



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E  
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

## The Quest for an Appropriate Past

### *Literature, Architecture, Art and the Creation of National Identities in Early Modern Europe (c.1400-1700)*

*A public conference presenting the results of an international research project financed by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), organised by Karl A.E. Enenkel (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (WWU) Münster) and Koen Ottenheim (Utrecht University)*

**Date: Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September 2016, 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.**

**Venue: Trippenhuis Building, Kloveniersburgwal 29, Amsterdam ([knaw.nl/routedescription](http://knaw.nl/routedescription))**

**Admission free, registration obligatory (via [knaw.nl/register-appropriate-past](http://knaw.nl/register-appropriate-past))**

When thinking about the creation of national literature and national styles in art and architecture, most people will associate these developments with the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This era was characterised by the emergence of national states and attempts to codify specific geographically and nationally defined identities in art, architecture and literature, based on models from a glorious past. However, five hundred years earlier, humanist scholars, artists, monarchs and other political leaders all over Europe were already engaged in a similar task. In late medieval and early modern Europe (c.1400 to 1700), authority was formally based on lineage, and political ambitions and geographical claims in all countries were supported by historical arguments, true or otherwise. Literature, architecture and paintings were also used to express these ideas of national or local history and that history's oldest roots in the distant past.

The research project brings together scholars from different disciplines in order to map out the various strategies used in the period c.1400 to 1700. The aim is to construct an appropriate past in art, architecture and literature and to examine how this past was used in the creation of national or local identities in Europe. The eras used in such constructions are diverse. Sometimes passages or episodes from classical writings were quoted and integrated into early modern national or local history, e.g. the tales of the Trojans, who had abandoned their destroyed city to become the founders of various peoples, cities or noble families all over Europe. In the construction of national histories, local tribes mentioned in classical texts sometimes played a central role as true and antique ancestors, like the Batavians in the northern Low Countries, the Goths in Sweden or the Sarmatians in Poland. Historical myths and claims from Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages (c.400–1100) also were used in these constructions of local history, with references to knighthood, chivalry and the crusades. Sources were not only classical writers, but also medieval chronicles (in both Latin and the vernacular), minstrels' lyrics, (true and false) inscriptions and archaeological findings. And, above all, ruins and other architectural remains that the early modern intellectuals interpreted creatively. The project focuses on the strategies relating to the use of these sources for the construction of new local or national identities.

### Speakers

Barbara Arciszewska (University of Warsaw), Krista De Jonge (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), Bianca de Divitiis (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II), Karl Enenkel (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster), Hubertus Günther (em. Universität Zürich), Harald Hendrix (KNIR Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome), Thomas Haye (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), Stephan Hoppe (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Marc Laureys (Universität Bonn), Kristoffer Neville (UC Riverside), Koen Ottenheim (Universiteit Utrecht), Christian Peters (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster), Christoph Pieper (Universiteit Leiden), David Rijser (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Bernd Roling (Freie Universität Berlin), Alain Schnapp (Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris), Richard Schofield (Università di Venezia), Nuno Senos (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and Paul Smith (Universiteit Leiden).



## Programme

### Thursday 29 September 2016

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- 9.00 a.m. Welcome and coffee  
Moderator: Koen Ottenheym
- 9.30 a.m. Introduction [Karl Enenkel & Koen Ottenheym]
- 10.00 a.m. Karl Enenkel: *Cornelius Aurelius' Construction of Dutch Identity*
- 10.30 a.m. Alain Schnapp: *Megaliths, Thunderstones and Urns*
- 11.00 a.m. Coffee break
- 11.30 a.m. Richard Schofield: *Inventing 'all'antica' styles in the North of Italy*
- 12.00 a.m. Krista De Jonge: *Ancient Brabant in the Making of Burgundy and Habsburg. Architecture 'in the Brabantine Manner' Reconsidered*
- 0.30 p.m. Discussion
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch  
Moderator: Barbara Arciszewska
- 2.00 p.m. Marc Laureys: *'Sine Amore, Sine Odio Partium'. Nicolaus Burgundius's 'Historia Belgica' (1629) and his Tacitean Quest for an Appropriate Past*
- 2.30 p.m. Christoph Pieper: *Germany's Glory, Past and Present. Conrad Peutinger's 'Sermones Convivales de Mirandis Germaniae Antiquitatibus' and Antiquarian Philology*
- 3.00 p.m. Stephan Hoppe: *Fictional Past. Local Romanesque Architecture and their 15th-Century Reinterpretation*
- 3.30 p.m. Tea break
- 4.00 p.m. Harald Hendrix: *City Branding and the Antique. Naples in Early Modern City Guide*
- 4.30 p.m. Bianca de Divitiis: *Antiquity and Civic Identity in Renaissance Southern Italy*
- 5.00 p.m. Discussion, followed by drinks

### Friday 30 September 2016

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- 9.00 a.m. Coffee  
Moderator: Harald Hendrix
- 9.30 a.m. Paul Smith: *Rabelais in Quest of an Appropriate Past ('Pantagrue' 1532)*
- 10.00 a.m. Nuno Senos: *Faking Reality in Renaissance Portugal*



- 10.30 a.m. Hubertus Günther: *A city in quest of an appropriate past for her antiquities: The Arena of Verona*
- 11.00 a.m. Coffee break
- 11.30 a.m. Bernd Roling: *Phoenician Ireland. Charles Vallancey (1731-1812) and the Semitic Roots of Celtic Culture*
- 12.00 a.m. Kristoffer Neville: *Topography, Architecture, and Architectural History in Northern Europe ca 1700*
- 0.30 p.m. Discussion
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch
- Moderator: Karl Enenkel
- 2.00 p.m. Christian Peters: *Claiming and Contesting Trojan Ancestry on Both Sides of the Bosphorus. Tito Strozzi's 'Borsias' and G. M. Filelfo's 'Amyris'*
- 2.30 p.m. Thomas Haye: *The Construction of a National Foretime in Humbert de Montmoret's 'Bella Britannica'*
- 3.00 p.m. David Rijser: *Raphael and the Middle Ages*
- 3.30 p.m. Tea break
- 4.00 p.m. Barbara Arciszewska: *Early Modern Conceptualizations of Medieval History and their Impact on Architecture in the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth*
- 4.30 p.m. Koen Ottenheim: *The Medieval Roots of Dutch Cities, Expressed in 17th-Century Architecture*
- 5.00 p.m. Discussion and conclusions