

Antwerp University Summer School: Book and Culture 2016

Religious Manuscripts, Hand Press Books and Prints (15th–19th centuries): Collections, Materials and Methodologies

27 June – 1 July 2016

Organized by the Ruusbroec Institute in cooperation with the University of Antwerp Library

Tuesday 28 June

Welcome, by Prof. Dr. Veerle Fraeters (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp)

Lectures

- Prof. Dr. Hubert Meeus (University of Antwerp): Antwerp and its Role in the Religious Book Production
- Prof. Dr. Pierre Delsaerd (University of Antwerp; KU Leuven): Collections Create Context
- Prof. Dr. David McKitterick (Trinity College, Cambridge): The Compartmentalizing of Manuscripts, Early Printed Books and Prints and its Consequences for Historic Research and our Understanding of the Past

Wednesday 29 June: Manuscripts: evolution, techniques, printed books (Workshops 1)

Lectures

- Prof. Dr. Erik Kwakkel (Leiden University): Birth and Development of Gothic Script, 1050-1450
- Dr. Daniël Ermens (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp): What is a Manuscript?
- Prof. Dr. Kees Schepers (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp): Printed Books in Disguise. Manuscript Copies of Early Printed Books

Summer School Dinner

Thursday 30 June: Early printed books, Digital Humanities (Workshops 2)

Lectures

- Dr. Falk Eisermann (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin): Media convergence: Manuscripts and Printed Books in the 15th Century
- Dr. Tom Deneire (University of Antwerp Library: Special Collections): Digital Special Collections: Digitization, Metadata, Research
- Dr. Goran Proot (Ruusbroec Institute, University of Antwerp; Bibliothèque Mazarine, Paris): The Relationship between Early Modern Books and their Descriptions in Bibliographies, Catalogues, and Databases: Opportunities for Big-Data Analyses

Visit

- Special Collections of University of Antwerp Library; welcome by Chief Librarian Trudi Noordermeer and presentation of the Jesuitica Collection by curator Dr. Tom Deneire

Friday 1 July: Illustrations, prints and devotionalia (Workshops 3)

Lectures

- Evelyne Verheggen (Museum Catherijneconvent) and Richard de Beer, MA (Museum Catherijneconvent): Devotional illustrations, prints and objects reunited

Visits

- Guided tour at the Carolus Borromaeus Church, with focus on 17th-century paraments
- Guided tour at the Collections of Antwerp Heritage Library Hendrik Conscience; welcome by Chief Librarian An Renard and presentation of religious unica by curator Steven van Impe

Closing reception

Abstracts

Pierre Delsaerdt

Collections Create Context

Books are texts, and books are material objects. But they always refer to collections as well. The successive collections in which volumes have landed in the course of time provide them with additional context. Who bought or received the books? In which institutions were they made available to others? How did readers handle the books and how did they appropriate them? Scholars who want to include this context into their research, need a general knowledge about the history of libraries, and about the potential of provenance and other readers' marks in preserved volumes. Library history and provenance research will be at the heart of this lecture.

Tom Deneire

Digital Special Collections: Digitization, Metadata, Research

This lecture aims to offer a general introduction into the research field of digital special collections. Acknowledging the so-called "digital turn" as a Copernican revolution for the humanities, it will discuss the concept, methodology and results of research that uses digitized Special Collections materials. After a general introduction, we will first trace the process of digitization from physical object to online image. Next, we will look at the nature and possibilities of digital metadata, both for library users and academic researchers. Finally, this will lead to a discussion of some capita selecta from the digital humanities research, such as computational stylistics or virtual library reconstruction.

Falk Eisermann

Media Convergence: Manuscripts and Printed Books in the 15th Century

The session will consist of two parts:

- 1) Continuing Kees Schepers' presentation, I will give an overview – in the form of a lecture – of various aspects of 'media convergence', which is my working term for the overlapping of manuscript and print in the age of incunabula. Subjects to be touched upon are 'printer's copy' (manuscripts used in the printing house) and manuscript additions to printed books; questions of marginalia and manuscripts copied from printed books (as treated by Schepers) will only be mentioned briefly.
- 2) Hands-on session: manuscript traces in (religious) incunabula from the Ruusbroec Institute Library.

