Medieval Memoria Research
Newsletter

Special MeMO issue
September, 2012 (1)
Table of contents

Editorial - by Charlotte Dikken

MeMO news
  › MeMO products 2009-2012
  › The Concluding Congress of the MeMO Project: Shaping and Commemorating Identities
  › MeMO in the classroom – continued
  › Medieval floor slabs in the Netherlands: new photography and new discoveries
  › New website: Wall-mounted memorials in the Southern Netherlands

We wish to thank the various copyright holding institutions and individuals for giving us permission to publish images of the works of art and manuscripts in their collections.

Top: The same tomb, shown as a whole. Both photographs: Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE).
Welcome to the tenth issue of the newsletter *Medieval Memoria Research* (MMR), which also happens to be our first double issue.¹ In this online newsletter you will find information on the work of scholars who research medieval *memoria* in the broad sense of the word.

You are currently reading part one of our double issue, which features exciting new updates about the MeMO project. The MeMO project is nearing completion, which is why we have chosen to devote a special issue of MMR to MeMO. In this issue, you will find an updated list of all the MeMO products so far, as we ramp up for the final MeMO congress to be held in February 2013 (also announced in this issue). During this congress the MeMO database, which is the final product of this project, will finally be revealed!

In addition to this, this issue also discusses the MeMO team’s most recent activities, such as our endeavours to make medieval commemoration a hot topic in schools, our continued efforts to photograph and catalogue previously unknown tomb slabs, and the launch of a new website, *Wall-mounted memorials in the Southern Netherlands*. This website is the result of the combined efforts of dr. Douglas Brine, who generously provided his texts and research material for this website, and MeMO.

On a final note, we are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in our MeMO survey this Spring. Your input has been invaluable in our evaluations of the project and its products so far.

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

Part one of this month’s issue: [http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pdf/MMR_010-1.pdf](http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pdf/MMR_010-1.pdf)
Part two of this month’s issue: [http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pdf/MMR_010-2.pdf](http://mmr.let.uu.nl/pdf/MMR_010-2.pdf)

¹ 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).
MeMO products 2009-2012

As the MeMO project phase I is drawing to a close and interest in medieval and early modern memorial culture is gaining momentum, we believe this is the right moment to publish an overview of the products that have been delivered by the MeMO project to date.

The MeMO project has organised both national and international conferences, which have attracted many different speakers from various disciplines. Naturally, the MeMO staff have also contributed to these and other conferences by presenting lectures and conference papers. In our publications we have taken care to address a wider target group, as we find it extremely important to disseminate our acquired knowledge not only within the academic community but also to a wider audience. In this overview we have separated the two types of publication, in order to show our sustained effort to involve the wider public as well as our academic colleagues.

This overview is intended to be exhaustive, but please note that the MeMO Congress that is to be held in Utrecht from 31 January to 2 February 2013 is not yet included. Elsewhere in this issue of MMR you will find an announcement of this congress with information about the programme.

Symposiums organised by the MeMO project

- Leeds, International Medieval Congress, 3 preparatory sessions for the application for grants for the MeMO project, 10 and 11 July 2007.
- Utrecht, Fourth Symposium on Memoria Research/Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche, organised by MeMO (UU) and the University of Duisburg-Essen, 13 February 2009.
- Utrecht, Expert Meeting on memorial registers, 5 February 2010.
- Utrecht, Expert Meeting on memorial pieces, 12 February 2010.
- Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2010.
- Essen, Expert Meeting on all sources previously discussed, 25 February 2010.
- Ghent, Expert Meeting on narrative sources and memorial registers, 5 March 2010.
- Groningen, Expert Meeting on narrative sources, 30 March 2010.
- Utrecht, Problems and Challenges in Research of Tomb Monuments and Tomb slabs, workshop for MA students (UU) with lectures by Sophie Oosterwijk and Julian Gardner, 27 May 2010.
- Leeds, International Medieval Congress, 5 sessions on Medieval Commemoration organised by Rolf de Weijert and Kim Ragetli, 13 July 2010:
  - I: Narrative Sources and Memorial Registers
  - II: Funerary and Memorial Art
  - III: Medieval Memoria Online, New Research Tools
- Utrecht, Sixth Symposium on Memoria Research/Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche, organised by MeMO (UU) and the University of Duisburg-Essen, 3 September 2010.
- Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.
- Leeds, International Medieval Congress, 7 sessions on Medieval Commemoration organised by Rolf de Weijert and Kim Ragetli, 11-14 July 2011:
  - I: Memoria and Religious Movements
  - II: Tomb Monuments, Identity, and Memoria
  - III: Memoria and Nobility
  - IV: Politics of Memoria
  - V: Practicalities of Memoria
VI: Chantries  
VII: Memoria through Objects  

