A conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics” of the University of Münster. Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures: from the world of ancient gods and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period to the current situation in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 33.7 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2017.

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Emblems and the Natural World (1500–1700)
17.–19.12.2015
Conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”
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Organisation

Venue
Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters
Room JO 101
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Registration
until 11.12.2015
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Joachim Camerarius, Symbolorum et emblematum centuriae (1590ff.), Emblems 2.5, 2.84 and 3.20.
Emblems and the Natural World
(1500–1700)

Since its invention by Alciato (Emblematum liber, 1531), the emblem is inextricably connected to Natural History. Alciato and his followers massively drew their themes and inspiration from the natural world, as is evidenced by Henkel and Schöne’s Emblematum. Handbuch zur Sinnbildkunst (1967). For their information about the natural world, the early modern emblematisms were greatly indebted to ancient, medieval and early modern textual and/or pictorial traditions. These traditions include ancient natural history (Aristotle, Pliny a.o.), the Bible and its commentators and illustrators, the medieval encyclopaedists (Albertus Magnus, Thomas de Cantimpré a.o.), the Physiologus and its offspring, the medieval bestiaries, and the 15th- and 16th-century emblematic antecedents (book illustrations, proto-emblematics).

Since the 1550s the natural world regularly became the emblems’ main topic, as can be seen in emblem books solely consecrated to Natural History: Barthélemy Aneau’s Décaires de la description des animaux (1549), Guillaume Guérout’s Blason des oyseaux (1550) and Joachim Camerarius’s Sym- bolorum et Emblematum Centuriae Quattuor (1590–1604). Animals are also the main topic of the so-called emblematic fable books in the tradition of Gilles Corrozet, Marcus Gheeraerts, Aegidius Sadeler, Audin, and the Labyrinthe de Versailles. This goes also for their application in paintings, drawings (Joris Hoefnagel), and decorative arts (embroi- deries, roof- and wall-painting). Emblems on animals are regularly quoted by early modern naturalists like Gessner and Aldrovandi, and integrated into their encyclopedic volumes on natural history. The emblem’s protean connections with the natural world had – rightly or wrongly – led modern historians of science to coin the term “emblematic worldview”.

The conference aims to address these multiple connections between emblematics and Natural History in the broader perspective of their underlying ideologies – scientific, artistic, literary, political and/or religious, and from the point of view of various disciplines: Neo-Latin, German, French, English Studies, philology of various languages, art history, book history, history of religion and of philosophy, and the history of science.

Programme

Thursday, 17.12.2015

09:00–09:20 Welcome and Introduction
09:20–10:00 The Emblematic Organization of Natural Knowledge in Andrea Alciato’s Emblematum Libellus
Ursula Kocher, Wuppertal
10:00–10:40 ‘Natural’ or ‘Unnatural’? Representation of the Animal World in Early French Emblem Books
Alison Saunders, Aberdeen
11:00–11:40 Organisation and Presentation of Zoological Knowledge in Camerarius’ Emblems on the Mammals (including his Self-Commentary)
Karl Enenkel, Münster
11:40–12:20 Birds In Camerarius’ Emblematic Centuriae
Paul Smith, Leiden
12:20–13:00 Ichthyology and Emblems in Guessed and Camerarius
Sophia Hendrikx, Leiden
15:00–15:40 How the Lion Was Tamed: Passions, Power and Religion in Achilles Bocchi’s Symbolicae Quaestiones (Bologna, 1555)
Anne Rolet, Nantes
15:40–16:20 Symbolic Images and the Construction of Early Modern Knowledge: Encounters between Artists and Scholars in 16th-Century Bologna
Anna Merlino, London
16:40–17:20 Physics, Physiognomy and Other Sciences as References for the Emblematic Tradition in Cinquecento Italy
Paolo Sanvito, Naples
17:20–18:00 Hermeneutic Animals – Johann Fischart’s Use of Emblems in his German Rabatelate-Translation (Geschichtsklitterung)
Tobias Bialing, Heidelberg

Friday, 18.12.2015

09:00–09:40 The Politics of Flight: Avian Emblems in Joris Hoefnagel’s Four Elements
Marisa Bass, St. Louis
09:40–10:20 Hoefnagel’s use of Gessner’s illustrations for his Aqua album
Marijke Rikken, Leiden
10:40–11:20 Planets, Stars, Spheres, Comets – Celestial Objects in the Emblem Tradition
Sabine Kalff, Berlin

11:20–12:00 Natural History and Political Didactics in Franz Reizner’s Meteorologia Philosophico-Politica
Christian Peters, Münster
12:00–12:40 Crocodiles, Houseflies and a 17th-Century Physician. Emblems of the Natural World in Johan Franc’s Ephemeris
Kay Peter Jankrift, Ulm
15:00–15:40 The Owl and the Birds: Emblems, Allegories and Fountains
Astrid Zenkert, Heidelberg
15:40–16:20 Aves, Arborques Quadrupedesque – Curious Behaviour of Nature in Giovio’s and Symeoni’s Dipologo dell’impirese militari et amorose from 1574
Maren C. Biederbick, Kiel
16:40–17:20 Sagocitas and Solertia: Animal Representations and their Stakes in French Jesuit Emblematics
Raphaëlle Garrod, Cambridge
17:20–18:00 The Secretion of Pearls and the Generation of Princes in Jesuit Emblematics
Aline Smeesters, Louvain

Saturday, 19.12.2015

09:00–09:40 The Animal, the Plant and the Building. Architecture and the natural world in Félibien’s Topisseries du Roy
Frederik Knegtel, Leiden
09:40–10:20 Between Air and Earth – The Bat in Emblems, Fable and Natural History
Lisanne Wepler, Braunschweig
10:40–11:20 ’Maiaestatis Hungaricae Aquila’ – Christoph Lackner and the Debate on the Hieroglyph of the Habsburg Eagle
Agnes Kusler, Budapest
11:20–12:00 Orbis pictus for the Boys – Emblems for the Men: Some Remarks on Learning by Studying Pictures & Interpreting Riddles by Having Insight
Sonja Schreiner, Vienna
12:00–12:30 Concluding Remarks