altarpiece, or retable, as the standard altar decoration across Europe during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Historians of art and liturgy have addressed such issues as the relations with other types of altar furnishings, regional variants, and their architectural, liturgical and socio-political context. The papers grew out of a symposium held at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands) in June, 2006, in which fourteen scholars from eight different countries participated. The period under scrutiny, c. 1150-c. 1400, has hitherto received only limited scholarly attention. It starts when the altarpiece was well established and ends with the great regional diversification of object types (such as the polyptych in Italy and the winged altarpiece in northern and central Europe). In turn, the altar decorations studied here are characterized by a relative uniformity stretching across media and regions, which enables comparisons to be made. The objects studied can be found in such diverse locations as Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, England, the Low Countries, central France, Catalonia, Mallorca, northern and central Italy, and Cyprus. This pan-European scope reveals connections that for many have always gone unnoticed, and contributes to a new perspective on European art that transcends modern national boundaries. The volume is illustrated with a wealth of plates and figures.

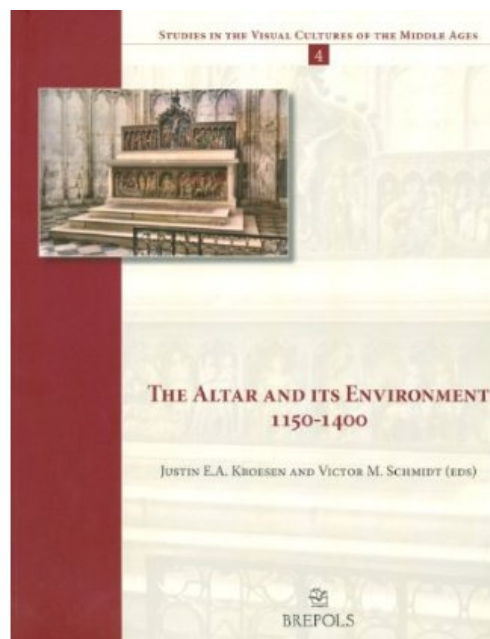


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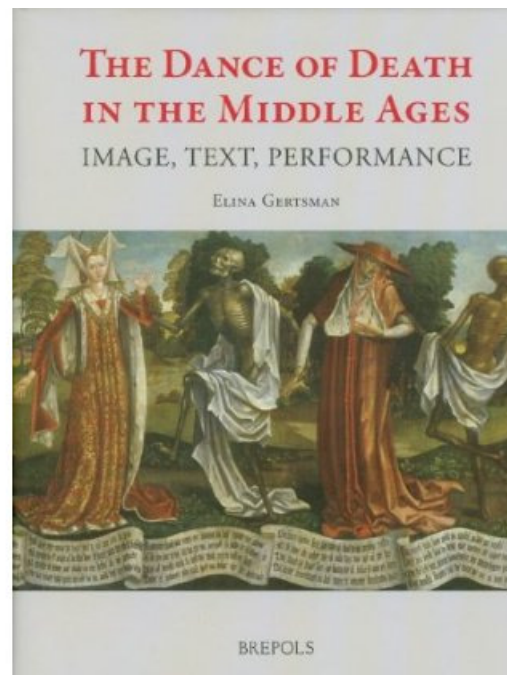
Louis van Tongeren
Use and Function of Altars in Liturgical Practice According to the *Libri ordinarii* in the Low Countries

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E. Gertsman, *The Dance of Death in the Middle Ages. Image, Text, Performance* (Turnhout, 2010). Brepols Publishers. XII+356 p., 149 b/w ill. + 45 colour ill., 4 fold-outs, 210 x 275 mm. ISBN: 978-2-503-53063-5.

