Antwerp Summer School: Book and Culture

2014 - Partner: SHARP Conference ‘Religions of the Book’
15-17 September 2014

Programme

15/9 - Morning session, location: Prentenkabinet, Hof van Liere, Prinsstraat 13, University of Antwerp (UA)

9:30-10:00 Coffee and tea

10:00-12:00 Antwerp and its role in the religious book production

max. 20 pp.
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 Netherlands but for the whole world. In my lecture I will treat the evolution and diversity of religious printing in Antwerp.

Prof. Dr Hubert Meeus is a professor at the Department of Literature (ISLN) at the University of Antwerp. His research and publications mainly cover the history of literature (songs) and theatre in the Low Countries during the sixteenth and seventeenth century and the history of the printed book from its invention till 1800.

12:00-13:00 Lunch at mensa academica

13:00-13:30 Walking to location afternoon session

15/9 - Afternoon session, location: Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience (EHC), Hendrik Conscienceplein 4

13:30-14:45 The STCV-fingerprint, or, How to identify and distinguish editions

max. 20 pp.
If a book has the same title, author, printer, place and year of publication as another; if the title page and the total number of pages is identical, does that automatically mean it is the same edition? What makes up a handpress book and how can we distinguish and identify it accurately? This workshop will provide tips and tricks for using short title catalogues, explain the bibliographical fingerprint method as well as give hands-on experience using the vast collections of the Heritage Library Hendrik Conscience.

Dr Susanna De Schepper studied book history (MA, Leiden University) and Renaissance Studies (PhD, University of Warwick). She works for the network organisation Flanders Heritage Library, where she is the lead cataloguer of the Short Title Catalogue Flanders (STCV), the online retrospective bibliography of the handpress book in Flanders.

14:45-15:15 Refreshments

15:15-16:30 The typographical title page and its development between c. 1500 and c. 1800

max. 20 pp.
This workshop will focus on the development of the layout and design of Early Modern typographical title pages produced over a period of about 300 years. In contrast to the first fifty years of printing, the changes in the design of title pages seem to be much less radical. With examples from the Antwerp book production between 1500 and 1800, it will be explained how printers constantly reinvented the physical appearance of their products, and what the implications of that process are for scholars dealing with Early Modern books.

Dr Goran Proot is Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Rare Books, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. He is editor of the book historical journal De Gulden Passer and he is active in the Flanders Book Historical Society. His research focuses on the history of layout and design of Early Modern handpress books.

16:30-18:00 Exclusive preview of the exhibition ‘Holy Books’

max. 20 pp.
The Hendrik Conscience Library will be hosting a prestigious exhibition on ‘Holy Books’ (working title), coinciding with the SHARP 2014 conference theme ‘Religions of the book’. In this exclusive preview, participants will learn more about the process of setting up a rare books exhibit of this scale.

Steven Van Impe, M.A. is curator of old books and manuscripts at the Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience.

18:00-19:00 Drinks in local pub
16/9 - Morning and first part afternoon session, location: Museum Plantin Moretus (MPM), Vrijdagmarkt 22-23

9:00-9:15 Coffee and tea


This session will focus on the production and distribution of works by Joannes David by the Plantin Press through a consideration of archival documents preserved at the Plantin-Moretus Museum. The participants will learn about the initial negotiations between the author and publisher and which arrangements were made to finance an edition. Records with payments to compositors, pressmen and others involved will give the necessary information about the production itself, while the account books of the bookshop and shipments to other European cities will clarify how the distribution of the books took place.


10:15-11:00 Demonstration of a printing press at the Museum Plantin Moretus (group 1) max. 10 pp.

9:15-11:00 The illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press (group 2) max. 10 pp.

In this workshop, Dr. Bowen will explore practical, financial, and personal considerations behind the illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press in the period 1565-1650. This will be done in the form of an intimate, round-table discussion, during which Dr. Bowen will present a full range of objects including woodblocks, copperplates and preparatory drawings, in addition to the resulting books.

Dr. Karen L. Bowen is an art historian, specialized in the study of prints, printmaking, and book illustration in the early modern period. In her work, she focuses on the production of illustrated editions at the Plantin-Moretus Press and the activities of artists engaged by that Press.

