

Late Medieval Pilgrimage Architecture in Northern Europe (SAH 2004 Providence, Rhode Island)

Gerhard Lutz

Call for Papers

Late Medieval Pilgrimage Architecture in Northern Europe, c. 1250-1520,
Recent Research & New Perspectives

Session, Society of Architectural Historians, Annual Meeting 2004, April
14-18, Providence, Rhode Island

Since Arthur Kingsley Porter's epochal 1923 study on "Romanesque Sculpture of the Pilgrimage Roads," the high medieval pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela have been the subject of much scholarly attention. However, the types of questions raised in studies on the art and architecture of pilgrimage sites have concentrated almost exclusively on style, whereas functional and liturgical aspects were long neglected. In recent years, these approaches have emerged as an exceedingly productive field. The majority of pilgrimage churches combine different functions as cathedrals, collegiate monasteries or abbeys. In some cases the pilgrimages started later and may have influenced the form of a new building or reconstruction project, as in the case of Frederick Barbarossa's translatio of the relics of the Three Kings to Cologne cathedral in 1164. In other cases, a miracle or the acquisition of relics launched the construction of a new church complex, as with the cult of St. Elizabeth of Thuringia in Marburg immediately after her death in 1231. Another factor complicates a comprehensive survey. Whereas famous attractions such as Santiago and Rome were dominant in the early and high Middle Ages, the changes in devotion since the 12th century led to new forms of pilgrimages, for example those originating in bleeding Hosts.

Running parallel to this diversification of pilgrimage objects and goals, numerous regional and local centers now competed with the traditional pilgrimage sites. Numerous recent case studies differentiate our understanding of this central aspect of medieval piety. Due to the complexity of the field, the significant progress in research has not resulted in any attempt to summarize our current state of knowledge. The main purpose of the session is to bring some of these loose ends together as a basis for future comparative studies. This session concentrates on the late Middle Ages (c. 1250-1520) with an emphasis on northern and central Europe (including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany,

Poland, and Scandinavia). Especially welcome are architectural studies with an interdisciplinary approach addressing church architecture in its functional context, including decoration and furnishings.

Send proposals to: Dr. Gerhard Lutz, Technische Universität Dresden, Philosophische Fakultät, Institut für Kunst- und Musikwissenschaft, Fachgebiet Kunstgeschichte, D-01062 Dresden, Germany; e-mail: Gerhard.Lutz@mailbox.tu-dresden.de / GFLutz@aol.com.

Deadline: 1 September 2003.

Further information:

<http://www.sah.org/annual%20mtg/current/providencecfp.htm>

Reference:

CFP: Late Medieval Pilgrimage Architecture in Northern Europe (SAH 2004 Providence, Rhode Island). In: ArtHist.net, May 21, 2003 (accessed Apr 7, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/25641>>.