Dear Members,

Welcome to the 14th Misericordia International newsletter. You will find here all the news from the active members, and, the information about the association.
Please remember to renew your membership for July-August 2015, using the form in this newsletter.

Best wishes

Frédéric Billiet
Paul Hardwick
Welleda Muller

Note: do not forget to visit the official website of Misericordia International: http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/departments/english/misericordia/Pages/default.aspx where you can find digital versions of the early editions of the Profane Arts journal, which have recently been re-ordered for ease of navigation. Misericordia International has now a blog: http://misericordia-international.blogspot.fr/, please visit it and tell us what do you think, and if you want to announce something on it.

Summary:

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News from Misericordia International:

Thanks to the efforts of Fernando Villasenor y Sebastian, Maria Dolores Teijera Pablos, Janet Whitham and Welleda Muller, the acts of the Leon’s conference (Spain, June 2014), has been proposed to the publisher Cambridge Scholars Publishing, which has accepted it. The proof is in correction by now, for publication around the end of 2015 or the beginning of 2016. The topic of this book is Choir Stalls in Architecture and Architecture in Choir Stalls, and, it contained 27 articles (19 in Spanish, 8 in English) organised in four parts: Space, liturgy and architectural conception; Symbolism and iconography; Study of outstanding examples; Destruction, interventions and restorations.

We are still looking for the best solution to publish the acts of Paris and Nijmegen, entitled Norms and Transgressions. Paul Hardwick and Naomi Kline took back the direction of this volume, but all help would be appreciated (especially for the correction of the articles and their layout). Many thanks in advance to tell us if you are interested to collaborate.

The president Frédéric Billiet is still in negotiation with Brepols to publish the Lexicon.

The general meeting of the association will take place in Burgundy (Côte-d’Or), in September, the 12th and 13th. Here the programme:

Saturday:
12am: Lunch at La Grange in Flavigny-sur-Ozerain
2pm: Tour of the choir stalls of Flavigny (15th century, same workshop than those from Montréal)
3.30pm-5pm: Free time to see the medieval village
5pm: General Meeting (news of the current publications, news about the current researches, election of the board)
6.30pm: Concert
7:30: Dinner

Sunday:
9.30am: Departure for Bard-le-Régulier (1 hour by car from Flavigny)
10.30am: Tour of the choir stalls of Bard-le-Régulier (end of 14th century)
11:30am: Tour of the choir stalls of Saulier (same workshop than those from Bard, 15 minutes by car)
12:20am: Lunch
2pm: Goodbye and departure

Please register by filling in the attached form and sending to welledamuller1@gmail.com before August, the 31st, in order that we book the restaurants. You will find here: a list of places to sleep (gîtes and chambres d’hôtes) in Flavigny-sur-Ozerain for the Saturday night (you have to book yourself your room). There is no public transportation to arrive at Flavigny, so if you can, please come by car. We will organize car-sharing (probably from Paris too).
Member’s Publications and Activities

Forthcoming events:

During the festival Les Milliaires : http://www.festival-lesmilliaires.fr/, July, the 19th at Saint-Marcel (France, Indre), Frédéric Billiet will give a conference paper entitled: “Découverte des stalles de l’église de Saint-Marcel” at 5.30pm. Then, a conference paper given by Welleda Muller and Julien Ferrando will take place at 4.30pm about “Pour que le bois résonne : l’art des faiiseurs d’instruments”. Finally a concert of the ensemble Mescolanza will be presented in the church at 6pm on the topic of the Renaissance music of the Italian cities. All welcome!

Past events:

• Diane Scilla presented in March, the 16th, a paper untitled “Overlooking Letters of Indulgence in Bosch and Durer” at the Midwest Art History Meeting in Minneapolis (USA, Minnesota).

• Christel Theunissen presented on May, the 19th, a paper untitled «Reserving a seat (on Earth and in Heaven). Patronage of choir stalls in Europe» at the third symposium of the post-graduate Renaissance Studies at the Courtauld Institute in London.

• The Musiconis project organized a conference from the 11th to the 13th June 2015 at the Maison Saint-Yves in Chartres (France) entitled : “Les figurations visuelles de la parole, du son musical et du bruit, de l’Antiquité à la Renaissance”. The programme was organized in four sessions :

The first : “Ars Musica, Ornemental et rationalité” started with a paper by Lindsay Cook : “Et caelum recessit sicut liber involutus: Hierarchical and Eschatological Connotations of the Southern Italian Exultet Rolls”. Then, Sebastian Biay spoke about ornamental art and the space’s representation in the front page of the Vespasian’s psalter (8th century). Paolo Dessì gave a paper about “Musical Instrument’s Image in the Carmina Figurata by Eugenius Vulgarius”. Francesca Cannella spoke about the musical patterns in the astrological manuscripts, especially those from the Argo ship’s constellation. The paper by Laura de Castellet was about the images of singing and wind instruments in Romanesque Catalonia, through the example of three biblical songs engraved stone, in order to propose a comparison between the iconography of the liturgical song and the air of the wind instruments. Konstantinos Melidis made some remarks about the specific vocabulary of the voice coming from the visual lexicon. Elena Bugini presented the still life with a musical topic of the Urfé’s chapel. Björn Tammen spoke about “Enthralling Sounds: The Late Medieval Central European Ala, the Psaltery-Harp, and the Reversed Psaltery Reconsidered”. This session was closed by the two instruments makers: Yves d’Arcizas and Christian Rault with a paper on the symbolic functions of a lesser-known instrument: the rote-psaltery (8th–12th centuries), with the musical interventions of Brigitte Lesne.