- Utrecht, Eighth Symposium on Memoria Research/Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche, organised by MeMO (UU) and the University of Duisburg-Essen, 9 September 2011.  
- Utrecht, Living Memoria, organised by the Department of History and Art History and MeMO, 16 December 2011.  
- Arnhem, Tenth Symposium on Memoria Research/Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche: The Medieval Clergy and their Care for their own Salvation, organised by MeMO (UU) and the University of Duisburg-Essen, forthcoming: 14 September 2012.  

Academic publications on memoria by MeMO staff 2009-2012  


• Rolf de Weijert, Kim Ragetli, Arnoel-Jan Bijsterveld and Jeannette van Arenthals (eds), Living Memoria. Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Memorial Culture in Honour of Truus van Bueren, Middeleeuwse Studies en Bronnen, CXXXVII. Hilversum 2011.


• Weijert, Rolf de, “Definitions for MeMO DS Memorial Objects (Version 2.0)”, published online on 7 October 2010, http://memo.hum.uu.nl.


Publications on memoria for the wider public by MeMO staff


• The MeMO Newsletter, http://www.let.uu.nl/mmr/:
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 1, September 2008
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 2, February 2009
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 4, February 2010
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 5, May 2010
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 6, October 2010
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 8, September 2011
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter Special Issue, September 2012 (1)
  o Dikken, Charlotte (ed.), Medieval Memoria Research Newsletter 10, September 2012 (2)

• Brink, Trudi, “Spiegel voor stadsbestuur nader onderzocht; Over de schouw van Colijn de Nole in Kampen”, in Bulletin KNOB 108/5-6 (2009), 183-193.


• Bueren, Truus van, Andrea van Leerdam and Fenna Visser, Memoria in beeld. Middeleeuwse voorstellingen uit Nederland/Representations of medieval memoria. Memorial Paintings and Sculptures from the Netherlands (with introductory articles and an overview of recent research results in Dutch and English). Database, website and texts published online in February 2010, http://www.let.uu.nl/memorie/.


• Bueren, Truus van, and Kim Ragetli, ‘Research notes’ with Commemoration in the convent Mariënpoel: Prayer and Politics. Academic research notes belonging with this RIA, published online on 1 December 2010.


• Bueren, Truus van, and Leen Breure, *Commemoration in the Convent Marienpoel*, http://www.cs.uu.nl/research/projects/i-cult/CLE/6Memoria/.


• Bueren, Truus van, and Bas Dudok van Heel, “Een Amsterdams raadsel: wie is wie op de memorietafel van Margriet Boelen?”, in *Jacobsbode* 20 (2011), 1-6.


• Flyer on the MeMO project, also available online, http://memo.hum.uu.nl/pages/products.html.


• Oosterwijk, Sophie, “MeMO-project en grafzerken in Michaëlskerk in Oudewater als cultureel erfgoed”, Heemtijdinghen 48/2 (2012).
• Oosterwijk, Sophie, “Rijke stinkerds in Grote of Sint Nicolaaskerk in Brouwershaven”, Ons Eiland - Schouwen-Duiveland, 12 juli 2012. 5.
• Ragetli, Kim, “Schenken om te ontvangen. De memoriecultuur van de late Middeleeuwen” (including a section on the MeMO project) in Geschiedenis Magazine 46/1 (2011).
• Representations of Medieval Memoria - Memoria in Beeld (MiB), http://www.hum.uu.nl/memorie/.

