Conference

Sacred Books, Looted Books: Formation, Transfiguration and Replacement of the Northern European Libraries in the Confessional Age (c.1500-c.1650) and their Afterlife

Organizers: the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia and the National Library of Latvia
National Library of Latvia, Riga, 8-10 October 2020

Spiritual orders and other religious institutions controlled the vast majority of libraries in Northern Europe at the beginning of the early modern era. As confessional politics and allegiances became ever more intricate, libraries could suddenly turn into pawns in power struggles and conflict resolution.

The aim of our conference will be to explore how libraries fared in a rapidly changing early modern world. What role libraries played in late medieval and early modern culture? Were they primarily bastions of continuity and tradition? Or are they of importance primarily for the unparalleled window which they provide into the upheavals and transformations of this tumultuous age? How did libraries adapt to all these changes? When were they kept intact and used as war booty? When were they disbanded and broken up? In which situations were the libraries themselves agents of change? How have the removed libraries been reconstructed during the 20th and 21st centuries?

The erstwhile Jesuit College Library in Riga (1583-1621) will serve as a backdrop for our conference on the varying fates of libraries in the confessional age. Itself a conglomerate of disparate book collections, it underwent several transformations before assuming its recognized form in the inventory lists prepared after its transport as war booty to Sweden in 1621. The conference will take place to direct attention to the efforts of the National Library of Latvia in compiling a new modern inventory list and to bring this collection (now part of the Uppsala University Library) into the digital age. Though at the center of attention, the aim of the conference is to look beyond the Jesuit College Library in Riga and to explore the histories of Northern European libraries in general during the confessional age.

The keynote speaker of the conference will be Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen (University of St Andrews), Wolfgang Undorf (National Library of Sweden), Kathleen M. Comerford (Georgia Southern University), and Jonas Nordin (Lund University). Working language of the conference is English.

Attendees are required to register until 1 October 2020: https://ej.uz/SacredBooks

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Program

8 October

18.00-19.15 **Keynote 1**
Andrew Pettegree, Arthur der Weduwen, *St. Andrews University*: The Library as Totem: building ideology, creating targets

9 October

9.30 Opening

9.45-10.45 **Keynote 2**

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 **Session 1. Libraries and Book Collections of Religious Institutions in Northern Europe Before the Reformation**

Carolin Gluchowski, *University of Fribourg* (CH): Debating the Impact of Monastery Reform and Lutheran Reformation Manuscript Recycling in the Cistercian Nunnery of Medingen

Laine Tabora, *Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music (PIMS)*: Fifteenth Century Manuscripts: the Liturgical and Musical Testimonies from the Cistercian Nunnery in Riga


12.45-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.00 **Keynote 3**

15.15-16.15 **Session 2. Early Modern Jesuit Libraries I**

Jost Eickmeyer, *University of Hamburg*: The „Bibliotheca“ as Concept, Space and Weapon of the Society of Jesus in Early Modern Times

Brigita Zorkiene, *Vilnius University Library*: Mission Literature: Jesuit Missions Network and Reflections of Knowledge Exchange at Vilnius University Library

16.15-16.45 Coffee break

16.45-18.15 **Session 3. Early Modern Jesuit Libraries I**
Reinis Norkārks, *University of Latvia: The Jesuit College of Riga Through the Prism of its Books and their Owners*

Renāte Berga, *National Library of Latvia: Riga Jesuit College Library (1583–1621). Collection as a Source for Provenance and Book History Research*

Hanna Mazheika, *National Historical Archives of Belarus: Scottish and English Jesuits and Print Culture of the late Sixteenth-Century Grand Duchy of Lithuania*

10 October

9.30–10.30 Keynote 4

Jonas Nordin, *Lund University: Building a Nation Through Books. The Case of Sweden in the 17th Century*

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00–12.00 Session 4. *Books as Spoils of War in Early Modern Northern Europe I*

Peter Sjökvist, *Uppsala University Library: Useful Literary Spoils of War at Uppsala University Library*

Astrid C. Balsem, *Amsterdam University: Books from Early Modern Jesuit Libraries in the Bibliotheca Vossiana now kept in the University Libraries in Leiden, the Netherlands*

12.00–13.00 Lunch

13.00–14.30 Session 5. *Books as Spoils of War in Early Modern Northern Europe II*

Lenka Veselá, *Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague: The Booty of Books from Olomouc in Lutheran Sweden*

Helena Backman, *Uppsala University Library: Circulation of War Booty on the Swedish Book Market in the Eighteenth Century and onwards*

Nijolė Klingaitė-Dasevičienė, *Vilnius University Library: Lost and Found: the Case of Bibliotheca Academiae Vilnensis (1570-1842)*

14.30–15.00 Coffee break

15.00–16.30 Session 7. *Reconstruction of Displaced Book Collections*

Rafał Wójcik, *Poznań University Library: The Dispersed Collection of the Poznań Jesuit College. On the Polish-Swedish Project of Reconstruction of the Library from the Middle of the 17th Century*

Laura Kreigere-Liepiņa, *National Library of Latvia: Riga Jesuit College Library (1583-1621): The Virtual Reconstruction of the Unique Book and Manuscript Collection*

Alicja Szulc, *Poznań University Library: In Pursuit of the Reconstruction. Manuscripts of the Poznań Jesuits in Uppsala University Library and Poznań University Library*

16.30-17.00 Concluding remarks by Jānis Kresliņš, *National Library of Sweden*