The second session : “Distinction. Les sons comme marqueurs d’appartenance” started with the paper by Angela Bellia about “Nymphai and Music : A Visual Representation of Sound in the Terracottas of Female Musicians in the Western Greek Colonies”. Arnaud Saura-Ziegelmeyer spoke then of the sister iasian sistrum in the Greek and Roman iconography, between a visual sound symbol and a visual identity symbol. The paper of Charlotte Chrétien was about the visual representation of the musical sound, through the iconographic topic of the youth of Achilles in the Roman art. Jane Huber spoke about “An Analysis of Illuminations from the Feast of the Assumption as Found in Amiens, Ms. 115, a 12th Century Breviary from the Monastery of Corbie”. Suzanne Wijsman presented a paper entitled : “Their Line is Gone out through all the Earth: Visions of Music and Sound in Medieval Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts”. Cristina Santarelli spoke about the sound of the weddings in the Hebraic manuscripts of the Italian Renaissance. To conclude this session, Nais Virenque presented the visual representations of the sound and the memory’s art in the images of arborescence at the hinge between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The Musiconis web-portal and the associated researches were then shown by Claude Montacié, Xavier Fresquet, Victoria Eyharabide and Isabelle Marchesin.

The third session : “La forme de l’énoncé, geste, calligraphie et écriture iconique” was introduced by Sibylle Emerit about the gesture of the chironome in the Ancient Egyptian Art, asking the question of the representation of the rhythm and of the melody. Andrew Barker then spoke about “Ancient Greek Responses to Evocations of Sounds in Painting and Sculpture”. Finally Jean-Marie Fritz gave
a paper about the representation of the sounds in the literature of the hunting’s manuscripts, through
the example of the short and long words.

The last session: “signes graphiques et chromatiques du son” started by the paper of Violaine Anger
about the problem of the birds’ whistling. Sylvain Perrot spoke then about the answers of the Ancien
Greek to the representations of sound in the paintings and sculptures. The last paper was a collaboration
between Biancamaria Brumana and Nicole Freddi about the musical and devotional paths, through
the example of the graffiti of the early 16th century in some paintings preserved at the Communale
Pinacoteca of Assisi.

The acts of this conference will be published.

The detailed program of this conference is visible on the Musiconis blog:
http://musiconis.blogspot.fr/.

The results of the Musiconis project were presented by Frédéric Billiet and Xavier Fresquet at the
Julliard School of New York, on June 23rd.

Invited to a seminar of medieval iconography organized by the National Institute of Art History
(Paris), Frédéric Billiet presented his researches about two misericords of the set of
choir stalls formerly placed in the chapel of the Gaillon’s castle, now preserved at the
basilica St Denis. The president of Misericordia International discovered the sources
of the two musical topic misericords in the books of the cardinal Georges d’Amboise,
patron of the choir stalls. Indeed, the scene of the misericord (fig. 1) corresponds ex-
actly to an engraving of the book Margarita philosophica (the philosophical pearl) pub-
lished at Strasbourg in 1504 by Gregor Reisch (c. 1467-1525). This book has been
considered as the first encyclopedia printed following a manuscript written at the end of
the 15th century, and, which will be reedited
10 times until 1599. This book, written in Latin, as a
dialogue, is about all the university topics, presented
into 12 sections, corresponding to the disciplines of
the Trivium and Quadrivium, also divided into two
parts: the theoretical and the practical knowledge. The
text of the edition of 1504 is illustrated by engravings,
explaining the intellectual contents, for example Typus
Musice (fig. 2) which was probably the model for the
choir stalls’ makers. Frédéric Billiet showed then the
similarities between the second misericord (fig. 1) and
one of the topic of the Metamorphoses by Ovid, an-
other book from the library of the Cardinal. This paper
is an invitation for the other researchers to verify the
other sources for the other misericords of the set of
choir stalls. Cécile d’Anterroches wrote her Master
thesis in 2014 about the choir stalls and Gaillon, and,
she wants to publish it in collaboration with other
scholars from Misericordia International, who have
already written some articles in the publication project
by Elaine Block. The abstract of the Frédéric Billiet’s
paper is online here:
http://musiconis.blogspot.fr/
Publications:

- Welleda Muller published with the publisher Confluences (Bordeaux) a little vocabulary of the religious gothic architecture in France. This book does not concern only the architecture, but also its decoration and furniture. Then, a whole part deals with the choir stalls and their specific vocabulary. The PhD dissertation of Welleda Muller untitled: *Les stalles, siège du corps, dans les chœurs liturgiques du Grand Duché de Bourgogne aux XVᵉ et XVIᵉ siècles* will be published by L’Harmattan (Paris) in the Fall 2015.

- The acts of the conference entitled Restitution du son. L’instrumentarium du Moyen Âge (Paris-Chartres, June 2014), in which several members of Misericordia International participated, will be published by L’Harmattan at the end of the year 2015 or at the very beginning of 2016. This book is directed by Welleda Muller and André Bonjour.

Other information:

- Julien Ferrando has been nominated junior lecturer (Maître de conferences) at the University Aix-Marseille, congratulations!
Newsletter subscription for 2015:

FORM

Name: ...........................................................................................................................

Address: ......................................................................................................................

Zipcode: ......................................................................................................................

Email: ..........................................................................................................................

University, Institution: ..............................................................................................

Field of expertise: ......................................................................................................

Recent Publications (Please send this list by mail1): ...................................................

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1 Members are requested to offer their publications for our documentation center.

Please send this form by mail and by post with the payment (in euros) to

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Fee for 2015
Active members: 10 €
Students: free
Honorary members: from 15 €.

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