

The Sensual World of Late-Medieval Nuns

Working Group “Extraordinary Sensescapes”
October 26-30, 2015

Ebstorf, Wienhausen, Lüne, Gnadenberg, Altomünster



The Sensual World of Late-Medieval Nuns
Symposium Kloster Ebstorf and Birgittenkloster Altomünster
October 25–30, 2015

Organized by Volker Schier, Corine Schleif, and Karin Strinnholm Lagergren

Supported through a grant from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

Participants

Dr. Mia Åkestam

Art history, Stockholm University

Feel the Heat of the first Days of August - A Discussion of Sensory Experiences and Perception of Space based on Nils Ragvaldsson's (Nicolaus Ragvaldi) Eyewitness Account in the Narrative of the Enshrinement of St. Katarina of Vadstena in 1489.

Geeske Bakker, M.A.

DeRode3D, Utrecht

Art historian, literary historian, 3D designer of historic buildings

Story Telling – By all Means

Stratton Bull, M.A.

Alamire Foundation, Leuven

Musicologist and singer

Reconstructing Past Sounds. A Performers View

Prof. Dr. David Burn

Musicology, Leuven University und Alamire Foundation, Leuven

Historically Informed Performance and Recovering Lost Soundscapes: Maximizing Gain and Limiting Loss in Recreating the Cantus Sororum

Bevin Butler Blair, M.A.

Ph.D. candidate

Art history, Arizona State University

Sounds of Silk and Wool: An Investigation into the Acoustic Effects of Textiles in Birgittine Monasteries

Ing. Stefan Lindgren

Research Engineer, Humanities Lab, Lund University

3D-Technology in Cultural Heritage: Acquisition, Analysis and Visualization of 3D-Data

Dr. Eva Lindqvist Sandgren
Art history, Uppsala University
Aspects on Light, Sound, Motion and Smell inside the Area Circumscribed by the Iron Grill –
Multisensory Aspects on the Pilgrims' Space in Vadstena Abbey Church

Dr. Magali Ljungar Chapelon
Instructor in Research Methodology, Malmö Academy of Music Lund University
3D design, designer of virtual rituals, choreographer
Virtual Bodies in Ritual Procession.
Towards New Artistic and Interactive Experiences for Time Travelers

Aino Lund Lavoipierre
Singer, Ensemble Gemma, Malmö
Florilegium Birgittae - Music for Office and Mass from the Birgittine Tradition

Prof. emer. Dr. Tore Nyberg
History, University of South Denmark, Odense
Early Interpretations of St. Birgitta's Design of Church Architecture. Why Were Pirita, Maribo,
Marienbrunn, Gnadenberg and Vadstena Planned and Constructed the Way They Are?

Lena Palm
Singer, Ensemble Gemma, Stockholm
Florilegium Birgittae - Music for Office and Mass from the Birgittine Tradition

Jan de Rode, M.A.
DeRode3D, Utrecht
Architectural historian, artist and 3D designer of historic buildings
Evoking the Past through a Virtual Reconstruction of Architecture

Dr. Volker Schier
Institute for Humanities Research, ASU
Musicology
Perceiving Past Perceptions: Combining Testimonia from the Past and Multimedia Technology of
Our Day to Explore the Multisensory Environment of a Birgittine Monastery

Prof. Dr. Corine Schleif
Art history, Arizona State University
Speculations on the Multisensory Aspects of (Birgittine) Nuns' Processional Liturgy in the
Cloister: Sights, Sounds, Smells, Synaesthesia – Memory and Mirror Neurons

Prof. Dr. Jane Schulenburg,
History, University of Wisconsin, Madison
Women's Monasticism and Sacred Space

Anders Sjöström

System Administrator, Mechanical Engineering, Lund University

Real-time Auralization through Acoustic Raytracing - Current Status and Future Prospects

Dr. Karin Strinnholm Lagergren

Alamire Foundation, Leuven; Linnaeus University, Kalmar; director Ensemble Gemma

New Wine in old Wine skins - What is Unique about the Birgittine Liturgy?

and

Florilegium Birgittae - Music for Office and Mass from the Birgittine Tradition

Michelle Urberg, M.A.

Ph.D. candidate, musicology, University Chicago and instructor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

How would they Experience the Office on a Feast Day? - The Symbolic Sites, Sounds, and Experiences of the Virgin Mary's Compassion and Assumption

Dr. Hilikka-Liisa Vuori

Church musician and singer, Sibelius-Academy, Helsinki

Sound and space - Workshop in singing of Cantus sororum

Edmund Wareham, M.A.

