15/9 - Morning session, location: University of Antwerp (UA)

9:30-10:00  Coffee and tea

10:00-12:00  Antwerp and its role in the religious book production

max. 20 pp.  The first book printed in Antwerp was Simon van Venlo’s Boexken van der officien ofte dienst der missen (1481), a book explaining the catholic mass. From then until the end of the hand-press period Antwerp remained a center for the production of religious books in all shapes and kinds not only for the Netherlands but for the whole world. In my lecture I will treat the evolution and diversity of religious printing in Antwerp.

Prof. Dr Hubert Meeus is a professor at the Department of Literature (ISLN) at the University of Antwerp. His research and publications mainly cover the history of literature (songs) and theatre in the Low Countries during the sixteenth and seventeenth century and the history of the printed book from its invention till 1800.

12:00-13:00  Lunch at mensa academica

13:00-13:30  Walking to location afternoon session

15/9 - Afternoon session, location: Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience (EHC)

13:30-14:45  The STCV-fingerprint, or, How to identify and distinguish editions

max. 20 pp.  If a book has the same title, author, printer, place and year of publication as another; if the title page and the total number of pages is identical, does that automatically mean it is the same edition? What makes up a handprinted book and how can we distinguish and identify it accurately? This workshop will provide tips and tricks for using short title catalogues, explain the bibliographical fingerprint method as well as give hands-on experience using the vast collections of the Heritage Library Hendrik Conscience.

Dr Susanna De Schepper studied book history (MA, Leiden University) and Renaissance Studies (PhD, University of Warwick). She works for the network organisation Flanders Heritage Library, where she is the lead cataloguer of the Short Title Catalogue Flanders (STCV), the online retrospective bibliography of the handprinted book in Flanders.

14:45-15:15  Refreshments

15:15-16:30  The typographical title page and its development between c. 1500 and c. 1800

max. 20 pp.  This workshop will focus on the development of the layout and design of Early Modern typographical title pages produced over a period of about 300 years. In contrast to the first fifty years of printing, the changes in the design of title pages seem to be much less radical. With examples from the Antwerp book production between 1500 and 1800, it will be explained how printers constantly reinvented the physical appearance of their products, and what the implications of that process are for scholars dealing with Early Modern books.

Dr Goran Proot is Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Rare Books, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. He is editor of the book historical journal De Gulden Passer and he is active in the Flanders Book Historical Society. His research focuses on the history of layout and design of Early Modern handpress books.

16:30-18:00  Exclusive preview of the exhibition ‘Holy Books’

max. 20 pp.  The Hendrik Conscience Library will be hosting a prestigious exhibition on ‘Holy Books’ (working title), coinciding with the SHARP 2014 conference theme ‘Religions of the book’. In this exclusive preview, participants will learn more about the process of setting up a rare books exhibit of this scale.

Steven Van Impe, M.A. is curator of old books and manuscripts at the Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience.

18:00-19:00  Drinks in local pub
16/9 - Morning and first part afternoon session, location: Museum Plantin Moretus (MPM)

9:00-9:15 Coffee and tea

9:15-10:15 The Plantin Press: the case of Johannes David (group 1) Dr Dirk Imhof
max. 10 pp.

This session will focus on the production and distribution of works by Joannes David by the Plantin Press through a consideration of archival documents preserved at the Plantin-Moretus Museum. The participants will learn about the initial negotiations between the author and publisher and which arrangements were made to finance an edition. Records with payments to compositors, pressmen and others involved will give the necessary information about the production itself, while the account books of the bookshop and shipments to other European cities will clarify how the distribution of the books took place.

10:15-11:00 Demonstration of a printing press at the Museum Plantin Moretus (group 1)
max. 10 pp.

9:15-11:00 The illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press (group 2) Dr Karen L. Bowen
max. 10 pp.

In this workshop, Dr. Bowen will explore practical, financial, and personal considerations behind the illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press in the period 1565-1650. This will be done in the form of an intimate, round-table discussion, during which Dr. Bowen will present a full range of objects including woodblocks, copperplates and preparatory drawings, in addition to the resulting books.

11:00 - 12:00 Guided tour through the Exhibition devoted to the unpublished polyglot Bible by Balthasar Moretus Dr Dirk Imhof
max. 20 pp.

12:00-12:45 Lunch at the Museum Plantin Moretus

12:45-13:45 The Plantin Press: the case of Johannes David (group 2) see above Dr Dirk Imhof
max. 10 pp.

13:45-14:30 Demonstration of a printing press at the Museum Plantin Moretus (group 2)
max. 10 pp.

12:45-14:30 The illustration of religious texts at the Plantin-Moretus Press (group 1) - see above Dr Karen L. Bowen
max. 10 pp.

14:30-15:00 Walking to location second part afternoon session

16/9 - Second part afternoon session, location: Museum aan de Schelde (MAS)

15:00 – 17:00 Exclusive preview of the exhibition 'Holy Places' Guus van den Hout, M.A.

As a guest-curator for the Museum aan de Stroom (MAS) in Antwerp Guus Van den Hout is working on the exhibition Holy Places. He is responsible for the part of the exhibition devoted to christian pilgrimage. Judaism and Islam form the other two parts of this revolutionary show on pilgrimage.

The exhibition opens to the public on 19 September 2014. He is, however, excited to show you around during the final moments of installation, discuss the concept and share ideas and views on the visualisation of the idea of pilgrimage and the obvious relevance for today’s society.

18:00-19:00 Drinks in local pub
17/9 - Morning session, location: (UA): Ruusbroec Institute (RG) and Special Collections (BC)

9:00-9:15  Coffee and tea

9:15-10:15  Manuscripts relating to spiritual and mystical culture in the 17th-century Southern Low Countries

Prof. dr Kees Schepers

Kees Schepers will present a recently revealed set of texts and manuscripts relating to spiritual and mystical culture in the seventeenth-century Southern Low Countries, and specifically in the Malines monastery Thabor. Two of the manuscripts that testify to spiritual life in Thabor were acquired in recent years by the Ruusbroec Institute. Remarkably, the one manuscript containing a unique mystical dialogue belonged to the sister who was the scribe of the other manuscript containing unknown sermons by the convent priest. A third, related manuscript, was discovered in Auxerre.

10:15-10:30  Walking to location second part morning session (Special Collections)

10:30-12:30 First Aid Conservation for Historical Collections

Marijn de Valk

From March to October 2013 the Antwerp University Library organized a ‘first aid’ program for its historical collections, which consisted of the basic conservation of 1,500 books from the Special Collections Department and the Library of the Ruusbroec Society. Such a ‘collection-wide’ approach to book conservation is based on a number of carefully-weighed principles, such as properly prioritizing within the collection and the careful collaboration between the library curator and the book restorer.

In this workshop, both curator and restorer will first discuss their take on the aim and organization of such a first aid conservation of a historical collection. Next, the participants will get the opportunity to learn how to analyse and assess book damage, using objects from the University of Antwerp’s Special Collections. Finally, they will be able to observe and discuss several elementary steps in the first aid conservation program (dry cleaning, conservation of leather bindings, paper repair, ...).

12:30-13:00  Lunch at mensa academica

13:00  End of programme

Organising Institutions:
University of Antwerp:
- Ruusbroec Institute
- University Library - Special Collections
- Department of History
- Department of Literature

Erfgoedbibliotheek Hendrik Conscience
Museum Plantin Moretus
Museum aan de Schelde

Coordination
prof. dr. August den Hollander, Ruusbroec Institute

Facilities
Els Maldoy, coordinator Congresdient Universiteit Antwerpen