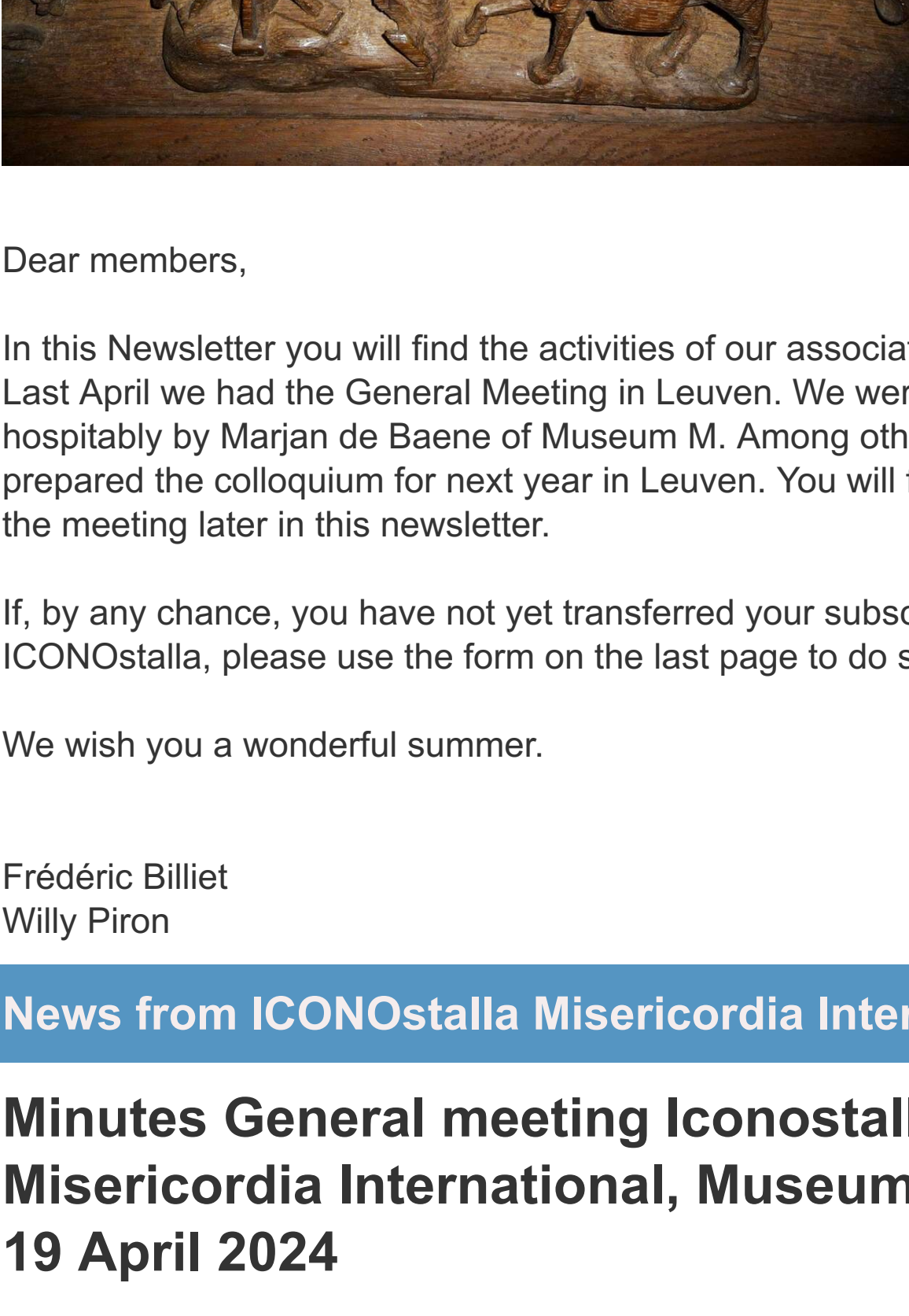




Mounted woman brings sack to mill, Bristol Cathedral, UK, 1520, Janet Whitham

Dear members,

In this Newsletter you will find the activities of our association and its members. Last April we had the General Meeting in Leuven. We were welcomed very hospitably by Marjan de Baene of Museum M. Among other things, we prepared the colloquium for next year in Leuven. You will find the minutes of the meeting later in this newsletter.

