

Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries
Newsletter



September, 2008
Issue 1

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Editorial - by Truus van Bueren

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Postdoc and Ph.D. researchers working on *memoria*

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.

First issue of *Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries*

We hereby present the first issue of the newsletter *Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries* (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. *Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries* will contain three sections: publications, announcements of upcoming symposia and congresses, and other news. In the section 'other news', you might for instance find information about new Ph.D. researchers, new projects or other new initiatives concerning medieval *memoria*. The first two issues of this newsletter will contain separate overviews of the Postdoc and Ph.D. researchers, who are currently working on *memoria*.

This newsletter is created to inform scholars and other interested people of current developments concerning the research of the commemoration of the dead and commemorative practices in the Low Countries. This has proven to be necessary. It has been pointed out in various scholarly publications that *memoria*-researchers tend to limit themselves to researching within their own modern national borders and linguistic frontiers. They also seem to have their own 'citation communities' (Van Bueren, in her introduction of *Care for the Here and the Hereafter*, 2005, 13; Bijsterveld, *Do ut des*, 2007, *Introduction*, 13-16). Arnoud-Jan Bijsterveld wrote about his book: "... this volume means to give greater publicity to Belgian and Dutch research into the Central Middle Ages as well as to the possibilities and importance of research into sources from the medieval Low Countries (idem, 13)." We hope that this newsletter will also give greater publicity to the activities of *memoria*-researchers in the Low Countries. The need to inform other scholars and to cooperate, has also been demonstrated by other initiatives. In 2007 professor Dieter Geuenich of the University of Duisberg-Essen, invited a Dutch group of *memoria*-researchers to a symposium, during which they and their German counterparts could inform each other of their activities. This initiative has since developed into a tradition, an event which takes place twice a year. During these symposia scholars can present and discuss their work in progress. The location of these symposia alternates between Germany and the Netherlands. You will find the announcement of the fourth symposium in this issue of our newsletter.

Keeping the previously discussed matters in mind, we do not wish to impose strict limitations upon the newsletter and its contents. For instance, Dutch and Belgian Ph.D. researchers, looking into *memoria* and related subjects outside of the Low Countries, can also present their work in this newsletter. The newsletter itself will be in English. You will, however, also find announcements about non-English (usually Dutch) publications and events.

This first issue of MMR will show that in the previous academic year a lot has happened in our field of research in Belgium and the Netherlands. This year also promises to see a number of activities, such as the congress of the project 'Herinnering in geschrift en praktijk', which will take place in November. In January 2009 there will be a symposium about IT and its practical uses in scholarly research, which may also interest other researchers in the field of humanities. In the second half of 2009 three Ph.D. researchers are expected to receive their doctor's degree.

The newsletter has been set up as part of the Utrecht research project *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria*. Charlotte Dikken, who, starting in September of this year, will be a Ph.D. researcher (AIO) at Utrecht University, has agreed to act as the newsletter's editor-in-chief. In addition, the editorial staff will comprise of two other *memoria*-researchers, Bram van den Hoven van Genderen and myself, and Andrea van Leerdam. Andrea has also worked in the Utrecht project; currently she is active as the web editor of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University.

Truus van Bueren

Project leader of *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria*

The aim of *MMR* is to create greater publicity for *memoria*-research in the Low Countries. Readers are invited to inform us of news about congresses, publications, projects and other related subjects, so that these subjects may be included in our future issues. Please consult the colophon for the address to which to send your messages!



The Mass of Saint Gregory the Great, Northern Netherlands, c. 1500. Panel 92.1 x 78.1 cm. Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht.

Recent publications

2007

- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries* (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007).
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'The Medieval Gift as Agent of Social Bonding and Power', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 17-39.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Afterword: the Study of Gift Giving since the 1990s', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 40-50.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Beyond Legal Sources: Contextualizing Charters of Gift', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 51-61.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'A Glove on the Altar: Profane Symbols and Sacred Rituals', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 62-82.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Gift Exchange, Landed Property, and Eternity: the Priory of Postel', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 83-123.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Commemorating Patrons and Gifts in Monastic Chronicles', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 124-157.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'In mei memoriam: Hollow Phrase or Intentional Formula?', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 158-187.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Eternal Life, Perpetual Glory: Memorializing Donors and Founders', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 188-214.
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- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Appealing to the Mighty Vindicator: Canons and Laymen in Conflict', in: *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*, Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007), 230-246.
- Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, 'Review of: H. Tummers, H. Kurvers, A. Reinstra and H. Tolboom, *Bestendige vergankelijkheid. Het gerestaureerde grafmonument voor Frederik van Renesse* (Zeist, 2004)', in: *Noordbrabants Historisch Jaarboek* 24 (2007), 211-212.
- Douglas Brine, 'Campin's Contemporaries: Painting in Tournai in the Early Fifteenth Century', in: *Campin in Context. Peinture et société dans la vallée de l'Escaut à l'époque de Robert Campin 1375-1445*, ed. L. Nys and D. Vanwijnsberghe (Valenciennes, Brussels & Tournai, 2007), 101-112.
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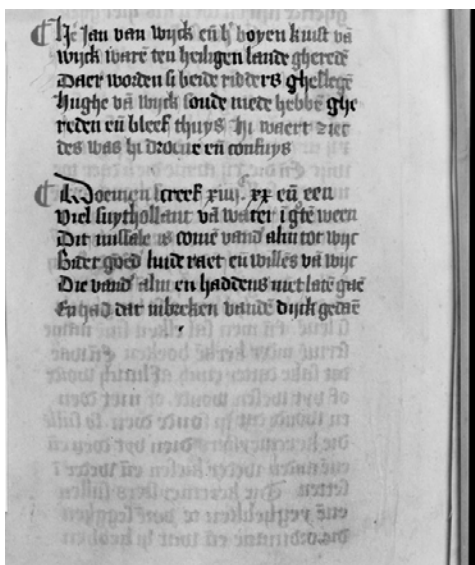
2008

