

Golden Splendour. Medieval Treasures in Westphalia

26 Feb – 28 May 2012

www.goldene-pracht.de

Exhibition sites

LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Münster

Domkammer der Kathedralkirche St. Paulus, Münster

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday 10 am – 6 pm, Thursday 10 am – 9 pm

Closed on Mondays. On all Public Holidays the museums are open from 10 am – 6 pm.

Catalogue

A comprehensive catalogue of the exhibition with approximately 480 pages and numerous colour illustrations is due to be published by the Hirmer Verlag. The catalogue is available at the Museum cash desk priced at € 29 and from booksellers priced at € 45.

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LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte · Domkammer des St. Paulusdoms

Golden Splendour

Medieval
Treasures in
Westphalia

Münster · 26 Feb – 28 May 2012





Treasures of the Middle Ages

Gold, silver and precious stones have exercised a great fascination over people of all cultures for thousands of years. The beauty and splendour of the precious materials and their unearthly radiance make them symbols of the eternal, holy and godly, and an expression of power and wealth. In the Westphalia of the late Middle Ages, an unusually large number of outstanding goldsmiths' works remained as witnesses to Christian piety and the worldly need for representation. The exhibition recognises these treasures, which have often slumbered unseen, for the first time, both for their artistic standing and also in their original historical context. The "Golden Splendour" of these works is so impressive, yet it has been so little known to the public up to now.



So-called Henry of Blois
enamels, before 1171
The British Museum,
London (© The Trustees
of the British Museum)

Masters Sifridus,
Renfridus and Hermannus,
Prudentia shrine,
around 1240
Kath. Propsteigemeinde
St. Stephanus, Beckum
(© Bistum Münster)



The exhibition

Precious crosses, magnificent chalices and reliquary caskets, elaborately designed book covers and cloak clasps: The exhibition presents more than 300 works of art from the 10th to 16th century, including a large number of international items on loan. The silver-gilt statuettes produced by Westphalian goldsmiths are unique. As well as the ecclesiastical treasures, there are also numerous items for secular use such as municipal silver, but also filigree rings or brooches for the goldsmiths' town-dwelling customers.



**Master Sifridus, Mass chalice
(so-called Sifridus chalice),
around 1240**
Domkirchengemeinde,
Borgå-Porvoo/Finnland
(© Domkirchengemeinde Borgå)

**Johann von Langen,
three sacred heads, 1507**
Iburg, Kath. Kirchengemeinde
St. Clemens (Loan to the
Diözesanmuseum Osnabrück
(© Bistum Osnabrück)

The exhibition comprises the medieval dominions between the Rhine, Ruhr und Weser rivers. In early times the centres of secular and spiritual power shaped the art and culture of the region – dioceses such as Münster, Paderborn and Osnabrück, the Benedictine Monastery of Corvey and the female convent in Essen. From the 13th century sacred and profane goldsmiths' art also grew up in the blossoming Hanseatic cities such as Soest and Dortmund. Europe-wide trading relationships brought major artistic innovations to Westphalia. The basis of the medieval displays of splendour was the idea of an exchange of gifts between believers and God: The men and women who donated magnificent works hoped for forgiveness for their sins and eternal salvation in reward. Other themes which up to now have hardly been touched on include the symbolism of gold, the political and ceremonial functions of the goldsmiths' art, the origin of church treasures and the role of goldsmiths in society. Works of other genres such as panel paintings, sculptures, book illuminations, liturgical vestments and written documents shed light on the varied levels of meaning of the goldsmiths' works.





Tower monstrance,
1st half 16th. century (detail)

Edge trimming of a dalmatic,
around 1520 (detail)

Domkammer der Kathedralkirche
St. Paulus, Münster
(© Bistum Münster)



Reliquary statuette of the Apostle Philip from the Cathedral high altar, around 1350/70

Domkammer der Kathedralkirche St. Paulus, Münster (© Bistum Münster)

Reliquary statuette of Saint Laurentius from Senden, around 1300

LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte, Münster (© LWL-LMKuK, Münster)

Reineke van Dressche, cope clasp of a canon in Minden, before 1487

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kunstgewerbemuseum (© SMB, Berlin)



The exhibition sites

The LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte and the Domkammer der Kathedralkirche St. Paulus present the “Golden Splendour” in eleven chapters and in an area of 1,500 square metres. The museums’ cooperation with the “Religion and Politics” cluster of excellence of the Universität Münster brings together the expertise of three renowned institutions and different specialisms.

A golden pavilion on the Domplatz in Münster symbolically connects the two exhibition sites with one another, and contains a goldsmiths’ workshop to arouse the curiosity of children and adults for art and culture. Taking Westphalia as an example, an epoch of European history which is far away only in appearance will be reawakened in the splendour of gold and precious stones.



Highlights of the cultural programme

FILM SERIES

The Spring Season at the FilmGalerie (28 Feb – 27 Mar 2012) presents selected films on the subject of gold on five evenings (Venue: Plenarsaal in the LWL-Landeshaus).

CONCERTS

Instrumental concert with the Freiburg wind ensemble “Les haulz et les bas”, who specialise in late medieval music (8 Mar 2012, 8 pm Überwasserkirche).

Vocal concert “Legenda aurea” with the renowned Cologne singer Maria Jonas and the women’s schola Ars Choralis Coeln (3 May 2012, 8 pm, Überwasserkirche).