This book introduces readers to the texts and imagery of the Dance of Death, a subject that first emerged in western European art and literature in the late medieval era. Depicting a long procession of representatives of different classes and ages, seized by prancing skeletons, the Dance eloquently communicated the message of the inevitability of death and the futility of human ambition. The image was frequently accompanied by verses, written in the vernacular, which comprised a dialogue between Death and its victims. The volume inquires into the theological, socio-historic, literary, and artistic contexts of the Dance of Death, exploring it as a site of interaction between text, image, and beholder. The

first part of the book outlines the structures of visual, textual, aural, pastoral, and performative discourses that informed the creation and reception of the Dance of Death images. The second part proposes different modes of viewing for four particular Dance of Death paintings, each of which-shaped by its artist, patron, local context, and local audience-offered the beholder an active, kinesthetic experience necessarily predicated on movement.



Upcoming dissertation: Daantje Meuwissen, *Gekoesterde traditie. De portretreeks met de landcommandeurs van de Utrechtse Balije van de Ridderlijke Duitse Orde*
<http://www.verloren.nl/boeken/2086/248/2843/cultuur-en-mentaliteit/gekoesterde-traditie>

A special portrait series can be found in the “Duitse Huis” on the Springweg in Utrecht. The paintings depict the commanders of the Utrecht Bailiwick of the Teutonic Knights, ranging from the order’s foundation in 1231 to the present. Succession series like these were made frequently in the Middle Ages, but a series which still continues to be expanded to this day is exceptional. This portrait series was first created between 1576 and 1580, during a time when the continued existence of the then Catholic Order was at stake. The Bailiwick of Utrecht managed to survive these trying times, as well as enduring the French Revolution, and during all these hardships it preserved and fostered its steadily expanding portrait series throughout the centuries.

This book shows how the fates of the portrait series and the Teutonic Order were interwoven. This series of paintings offers a unique cross section of over four centuries of portraiture. Both famous and less known portraitists (often natives of Utrecht), such as Gerard van Honthorst and Pieter Christoffel Wonder, have made their mark on this series.

This book has been designed by Mariola Lopez of Lopezlab, and sports high quality images, which allow the reader to study the paintings in great detail. The images reveal the beauty of this very special portrait series, in a way that is difficult to match.

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- Theoretisch kader
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Upcoming symposiums and congresses

Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche, 8th meeting

Date and time: 9 September, 11.30 – 17.00 hrs, followed by drinks

Location: Janskerkhof 13, room 0.06

Languages: German and English

Contact: memo.gw@uu.nl

The eighth meeting of the *Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche* about *memoria* will take place on 9 September 2011 in Utrecht. The theme of this symposium is “*Memoria* and Reform Movements”.

Programme:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 11.45 – 11.50 | Short Introduction by Truus van Bueren |
| 11.50 – 12.20 | Jens Lieven: Monastische Reform und <i>Memoria</i> |
| 12.20 – 12.50 | Susanne Ruf: Individuelles Gedenken durch Inschriften und Kirchengestaltungen der Neuzeit – Einige Beobachtungen in lutherischen Gemeinden Thüringens |
| 12.50 – 13.20 | Lunch |
| 13.20 – 13.50 | Corinne van Dijk: A Mass of St. Gregory changed into a text panel. The Reformation in St. James’s church in Utrecht at the end of the 16th century |
| 13.50 – 15.30 | Jeannette van Arentshals: a short introduction to the painter Pieter Saenredam and his paintings of the Utrecht medieval churches in the 17th century, followed by a walk to St James’s church, passing the churches that Saenredam painted
Corinne van Dijk and Truus van Bueren: the text panel and St. James’s church looking through the eyes of Saenredam, followed by a walk back to Janskerkhof |
| 15.30 – 16.10 | Caroline Horch: Protestantische Form des Totengedenkens
Thomas Schilp: Von den Wittenberger Memorialbildern der lutherischen Reform zu Goethes Wahlverwandtschaften |
| 16.10 – 16.40 | Truus van Bueren: Reformation? Which Reformation? <i>Memoria</i> and remembrance in the second half of the 16th century in the convent of St. John in Haarlem |
| 16.40-17.00 | Closing discussion |

The 25 minute papers will be followed by a short discussion. A general discussion will take place at the end of the meeting. Due to limited number of seats and the organisation of lunch and drink we kindly ask you to let us know if you will attend.