If, by any chance, you have not yet transferred your subscription fee for ICONostalla, please use the form on the last page to do so.

We wish you a wonderful summer.

Frédéric Billiet
Willy Piron

News from ICONostalla Misericordia International

Minutes General meeting Iconostalla Misericordia International, Museum M Leuven, 19 April 2024

Present: Frédéric Billiet (chair), Marjan Debaene, Charles Indekeu, Jos Koldeweiĵ, Kristiane Lemé-Hébuterne, Patrick Lemé, Hannah De Moor, Véronique Pillon (treasurer), Willy Piron (secretary), Martijn Remmen, Voravit Rhoontiva, Anja Seliger, Gerald Seliger, Christel Theunissen

- Opening by the chair Frédéric Billiet
- Frédéric, Charles and Willy report on the choir stall conference in Split 2023 organised by the Croatian Conservation Institute-Department of Split, Institute of the Art History in Zagreb, University of Rijeka.
- Proceedings Colloquium 2018 Rijeka: The texts are at the publisher Brill. Waiting their verdict. If all is well then maybe publication end 2024, begin 2025.
- Proceedings Vendôme 2023: Kristiane and Frédéric will collect the papers form the speakers. The proceedings will be published by the *Association Rencontre avec le Patrimoine Religieux* in Châtillon-sur-Indre. If there are too few papers, the publication will be supplemented with the descriptions and photos of the choir stalls located near Vendôme.
- Financial report
 - Expenses for the conference in Vendôme 2023: € 1256,38
 - Revenues
 - Sold books: € 200
 - Membership fees: € 265
 - Total revenues: € 465
 - Deficit: € 721,38
 - Account April 2023: € 3857,69€
 - Account January 2024: € 3136,31€

Véronique reported that many members do not pay their membership fee of €20. Willy will send a reminder email to all members.