- Llewellyn Bogaers, *Aards, betrokken en zelfbenust. De verwevenheid van cultuur en religie in katholieke Utrecht, 1300 - 1600* (Utrecht 2008; dissertation, with an English summary).
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- Douglas Brine, 'Evidence for the forms and usage of early Netherlandish memorial paintings', in: *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, 71 (October 2008).
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- Paul Trio, 'Moordende concurrentie op de memoriemarkt. Een eerste verkenning van het fenomeen jaargetijde in de Lage Landen in de late middeleeuwen (ca 1250 tot 1550)', in: *Herinnering in geschrift en praktijk in religieuze gemeenschappen uit de Lage Landen, 1000-1500*, ed. J. Deploige, R. Nip en B. Meijns (Brussel, 2008).
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- Valerie Vermassen, 'Een klaagzang uit Groenendaal. Willem Jordaens' *Planctus super obitu fratris Iohannis de Speculo, alias de Cureghem* (ca 1385)', in: *Herinnering in geschrift en praktijk in religieuze gemeenschappen uit de Lage Landen, 1000-1500*, ed. J. Deploige, R. Nip en B. Meijns (Brussel, 2008).



From a missal from the parish church in Wijk, *Missale Trajectense*, Utrecht (?), c. 1400-1420 (Latin). Parchment 368 x 284 mm. Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, BMH Warm h92H1, fol. 290v.

Books (tables of contents)

Douglas Brine, *Piety and Purgatory: Wall-mounted memorials from the southern Netherlands, c.1380–1520* (London, 2006).

Ph.D., Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London 2006.

Supervised by Susie Nash (Courtauld Institute) with the assistance of Lorne Campbell (National Gallery, London), examined by Till-Holger Borchert (Groeningemuseum, Bruges) and Kim W. Woods (Open University).

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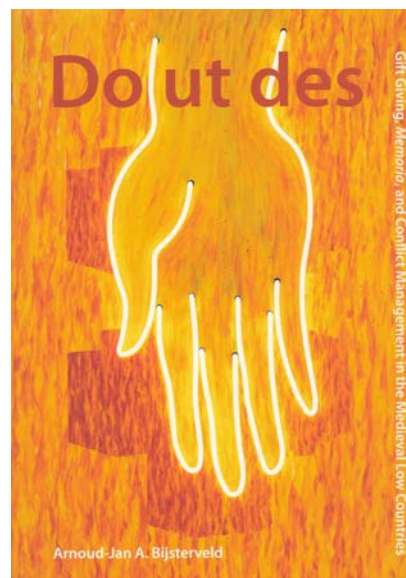
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Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, *Do ut des. Gift Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries* (Hilversum, Verloren, 2007).



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Review:

- Steven Vanderputten, 'Arnoud-Jan A. Bijsterveld, *Do ut des Gift. Giving, Memoria, and Conflict Management in the Medieval Low Countries*', in: *Millennium* 21-2 (2007), 135-137.

Llewellyn Bogaers, *Aards, betrokken en zelfbewust. De verwevenheid van cultuur en religie in katholiek Utrecht, 1300 - 1600* (Utrecht 2008; dissertation, with an English summary).

This publication's complete table of contents can be found on the author's website:

<http://www.levendverledenutrecht.nl/aards.php>

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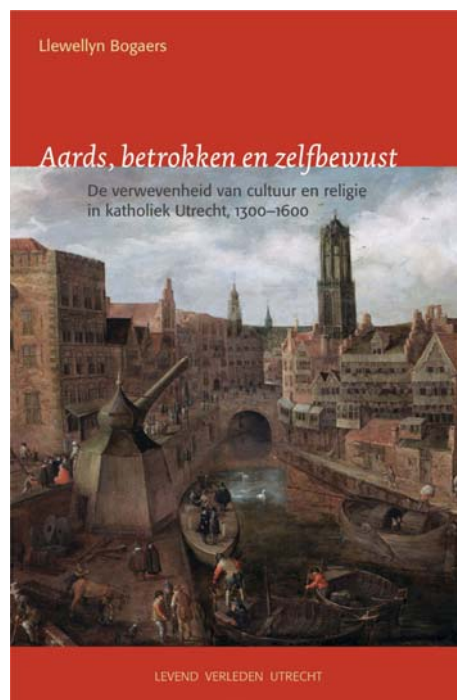
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Workshop Does Memory Have a History?

Date: 10 October 2008
Organisation: Jesseka Batteau (OSL); Truus van Bueren (Med.); Liedeke Plate (OSL); Ann Rigney (OSL); Els Rose (Med.)
Location: Utrecht
Language: English
Website: <http://www2.hum.uu.nl/solis/osl/OSLOnderwijsprogramma2008-2009DoesMemoryhaveaHistory.php>

The Netherlands Graduate School for Literary Studies (Onderzoekschool Literatuurwetenschap; OSL) and the Research School for Medieval Studies (Onderzoekschool Mediëvistiek; OZSMed) have organized a workshop for Ph.D. students on the concept of Cultural Memory and its applicability to various historical periods. Does it make sense to try to develop a general theory of cultural memory that is common currency for scholars working with reference to different (historically-defined) societies? Where do the limits (if any) of such a common discussion lie? And what is to be gained by trying?