Does Memory Have a History?

Part Three: Myth. Workshop OSL & Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek Research Group
Transnational Memories (UU) & Memory: Cultural and Religious Identities (RU)

Date: 18 November 2011

Location: Utrecht

Website: <http://oslit.nl/does-memory-have-a-history/>

In October 2008, the Netherlands Graduate School for Literary Studies (OSL) and Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies (Med.) organized their first joint workshop for PhDs, focusing on the concept of cultural memory and its applicability to different historical periods. The goal was to get a discussion going between representatives of different disciplines and historical periods, exploring how the theoretical concept of Cultural Memory could be of use to the study of communities and societies throughout history. A second workshop, devoted to the subject of rewriting, followed in the spring of 2010.

In this third edition of the DMHH-workshop series the focus will be on myth, a concept that is notoriously hard to define, but was nevertheless used repeatedly until quite recently (scholarly amnesia?) and was also the subject of much theoretical reflection. During the workshop we will investigate the analytical potential of ‘myth’ for cultural memory studies and reflect on what has been lost and gained in its erasure as well as potential recovery. We will explore myth’s relation to ‘memory’, ‘history’ and ‘experience’ and inquire into its temporality as it contrasts and intersects with other concepts of time such as historical time and phenomenological time. The focus will be on the ways in which myth functions in cultural memory, discussing its relationship to remembrance and forgetting, to rewriting, politics, and emotions. How does myth function as a figure of memory and of forgetting, and what is its relationship to cultural narratives, to archetypes, and typologies? Should ‘myth’ be understood as a separate temporal mode of cultural memory? Or can we perhaps point out a mythmaking potential in all forms of shared remembrance?

How is myth employed – if at all – by researchers of Classical, Medieval, Early Modern and contemporary culture? In what respects do these approaches resemble or differ from one another and what do they reveal about the transhistorical study of cultural memory? Can we even think of a definition that ‘works’ for everybody, regardless of the historical period or medium under consideration? These are some of the central questions we hope to address in the discussions and presentations structuring the workshop.

Keynote address: prof. dr. Judith Pollmann, leader of the NWO research programme ‘Tales of the Revolt: Memory, Oblivion and Identity in the Low Countries, 1566-1700’.

Registration: OSL-fgw@uva.nl

Organisation: Truus van Bueren (Med.), Dennis Kersten (OSL), Liedeke Plate(OSL), Ann Rigney (OSL) & Els Rose (Med.).

21st Signum symposium *Memoriepraktijken in de Nederlanden* (Memorial practices in the Low Countries)

Date: 2 December 2011

Location: Utrecht, Universiteit Utrecht, Drift 21, Sweelinckzaal

Language: Dutch

Background

Each year the *Contactgroep Signum* (<http://www.contactgroepsignum.eu/>) organizes a symposium on a specific theme, related to social-economic and institutional-juridical history of religious and ecclesiastical institutions in the Low Countries. In 1997 the *Signum* symposium was devoted to medieval *memoria* culture. Since then a lot of has happened in this research field in Belgium and the Netherlands. There have been expositions and symposiums about the commemoration of the dead; several dissertations on this topic have been published or will be published in the coming years and various websites have been launched. To put it short, *memoria* research is alive and kicking in the Low Countries.

Additionally, since 2009 there is the *Medieval Memoria Online* project (MeMO) (<http://memo.hum.uu.nl/>), which aims to catalogue and describe source material that is fundamental for the study of *memoria* culture. One of the source types that was selected to be included into the MeMO project were memorial registers. An inventory of these sources was created in the early 90's by members of the *Contactgroep Signum*. MeMO uses this inventory together with the descriptions of these memorial registers that were made from 2004 on by the Focus Group Memorial Registers (Werkgroep Memorieboeken) that consisted of members of *Signum*.

