

## Intersections vols. 8/9

J.L.

CALL FOR PAPERS - Intersections vol. 8 and 9

Vol. 8: Traffic and transportation in the Early Modern Period

Vol. 9: Spirits Unseen: The Representation of Subtle Bodies in Early Modern European Culture [please scroll down]

Intersection brings together new material on well considered themes within the wide area of Early Modern Studies. Contributions may come from any of the disciplines within the humanities: history, art history, literary history, book history, church history, social history, history of the humanities, of the theatre, of cultural life and institutions. The themes are carefully selected on the basis of a number of criteria, the most important of which are that they should address issues about which there is a lively and ongoing debate within the international community of scholars and that they should be of interest to a variety of disciplines.

Volumes published to date are:

vol. 1 (2001) Karl Enenkel et alii, *Recreating Ancient History*. [...].

vol. 2 (2002) Toon van Houdt et alii, *On the Edge of Truth and Honesty*.

*Principles and Strategies of Fraud and Deceit in the Early Modern Period*.

vol. 3 (2003) Arie-Jan Gelderblom et alii, *The Low Countries as a crossroads of Religious Beliefs*

vol. 4 (2004) Karl Enenkel and Wolfgang Neuber, *Cognition and the Book*.

*Typologies of Formal Organisation of Knowledge in the Printed Book of the Early Modern Period*.

vol. 5 Alister Hamilton et alii, *The Republic of Letters and the Levant*

vol. 6, Karl Enenkel and Jan Papy, *Petrarch and his Readers in the Renaissance* will appear in 2005.

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Call for Papers --- Intersections vol. 8

Traffic and transportation in the Early Modern Period

One of the distinctive aspects of the Early Modern Period in Western Europe is the organisational improvement as well as the increase of traffic and transportation. Not only were contacts established with 'new' countries and continents, but at the same time an intensification of

contacts occurred between the various countries of Western Europe and between the cities within these countries. This expansion and increase of contacts were a result of and gave rise to new developments in knowledge, technology, and patterns of consumption of food, luxury articles and services (such as travelling).

Essay topics might include:

**The development of new means of transportation: by what necessity were they created, what were their consequences in the short and in the longer term, and what new needs and knowledge did they generate?**

How far did the cultural, political and social consequences of the increasing mobility reach? Did it lead to the opening up of new areas or rather to the improvement and expansion of existing routes to known places? Did it lead to new contacts and connections, or only to a more intensive use of already existing routes? Was there an increase in travelling, or did people just travel faster and more conveniently?

**Who used the new means of transportation, and who profited most from them? Did they give rise to new social classes or different social relationships?**

What were the consequences of the increasing mobility on intellectual fields? Was there a concomitant increase in mail and correspondence, and consequently a faster and wider exchange of news, information, ideas and concepts?

**How were the new developments of traffic and transportation represented and assessed in the arts and literature? Did they give rise to new ideas and genres, such as landscape painting, travel literature and utopian themes?**

Did the new means of transportation and the increasing mobility have consequences for the infrastructure of Western Europe? Did they affect city planning and the design of buildings, for instance due to the need for parking space for new and bigger vehicles?

Proposals are invited for contributions discussing these and other aspects relating to the increasing mobility in the Early Modern Period, such as the consequences for warfare, diplomacy and trade. Proposals of maximum 300 words should be sent by e-mail to the secretary of the editorial board of *Intersections*, Dr. Jan L. de Jong, [j.l.de.jong@rug.nl](mailto:j.l.de.jong@rug.nl), before 1 October 2005. The authors of the proposals that have been accepted will be invited to write a paper of 6.000 words (including notes) before 1 september 2006. The final decision on the acceptance of any paper will be made by the editors following receipt of the complete text.

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Call for Papers — *Intersections* vol. 9:

Spirits Unseen: The Representation of Subtle Bodies in Early Modern

## European Culture

Spirits – gaseous, vaporous, volatile “subtle bodies” (*corpora subtilia*) – occupied a prominent place in early modern thought. The terms “spiritus” or “*corpora subtilia*” may refer to angels, demons and souls as well as those immaterial or corpuscular energies, virtues and small atomic particles that regulated natural phenomena and psycho-physiological functions, in fact the whole universe and its laws. Early modern notions of spirits and subtle bodies often combined observation, empirical evidence and religious doctrine.

Despite increasing interest in early modern cosmologies, little attention has been paid to problems of the representation of spirits. For this reason, volume 9 of *Intersections* seeks to initiate a discussion on the ways in which ethereal or subtle bodies were imagined, described and represented in early modern philosophical, scientific, religious, moral and artistic discourse. What qualities were associated with energies and subtle substances in early modern literary, poetic and scientific texts? How were spirits and invisible bodies depicted in the visual arts or staged in the theatre? In which respects do representational codes and conventions change over time and differ according to social and cultural contexts and conditions?

In particular, contributions are encouraged that discuss descriptions, depictions and meanings of spirits across various disciplines and cultural practices, or that consider competing representations in different visual and textual media over a broader period of time. Papers may focus on such aspects of early modern natural philosophy, medicine and magic as the origin of fossils, crystals and rocks; the phenomena of light, heat, gravity and electromagnetism; the properties of the air; the substance dreams were made of; the effects of music on the animal spirits of the body. Contributions on experiments, projects and executed works that (re)define models of vision and sensory perception are also welcome. Early modern optics offers a particularly rich field for further research: the fascination with catoptrical machines and other devices of visual deception; the uses and functions of mirrors and magnifying lenses in science, warfare and religious practice.

As unseen and invisible bodies spirits aroused artistic fantasy and imagination. Possible topics include the iconography of sounds and sights (in painting, the emblem literature and other literary and pictorial genres) and the role of spirits and ghosts as literary motifs and personae. The religious disputes of the sixteenth century led to conflicting views in Protestant and Catholic culture concerning ghosts and other apparitions as well as the physics of the transubstantiation. Liturgical and devotional practices provide another fruitful area of

research: the construction of monstrosities and other receptacles for the exhibition of the host and relics; the use of talismans and amulets.

The volume is scheduled to appear in 2007. Proposals, about 300 words, should be sent (preferably electronically) no later than October 1st 2005 to:

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For more information on this volume please contact Christine Göttler.

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Reference:

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/27355>>.