Please note that this is a closed workshop for Ph.D. students.

Congress Manuscript and Memory in North-Western Europe, 1000-1500

Date: 14-15 November 2008
Location: Groningen
Language: English
Website: <http://www.chma.ugent.be/manuscriptandmemory>

Program

Introduction

Renée Nip (University of Groningen)

Panel I - Manuscript

In the first panel the medieval manuscript will be paramount and the emphasis will be on the study of texts from the culture of remembrance within their material, manuscript context. Rooted in codicological research, the papers cover not only the study of the origin, development and reception of individual texts, but also the (composite) manuscripts as an instrument and material expression of medieval religious practices of remembrance.

J.P. Gumbert (University of Leiden)

Keynote lecture: *no title available yet*

Carmela Virchillo Franklin (Columbia University, NY/American Academy Rome)

Memory and Scriptorium Practice: The Evidence from an Echternach Charter and its Material Preservation

Alison Beach (College of William and Mary, VA)
no title available yet

Mary Swan (University of Leeds)
Past and Present in Post-Conquest Old English Religious Manuscripts

Thom Mertens (University of Antwerp)
Memory and Reward. Middle Dutch Collections of Convent Sermons and the Motives of Their Editors

Panel II - Typology

In the second panel the typology of sources which still guides the research of memorial practices will be called into question and problematised. This typology is still mainly based on nineteenth-century genre classifications, which disregard the manuscript context of the individual texts. Papers might focus on topics like the rewriting of existing texts or the question of genre continuity in medieval literary culture. As a result of 'rewriting' some memorial texts became reused within completely different genres. For instance, it often happened that a hagiographical text devoted to the life of the founder of an abbey was rewritten and subsequently formed the basis of a gesta abbatum or an abbey chronicle. With regard to the theme of continuity, the papers might discuss, within the chronological perspective of the Congress, the influence of new religious movements like the Modern Devouts from the IJssel-regio in the Northern Netherlands on the (dis)continuity of genres used in practices of remembrance. If indeed they introduced a new genre of memorial texts in the form of so-called sister- and brotherbooks, how was this new genre incorporated in the production of texts and manuscripts in, for example, the Southern Low Countries, where much older traditions continued?

Nikolaus Staubach (Universität Münster)
Keynote lecture: *Texttypologie und religiöse Reform: Funktionen von Schriftlichkeit in der Devotio moderna*

Georges Declercq (Free University of Brussels)
History, Memory and Remembrance in Libri Traditionum and Early Cartularies

Jeroen Deploige (Ghent University)
Accumulating Stories of Memorable Members. The Liber de gestibus virorum illustrium of the Cistercian Abbey of Villers on the Fringes of Hagiography and Historiography

Koen Goudriaan (Free University of Amsterdam)
Memorial Celebration in the Utrecht Chapter of Tertiaries: An Aspect of Monasticization?

Panel III - Practices

In the third panel, wider cultural themes of religious memorial practices will be discussed, such as historiographical texts serving the collective memory of the religious, the practice of remembrance which connected the living and the dead of the community, the so-called *memoria* culture which by means of liturgy, art and literature tightened the bonds between the religious community and lay society. Papers in this third panel may explore the practice of remembrance within daily life from an historical-anthropological approach, or the relationship between textualised *memoria* and material culture, or the analysis of similarities and differences in practices of remembrance depending on variables such as 'religious order' or 'gender'.

John Van Engen (University of Notre Dame, IN)

Keynote lecture: *Cultivating Memory in Personal Practices and Written Lives: The Case of the Modern-Day Devout*

Steven Vanderputten (Ghent University)

Monastic Memory and the Destruction of Historical Identities in High Medieval Flanders

Elisabeth Van Houts (Emmanuel College Cambridge)

The Logistics of Commemoration: The Example of Queen Edith/Matilda of England (d. 1118)

Anne Bollmann (University of Groningen/ University of Antwerp)

no title available yet

Truus van Bueren (University of Utrecht)

Grand Donations and Nice Gifts? The search for gender related patterns in medieval memoria practices

Sabrina Corbellini (Free University of Amsterdam/University of Groningen)

The Spirit of Remembrance: Memorial Practice and Spiritual Education in Female Religious Communities

IT in de mediëvistiek. Het *memoria*-onderzoek in Nederland

Date: January 2009

Time: 11.00 - 17.00

Location: As of yet unknown

The symposium *IT in Medieval Studies: Research of commemoration practices in the Netherlands* will be in Dutch. Non-Dutch speaking researchers who are interested in attending this symposium, are invited to contact the organisation, so that solutions may be found well in advance.

Program

Chairman: Dick de Boer (Academic Director of the Netherlands Research School for Medieval Studies)

10.30 - 11.00 Reception, coffee, etc.