Ph.D. candidate, University of Oxford

Spices and Saffron: Sensing the Sacred in a Late Medieval German Cistercian Convent

Schedule

25 October 2015, Sunday

Arrival of participants at Stresemann Institut in Bad Bevensen

26 October 2015, Monday

- 9:00 Board bus for Ebstorf
- 9:30 Greetings and introductions, tour of the monastery: cloister, stained glass windows, other monastic buildings, and objects. Remarks about the Ebstorfer Weltkarte by Abbess Erika Krüger
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Keynote presentation with subsequent discussion
Tore Nyberg: Early Interpretations of St. Birgitta's Design of Church Architecture. Why Were Pirita, Maribo, Marienbrunn, Gnadenberg and Vadstena Planned and Constructed the Way They Were?
- 12:00 Anders Sjöström: Real-Time Auralization through Acoustic Raytracing, - Current Status and Future Prospects
- 12:30 Lunch at Café am Kloster Ebstorf
- 13:30 Karin Strinnholm Lagergren: New Wine in Old Wine Skins - What is Unique about the Birgittine Liturgy?
- 14:00 Re-enactment and discussion of a procession in the cloister with processional chants performed by the ensemble Gemma
- 14:30 Corine Schleif: Speculations on the Multisensory Aspects of Birgittine Nuns' Processional Liturgy in the Cloister: Sights, Sounds, Smells, Synaesthesia – Memory and Mirror Neurons
- 15:00 Magali Ljungar Chapelon: Virtual Bodies in Ritual Procession
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Jane Schulenburg: Wondrous to Behold: Medieval Nuns, Embroideries, Relics, and Objects of Gold
- 16:30 Eva Lindqvist Sandgren: Aspects on Light, Sound, Motion and Smell Inside the Area Circumscribed by the Iron Grill - Multisensory Aspects on the Pilgrims' Space in Vadstena Abbey Church
- 17:00 Michelle Urberg: How Would they Experience the Office on a Feast Day? - The Symbolic Sites, Sounds, and Experiences of the Virgin Mary's Compassion and Assumption
- ca. 18:30 Re-enactment of a procession in the dark cloister and subsequent discussion

20:00 Dinner at Stresemann Institut, Bad Bevensen

27 October 2015, Tuesday

Bus trip to Wienhausen and Lüne

8:30 Board bus

10:00 Kloster Wienhausen

Tour of monastery, cloister, nuns' gallery, furnishings, textiles and objects led by Max Frhr von Boeselager, restorer at the Klosterkammer Hannover

13:00 Board Bus

The Stresemann Institut will provide boxed lunches to be eaten on the road

15:00 Kloster Lüne

Tour and discussion on the nuns' platform, cloister, and museum

18:00 Dinner Kloster Lüne

22:00 Stratton Bull: Reconstructing Past Sounds. A Performers View

22:30 Bevin Butler Blair: Sounds of Silk and Wool: An Investigation into the Acoustic Effects of Textiles in Birgittine Monasteries

28 October 2015, Wednesday

8:15 Bus transfer from Ebstorf to south Germany

14:30 Dinner near Gnadenberg

16:30 Tour of the Birgittine ruins in Gnadenberg

Discussion about the plan of the cloister and location of the nuns' platform

20:00 Arrival at Birgittenkloster Altomünster

20:30 Supper in Altomünster

29 October 2015, Thursday

9:00 Volker Schier: Perceiving Past Perceptions: Combining Testimony from the Past and Multimedia Technology of Our Day to Explore the Multisensory Environment of a Birgittine Monastery

9:30 Mia Åkestam: Feel the Heat of the first Days of August - A Discussion of Sensory Experiences and Perception of Space, Based on Nils Ragvaldsson's (Nicolaus Ragvaldi) Eyewitness Account in the Narrative of the Enshrinement of St. Katarina of Vadstena in 1489

- 10:00 Edmund Wareham: Spices and Saffron. Sensing the Sacred in a Late Medieval German Cistercian Convent
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 Viewing and studying of liturgical manuscripts in Altomünster
- 12:00 Hilikka-Liisa Vuori: Sound and Space - Workshop in singing the *Cantus Sororum*
- 13:00 Lunch at the monastery
- 14:00 Jan de Rode: Evoking the Past by a Virtual Reconstruction of Architecture
- 14:30 Geeske Bakker: Digital Historic Reconstruction. Story Telling – By all Means
- 15:00 Stefan Lindgren: 3D-Technology in Cultural Heritage: Acquisition, Analysis and Visualization of 3D-Data
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 Birgittine Museum in Altomünster
- 19:00 Concert by Gemma in the Monastery Church
- 20:30 Dinner at Kappler Bräu

30 October 2015, Friday

- 9:00 David Burn: Historically Informed Performance and Attempts at Recovering Lost Soundscapes
- 10:00 Coffee break
- 10:30 Concluding discussion