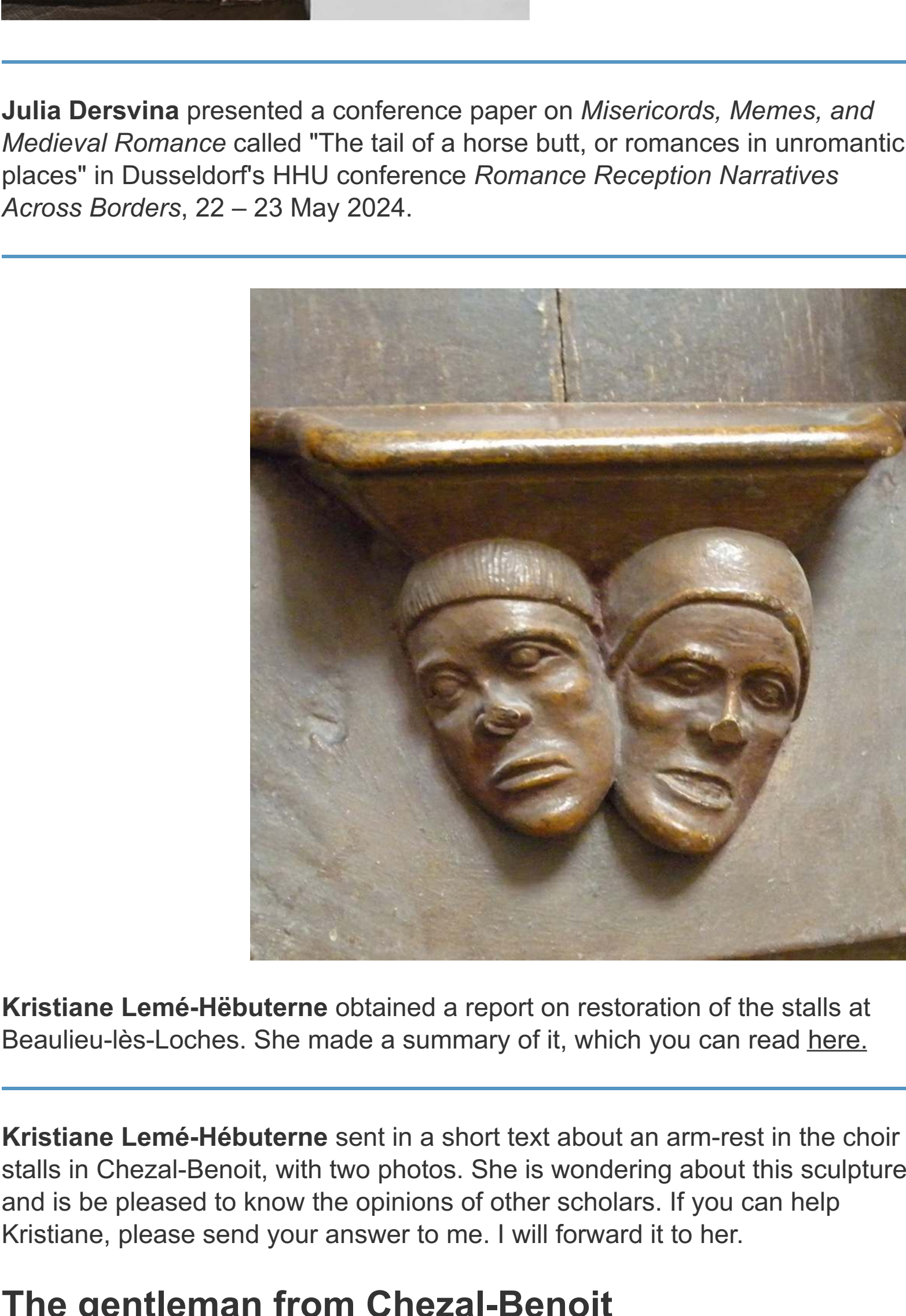
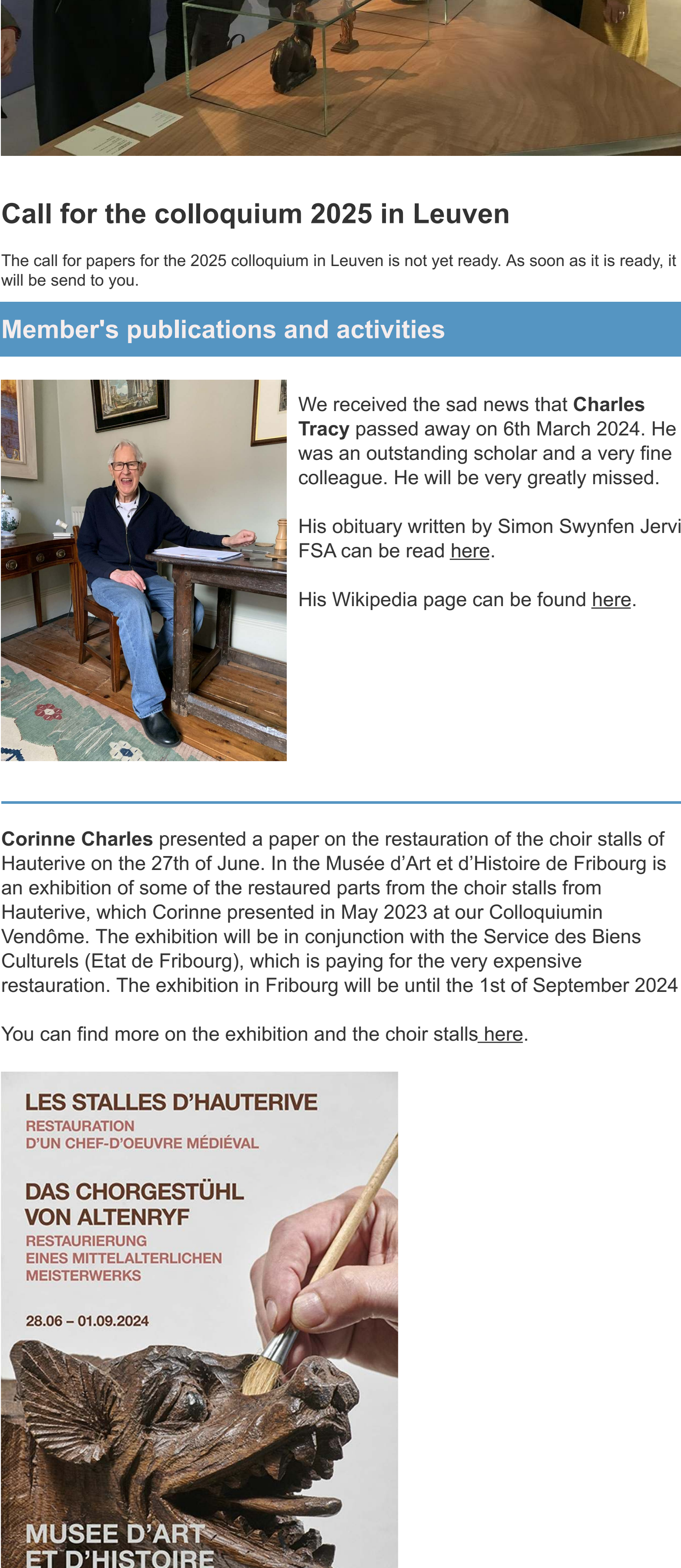
- Current affairs
 - Frederic will be arranging an MoU between Musiconis (Sorbonne), Index of Medieval Art (Princeton University) and Stalla (Radboud University) regarding collaboration and image linking.
 - General Meeting 2026 will take place in Saint-Martin-aux-Bois.
 - The board is re-elected with Frédéric as chair, Véronique as treasurer and Willy as secretary.