11.00 - 11.10 Word of welcome by Peter Doorn (director DANS) and Wiljan van den Akker (dean of the faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University)

11.10 - 11.50 Leen Breure
Title not yet available

11.50 - 12.10 Jeroen Deploige
12 jaar *Narrative Sources*. Tijd voor een grondige vernieuwing van een 'oudje' onder de Internetdatabanken voor mediëvisten

12.10 - 12.30 Redmer Alma
Het maken van een thesaurus. Ervaringen met het 'Digitaal Oorkondenboek'

12.30 - 12.45	Questions and discussion
12.45 - 14.15	Lunch and demonstrations of various applications
- Memoria in beeld	Fenna Visser en Andrea van Leerdam
- Kloosterkleding in beeld	Kassandra van Houdt
- De monastica	Koen Goudriaan
- DANS-Easy	Henk Koning
14.15 - 14.45	Rolf de Weijert XML en memoria-onderzoek. De memorieboeken van het Utrechtse Kartuizerklooster
14.45 - 15.15	Truus van Bueren Onderzoek met <i>Memoria in beeld</i> . Gendergerelateerde patronen in memorievoorstellingen
15.15 - 15.35	Rutger Kramer De MeMO-applicatie
15.35 - 15.50	Break
15.50 - 17.00	Forum discussion. Chairman: Dick de Boer
17.00	Drink

Call for papers!

Fourth Symposium on Memoria Research

(organized by the University of Duisburg-Essen and Utrecht University)

The *Fourth Symposium on Memoria Research* will take place in the first half of February 2009 in Utrecht. Douglas Brine, Ph.D. (see above, Publications) has agreed to present a paper on his research of wall-mounted memorials from the southern Netherlands. Dr Anna Adamska of Utrecht University will report on the very interesting recent developments in *memoria* research in East-European countries.

Scholars who are also interested in presenting a paper on their research project, during this symposium, are requested to contact Rolf de Weijert (Rolf.deweyert@let.uu.nl).

More information will be available in the second issue of *MMR* which will appear in the beginning of January 2009.

New Ph.D. students

This fall three new Ph.D. students will start with their research projects on commemoration practices and the culture of remembrance. Charlotte Dikken will be working at Utrecht University (see below under Postdoc and Ph.D. researchers working on *memoria*). Bini Biemans will be working on her dissertation as an affiliated member of the Research institute of History and Culture at Utrecht University (see below). A few days ago we were informed that Viera Bonenkampová has been appointed at VU University. Her promotor will be Koen Goudriaan. More information about the new projects will be included in the next newsletter, which will appear in January 2009.

Website *Memoria in Beeld* - by Truus van Bueren

(Representations of medieval memoria: memorial paintings and sculptures from the (arch)bishopric of Utrecht)

The website Representations of medieval memoria (*Memoria in beeld*) is one of the results of the research project *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria*. It contains a database with descriptions and photographs of the still extant (glass) paintings and sculptures (*Memoriabilder*) which have or may have functioned in the commemoration of the dead, in institutions in the medieval bishopric of Utrecht (from 1559 archbishopric of Utrecht). Memorial paintings and sculptures (*Memorialbilder*) show a religious image, with the portraits of the persons (either dead or still alive) to be commemorated, often with their patrons saints, and with accompanying epitaphs with the names and dates of death, and - where applicable - the coats of arms of the commemorated persons.

The website and database has been created for the benefit of scholarly research in the field of medieval *memoria*. It is especially intended to be used by historians, ecclesiastical historians, art historians, genealogists and family historians and heraldic experts.

Website: <http://www.let.uu.nl/memorie/>

The contents of the database has been offline for a few weeks, but it will be available again in the beginning of October. The various articles on the website can, however, be consulted.

For a geographical extension of Representations of Medieval Memoria, see below 'Grant awarded for two internet databases'.

Grant awarded for two internet databases - by Truus van Bueren

The research project *The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria* has recently received a grant for the sum of € 50.000 from three institutions, namely Stichting Professor Van Winter Fonds, DANS (KNAW) and the Research Institute of History and Culture (OGC; Utrecht University). This grant will make it possible to publish two websites on the internet:

1. The aforementioned database of *Representations of medieval memoria* (*Memoria in beeld*) will be supplemented and extended with data of paintings and sculptures with a commemorative function (*Memorialbilder*) for the region of the present-day Netherlands. Up until now the inventoried area comprised the (arch)bishopric of Utrecht, excluding roughly the Dutch provinces of Brabant and Limburg. These areas have now been inventoried and will be implemented in the database together with supplementary data of the *Memorialbilder* from the (arch)bishopric of Utrecht. These activities will be performed between September 2008 and January 2009 by Fenna Visser M.A. The renewed database *Representations of medieval memoria* will be both in Dutch and in English. It will be presented at the aforementioned symposium *Medieval Studies and IT. Case: memoria and commemoration practices in the Netherlands*. It is the intention to eventually integrate the database *Representations of medieval memoria* into the MeMO application, which will be discussed below.

2. The structure for the database of memorial registers (titled *De administratie van de memoria; Administration of Medieval Memoria*) will be developed and assessed. The development of the database structure will be implemented according to the same principles as the *Representation of medieval memoria* database. The activities, which will start in February 2009 will be performed by Drs. Rolf de Weijert in association with DANS, which also developed the database application for *Representations of medieval memoria*. This database will cover the present-day Netherlands and will also eventually be integrated in the MeMO application.

Application for a grant for *Medieval Memoria Online* (MeMO)

At the beginning of this academic year a group of *memoria*-researchers applied for a grant from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO; investeringen Middelgroot), for a project called *Medieval Memoria Online* (MeMO). We hereby include a summary and an overview of the participating institutions.

Summary of the MeMO project - by Truus van Bueren and Rolf de Weijert

The *Medieval Memoria Online* (MeMO) project facilitates a new approach for researching the medieval culture of remembrance (*memoria*). It enables an interdisciplinary investigation in which case studies are combined with a comparative analysis of large amounts of source materials, including objects and texts. This objective is achieved by making available on the Internet an information system containing databases with inventories and descriptions of sources that are fundamental to the study of *memoria*. These sources are

- memorial registers
- narrative sources regarding *memoria*
- memorial paintings and sculptures (*Memorialbilder*), and
- sepulchral monuments and gravestones.