Lectures and conference papers by MeMO staff

• Beck, Lianne van, “Praktijkvoorbeeld database Narrative Sources”. Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.
• Brink, Trudi, “The sculpture in the chapel of the Van Brederode family in the church of Vianen in the Netherlands”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 11 July 2011.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Prayer and Politics”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Memoria in Beeld”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Prayer and Politics: A Rich Internet Application”, Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 13 July 2010.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Toekomstperspectieven”. Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.
• Bueren, Truus van, “The MeMO project”. Utrecht, UCMS Lunchtime lectures for staff members of the faculty of the Humanities of Utrecht University, 2 March 2011.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Het belang van MeMO voor onderzoek en onderwijs in de geschiedenis, kunstgeschiedenis en mediëvistiek”. Utrecht, Eindjaarsymposium, UU Department of History and Art History, 1 July 2011.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Remembrance and memorial practices in the convent of St John of Jerusalem, 1480-1505. Conflicts and the celebration of victories”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, July 2011.
• Bueren, Truus van, “Sources for art historical research”. Amsterdam, Summerschool Made in the Netherlands, 17 August 2011.
• Dijk, Corinne van, “A Mass of St Gregory before and after the Reformation: The Fate of an Utrecht Memorial Painting”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 12 July 2011.
• Dikken, Charlotte, “Gebrandschilderde glazen als uiting van machtsaanspraken: de St. Waldetrudiskerk in Bergen (B)”. Utrecht, 15e Mediëvistendag, 31 October 2009.
• Dikken, Charlotte, “De MeMO-website”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.
• Dikken, Charlotte, “MeMO project site en producten”. Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.
• Dikken, Charlotte, “Laying claim to power – The church of Saint Waldegrave in Mons (Belgium)”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 12 July 2011.
• Goudriaan, Koen, “De opkomst van de lijkpreek in ons land (met presentatie van het MeMO project)”. Amsterdam, VISOR meeting, 19 October 2009.
• Goudriaan, Koen, “A Founder Fallen into Oblivion?: Geert Grote and his Falttering Remembrance within the Devotio Moderna”, Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 13 July 2010.


• Mansum, Jan van (DANS), “Algemene introductie invoerprogramma”. Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.

• Oosterwijk, Sophie, “Die in kintsceit comen ghinder ...: het beeld van het kind op middeleeuwse grafmonumenten”, lecture at study afternoon session accompanying the exhibition De dood in kinderschoenen, Liberaal Archief, Ghent, 10 June 2011


• Oosterwijk, Sophie, “My wretched body'. Wills, burial and commemoration in medieval England”. Xanten, Seventh Symposium on Memoria Research/Deutsch-Niederländische Gespräche: Last Wills, organised by the University of Duisburg-Essen and MeMO (UU), 18 March 2011.


• Oosterwijk, Sophie, “Ye folke that loken vpon this purtrature ...’ Self-image and portraiture on medieval monuments”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, 11-14 July 2011.

• Ragetli, Kim, “De MeMO Bibliografie”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.

• Ragetli, Kim, “Jeruzalemvaarders in Beeld”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.


• Ragetli, Kim, “Life and afterlife in the manuscript collector of Margaret of York (1446-1503)”. Leeds, MeMO session at the International Medieval Congress, July 2010.


• Ragetli, Kim, “Inhoudelijke inleiding MeMO project”. Utrecht, Second MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 18 February 2011.


• Weijert, Rolf de, “De MeMO-database”. Utrecht, First MeMO Information Session for Participating Institutions, 19 February 2010.


The Concluding Congress of the MeMO Project: Shaping and Commemorating Identities

Date 31 January – 2 February 2013
Location Utrecht, Netherlands

As the MeMO project is nearing its completion we are happy to present the programme for the MeMO congress that is to be held in Utrecht on 31 January and 1 and 2 February 2013, *Shaping and commemorating identities. Creating and expressing identity through memoria in the medieval and early modern period*. Over thirty internationally acclaimed specialists in the field of *memoria* research will present short papers as well as some longer keynote speeches.

The research tool, which includes the MeMO database that we have been developing, will be presented during this congress. It gives researchers access to several databases with extensive descriptions of four source types that played a key role in the commemoration of the dead: memorial registers, narrative sources concerning *memoria*, memorial pieces, and tomb monuments and/or floor slabs. It contains an additional database with information on the institutions in which the texts and objects originated.

A trip to Museum Catharijneconvent is also part of the programme. There we will visit *Surviving the Iconoclasm* ([http://catharijneconvent.webtank.nl/p/184.html](http://catharijneconvent.webtank.nl/p/184.html)) an exhibition on medieval sculpture from Utrecht. Truus van Bueren, the initiator of the MeMO project, will introduce the exhibition.

We hope that many of you will be present at this festive occasion, which marks the completion of four years of hard work that has resulted in this innovative research tool. To register please send an email to: memo.gw@uu.nl.

**Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 31 January 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-10:40</td>
<td>Word of welcome</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Wiljan van den Akker, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40-11:20</td>
<td>Keynote speech</td>
<td>Prof. dr. em. Julian Gardner (Warwick University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20-11:40</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Bram van den Hoven van Genderen (Utrecht University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40-11:50</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50-12:10</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Paul Trio (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10-12:30</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Sophie Oosterwijk (Utrecht University)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30-12:50</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Douglas Brine (Trinity University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50-13:10</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:10-13:55</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:55-14:35</td>
<td>Keynote speech</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Uwe Ludwig (Universität Duisburg-Essen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:35-14:55</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Daantje Meuwissen (Radboud University Nijmegen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:55-15:05</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:05-15:25</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Leen Breure and Corinne van Dijk MA (DANS/Utrecht University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:25-15:45</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Bas Diemel (Stad+Bedrijf, Rotterdam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:45-16:00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00-16:15</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:15-16:25</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Dr. Truus van Bueren (Utrecht University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:25-16:35</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Rolf de Weijert MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:35-16:45</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Jan van Mansum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:45-16:55</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Trudi Brink MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:55:17:00</td>
<td>Presenting the MeMO application</td>
<td>Prof. dr. em. J.M. van Winter (Utrecht University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00-17:20</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Hildo van Engen (Regional Archive, Land van Heusden en Altena)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:20-18:00</td>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme 3: Creating and unveiling MeMO**  
Chair: Dr. Truus van Bueren (Utrecht University)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:40</td>
<td>Keynote speech</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Thomas Schilp (Universität Duisburg-Essen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40-11:00</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Marjan de Smet MA (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:20</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Anne Bollmann (University of Groningen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20-11:40</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Hartwig Kersken MA (Universität Duisburg-Essen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40-11:55</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55-12:40</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme 4: Commemoration in word and deed (rituals)**  
Chair: Dr. Birgitte Bøggild Johannsen (National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:40-13:20</td>
<td>Keynote speech</td>
<td>Prof. dr. em. Otto Gerhard Oexle (Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:20-13:40</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Koen Goudriaan (VU Amsterdam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:40-14:00</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Prof. dr. Corine Schleif (Arizona State University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00-14:20</td>
<td>Conference paper</td>
<td>Dr. Jan Kuijs (Radboud University Nijmegen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:20-14:35</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme 5: Changing perspectives**  
Chair: Dr. Caroline Horch (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
On 4 April 2012 Dr Sophie Oosterwijk, Coordinator Tomb Monuments of the MeMO project in Utrecht, visited the Johannes Fontanus College in Barneveld for the formal presentation of the Latin translation that was announced in the previous issue of MMR.

In response to an article in the church magazine *Kerkinformatie* fifth-form Gymnasium pupils of Latin teacher Mrs L.E. Vos-van Rijn prepared a new translation of the lengthy neo-Latin epitaph of Jan van Crimpen, former burgomaster of Gouda, who died in 1524. This memorial text in Latin hexameters and pentameters was written by Dr Petrus Nannius (1500-1557), rector of the Latin School in Gouda and subsequently a professor at Louvain. The epitaph is inscribed on a brass plate that forms part of the stone wall memorial to Jan van Crimpen in the Cool Chapel in...
the church of St John the Baptist in Gouda. According to an additional Latin inscription in the lower register of the monument, the ‘επιταφιον’ survived the fire of 12 January 1552 that destroyed much of the church and the monument was restored by Aemilius Rosendal in 1613.

There was not yet a complete or accurate translation of the original memorial text, in which Nannius used a special metre, as the Barneveld pupils discovered, for this project turned into much more than a translation. As part of the curriculum subject ‘Klassieke Culturele Vorming’ or KCV (i.e. Classical Cultural Education), the students were divided into small groups with each group taking responsibility for part of the translation, complete with editorial notes, and also for short introductory essays on the church, the deceased, and medieval memorial culture.

The pupils also included a personal evaluation of the project. One of them wrote: ‘We had fun translating this epitaph. It is all the more special because nobody had done so before us. It gave us the feeling that we did something really useful with our knowledge of Latin. It was also great fun to discover the stylistic features used in the text.’ Another pupil wrote: ‘I greatly enjoyed applying Latin in a different way and it was great to visit the church in Gouda, because you can really study the memorial there in situ.’ Yet another comment was: ‘I found this project very enjoyable. I learnt a lot about a church which I did not even know to exist.’

