



*Nativity*  
by Alexandre Huet (?-1546),  
Amiens, Cathédrale Notre-Dame,  
1508-1522

Dear members of Misericordia,

On behalf of the association's board, we would like to express our best wishes for a happy new year in 2022. Let's hope that this new year will be more favorable to travel and gatherings so that we can meet and share moments of exchange and conviviality about our dear choir stalls.

We missed you a lot for the General Assembly in Amiens in September with a nice welcome at the Amiens Museum and a nice visit of the stalls thanks to Kristiane Lemé. But we found a consolation during the May conference in the video-conference because we could meet via the screens. Thank you for your loyalty and for always communicating our activities to interested audiences.

We are preparing the May 2023 conference in Vendôme and Chatillon and we hope to see you there with a nice program of gatherings and visits.

In the meantime, we will propose a general assembly in 2022, if the conditions allow it. We will continue to share your information through the Newsletter.

In this New Year's period, don't forget to pay your 2021 membership fee to encourage our activities and our support for young researchers as our founder Elaine Block wished. We will make another appeal for 2022. Thank you for your support.

Happy New Year 2022.,

Frédéric Billiet  
Willy Piron

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## News from Misericordia International

### General Meeting MI 2021 in Amiens

**Minutes Misericordia International-meeting 11 September 2021 at the Salle des séances de la Société des Antiquaires de Picardie at the Museum de Picardie in Amiens**

- Opening and welcome by the president Frédéric Billiet. Due to Covid the meeting is not held with the Colloquium 2021 in May in Amiens but 11 September in Amiens. He thanks Kristiane for organizing the visit to Amiens.
- Review Colloquium 2021 Amiens; the colloquium in May went very well, despite it had to be held online due to Covid. The success was partly due to the university of Amiens that provided the technique for the online colloquium. The papers of the colloquium can be viewed online, see below.
- The proceedings are planned for May or June 2021. Subsidy might be a problem but maybe Sorbonne can help. Frédéric will check the possibilities. Grants could also be applied at the Université d'Amiens,
- Next Colloquium will be held in Vendôme on 25-28 May 2023. Frédéric will ask Jean-Claude Breton if there is an institution or university that can organize the colloquium. Also, the Centre François Garnier in Châtillon-sur-Indre can be visited. No decision has been made on the theme.
- Next General meeting will be held in autumn 2022 in Saint-Martin-aux-Bois. The church will then be open after the renovation and the choir stalls can be seen.
- Proceedings Colloquium 2018 Rijeka are in their final phase and if everything goes to plan then they will be published next year.
- Current affairs
  - Proposal F.Billiet: a new logo for MI because the old one no longer suffices. A friend of Anja will design it.
  - Proposal F.Billiet: a new name for Misericordia International because the research of the members is not limited anymore to misericordes. He suggests *Iconostalla* with the subtitle *Misericordia International* so as not to break the bond with the old name. The new name is accepted and will be used as soon as the new logo is finished
  - Proposal F.Billiet: change the name of Stalla or add something so that the website is easier to find. The stalla-team will think about it.
  - Development new Stalla-website; will be ready early 2022.

### 'The Choir Stalls of Amiens Cathedral: 500 years'

The papers of the colloquium can be viewed online (on the web TV of the University of Picardy): [WebTV 800 ans](http://webtv.800ans.fr)

## Publications et activités de nos membres

### Redating the choir stalls of Haarlem - the oldest choir stalls of the Netherlands

A monography about the Saint Bavo church in Haarlem titled *Het Grote Bavoboek. Vijf eeuwen Grote of St.-Bavokerk in Haarlem* was published in September 2021. In this voluminous book the history, the architecture and the interior of the church are discussed based on previous and new research. Elisabeth den Hartog, assistant professor at Leiden University, and Jörg Soentgerath, independent architectural historian, have performed a stylistic and technical analysis on the choir stalls which has resulted in the article: *De oudste koorbanken van Nederland. Een herdatering van het Haarlemse gestoelte op basis van een technische en stilistische analyse.*

Since the 19th century, the choir stalls of Haarlem are dated around 1512-1513 and ascribed to Jasper Pietersz. This dating is based on accounts in the churchwardens' archives. However, a closer study of this material has shown that this concerns payment for changes made to the choir stalls. Woodcarver Jasper Pietersz. and joiner Mychel Claesz. were responsible in the early 16th century for the addition of dorsal panels and canopy, and five seats.

After this first conclusion, the authors discuss the history and use of the choir stalls, followed by a short description of the current ensemble which consists of 22 seats. This is followed by an extensive technical and stylistic analysis. The latter analysis mainly focuses on the clothing, the chaperon, which can be seen on many figures depicted on the misericords and armrests. Together with the archival source from 1439 where payment is made for elevating the choir stalls, the conclusion is made that the Haarlem choir stalls are much older than the accepted idea of the 16th century.

Based on their research, the authors convincingly state that the oldest part of the Haarlem choir stalls originated from the late 14th century. With this conclusion, the Haarlem choir stalls are suddenly the oldest ensemble in the Netherlands. After more than a century of research, a fresh look could provide a new overview of choir stalls in the Netherlands.

Christel Theunissen

**Elisabeth den Hartog & Jörg Soentgerath, 'De oudste koorbanken van Nederland. Een herdatering van het Haarlemse gestoelte op basis van een technische en stilistische analyse', in: Koen Vermeij e.a. (ed.), *Het Grote Bavoboek. Vijf eeuwen Grote of St.-Bavokerk in Haarlem*, Zwolle 2021, pp. 393-415.**



Detail of bench end with standing man, choir stalls, Saint Bavo church, Haarlem

## STALLA

The Stalla-database is constantly being updated with new records and images of medieval choir stalls: <http://www.ru.nl/stalla>

Records and images of the following stalls are entered in autumn 2021 until now:

- Cüsey-La-Forêt
- Lübeck
- Oberwesel
- Vence

Please remember to renew your membership for 2022 using the form on the next page.

## Subscription 2022

Name: .....

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Members are requested to offer their publications for our documentation center. Please send your recent publications by mail.

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

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F - 36230 Neuve-Saint-Sépulchre  
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Mail :  
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Fee for 2022  
Active members: € 15,-  
Students: free  
Honorary members: from € 15,-

You can make a bank transfer on the Agency: Paris Bastille (BNP Paribas)

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