In addition to the four types of *memoria* sources, the MeMO research infrastructure will also provide

- basic information on the so-called miscellanies, manuscripts containing various (memorial) texts, and on the
- institutions from which the sources originate.

Photographs of the objects, full-text scans of published editions of the texts, links to related websites, and a website containing a newsletter and electronic forum will also be included. The data in the MeMO research infrastructure will cover the present-day Netherlands from the 12th through the late 16th century.

Research on the medieval culture of remembrance considers *memoria* a public affair, involving religious, social, historical and political aspects. It does not solely comprise the care for the souls of (deceased) persons, but also the commemoration of their actions, for instance founding religious institutions and obtaining and safeguarding rights, privileges and financial resources. Through the written word, rituals and objects *memoria*, therefore, played a key role in all social layers of medieval society. It was fundamental to the creation and expression of the identity of communities and individuals. Accordingly, this complex and dynamic phenomenon deserves, requires even, an interdisciplinary approach. To date, research on medieval *memoria* has dealt primarily with one of the aforementioned source types, largely focusing on case studies. This is due to the fact that presently researchers have no overview of the materials and research possibilities at hand. In many cases, research on the sources themselves will remain necessary. However, by providing a research tool with detailed information on these materials, MeMO meets the international scholars' need for interdisciplinary and broad comparative study of *memoria* related materials.

MeMO facilitates quantitative and comparative studies within a complex of closely related research questions. The overall question is twofold: first, in which ways was *memoria* an agent in both the creation and expression of identity in communities of the Middle Ages, such as religious orders, parishes, confraternities and families, and second, how did the creation and expression of *memoria* vary between these communities and over time? Although MeMO is being developed to make possible a new approach to *memoria* research, the materials presented can also be used by researchers outside the field of *memoria*, including the substantial group of researchers looking into genealogy, family history and heraldry.

The MeMO application will be user-friendly and platform-independent. Because the conditions are specified step by step, the users gain an overview of the materials relevant to their research. The sustainability of the research infrastructure is strengthened through the use of internationally accepted open standards for data exchange (in XML format), expressing semantics, incorporating already existing digital resources relevant for *memoria* research and the creation of open source software tools to enable the analysis of the *memoria* sources. To further enhance the exchangeability and interoperability of the research infrastructure, a platform-independent international description standard (MeMO DS) will be created and edited by a committee of internationally renowned scholars on the subject. The future re-use and extensibility of the data created during the MeMO project, as well as interoperability with related systems, are important features of the research infrastructure created by this project.

The MeMO project is an initiative of researchers from three universities: Utrecht University, University of Groningen and VU University, Amsterdam. In order to build the IT application, we plan to work together with Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS). Several institutions for cultural heritage also participate in the project: the National Service for Archaeology, Cultural Landscape and Built Heritage (RACM) in Amersfoort; the Netherlands Institute for Art History (RKD) in The Hague; the Foundation for Ecclesiastical Art and Artefacts Netherlands (Stichting Kerkelijk Kunstbezit Nederland; SKKN) in Utrecht; and the Central Bureau for Genealogy (CBG), The Hague.

The project leader and main applicant is Truus van Bueren.

Monasticon Trajectense - by Koen Goudriaan

Early this fall a few dozens of items will be added to the website *Monasticon Trajectense*. This website, which is hosted by the Faculty of Arts of VU University Amsterdam, contains extensive repertoires on convents of a specific type in the medieval diocese of Utrecht, which – by the way – covered a large part of the present-day Netherlands. The convents in question applied the so-called Third Rule of Saint-Francis: their inhabitants were called tertiaries. Originally, this rule was meant for lay people living individually at home. But from 1399 onwards, a large number of women's congregations and a smaller number of male congregations, originating in the *Devotio Moderna* movement, adopted this rule to regulate their community life. It was of moderate severity. The local communities were united in the Chapter of Utrecht, which allowed its members to remain independent from the Friars Minor, with whom they had little affinity. The formula was very successful: eventually, over one hundred communities joined the movement.

From 1998 onwards, a research project on these tertiaries was executed at VU University. The *Monasticon Trajectense* is one of the results of the project. The first descriptions were published on this site three years ago. At this moment, the site contains items on 45 convents; another 20-odd will be added soon. The authors, so far, are dr. Antheun Janse, dr. Sabrina Corbellini and prof. dr. Koen Goudriaan.

The descriptions follow a fixed pattern of rubrics on historical, material and spiritual aspects of the convents' life. Under each rubric, it gives clues to the relevant primary and secondary sources.

Its relevance for research on *memoria* is resting on the fact that it contains a rubric on liturgical activities, in which data on altars, chantries, mass foundations, etcetera are listed. Another rubric lists the manuscripts which can be assigned to the particular monastery. If the convent has produced chronicles, these are mentioned too. There is also a rubric devoted to mobile inventory: If (data on) works of art have been handed down, they are signalled here. In the historical part, a separate rubric is dedicated to the convents' benefactors. Last but not least, the format contains a chapter on 'Prosopography', which lists the names of all *matres*, *procuratrices*, ordinary sisters (or brothers), rectors and lay functionaries which have been handed down. It is fair to warn that the available material is quite unevenly distributed across the several convents.