- Next Colloquium will be Museum M in Leuven and will be a collaboration between ARDS (<https://www.ards.be/>) and Iconostalla.

- The date will be 21-23 or 22-24 May 2025. This has yet to be decided.
- The theme will be colour on choirstalls/choir furniture in the broadest sense of the word. Supposed titles are: Choir stalls in a colourful church / Colours in the Middle Ages / Colour in the choir.
- Scientific board will be: Marjan Debaene (ARDS/Museum M), Frédéric Billiet, Jos Koldeweiĵ (Radboud University), Voravit Rhoontiva and Willy Piron.
- The call for papers should be ready in June so that it can be sent out in July.
- Jos Koldeweiĵ will ask Justin Kroesen (Professor Material Culture of Christianity, University of Bergen Norway) to deliver the keynote lecture.
- Excursions will include the choir stalls of Leuven, perhaps supplemented by Aarschot and Diest
- No conference fee will be asked only payment for excursions.
- Speakers will not be given a payment. They do participate in the closing dinner free of charge.

- There being no other matters, the chair closed the meeting.

Some impressions



Call for the colloquium 2025 in Leuven

The call for papers for the 2025 colloquium in Leuven is not yet ready. As soon as it is ready, it will be send to you.

Member's publications and activities



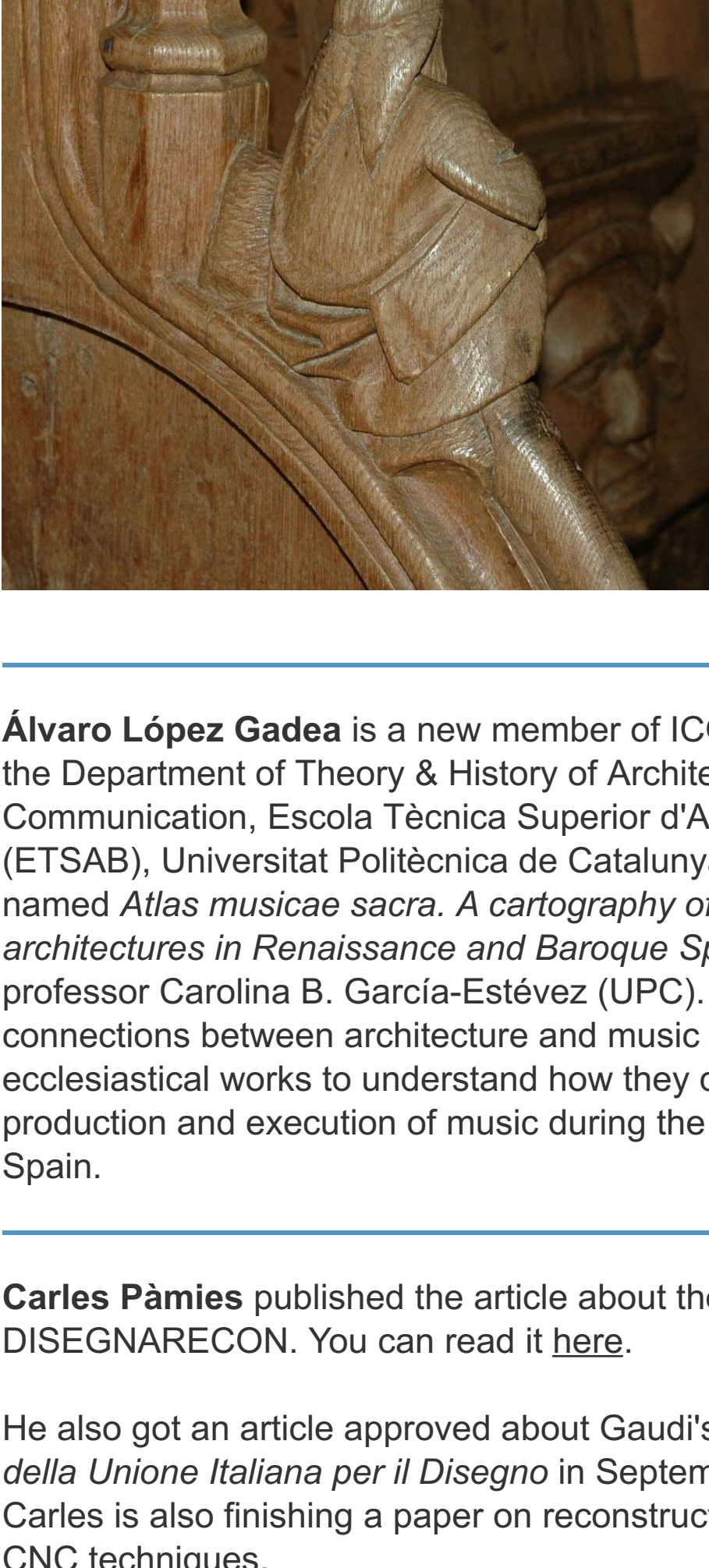
We received the sad news that **Charles Tracy** passed away on 6th March 2024. He was an outstanding scholar and a very fine colleague. He will be very greatly missed.

His obituary written by Simon Swynfen Jervis FSA can be read [here](#).

