

International conference

Vernacular Books and Reading Experiences in the Early Age of Print



Leiden University, The Netherlands / online 25-27 August 2021

Convenors: Dr Anna Dlabáčová (Leiden University, a.dlabacova@hum.leidenuniv.nl),
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In the first 150 years of European printed book production, between c. 1450 and 1600, the new medium of print evolved from its indebtedness to manuscript culture into a full-grown means of communication and articulation. The development of print culture added new impulses to the dynamic relations between Latin and the vernaculars. While initially the majority of titles were printed in Latin, the vernaculars gained ground as languages of arts and sciences, commerce, religion, and literary expression.

This conference explores how reading experiences were shaped both by producers and users of vernacular books. We approach reading as an embodied, material practice that is affected both by texts and their presentation, with a particular interest in the interplay between language, form and content, and between intended and actual readers. By adopting an international and interdisciplinary perspective (combining book history, literary history, art history, religious studies, and history of knowledge) during the conference and within the foreseen volume, we aim to contribute to the next step towards a comparative study of printing strategies and users' practices in the first 150 years of printing vernacular books in Europe. Placing studies of (reader's responses to) books in various languages and with a variety of texts (scientific, literary, religious) next to each other, we hope to reach a transregional view and an interdisciplinary interpretive framework of the early printed vernacular book.

Attendance is free, but registration is required.



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Image: Hieronymus Brunschwig, *Medicinaris*, (Strasbourg: Johann Grüninger, 1505),
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, Rar. 2128

Wednesday 25 August

14.00-14.30 Introduction

Anna Dlabáčová (Leiden University) and Andrea van Leerdam (Utrecht University)

14.30-15.30 Session 1 – Learning to read

- 14.30-14.45 Sabrina Corbellini (University of Groningen),
Educating the Vernacular Reader
- 14.50-15.05 Martha Driver (Pace University, New York),
The Schoolroom in Early English Illustration
- 15.05-15.30 Discussion

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.00 Session 2 – Transnational reading

- 16.00-16.15 Ágnes Máté (University of Szeged),
Translators as Trendsetters of Vernacularisation? The Dynamics of the Early Printed Vernacular Reception of Eneas Silvius Piccolomini's Historia de duobus amantibus (1478-1600)
- 16.20-16.35 Ann-Marie Hansen (Radboud University Nijmegen),
Out of Context: Huybert van Buchell's French Reading Practices
- 16.35-17.00 Discussion

17.00-17.10 Break

17.10-18.10 Session 3 – Pictorial reading

- 17.10-17.25 Alexa Sand (Utah State University),
Moving Pictures: the Woodcut Vocabulary of Wynkyn de Worde
- 17.30-17.45 Ilaria Andreoli (French National Centre for Scientific Research),
Vernacular Books and Illustration: The Case of Italian Books in Lyons (15th-16th c.)
- 17.45-18.10 Discussion

Thursday 26 August

14.30-15.30 Session 1 – Presenting and annotating

- 14.30-14.45 Karolina Mroziewicz (University of Warsaw),
Noblemen's Responses to the first Polish-Language Chronicle by Marcin Bielski: Case Study on the Vernacular Histories in East-Central Europe
- 14.50-15.05 Tillmann Taape,
Medicine and Craftsmanship in Early Print: the Works of Hieronymus Brunschwig across European Vernaculars
- 15.05-15.30 Discussion

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.00 Session 2 – Guiding readers of religious texts

- 16.00-16.15 Suzan Folkerts (Deventer Library),
Reading the Religious Books of Richard Pafraet and Jacob of Breda
- 16.20-16.35 Stefan Matter (Université Fribourg),
Guiding the reader: printed marginalia in the Hortulus Animae
- 16.35-17.00 Discussion

17.00-17.10 Break

17.10-18.10 Session 3 – Reading beyond the book

- 17.10-17.25 Katell Lavéant (Utrecht University),
Moveable types of merry monsters: joyful literature on paper and on the walls
- 17.30-17.45 Heather Bamford (George Washington University),
Talisman, Amulet and Intention in Early Modern Iberia
- 17.45-18.10 Discussion

Friday 27 August

14.30-15.30 Session 1 – Transmission and variation

- 14.30-14.45 Sandy Wilkinson (University College Dublin),
Decorating and Illustrating Print in Sixteenth-Century Europe
- 14.50-15.05 Elisabeth de Bruijn (Antwerp University),
Catering to Different Tastes. Variation in a 16th-century Canon of Romances
- 15.05-15.30 Discussion

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.00 Session 2 – Manuscript and print

- 16.00-16.15 Margriet Hoogvliet (University of Groningen),
The Illustrations of Pierre Michault's Danse aux Aveugles in Manuscript and Print
- 16.20-16.35 Walter Melion (Emory University),
Meditating the Unbearable in a Customized Fifteenth-Century Prayerbook
- 16.35-16.50 Discussion

17.00-17.10 Break

17.10-18.10 Session 3 – Mind the reader

- 17.10-17.25 Lydia Zeldenrust (University of York),
Reading European Bestselling Romances in England in the Early Period of Printing
- 17.30-17.45 Arjan van Dixhoorn (Utrecht University - University College Roosevelt),
Vernacular Books and the Discourse of the Reader around 1500
- 17.45-18.10 Discussion

18.10-18.40 Final Discussion

Led by Geert Warnar (Leiden University), Bart Besamusca (Utrecht University) and John Thompson (Queen's University Belfast)