Website: <http://www.let.vu.nl/project/monasticon/>

Convent list - by Koen Goudriaan

At the website of the Faculty of Arts of the VU University, this autumn a second repertory on medieval monastic life will be in the air: the *Kloosterlijst*. This *Convent List* is set up as a concise repertory of all 700 (actually, 702) medieval Dutch convents. Its main aim is to remedy the many identification problems which surround the history of medieval Dutch monasticism. The only repertory covering the field as a whole so far is Schoengen's *Monasticon Batavum*. Besides being nearly 70 years old (it dates from 1941/2), it contains a lot of errors. Moreover, it is very impractical in that it often devotes more than one lemma to the same monastery, if this undergoes changes of regime during the period of its existence. For specific categories, the *Monasticon Batavum* has been replaced since, by more recent *monastica* resting on more solid research. This is true, for instance, for the Windesheim canons and canonesses, which are covered by the *Monasticon Windeshemense*. But for the majority of the monasteries, no such update

is available, and will not be available in the foreseeable future due to the amount of work which this would require.

In the meantime, this *Convent List* is offered as a temporary tool. It is not a *monasticon*, in that it would make accessible all aspects of a convent's life. Instead, it is kept concise, and its main function is to indicate a convent's *existence*. A few elementary data are added: beginning and end, category, alias names, availability of archival records (if any), and main literature. It is completed by two additional components: a concordance to the *Monasticon Batavum* and an elimination list. In this list, all monasteries are mentioned which never existed but which nevertheless circulate in historical literature, and the arguments why they have to be eliminated are given.

The first version of this *Convent List* will be a try-out, inviting the scholarly community to correct the remaining errors which this list, too, no doubt will contain.

Development of new software for the database *Narrative Sources*

- by Jeroen Deploige

The database *The Narrative Sources of the Medieval Low Countries* is an online repertory of medieval narrative sources (www.narrative-sources.be). It was first published in 1996 and can be consulted free of charge. The database's contents, which will be regularly updated, resulted from the combined research of the Universities of Ghent, Louvain and Groningen, and was funded by the FWO and the NWO. However, the software of *Narrative Sources* urgently requires replacement. Using a grant, obtained from the Royal Historical Commission (KCG), we are currently working on the development of a new software system. While doing so, we are also exploring the possibilities of new applications, which will facilitate historical research based on *Narrative Sources*.

Narrative Sources is an important instrument for *memoria*-researchers. The website/database f.i. offers information on chronicles reporting on the founding of religious institutions, important gifts and memorial practices, and on biographical descriptions of deceased priests, conventuals and lay-persons, which were meant not only to commemorate these persons but also to have their lives serve as an example.

Project leaders:

Prof Jeroen Deploige (University of Ghent - Department of Medieval History)

Prof Guy De Tré (University of Ghent - Department of Telecommunications and Information Processing)

Execution:

Lic. Bert Callens (University of Ghent - Department of Telecommunications and Information Processing)

Information: jeroen.deploige@ugent.be

Postdoc and Ph.D. researchers working on *memoria*

Dissertations on the commemoration of the dead

Bini Biemans

University	Affiliated member of the OGC (Research Institute for History and Culture), Utrecht University
Title research	“God heb altoos danc ende loff. De laatmiddeleeuwse memoriecultuur in de Klaaskerk te Utrecht’
Project	<i>The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria</i>
Promotor	Prof Mayke de Jong
Co-promotor and supervisor	Dr Truus van Bueren
Year of promotion	2012
E-mail address	jan.biemans@planet.nl

A summary of this research project will be presented in the next issue of *MMR*.

Douglas Brine (postdoc researcher)

Institution	National Gallery of Art. Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, DC
Dissertation	<i>Piety and Purgatory: Wall-mounted memorials from the southern Netherlands, c.1380–1520</i> (see above, under Books (tables of contents), 2006
E-mail address	d-brine@nga.gov

Summary

My current work is concerned with revising my Ph.D. for publication in book form. It considers the wall-mounted memorial as a functional category of early Netherlandish art, akin to the altarpiece or devotional diptych, and explores – through examination of both extant works and documentary sources – their patronage, usage, content and context. Although my Ph.D. exclusively concentrated on memorials from the southern Low Countries, my book will include additional comparative material from the northern Netherlands, while retaining its focus on the south. It will also incorporate new archival research undertaken since the completion of my thesis.

My work has also recently focussed on the gilt-brass memorial commemorating the foundations of Jacques de Croy, Bishop of Cambrai (d. 1516) in Cologne Cathedral. Although admired as an early manifestation of the ‘Netherlandish Renaissance’ due to its *all’antica* ornament, de Croy’s memorial draws on preceding conventions for foundation memorials and, intriguingly, utilises a mid-fifteenth-century design by Rogier van der Weyden for the Virgin and Child at its heart.

B.J. Diemel

University	Ghent University
Research institute	PhD Fellow of the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
Title research	'Enthralled by death. Comparative research into the formation of religious group cultures influenced by the Devotio Moderna in the Late Medieval Low Countries'
Promotor	Prof Jeroen Deploige
Year of promotion	2010
E-mail address	Bas.Diemel@Ugent.be
Website	www.medievalhistory.ugent.be/basdiemel/

Summary

Death played an important role in late medieval religious communities. On the one hand, remembrance of the dead created a continuity with the past, because the dead remained part of the group and their live histories set a good example for further generations. On the other hand, there was the constant prospect of one's own death. Which role did this perception of death play in the creation and continuation of group cultures? Based on both historiographical texts and sermons I will explore the way in which different religious communities built their identity through this double perception of death and afterlife.

