Festivals in Hainaut at the time of Jacques du Broeucq (Mons, 12–14 Oct 15)

Mons, Belgium, Oct 12–14, 2015
Deadline: Apr 8, 2015

Leon Lock, Low Countries Sculpture Society

International Conference at Mons, Belgium

Festivals in Hainaut at the time of Jacques du Broeucq: The European Importance of Festivities to honour Charles V and the future Philip II (1549)

Potential speakers at the above conference are invited to submit proposals for conference papers to the Low Countries Sculpture Society and the Society for European Festivals Research. Proposals should be limited to a maximum of 300 words, should be accompanied by a brief CV (no more than a few lines) and should be sent to info[at]lcsculpture.org and m.e.shewring[at]warwick.ac.uk to arrive no later than Wednesday 8 April, 2015. A scientific committee drawn from the two Societies and invited scholars will take a decision on selected speakers shortly after that date. Proposals must be in English or French, which will be the conference languages.

Thanks to a grant from the Fondation Mons 2015, three hotel nights and modest travel expenses for foreign participants can be covered.

The Conference

In 2015, the eyes of Europe will focus on Mons as European Capital of Culture. To celebrate the occasion, an international conference will be held in Mons, set within a week of celebrations featuring the work of Jacques Du Broeucq (c.1505-84) as architect and sculptor (11-18 October) and following a week (4-11 October) celebrating the musical achievements of Orlando di Lasso/Roland de Lassus (1532-94).

The aim of the conference is to bring to widespread public notice a famed series of occasions when, as the hub of Renaissance Europe, the Low Countries commanded the continent's attention, with Hainaut and its capital Mons featuring as the site of the most famous and influential events. These took place in 1549 when Charles V, Count of Hainaut and Holy Roman Emperor, attempted to determine the continent's dynastic, political and economic future by nominating as his successor his son Philip of Spain. With this aim in mind, Charles's sister Mary of Hungary commissioned a series of magnificent festivals, the most lavish of which took place in September of that year at her palaces close to Mons at Binche and Mariemont.

The Society for European Festivals Research (SEFR) will be responsible for the conference's academic programme, which will centre on the almost unprecedented magnificence of the festivals

at Mary's palaces. These outshone the festivals of contemporary France and arguably equalled the great royal and civic festivals of Italy and the German-speaking states. Attention will be drawn to the public processions organised by local officials, and engaged in by a high proportion of the whole populace, from tradesmen and civic officers to artists, choreographers, designers and musicians. Particular attention will be paid to tournaments, including the great tournament of the Chateau Ténébreux, and to their wide-ranging public appeal. Attention will also be paid to the festivals' appropriation of Italian and Burgundian or Northern European precedents, and to their continent-wide public recognition, as attested by the survival of an unusually high number of published accounts in Spanish, French, German and Italian. Papers adopting a perspective that is Europe-wide, and are conscious of the social and political context of the events, will be especially welcome. Analysis of European festivals which rival or parallel those at Binche and Mariemont will be considered, provided they reference the 1549 celebrations. Festivities in Siena, Milan or Augsburg and in the Low Countries may be examined and comparison offered with traditional romance tournament sources (e.g. Sandricourt 1493, Binche 1548/9 and Ferrara 1561), together with the key role of merchants in festivities, reflecting local prosperity in cities across the Netherlands. Performance analysis will be a further concern of the conference; proposals for papers which deal with festivals as theatrical events, and with the associated scenography and performance characteristics, will also be welcome.

Authors of papers should avoid a merely descriptive approach, and should instead observe a theoretic or analytical method, while being aware that the conference is open to the general public, so that an accessible and informative style is essential. Approximately 20 papers will be selected for inclusion.

Authors are advised that the European Festival Studies series published by Ashgate will be asked to consider the publication of a volume based on contributions to the conference. Authors seeking inclusion in the volume should therefore ensure that they retain details of their sources and references, so that scholarly footnotes and a bibliography can be reconstructed at a future date. It is also advisable to adopt the conventions and house style set out in the Ashgate guidelines, which can be accessed on the appropriate website (www.ashgate.com) Please note, however, that a published volume will not consist of 'conference proceedings' but will feature a selection of papers reconsidered, re-written and edited following discussion at the conference and with the volume editor(s). Papers for publication must be in English.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Sunday 11 October 2015
12.30-17.00 Renaissance banquet at the castle of Boussu, near Mons (optional)

Monday 12 October 2015
10.00-19.00 Conference, university of Mons, followed by evening programme

Tuesday 13 October 2015
10.00-19.00 Conference, at the Centre Culturel, Boussu, followed by evening programme

Wednesday 14 October 2015
10.00-16.00 Conference, university of Mons, followed by free evening or individual return home

Thursday 15 October 2015
11.00-17.00 Excursion to Saint-Omer (optional), return to Mons around 19.00

Conference organisers
The Society for European Festivals Research at the University of Warwick, UK
The University of Leuven
The University of Mons
The Mons 2015 Foundation, Mons
The Low Countries Sculpture Society, Brussels

Reference:
CFP: Festivals in Hainaut at the time of Jacques du Broeucq (Mons, 12-14 Oct 15). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 23, 2015 (accessed Nov 26, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/9823>.