The result of the project is a neatly bound and richly illustrated booklet that was formally presented to the MeMO project with a copy being also given to the church in Gouda. The
memorial to Jan van Crimpen has meanwhile been entered into the MeMO database, complete with an amended transcription, the translation by the pupils in Barneveld, and excellent new photos by photographer Chris Booms. The MeMO team are once more looking out for other Latin memorial texts to challenge the translation skills of a new group of pupils and to promote interest in memorial culture.

- Sophie Oosterwijk

Medieval floor slabs in the Netherlands: new photography and new discoveries

MeMO’s ‘Tomb Team’ has been busy organising sessions with photographer Chris Booms to record medieval floor slabs in the provinces of Zeeland and Zuid-Holland. During the first two-day session in late May over sixty slabs were photographed in five churches, viz. Nisse, Oudelande, Baarland, Kruiningen and Yerseke. Almost as many were inventoried and photographed in Sint Maartensdijk, Brouwershaven and Dreischor during a second two-day session in June, and two more sessions took place in the Jacobskerk in The Hague and in Geervliet and Dreischor. The cooperation from the church authorities and local volunteers was extremely gratifying and welcome.
Zeeland is unusually rich in medieval incised effigial slabs, of which many still survive, albeit not always in a great state of preservation. In his two-volume work *Incised Effigial Slabs: A Study of Engraved Stone Memorials in Latin Christendom, c. 1100 to c. 1700* of 1976 F.A. Greenhill listed 123 examples in Zeeland and listed twelve of them out of 212 slabs then recorded for the whole country.

Yet there are other examples of which Greenhill was not aware. One of these is the monumental incised hardstone slab of Claeys Aryaens van Brouwershaven in the church of St Nicholas (or Grote Kerk) in Brouwershaven in the municipality of Schouwen-Duiveland. The slab was evidently commissioned by Claeys himself as the year of his death was not completed in the incised inscription in Gothic textualis along the edges of the slab that reads ‘Sepulture van / Claeys / Aryaens van Brouwers haven die starf int / Jaer XVc ende’ (‘Sepulchre of Claeys Aryaens van Brouwershaven, who died in the year fifteen hundred and ...’). The slab measures 194 by 134 cm and features the conventional quatrefoils with the evangelist symbols in low relief in its four corners. However, its most striking feature – and also the worst preserved – is the incised figure of a man on horseback, which has been partly obliterated by later inscriptions from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Such later appropriation and re-use of medieval slabs is not unusual, but in this case the defacement is particularly insensitive (to modern art-historical tastes) as it has left us only the lower half of what was evidently a superb piece of design and carving. The horse is shown raising its left foreleg and the path beneath is marked by hoof prints. The mark between its legs is probably the housemark of the deceased. Yet not much remains of the upper half of the rider. Is he meant to represent Claeys Aryaens himself or instead a patron or name saint, as is so often the case on incised effigial slabs in Zeeland?

Greenhill illustrated three such slabs in Zeeland with images of name saints, viz. an image of St Gertrude of Nivelles on the slab of Gheertruyt Claesdochter Loets (d. 1539) in Hulst, St Adrian on that of Adriaen Cornelis Clayssenzoon (d. 1524) in Kapelle, and St Bartholomew (patron saint of butchers) on the slab of butcher Cornelis Piersen (d. 1538) in Biezelinge, while the MeMO team photographed other examples in Oudelande and Baarland. At first sight one might think of St Martin but there is no beggar to receive half of the saint’s cloak. More likely, therefore, is St Adrian because of the patronymic Aryaens. St Adrian (also known as Hadrian) of Nicomedia was a Herculan Guard of the Roman Emperor Galerius Maximian in the early fourth century. He converted to Christianity after witnessing the fortitude of a group of Christian martyrs and was

Hardstone slab commemorating Claeys Aryaens van Brouwershaven, mid sixteenth century, St Nicholas’s church, Brouwershaven (Zeeland). Photo: Chris Booms.
then himself tortured and killed. St Adrian is often presented as a soldier in armour, but not usually on horseback.

Even though the slab of Claeys Aryaens is now in a poor state and cannot be dated securely, it is still an valuable example of a once impressive and expensive incised effigial slab that was commissioned to commemorate a local merchant (presumably). It is important to record even worn or broken slabs and fragments because they contain relevant information on the nature and extent of commemoration during the Middle Ages. Too many slabs have been lost without having been properly recorded, together with the information they contained.