MeMO-Signum symposium

Given all of these developments in the research field, there is reason to once again devote a *Signum* symposium to the medieval *memoria* culture in the Low Countries. The emphasis during this symposium will be on ongoing research projects in Belgium and the Netherlands. The subjects of this symposium include the memorial practices in the monastery of Saint John in Haarlem and in the church of St Martin in Kortrijk (Courtrai), as well as the memorial practices among the canons in Flanders, and in communities of the Modern Devotion in the Northern and Southern Low Countries. There will also be an excursion to the Jacobikerk in Utrecht, where a memorial painting can be found that was altered during the Reformation and given a second life. This excursion will also lead past churches drawn and painted by Pieter Saenredam.

Programme

9:45	Reception and coffee
10:15	Welcome and short introduction
10:30	Bas Diemel – ‘ <i>Daer es leven sonder sterven. Memoria en gemeenschapsvorming in Windesheimer kringen uit de laatmiddeleeuwse Zuidelijke Nederlanden (1350-1550)</i> ’
11:00	Anne Bollmann – ‘ <i>Voerwaer weerdich in gedenckenisse te hebben. Over de memoriepraktijk in de historiografie van de Moderne Devotie</i> ’
11:30	Marjan de Smet – ‘ <i>Uitdelingen van proven tijdens middeleeuwse jaargetijdevieringen in de Kortrijkse Sint-Maartenskerk</i> ’
12:00	Discussion

- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:15 Corinne van Dijk – ‘Een tweede leven voor een vijftiende-eeuwse memorievoorstelling in de Utrechtse Jacobikerk’
Jeannette van Arethals – ‘Saenredam in Utrecht’
- 13:45 Excursion to the Jacobikerk by Jeannette van Arethals and Corinne van Dijk
- 14:45 Coffee
- 15:00 Member meeting *Contactgroep Signum*
- 15:15 Brigitte Meijns – ‘*Memoria* als drijfveer bij de oprichting van gemeenschappen van kanunniken in het graafschap Vlaanderen (9de-12de eeuw)’
- 15:45 Truus van Bueren – ‘Memoriecultuur in het Haarlemse Jans klooster. Het koor als plaats van memorie- en herinneringspraktijken’
- 16:15 Discussion
- 16:45 Drinks

Truus van Bueren and Rolf de Weijert

Registration: memo.gw@uu.nl

The fees for this symposium will be EUR 10.00 for Signum members, EUR 15.00 for students and EUR 20.00 for non-members. The fees can be paid in cash on the day itself.

International Conference: Gesellschaft im Gebetsgedenken

Ergebnisse und Perspektiven der Erforschung frühmittelalterlicher *Libri vitae*

Date: 8-10 December 2011

Location: Katholische Akademie „Die Wolfsburg“, Mülheim an der Ruhr

Organisation: Historisches Institut der Universität Duisburg-Essen

Language: German

Contact: uwe.ludwig@uni-due.de

Programme

Thursday, 8 December 2011

14:30 Grußworte: NN

Begrüßung und Einführung: NN, Prof. Dr. Uwe Ludwig

Die Ordnung des Gedenkens: Libri vitae und ihre Gliederungskonzepte

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Lubich, Bochum

15:00 Prof. Dr. Meta Niederkorn, Wien: Der Salzburger Liber vitae

15:30 Prof. Dr. Dieter Geuenich, Duisburg-Essen: Das Reichenauer Verbrüderungsbuch

16:00 Diskussion

16:30 Kaffeepause

- 17:00 Prof. Dr. Uwe Ludwig, Duisburg-Essen: Die St. Galler Verbrüderungsbücher
17:30 Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef Jakobi, Münster: Der Liber memorialis von Remiremont
18:00 Diskussion
18:30 Abendessen
- 20:00 Abendvortrag: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Schieffer: Memorialquellen in den Monumenta Germaniae Historica