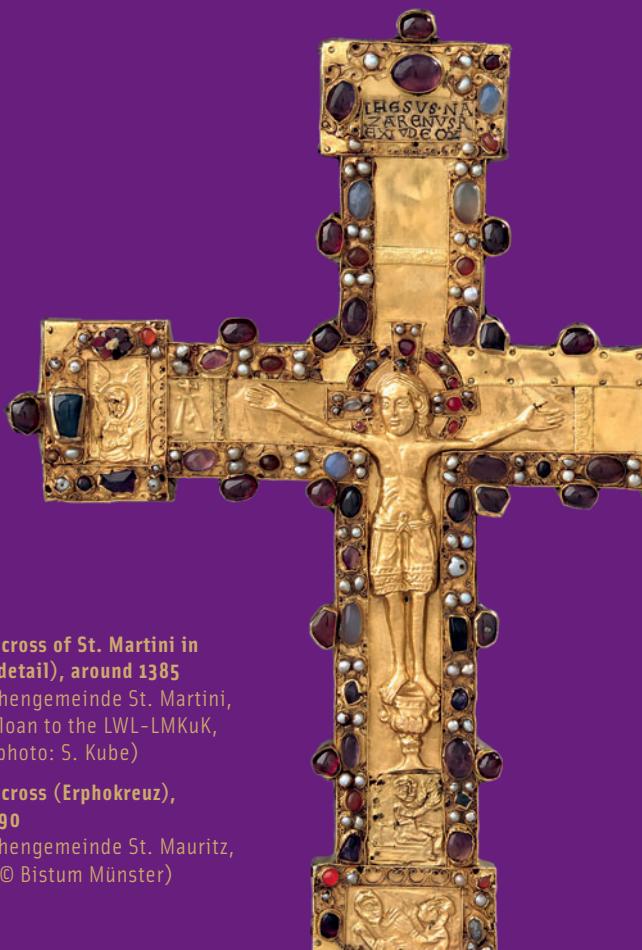
SERIES OF TALKS

The exhibition is accompanied by a 13-part, inter-disciplinary series of talks (25 Jan – 16 May 2012) held weekly on Wednesdays, during which the exhibition curators and designated specialists will talk about the themes of the project.

MUSICA SACRA 2012

31 Mar – 9 Apr 2012 A festival of sacred music: Concerts of symphonies and choral symphonies, chamber music, master concerts and jazz concerts, recitals with the Münster Symphony Orchestra, internationally renowned soloists and ensembles will be held in churches in the city and at the Städtische Bühnen.

www.sinfonieorchester-muenster.de



Reliquary cross of St. Martini in Münster (detail), around 1385

Kath. Kirchengemeinde St. Martini, Münster (loan to the LWL-LMKuK, Münster, photo: S. Kube)

Reliquary cross (Erphokreuz), around 1090

Kath. Kirchengemeinde St. Mauritz, Münster (© Bistum Münster)

ENTRANCE

(Combined ticket for the LWL-Landesmuseum and the Domkammer)

Adults: € 9, reductions (with valid ID): € 4.50

Children, adolescents (up to and including 17 years),
school students: € 2.80

School students attending art education events: € 2.50

Family day ticket: € 18

Groups (adults) of 16 people or more: € 7.50

50% reduction with the LWL-MuseumsCard

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS

**Summary tours (90 mins.) of the LWL-Landesmuseum
and the Domkammer every Sunday at 2:30 pm**

Themed tours (60 mins.) with the exhibition curators
every Thursday at 6 pm (join in free of charge with
entrance ticket).

The comprehensive art education programme on the
exhibition is published in a separate brochure.

BOOKABLE TOURS

For groups and individuals (up to 20 people)

Duration: 2 hours

German language tours: € 90 (€ 45 for 60 mins.)

Foreign language tours (English, French, Dutch, Italian):
€ 100 (€ 50 for 60 mins.)

School classes pay € 35 for 60 mins.

VISITORS OFFICE

Information and registration – our Visitors Office can advise
you on any questions and when making a booking.

CONTACT

Tue – Fri 9 am – 1 pm, Thu also 2 pm – 6 pm

Tel.: +49 (0)251 5907-201, Fax: +49 (0)251 5907-104

besucherbuero@lwl.org

Heart-shaped jewellery,
silver ring clasp (Handtru-
bratz) and ring, 1st half of
14th century, treasure trove
of the Stadtweinhaus Münster
LWL-Landesmuseum für Kunst
und Kulturgeschichte, Münster
(© LWL-LMKuK, Münster)



Destination Münster

In Münster cultural enjoyment, fine cuisine and a tour of the churches and attractions can all be combined into an enjoyable experience. Münster has a unique atmosphere and is rich in history as the city of the Peace of Westphalia, Germany's third largest university city and a shopping destination against a historic backdrop.



Why not extend your stay in Münster?

Are you looking for overnight accommodation or would you like to book a 2-night package with a guided tour of the old town?

MÜNSTER MARKETING

Hotel reservations:

Tel.: +49 (0)251 492-2726, Fax +49 (0)251 492-7759
tourismus@stadt-muenster.de

Information on the city of Münster

Münster Information

Tel.: +49 (0)251 492-2710, Fax +49 (0)251 492-7743
info@stadt-muenster.de
www.tourismus.muenster.de

Directions

On foot/by bus 15 minutes' walk from Münster main railway station heading towards the Domplatz/Prinzipalmarkt. Buses run straight to the Museum: get off at the Domplatz stop.

By air Information on getting here from Münster/Osnabrück Airport is available at www.fmo.de.

By car Via the A 43 and the A 1; take the Münster Süd or Münster Nord exit. Follow signs for Münster-Centrum, then towards Domplatz/Prinzipalmarkt.