Charlotte Dikken

University	Utrecht University
Research institute	OGC (Research Institute for History and Culture), Utrecht University
Title research	'Stained glass windows and their social, cultural, political and memorial functions in medieval society. A comparative study'
Project	<i>The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria</i>
Promotor	Prof Jeroen Stumpel
Co-promotor and supervisor	Dr Truus van Bueren
Year of promotion	2012
E-mail address	Charlotte.Dikken@let.uu.nl

A summary of this research project will be presented in the next issue of *MMR*.

Douwe Faber

University	Affiliated member of the OGC (Research Institute for History and Culture), Utrecht University
Title research	'Zorgen voor de Ziel. Het getuigenis van de 'Leidse memorieboeken' 'Care for the Soul: The Testimony of the 'Memorial Registers of Leyden''
Project	<i>The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria</i>
Promotor	Prof Mayke de Jong
Co-promotor and supervisor	Dr Truus van Bueren
Year of promotion	2011
E-mail address	do.faber@planet.nl

Summary

From late medieval Leyden we possess a unique collection of sources relating to *memoria*. These 'Leidse memorieboeken' (the Leyden memorial registers) are basically calendars giving the dates on which anniversary services (*memories, jaargetijden*) were to be held for specific persons or groups in the Leyden parish churches. In total, there are ten important memorial registers. Most of them also contain additional information, rather than just the dates of the memorial services.

Additionally, there exists a wealth of related material in other sources. Most of these can be found in the Regional Archives at Leyden.

About half of these memorial registers were kept by non-ecclesiastical, civil authorities, such as church wardens and administrators of charitable institutions. This situation may well have been unique to Leyden. (If similar situations also existed elsewhere, it would be greatly appreciated if this were to be brought to my attention.)

My research in these memorial registers has a twofold purpose. Chronologically considered, the first objective is the analysis of the main sources as such, and the building of a database of the entries (the *memories*). I intend to publish this database once it is completed. Secondly this material is to be analysed with the intention to study piety and practices concerning dying and death.

Daantje Meuwissen

University

Utrecht University

Research institute

OGC (Research Institute for History and Culture), Utrecht University

Title research

'De traditie getrouw. De portretreeks met de landcommandeurs van de Ridderlijke Duitse Orde, Balije van Utrecht'

'Faithful to tradition. De portrait series with the land commanders of the Teutonic Order, Utrecht Bailiwick'

Project

The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria

Promotor

Prof R.E.O. Ekkart

Co-promotor and supervisor

Dr Truus van Bueren

Year of promotion

2009

E-mail address

Daantje.Meuwissen@let.uu.nl

Summary

The portrait series of the land commanders of the Teutonic Order, Bailiwick of Utrecht, is unique in the Netherlands. Today the series consists of 78 portraits of all successive governors of this institution, which was founded in 1132. At the end of the sixteenth century the bailiwick became a Protestant institution, which exists till the present day.

The first part of the succession series was created between 1576 and 1580. This was a period of political and religious conflict, during which the bailiwick even feared to lose their land, houses and other properties. As the series was meant to represent all dignitaries from the start of the institution, some 30 fictive portraits had to be painted. After the first campaign it became a tradition for each new commander to have his portrait painted and added. Underneath each portrait a text has been added with the name, date of death and rank of the portrayed commander. Until the first Protestant commander, a plea for the salvation of the portrayed person's soul was also included.

In my research project I concentrate on the respective functions of this series throughout the ages. Therefore I am looking into the history of the institution and its land commanders, the

religious and political situation in the Netherlands and Utrecht in particular, and into the choice of painters and the iconography.

Vincent Robijn

University	Affiliated member of the Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen
Title research	‘Memoriecultuur in Kampen (1300-1580)’ ‘The culture of remembrance in Kampen (1300-1580)’
Promotor	Prof Dick de Boer
Co-promotor and supervisor	Dr Hanno Brand
Year of promotion	2010
E-mail address	vincentrobijn@gmail.com

A summary of this research project will be presented in the next issue of *MMR*.

Annemarie Speetjens

University	Affiliated member of the Faculty of Arts, VU University
Title research	‘In dienst van de doden. Een kwantitatief onderzoek naar twee aspecten van de laatmiddeleeuwse dodenmemorie in de Nederlanden: misfundaties en caritas, 1400-1580’ ‘In service for the dead. A quantitative study of the transformations of two forms of late medieval piety in memory of the dead in the Northern Low Countries: the foundation of chantries and charitable piety, 1400-1580’
Promotor	Prof Koen Goudriaan
Year of promotion	2010
E-mail address	a.j.speetjens@hetnet.nl

Summary

This research project focuses on in the popularity of ‘intercessory provisions’, such as bequests for prayers, masses and other services in the Northern Netherlands during the later Middle Ages. The popularity of memorial services for the souls of the deceased spread among an increasing part of the population during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as did other forms of (outward) lay-devotion. On the medieval ‘salvation of the souls-market’ the faithful could choose one or another institution to confide the care for their souls in the hereafter, and thus they bequeathed for example monasteries, hospitals and parish churches in return for intercessory masses, or they founded chantries or charitable institutions.

During the first half of the sixteenth century, however, the interest in masses for the souls of the dead diminished. Some historians have mentioned several causes for this sharp decline around the year 1520. They suggested that the rise of humanism, the spread of the ideas of Luther, economic crises and political troubles may explain the decreased interest in masses for the souls of the dead.

