

BELGIAN-DUTCH WORKING GROUP

Writing and Writing Practices in the Medieval Low Countries

PALAEOGRAPHY - CODICOLOGY - DIPLOMATICS

Second International Conference

Parchment, Paper and Pixels. Medieval Writing and Modern Technology

Maastricht, The Netherlands, February 2-3, 2017

organized by the working group

**'Writing and Writing Practices in the Medieval Low Countries',
(*Schrift en Schriftdragers in de Nederlanden in the Middeleeuwen – SSNM*)**

**in collaboration with Huygens ING and
Regionaal Historisch Centrum Limburg**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Since the establishment of the disciplines of diplomatics and palaeography in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, their goals and methods have been consistently expanded and improved. Diplomatics received a major boost in the nineteenth century, while palaeography advanced significantly in the following century. The domain of codicology, established in the twentieth century, has seen similar advancements. The emphasis on methods and techniques observed in these three disciplines can be explained by their common denomination: besides being academic disciplines in their own right, they are 'auxiliary sciences' and as such developed for the purpose of studying medieval manuscripts and documents as historical and literary sources.

Over the past few decades the methods of diplomatics, palaeography and codicology have witnessed revolutionary changes. Codicologists realized from early on the potential of computers and software for their studies, in particular for gathering and studying relevant data. Likewise, palaeography has begun to adopt computer-based research methods. These opportunities will likely continue to expand given the increasing availability of digital data. Evidently, digital tools will continue to play a major role in the study of medieval manuscripts and documents. It seems thus inevitable that scholars in diplomatics, palaeography and codicology continue to closely collaborate with ICT-experts. Such will dramatically change the traditional methods: it invites quantitative research based on statistics and larger corpora.

This conference aims to examine possibilities for collaboration between scholars of medieval sources and those in the digital sciences. Key questions addressed during the conference include: How do traditional (analogue) methods relate to new (digital) tools? Will digital analysis be the major focus of future research in the field? Which lines of inquiry and digital projects have proven successful, and which appear less fruitful? How may we ensure the longevity of our digital tools and editions?

Building on the successes in the field and the allure of research prospects to be developed in the future, this symposium aims to provide a platform of discussion for junior and senior scholars who include digital tools in their research, or who are interested in doing so. Scholars of diplomatics, palaeography and codicology are invited to share their practical experience or present their take on future research in twenty-minute papers.

Abstracts, to a maximum of 300 words, may be sent to Els De Paermentier (els.depaermentier@ugent.be) before 1 October 2016.

The conference is organized by SSNM (Schrift en Schrift dragers in de Nederlanden in de Middeleeuwen), a network of Belgian and Dutch scholars with the aim to promote the study of codicology, palaeography and diplomatics and to narrow the gaps between these disciplines. It is planned to publish the papers as a volume of the series edited by SSNM.