Friday, 9 December 2011

Religiöse Gemeinschaften: Bischöfe und Kleriker, Mönche und Nonnen im Gebetsgedenken

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Scholz, Zürich

- 9:00 Prof. Dr. Alfons Zettler, Dortmund: Ordo fratrum – Verzeichnisse der Reichenauer und St. Galler Mönche
9:30 Dr. Peter Erhart, St. Gallen: Klerikergemeinschaften in Sankt Gallen und Pfäfers
10:00 Diskussion
- 10:30 Kaffepause
- 11:00 Prof. Dr. Nicolangelo D’Acunto, Brescia: Mönchs- und Nonnenkonvente aus dem Regnum Italiae in den Libri vitae
11:30 Prof. Dr. Thomas Schilp, Dortmund: Überlegungen zur Memoria der Essener Sanctimonialen unter forschungsgeschichtlichen Aspekten
12:00 Diskussion
- 13:00 Mittagessen und Pause

Herrschermemoria: Könige und Fürsten

Moderation: Dr. Franz Neiske, Münster

- 15:00 Dr. Eva-Maria Butz, Dortmund: Herrschereinträge in den Libri memoriales
15:30 Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Haubrichs, Saarbrücken: Romanische und bairische Personennamen im Salzburger ‘Liber vitae’
16:00 Diskussion
- 16:30 Kaffepause
- 17:00 PD Dr. Maximilian Diesenberger, Wien: Könige und Herzöge im Salzburger Verbrüderungsbuch
17:30 Prof. Dr. Herwig Wolfram, Wien: Die Libri vitae von Salzburg und Cividale und das Ostland Bayerns (799-907)
18:00 PD Dr. Andreas Bihrer, Freiburg/Breisgau: Angelsächsische Könige in der kontinentalen Memorialüberlieferung
18:30 Diskussion
19:00 Abendessen

20:00 Abendvortrag: Prof. Dr. Joachim Wollasch, Münster/Freiburg: Formen und Inhalte mittelalterlicher Memoria

Saturday 10 December 2011

Amici et benefactores

Moderation: NN

9:00 Prof. Dr. Volkhard Huth, Bensheim: Amici et benefactores in der mittelalterlichen Gedenküberlieferung

9:30 Dr. Walter Kettemann, Duisburg-Essen: Freunde und Wohltäter im Liber viventium Fabariensis

10:00 Diskussion

10:30 Kaffeepause

11:00 Dr. Jens Lieven, Bochum: "Große Personengruppen" und amicitiae

11:30 Schlussdiskussion. Leitung: Prof. Dr. Dieter Geuenich, Duisburg-Essen

13:00 Mittagessen

1st Arenberg Conference for History: Dynastic Identity in Early Modern Europe

The dynamics of aristocratic identity formation in comparative perspective: actors, motives and strategies

Date: October 6-7, 2011

Location: VU University Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Website: <http://dynasticidentity.let.vu.nl/>

It is with great pleasure that the Arenberg Foundation announces the 1st Arenberg Conference for History on 'Dynastic identity' in Amsterdam.

As an ancient European family, the Arenbergs have always viewed history as an invaluable asset in understanding the world, and the numerous challenges it encountered in its nearly 1000 years of existence. Therefore the Arenberg family is glad to pursue its historical commitments – after opening-up the family's private archives in Enghien, Belgium – by organising this new series of conferences. By doing so, we hope to contribute to historical sciences, since it is of great help in grasping the numerous complexities of our ever-changing modern society. History not only helps us to define where we stand, but especially where we want to go in our respective communities, countries, Europe, and of course in the world at large.

The conference's theme 'Dynastic identity in Early Modern Europe. The dynamics of aristocratic identity formation' is especially dear to us, not only for family reasons, but also because identities are very much present in today's discourses. Too often they are seen as seemingly unchangeable safe havens in a constantly changing environment, and not enough as the immensely dynamic concepts that they truly are.