Fortunately new discoveries are still being made. Restoration work in the church of Farmsum (to the south east of Delfzijl in the province of Groningen) in July 2012 revealed twenty-two early graves with memorial slabs to members of the Ripperda and Onsta families, who were prominent in Groningen. Three of these newly discovered slabs are medieval in date; the rest dates from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. The first medieval example is the beautifully preserved slab to Frouke Onsta, daughter of Abele Onsta and Hille Jarges, and married to Focke Ripperda; she died in 1477. Thanks to the discovery of her slab it is now possible to read the heraldry on her father’s slab, which was made in exactly the same style and is now preserved in the Groninger Museum. Very impressive, although broken in several places, is the effigial slab of Haye Ripperda II, who died in 1504: it shows a recumbent male figure in armour and is now the second oldest surviving effigial slab in the province of Groningen. The third dates to around 1500 and commemorates another member of the Ripperda family, but this slab still needs to be cleaned before it can be studied in detail. More information about the discoveries at Farmsum can be found on a short video now available online (in Dutch):


The discovery of these slabs in Farmsum is completely fortuitous. The church itself dates from 1865 and nobody had expected to find such early slabs; in fact, there were originally no plans to dig up the church floor at all. This may well be the first discovery of a fifteenth-century slabs in the province in over fifty years. Those slabs that are considered the most interesting will be preserved and put on display. Unfortunately, the rest will be covered up again and thus be no longer available for study. Moreover, only part of the floor has been dug up and although yet more slabs may await discovery there are no plans for further excavation.

Farmsum is not an isolated example. The tombs and floor slabs in the ‘Grote Kerk’ in Gorinchem (province of Zuid-Holland) were also buried under the floor of the new church in the nineteenth century, after the derelict medieval church had been demolished in 1845. The
tombs and slabs then still present were last recorded in 1843. Only the stone effigies of Jan van Arkel III (d. 1324) and his wife Mabelia van Voorne (d. 1313) were subsequently dug up again and put on display: perhaps the remaining memorials will one day be rediscovered as well.

Information on the slabs at Farmsum will be added to the MeMO database, together with such photographs as become available. The MeMO team meanwhile continue recording medieval floor slabs and other commemorative objects and texts. The examples thus collected and inventoried will allow researchers to study and compare the extant textual and visual evidence while also highlight the importance of memorial slabs that are such a valuable part of this country’s historic and cultural heritage.

- Sophie Oosterwijk (with thanks to Redmer Alma for detailed information on the discoveries at Farmsum)

New website: Wall-mounted memorials in the Southern Netherlands

Medieval commemorative practices have been receiving ever more attention lately. This is evident by the increasing number of publications, symposiums and projects which appear each year. In the Netherlands in particular the MeMO project, which will be completed in February 2013, is aimed at facilitating memoria research in the Netherlands by providing an extensive online database of surviving memorial objects and texts. However, it is also our intention to look beyond the national borders and highlight projects in other countries. A new website was therefore created, to give an example of one of the foreign projects which are currently being carried out.

This webpage provides a provisional inventory, in the form of a series of PDF files, of wall-mounted memorials from the Southern Netherlands dating from c.1380 to c.1520. The inventory was compiled during the research for a doctoral thesis entitled Piety and Purgatory: Wall-Mounted Memorials from the Southern Netherlands, c.1380-1520 by Douglas Brine, submitted to the Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London) in 2006 and currently being prepared for publication.

The inventory made by the author lists all the fifteenth-century wall-mounted memorials from the Southern Netherlands. The inventory originally formed an appendix to the thesis and was intended to serve primarily as a tool for the reader, and secondarily as a provisional checklist, preliminary to a complete catalogue of the existing memorials. Although the aim was to be as complete as possible, the inventory cannot claim to be exhaustive. On this website part of the inventory is published; the website will receive updates in the future whenever possible.
It is hoped that the inventory can be incorporated (with higher quality photographs) into the MeMO Database at some stage in the future but in the meantime it is available here in this format for the benefit of interested researchers: http://memo.hum.uu.nl/memorials/index.html

---

**Colophon**

Webmaster and editor-in-chief	Charlotte Dikken
Editorial staff	Truus van Bueren, Charlotte Dikken, Rolf de Weijert, Sophie Oosterwijk, Jeannette van Arenthals

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 January 2013.

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