11:00 - 12:00 Guided tour through the Exhibition devoted to the unpublished polyglot Bible by Balthasar Moretus max. 20 pp.

Dr. Dirk Imhof

12:00-12:45 Lunch at the Museum Planton Moretus


see above

Dr. Dirk Imhof

13:45-14:30 Demonstration of a printing press at the Museum Plantin Moretus (group 2) max. 10 pp.

12:45-14:30 The illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press (group 1) - see above max. 10 pp.

Dr. Karen L. Bowen

14:30-15:00 Walking to location second part afternoon session

16/9 - Second part afternoon session, location: St. Pauls Church,

15:00-17:00 Exclusive guided tour

As coordinator *monumental churches* in Antwerp Guus Van den Hout will guid us through this magnificent church, that has several connections to pilgrimage in Antwerp. We will visit the fabulous *Calvarie*, the magnificent pieces of art, and the treasury room. We aim to show you pieces that are never shown to the public.

Guus van den Hout, M.A. studied history of art at the University of Leiden. Caring for artifacts associated with Christian heritage and creating awareness for this often neglected field has always been his passion. As a cultural entrepreneur he works as an independent curator for museums. He is currently also the coordinator *monumental churches* in Antwerp.

17:00-18:00 Drinks in local pub
17/9 - Morning session, location: (UA): Ruusbroec Institute and Special Collections, Grote Kauwenberg 32

9:00-9:15  Coffee and tea

9:15-10:15  Manuscripts relating to spiritual and mystical culture in the 17th-century Southern Low Countries  Prof. dr Kees Schepers

Kees Schepers will present a recently revealed set of texts and manuscripts relating to spiritual and mystical culture in the seventeenth-century Southern Low Countries, and specifically in the Malines monastery Thabor. Two of the manuscripts that testify to spiritual life in Thabor were acquired in recent years by the Ruusbroec Institute. Remarkably, the one manuscript containing a unique mystical dialogue belonged to the sister who was the scribe of the other manuscript containing unknown sermons by the convent priest. A third, related manuscript, was discovered in Auxerre.

10:15-10:30  Walking to location second part morning session (Special Collections)

10:30-12:30  First Aid Conservation for Historical Collections  Marijn de Valk

From March to October 2013 the Antwerp University Library organized a ‘first aid’ program for its historical collections, which consisted of the basic conservation of 1,500 books from the Special Collections Department and the Library of the Ruusbroec Society. Such a ‘collection-wide’ approach to book conservation is based on a number of carefully-weighed principles, such as properly prioritizing within the collection and the careful collaboration between the library curator and the book restorer.

In this workshop, both curator and restorer will first discuss their take on the aim and organization of such a first aid conservation of a historical collection. Next, the participants will get the opportunity to learn how to analyse and assess book damage, using objects from the University of Antwerp’s Special Collections. Finally, they will be able to observe and discuss several elementary steps in the first aid conservation program (dry cleaning, conservation of leather bindings, paper repair, ...).

12:30-13:00  Lunch at mensa academica

13:00  End of programme

19/9 - Evening Session, location: Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), Hanzestedenplaats 1

Exclusive guided tour of the exhibition ‘Holy Places’  Guus van den Hout, M.A.

As a guest-curator for the Museum aan de Stroom (MAS) in Antwerp Guus Van den Hout is working on the exhibition Holy Places. He is responsible for the part of the exhibition devoted to christian pilgrimage. Judaism and Islam form the other two parts of this revolutionary show on pilgrimage. Guus is excited to show you around on the first day of opening, discuss the concept and share ideas and views on the visualisation of the idea of pelgrimage and the obvious relevance for today’s society.

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**Organising Institutions:**

University of Antwerp:
- Ruusbroec Institute
- University Library - Special Collections
- Department of History
- Department of Literature

Vlaamse werkgroep Boekwetenschap

Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience

Museum Plantin Moretus

Museum aan de Schelde

**Coordination**

prof.dr. August den Hollander, Ruusbroec Institute

**Facilities**

Els Maldoy, coordinator Congresdient Universiteit Antwerpen