By bringing together scholars from all over Europe, we hope that history will remain an inspiration for tomorrow's world.

Few doubts can persist today on the existence of specific dynastic identities of Europe's great families. The self-definition of these aristocrats focussed on claims of eternity and universality (as Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann recently defined it). Aristocrats developed a sense of lineage and continuity between past, present and future generations. So far, these identities have been studied mostly for ruling dynasties. However, exclusive identities were not just a prerogative of the "great dynasties" - as for instance the Habsburgs - they were carefully cultivated and promoted by noble houses throughout Europe.

These last few years, discussions on identity have dominated popular and scientific discourse alike. Definitions on identity are abundant, whether on national, ethnic or collective or other grounds. This conference will be concerned with identities relevant to families. Identities are rarely static or unchanging, and often influenced by a multitude of factors. It is not another definition of identity we seek, but rather an insight into the development of identity formation in the Europe of the *Ancien Regime*. This will allow us to reconstruct the worldview and motives of the most powerful individuals and families in early modern societies.

Memorial register from Zutphen digitized

Archives are much committed to digitization of historical sources to increase their availability to a wider audience. Mostly emphasized are those sources most consulted, or sources which are deemed most vulnerable. The Regional Archives Zutphen have recently chosen a reasonably unknown source to digitize: an early sixteenth century memorial register.

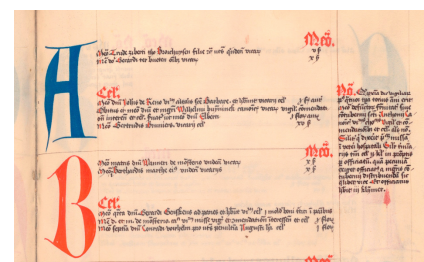
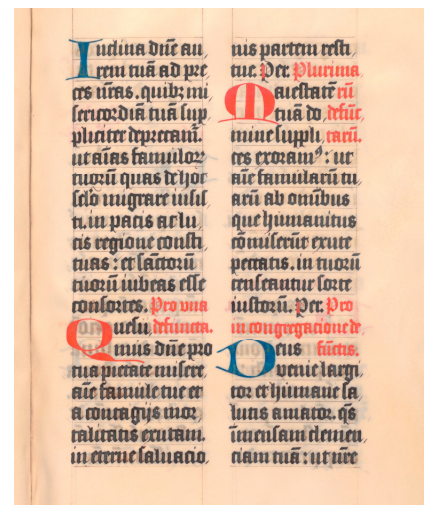
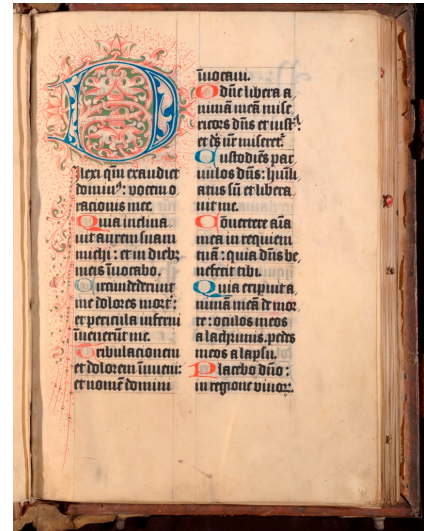
The manuscript shows many characteristics of Modern Devotion traditions, which is why it is thought to be manufactured in the scriptorium of the common house 'Heer Florenshuis' in Deventer between 1521 and 1537. In 1537 the book was donated to the college of the vicars of St. Walburgis Church Zutphen by Hermannus Buys Huyser of Venray, vicar of St. Barbara altar in that same church. Other than the officium and mortuarium, the book also contains copies of deeds and testamentary gifts. The register is carefully bound and beautifully decorated with rubricated initials.

