



Joachim Camerarius, *Symbolorum et emblemum centuria* (1590ff.), Emblems 2.5, 2.84 and 3.20.

> Organisation

Project B2-5 of the Cluster of Excellence: “The Neo-Latin Emblem Literature”

Seminar für Lateinische Philologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit

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> Venue

Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters
Room JO 101
Johannisstraße 4
48143 Münster

> Registration

until 11.12.2015
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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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Conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

> Emblems and the Natural World (1500–1700)

17.–19.12.2015



Picture Credit: *Meteorologia philosophico-politica*, Franciscus Reiner, 1661–1708; *Symbolorum et emblemum*, Joachim Camerarius, 1534–1598; *Vince Mus/The White House*; wikipedia

› 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 *Emblemata. Handbuch zur Sinnbildkunst* (1967). For their information about the natural world, the early modern emblematisers 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 bestiares, 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 *Decades de la description des animaux* (1549), Guillaume Guéroult's *Blason des oyseaux* (1550) and Joachim Camerarius's *Symbolorum 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 (embroideries, 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 <i>Emblematum Libellus</i> 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 <i>Centuriae</i> Paul Smith, Leiden
12:20–13:00	Ichthyology and Emblematics in Gessner and Camerarius Sophia Hendrixx, Leiden
15:00–15:40	How the Lion Was Tamed: Passions, Power and Religion in Achilles Bocchi's <i>Symbolicae Quaestiones</i> (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 Merlini, 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 Rabelais-Translation (Geschichtsklitterung) Tobias Bulang, Heidelberg

Friday, 18.12.2015

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

11:20–12:00	Natural History and Political Didactics in Franz Reinzer's <i>Meteorologia Philosophico-Politica</i> Christian Peters, Münster
12:00–12:40	Crocodiles, Houseflies and a 17th-Century Physician. Emblems of the Natural World in Johan Franc's <i>Ephemeris</i> Kay Peter Jankrift, Ulm
15:00–15:40	The Owl and the Birds: Emblems, Allegories and Fountains Astrid Zenkert, Heidelberg
15:40–16:20	<i>Aves, Arbores Quadrupedesque</i> – Curious Behaviour of Nature in Giovio's and Symeoni's <i>Dialogo dell'impresa militari et amorose</i> from 1574 Maren C. Biederbick, Kiel
16:40–17:20	<i>Sagacitas</i> and <i>Solertia</i> : Animal Representations and their Stakes in French Jesuit Emblematics Raphaële 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 <i>Tapisseries du Roy</i> Frederik Knegt, Leiden
09:40–10:20	Between Air and Earth – The Bat in Emblems, Fable and Natural History Lisanne Wepler, Braunschweig
10:40–11:20	' <i>Majestatis Hungariae Aquila</i> ' – Christoph Lackner and the Debate on the Hieroglyph of the Habsburg Eagle Agnes Kusler, Budapest
11:20–12:00	<i>Orbis pictus</i> for the Boys – Emblematics for the Men: Some Remarks on Learning by Studying Pictures & Interpreting Riddles by Having Insight Sonja Schreiner, Vienna
12:00–12:30	Concluding Remarks