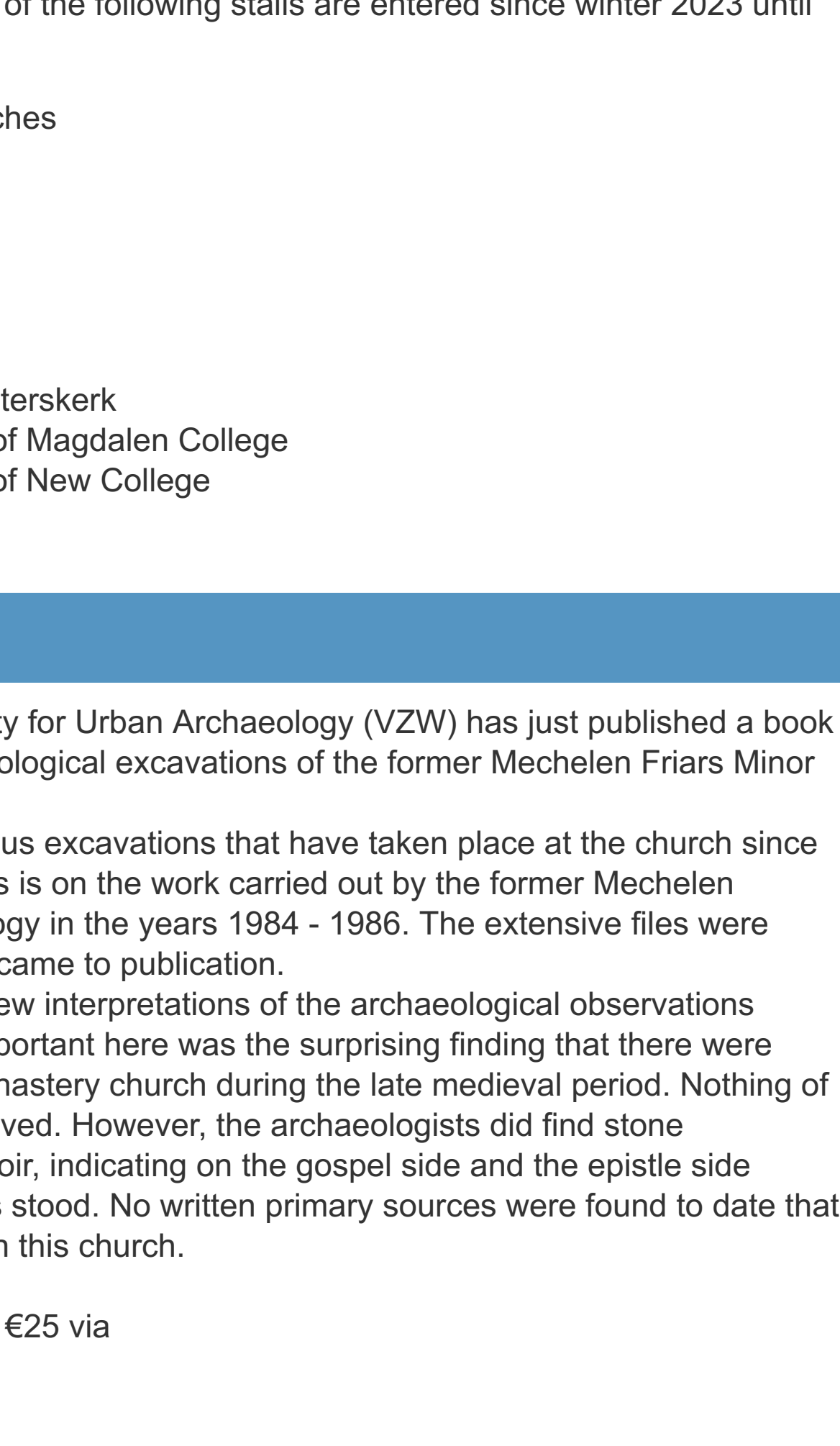
His Wikipedia page can be found [here](#).

Corinne Charles presented a paper on the restauration of the choir stalls of Hauterive on the 27th of June. In the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Fribourg is an exhibition of some of the restaured parts from the choir stalls from Hauterive, which Corinne presented in May 2023 at our Colloquiumin Vendôme. The exhibition will be in conjunction with the Service des Biens Culturels (Etat de Fribourg), which is paying for the very expensive restauration. The exhibition in Fribourg will be until the 1st of September 2024

You can find more on the exhibition and the choir stalls [here](#).



Julia Dersvina presented a conference paper on *Misericords, Memes, and Medieval Romance* called "The tail of a horse butt, or romances in unromantic places" in Dusseldorf's HHU conference *Romance Reception Narratives Across Borders*, 22 – 23 May 2024.



Kristiane Lemé-Hébuterne obtained a report on restoration of the stalls at Beaulieu-lès-Loches. She made a summary of it, which you can read [here](#).

Kristiane Lemé-Hébuterne sent in a short text about an arm-rest in the choir stalls in Chezal-Benoît, with two photos. She is wondering about this sculpture and is be pleased to know the opinions of other scholars. If you can help Kristiane, please send your answer to me. I will forward it to her.