During the Reformation these memorial registers or obituaries were either intentionally destroyed or simply forgotten. It is likely that during this period the obituary of the vicars of the St. Walburgis Church fell in private hands. However in 1963 the Dutch government purchased the book, which had been discovered in Germany, and it was brought back to Zutphen. It cannot only be considered a beautiful manuscript, but also a historical source of substantial importance, which is why the RAZ decided to digitize this manuscript for the greater public. Historical research in obituaries may lead to increased knowledge of the Catholic belief, the culture of remembrance and organisation of Catholic institutions prior to the Reformation. In addition, the names of the people for whom the services were kept can be highly important for genealogical research.

Those interested can now browse the website of the RAZ to study the obituary. This way the archives hope to inform people about the particular way in which the dead were commemorated in the Catholic liturgy. Other than containing a few wills in Dutch, the book is mostly written in Latin, making it somewhat less accessible. Therefore it was decided to link a name index to the images, also containing some additional information about the people concerned. Processing the names in the obituary is not an easy task. The specific day of death is known, but the year is usually not listed. Furthermore, additional notes are mostly in Latin. Drs. R. Vredevelde is currently working on a reliable index on the names, making the register an interesting source of historical and genealogical knowledge to even more people.

Memorial Register of de vicary of Sint Walburgis, early 16th century (before 1537). Regional Archives Zutphen, 463-26.

http://www.regionaalarchiefzutphen.nl/genealogie-bronnen/q/register_gemeente/0/q/register_type_short/mm



New website: *Digitaal Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant*

The *Digitaal Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant* (DONB) is a continuation of *Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant* (ONB), which appeared in print. This publication consisted of two volumes published in 1979 and 2000. It contained all medieval charters from before 1312 involving landed property found in today's province of North Brabant.

With a grant provided by the province of North Brabant and the 'Streekraad Het Groene Woud en De Meierij', it was possible to continue the work on the ONB. Dr. G. Van Synghel, editor of the second volume of the ONB, started working on the final edition for the remaining 750 medieval charters in 2010. These charters will be published digitally as the *Digitaal Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant* (DONB).

Therefore, a new website has been developed by the Institute of Netherlands History (now Huygens Institute of Netherlands History). The first 80 charters have already been published in the database, with images of the charters and full text retrieval options. They are available at: <http://www.donb.nl/database>. The website also contains the educational program 'Wie schrijft, die blijft!' for primary school education. This website will undoubtedly prove to be useful for *memoria* researchers, who are interested in transactions involved landed property in Brabant.

For further information, please contact: geertrui.vansynghel@inghist.nl

The members of the Brotherhood of Saint Mary in 's-Hertogenbosch 1330-1620

The Brotherhood of Saint Mary (Illustre Lieve Vrouwe Broederschap or Zwanenbroederschap) in 's-Hertogenbosch has had thousands of members throughout its existence. At the beginning of the 16th century the number of members ran to nearly 14.000. These members were a very diverse group of people. Although the brotherhood had its see in 's-Hertogenbosch, before 1642 only about 30% of its members lived in the north-eastern part of the duchy of Brabant. The remaining members came from Holland (29%), the rest of the duchy of Brabant (13%), the Rhineland (10%), Utrecht (6%) and Guelders (5%). Some members came from even further, such as England, France, the Baltic region and Russia. They belonged to all levels of society: from farmers and simple craftsmen to clergymen and noblemen.

An online database now gives visitors the opportunity to access the lists of members, as written down in the records of the brotherhood. The *Brabants Historisch Informatie Centrum* (BHIC) offers the possibility to easily find those members. Visitors can search and sort the records of members by name, location, profession or title. In most cases the year of a member's registration and the date of their death is also given. The records also include women, as they too could become members of the brotherhood. This database therefore brings a very varied cross section of medieval society to light, and it is a very valuable tool for *memoria* researchers.

On a final note: the choir books of the famous scribe and music editor Petrus Alamire and the armorials of the sworn members of the brotherhood can also be consulted on this website.

www.bhic.nl/broederschap

New Project at Ghent University: “Sources from the Medieval Low Countries (SMLC).”