The aim of this research-project is to study the *process* of diminishing interest in intercessory provisions, during the period from 1400 to 1580, from a quantitative point of view, and to analyse the changing of the objects of the curves themselves. Thus it is possible to show that acts and behaviour, which are usually seen as religious utterances, partially consist of non-religious elements and that political, economical, or status and family related issues also played a role.

The examples of chantries and charity are chosen, because no pre-existing studies explore the changing piety in these fields. Sources of a quantitative, serial nature are used for this project, such as wills, foundation-acts of chantries, memorial registers and accounts of charitable institutions. A database has been developed, in which the assembled data can be elaborated in several ways. Thus, besides the question of the ‘conjuncture’ of the foundations and pious gifts to these institutions of lay-devotion, a number of other questions will be examined. To name a few examples, this database may shed light on the role of the priest as mediator between the realm of the living and the dead, and his relation to the laymen, the share of priests and clerics in foundations and gifts, the weekly amount of masses to be held at the various altars and chantries and the gifts to the poor that were part of the intercessory provisions.

By trying to pinpoint changes in the religious ‘conjuncture’ in time and space, I expect to offer some new perspectives of late medieval lay-devotion at the dawn of the Reformation.

Rolf de Weijert

University	Utrecht University
Research institute	OGC (Research Institute for History and Culture), Utrecht University
Title research	‘Schenken, begraven, gedenken: Memoria in het Utrechtse kartuizerklooster Nieuwlicht 1391-1580’ ‘Gift giving, burials and remembrance: Memoria in the Carthusian monastery Nieuwlicht near Utrecht, 1391-1580’
Project	<i>The functions of art, ritual and text in medieval memoria</i>
Promotor	Prof M.B. de Jong
Co-promotores and supervisors	Dr G. van Bueren, Dr P. Doorn
Year of promotion	2009
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Summary

Rolf de Weijert researches late medieval gift giving practices to the Carthusian monastery Nieuwlicht (1391-1580) near Utrecht and the network of benefactors of this monastery. In this research special attention will be paid to the donated art objects and their role within the commemoration of the dead in the monastery. The starting point of this research is the four remaining memorial registers of the monastery. These registers have been analyzed using innovative IT techniques, and therefore the research is also a test case for the usability of these techniques for other historical research.

Dissertations on other aspects of the culture of commemoration

Anique de Kruijf

University	University of Amsterdam
Research institute	Instituut voor Cultuur en Geschiedenis
Title research	“Stof zijt gij...” Een onderzoek naar de relieken van de oud-katholieke Gertrudiskathedraal te Utrecht: betekenis en functie van een vergeten schat’ (werktitel)

‘For dust thou art...’ The relics of the Old-Catholic cathedral of Saint-Gertrude in Utrecht: significance and function of a forgotten treasure’ (working title)

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2010
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Summary

Through research dead substances come to life once again. The two altars of the Old-Catholic Saint Gertrude’s cathedral in Utrecht shelter a treasure of relics, numbering over 1700 objects. It is a treasure in the true meaning of the word, containing objects with both religious and art-historical value.

Because the relics are no longer being used for liturgical reasons, the collection of holy materials had been almost forgotten. The first part of my research was to make an extensive inventory of all the objects. Most of the relics – bone parts, textiles and dust – were originally preserved by the chapter and parish churches of medieval Utrecht. Many of the medieval Utrecht relics were removed from their original depositories during the Reformation. They were hidden elsewhere – often abroad – to keep them safe from the Calvinists.

In this research project I am, using old church inventories and correspondence, reconstructing the different ways through which these 1700 objects ended up in the Saint Gertrude’s cathedral. In collaboration with the Royal Institute for the Study and Conservation of Belgium’s Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) in Brussels, some of the most outstanding objects are being scientifically dated and given the required treatment to conserve them.

Suzan Folkerts

University
Research institute
Title research

University of Groningen
Instituut voor Cultuur en Geschiedenis
‘Heiligenlevens van dertiende-eeuwse vrome leken: functie, receptie en transformatie (circa 1275 tot 1525)’
‘Saints’ Lives of Thirteenth-century Lay Persons: Function, Reception, and Transformation (ca 1275-1525)’

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Prof B.A.M. Ramakers, Dr R.I.A. Nip
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Summary

This project aims to study the transmission of thirteenth-century saints’ lives of lay saints in the late Middle Ages, focusing on the *vita* of Christina Mirabilis. The adoption and adaptation of her *vita* are studied through the intensive investigation of the manuscripts. How did religious communities, who produced or possessed these manuscripts, make (the *vita* of) Christina their own?

Mariëtte Verhoeven

University	Radboud University Nijmegen
Research institute	Christian Cultural Heritage
Title research	“Nothing perishes, everything changes’: transformations and perceptions of the Early Christian monuments of Ravenna’
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Summary

A dozen ecclesiastical buildings in the Italian town of Ravenna, dating from the end of the fourth until the sixth century, constitute the starting point of this research. It focuses on the transformations these monuments underwent during fifteen centuries of continuous use and tries to contextualize these changes. At the same time the research aims at establishing the relationship between the material vicissitudes of the buildings and the perceptions of the Early Christian past of Ravenna. The intended result is to give a representative picture of Ravenna’s attitude towards its cultural heritage and especially of the influence of the mental perception and reception of the Early Christian past on it.

Colophon

Webmaster and editor-in-chief	Charlotte Dikken
Editorial staff	Truus van Bueren, Charlotte Dikken, Bram van den Hoven van Genderen and Andrea van Leerdam

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:

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The next issue of *Medieval Memoria Research in the Low Countries* will appear in January 2009.
<http://mmr.let.uu.nl/>