Daniël Ermens

What is a Manuscript?

The manuscripts in our libraries have long histories. What happened to them in the centuries between their production and our present time is often unknown. If we are lucky some traces are left of previous owners and the way they dealt with these books, but often there are no traces, or they have been erased. Each change to a manuscript takes away a (little) part of the original book, and makes it more difficult for us to understand it. We can never bring back what has been lost, but a closer look at the materiality of a manuscript may help us to increase our understanding of that particular codex. In this session we will explore the materiality of manuscripts, using Peter Gumbert's terminology for the constituting parts of a manuscript (i.e. codicological units). The question 'What is a manuscript?', however, will not be answered, but it will, hopefully, pop up in the minds of the participants whenever they consult a manuscript after this session.

David McKitterick

The Compartmentalizing of Manuscripts, Early Printed Books and Prints and its Consequences for Historic Research and our Understanding of the Past

When we examine many books from any period since the fifteenth century, we find that they consist of a mixture of media, both printed and manuscript. Yet on the other hand until very recently curators, librarians and scholars have preferred to separate into different disciplines the study of manuscripts, prints and books. How far is this useful, and how can these different interests be reconciled?

Hubert Meeus

Antwerp and its Role in the Religious Book Production

The first book printed in Antwerp was Simon van Venlo's *Boexken van der officien ofte dienst der missen* (1481), a book explaining the catholic mass. From then until the end of the hand-press period Antwerp remained a center for the production of religious books in all shapes and kinds not only for the Low Countries but for the whole world. In my lecture I will treat the evolution and diversity of religious printing in Antwerp.

Erik Kwakkel

Birth and Development of Gothic Script, 1050-1450

This class is devoted to the dominant book script of the later Middle Ages: Gothic Textualis. It shows how the script was born out of its predecessor, Caroline Minuscule, and how it subsequently developed into an entity of its own. The emphasis of the class is the early period of Gothic Textualis, from the middle of the eleventh century up to c. 1300, but the later stages of the script, as well as regional variants, are discussed as well. In addition to showing how this important script arrived and developed, the class will develop the students' ability to describe paleographical features and their development in a quantifiable manner, which is key to studying how Gothic Textualis developed.

Goran Proot

The Relationship between Early Modern Books and their Descriptions in Bibliographies, Catalogues, and Databases: Opportunities for Big-Data Analyses

The primary function of bibliographical metadata is identification: does the book in front of me match its description? In this workshop the participants are invited critically to survey the relationship between the material object and its description in bibliographies, catalogues, and databases, in order to discover opportunities and pitfalls of their use. In what way does metadata reflect what it describes? How is book metadata structured? How can it be used to discover characteristics of specific categories of books (e.g., religious and devotional editions) and to lay bare long-term trends? In addition to text-oriented metadata, the discussion will include images as potential sources for big-data analysis.

Kees Schepers

Printed Books in Disguise. Manuscript Copies of Early Printed Books

In the decades, centuries even, after the invention of printing the writing of manuscripts did not stop. There were still plenty of possible reasons to continue to make handwritten books. A peculiar category is that of manuscript copies of printed books. In some cases the material features of such manuscripts give no reason to suspect any link to printed books. In this class we will look at some examples of 'printed books in disguise' and reflect on the sometimes surprising intertwining of manuscript and print. We will consider the differences – if any – of the printed and the manuscript texts, and consider motives to copy a book rather than acquire one.

Evelyne Verheggen

Devotional illustrations, prints and objects reunited

In this workshop, we will discuss Early Modern devotional illustrations and prints and link them back to their original, multifaceted functions. Some aspects of the original context will surface during a visit of the interior and the archives of the Carolus Borromaeus Church in the heart of Antwerp.