The gentleman from Chezal-Benoit

Saint-Pierre church in Chezal-Benoît houses a set of 54 stalls dating from the late 15th century, built for the Benedictine monks of the abbey. These oak stalls, listed as Historic Monuments on 1 December 1913, are of a high quality from the point of view of the joinery and feature sculpted elements with a wide variety of iconography.

Les jouées bear religious scenes or coats of arms, while the misericords and hand rests are made up of sculptures of a more secular inspiration. The figures are numerous, playing music, presenting an object, a book, a phylactery, etc. This is the case of the arm-rest NH 3-4, which shows a man sitting sideways on the moulding of the partition, covered in a loose, long garment that looks comfortable and shows only the toe of his shoe.

His headdress leaves abundant curls of hair protruding on either side of his face, and is extended by three elongated panels that cover his upper back. The face is that of an elderly man, wearing bezicles, with a full beard divided into two parts.

A banderole unfurls in his lap, which he holds in his right hand, while his left index finger points towards his chest. The banderole reads 'damoyseau'.

In the Middle Ages, a damoyseau was a young gentleman who had not yet been knighted. He accompanied his lord on hunts and journeys, and served at table...

But the word also has an ironic meaning when it refers to a man who plays the gallant with the ladies when his age should have taught him wisdom...

This hand rest intrigues me! If the word damoyseau is indeed from the end of the 15th century, and therefore in the hand of the sculptor, we can wonder about the sculptor's intentions: did he want to make fun of this elderly man who refers to himself as a damoyseau? Could this mockery have been aimed at a specific person, a real person who lived in Chezal-Benoît at the time the stalls were made? The answer to this last question can probably only be found in local archives... But I'd like your opinion on this little sculpture.

Álvaro López Gadea is a new member of ICONostalla. He is a PhD student at the Department of Theory & History of Architecture and Technical Communication, Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona (ETSAB), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). His thesis project is named *Atlas musicae sacra. A cartography of musical and liturgical architectures in Renaissance and Baroque Spain*, with the supervision of professor Carolina B. García-Estévez (UPC). The thesis proposal explores the connections between architecture and music theory, and the literary ecclesiastical works to understand how they defined architectures for the production and execution of music during the Catholic liturgy in Countereform Spain.

Charles Pàmies published the article about the Girona Cathedral virtual choir in DISEGNARECON. You can read it [here](#).

He also got an article approved about Gaudi's School cover for the *Congresso della Unione Italiana per il Disegno* in September 2024

Charles is also finishing a paper on reconstructions of Gothic choir parts using CNC techniques.

You can follow his activities on his social media:

[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Artstation](#)

[Sketchfab](#)

The [Stalla-database](#) is constantly being updated with new records and images of medieval choir stalls.

Records and images of the following stalls are entered since winter 2023 until now:

- Beaulieu-lès-Loches
- Blaision-Gohier
- Chezal-Benoit
- Cormery
- Issoudun
- Jarzé
- Kidlington
- Leuven, Sint-Pieterskerk
- Oxford, Chapel of Magdalen College
- Oxford, Chapel of New College
- Rouez

Other

The Mechelen Society for Urban Archaeology (VZW) has just published a book entitled: "The archaeological excavations of the former Mechelen Friars Minor site revisited".

It discusses the various excavations that have taken place at the church since 1936. The main focus is on the work carried out by the former Mechelen Society for Archaeology in the years 1984 - 1986. The extensive files were preserved but never came to publication.

The book presents new interpretations of the archaeological observations made at the time. Important here was the surprising finding that there were choir stalls in the monastery church during the late medieval period. Nothing of the actual pews survived. However, the archaeologists did find stone foundations in the choir, indicating on the gospel side and the epistle side where the choir stalls stood. No written primary sources were found to date that mention choir stalls in this church.

Available to order for €25 via

MVSA

Paardenstraatje 3,

2800 Mechelen

Don't forget to renew your membership before 2024 using the form below.

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France

Mail :

frederic.billiet@gmail.com

willy.piron@ru.nl

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