A Multiple Database System for the launch of *Diplomata Belgica* and for a completely updated version of *Narrative Sources*

Project partners: the Belgian Royal Historical Commission, the Belgian State Archives, the Universities of Leuven, Utrecht and Groningen
Funded by the Flemish Hercules Foundation, 2010-2015

The projects *Narrative Sources* and *Nouveau Wanters* – the latter today called *Diplomata Belgica* – already resulted in the development of innovative electronic databases in the mid-1990s, which have proven their usefulness and reliability for more than a decade, and which have had a significant impact on the progress of the study of the medieval Low Countries (see, respectively: *The Narrative Sources from the Medieval Low Countries* (Brussels: Royal Historical Commission – www.narrative-sources.be) and *Thesaurus diplomaticus* (Turnhout: Brepols, 1997 – CD-rom)).

An argument which was often used in the 1990s, when scholars and publishers chose to publish new heuristic instruments electronically – whether on CD-Rom or on the Internet – was that in this way the ageing of such instruments could be prevented because of the possibility of continuous updating. Paradoxically, it now seems that electronic publications are among the first to suffer from problems of sustainability due to the rapid evolution of electronic media.

Today, both *Narrative Sources* and *Diplomata Belgica* are seriously subject to what the Dutch historian Jan Romein has termed the ‘law of the retarding lead’. The two databases are not, however, facing exactly the same problems of obsolescence. *Narrative Sources*, which was very recently moved under the auspices of the Belgian Royal Historical Commission, has been subjected to a project in which completely new software has been developed. The main challenge to this database is therefore the question of how to make and keep its contents up to date. *Diplomata Belgica*, on the other hand, has long been one of the Historical Commission’s showpieces. This dataset can certainly be considered remarkably up to date. It has been updated continuously since 1997 and today contains more than 33.000 descriptions of charters from the pre-1250 Southern Low Countries, ca. 18.000 full text editions and more than 2.000 photographs. However, the *Diplomata Belgica* collection still lacks a serious database system and accessibility on the internet.

The idea behind SMLC is therefore that it will unite two underlying and separate databases: *Diplomata Belgica* and *Narrative Sources*. Each database will contain its own online module for consultation and its own online application for data management and updating. However, SMLC will also offer one extra module for combined searches in both databases. *Diplomata Belgica* and *Narrative sources* share a number of fields containing very comparable information: institution where the source is written, diocese or secular principality in which the source originated, religious order of the author, language, chronological period, etc. With one single query it will become possible to collect, for instance, all the diplomatic and narrative sources regarding the Benedictine abbeys of the diocese of Liege in the twelfth century.

In summary: the SMLC project, which will require a development phase of approximately three years and the recruitment of both a historian and an IT-specialist, has a threefold aim: (1) making available electronically the rich collection of *Diplomata Belgica* in a way which perfectly coincides with our current research interests and needs; (2) completely updating the contents of *Narrative Sources*, and (3) developing a multiple database system for both these collections in order to facilitate combined searches and advanced methods of ‘data mining’ and information retrieval

with a view to future research questions. Hence it is hoped that within a few years, the project *Sources from the Medieval Low Countries* (SMLC) will stimulate the development of several new directions in medieval studies and that it will remain a most innovative heuristic tool for many years to come.

See also: J. Deploige et al., 'Remedying the obsolescence of digitised surveys of medieval sources. *Narrative Sources and Diplomata Belgica*', *Bulletin de la Commission Royale d'Histoire*, 176 (2010) 151-166.

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This newsletter is part of the project *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria*, OGC, Utrecht University.

Contributions to this newsletter, names and e-mail addresses of researchers wishing to be included on the mailing list, etc. can be sent to Charlotte Dikken, using the following e-mail address:

C.P.A.Dikken@uu.nl

The next issue of *Medieval Memoria Research* will appear in March 2012.

<http://mmr.let.uu.nl/>