



ICONOstalla
Misericordia International

Newsletter nr. 35 (July 2025)

Network ICONOstalla Misericordia International



Mathieu de Waeyer, *David, king of Judah*,
1540-1544, Louvain, St Geertrude's Church ©
Willy Piron

Dear members,

In this newsletter you will find the activities of our association and its members. Last May we had our biennial colloquium in cooperation with ARDS Leuven. We had a very successful colloquium with more than 60 participants. It was all wonderfully organised by Marjan Debaene, Hannah de Moor and Anna Liefsoens of Museum M. We would like to thank them very much for their hospitality and their work.

We also held a General Meeting whose minutes you will find further on in this Newsletter.

If, by any chance, you have not yet paid 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

XVIth ICONOstalla Misericordia International colloquium

COLOUR IN THE CHOIR. POLYCHROMY ON LATE-MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE CHURCH FURNITURE

16th ICONostalla Misericordia International colloquium and 12th ARds Annual Conference on Current Research in Medieval and Renaissance Sculpture Leuven (BE), M Leuven, 21-23 May 2025.

Some Impressions



Organising committee, left to right: Marja Debaene, Willy Piron, Christel Theunissen, Hannah de Moor, Anna Liefsoens, Frédéric Billiet, Jos Koldeweij





Minutes General Meeting Iconostalla Misericordia International, Museum M Leuven, 20 May 2025

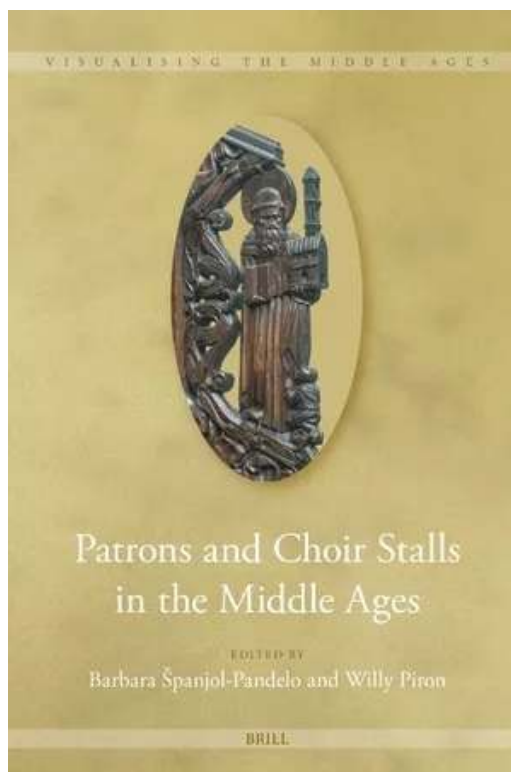
Present: Frédéric Billiet (chair), Patrick Burée, Charles Indekeu, Jos Koldeweij, Žana Matulić Bilač, Martijn Remmen, Anja Seliger, Giles Stacey, Christel Theunissen, Ingrid van de Woudenberg, Miki Witmond, Willy Piron (secretary).
Absent: Kristiane Lemé-Hébuterne, Patrick Lemé, Lorenzo Mascheretti, Vooravit Roonthiva

Opening by the chair Frédéric Billiet

- Frédéric and Christel will open een ICONOstalla instagram-account.
- Frédéric compiles a list of all colloquia with the topics and years. He will have these checked by Kristiane. Willy will then distribute it to the members of ICONOSTalla.
- Next General Meeting is 9 and 10 May 2026 in Saint-Martin-aux-Bois (F).
- Next Colloquium: May-June 2027. Nothing is decided yet in terms of location and theme. It is agreed that the members present will explore the various options. Options are put forward:
 - Leon Lock of 'The Low countries Sculpture Society' offers his help. The colloquium could be organised in Mons (B)
 - Barcelona (Vooravit Roonthiva and Carlos Pamié); theme could be 'New technology regarding research on choir stalls'
 - Venice (Joanne Allen, Lorenzo Mascheretti)

- Tuscany (Žana Matulić Bilač and Max Planck Institut); theme could be 'function of choir stalls'.
 - Bourg-en Bresse
- MoU Musiconis (Sorbonne), Index of medieval Art (Princeton University) and Stalla (Radboud University) on collaboration regarding images is in preparation by Frédéric.
 - Proceedings Colloquium 2018 Rijeka: are expected end of July 2025.
 - Proceedings Colloquium 2023 Vendôme: Kristiane Lemé is working on it. Centre François-Garnier will publish it.
 - Proceedings Colloquium 2025 Leuven: The proceedings will be published by ARDS and the speakers will receive an e-mail about this shortly.
 - Current affairs:
 - Financial report: There is €3590 in the bank account and nothing else to report.
 - The fee for membership of ICONOstalla stays the same: € 20,- for members, free for students. Frédéric will create a QR code to make paying easier for members.
 - The board was re-elected. Willy announced that this will be his last year as secretary, provided a successor is found.
 - There being no other matters, the chair closed the meeting.

Professor Gaétan Cassina (University of Lausanne) has written a very positive review of *Lexicon of medieval choir stalls / Liturgical furniture of the 13th to 16th centuries* in the 'Swiss Journal of Art and Archaeology' (RAA) - National Museum Zurich (ZAK, Band 81, Heft 4/2024) You can read the review [here](#).



The proceedings of the **Colloquium in Rijeka** in 2018 are expected end of July 2025.

You can find more information [here](#).

Member's publications and activities

RSA San Francisco 2026 CFP
Renaissance Intarsia

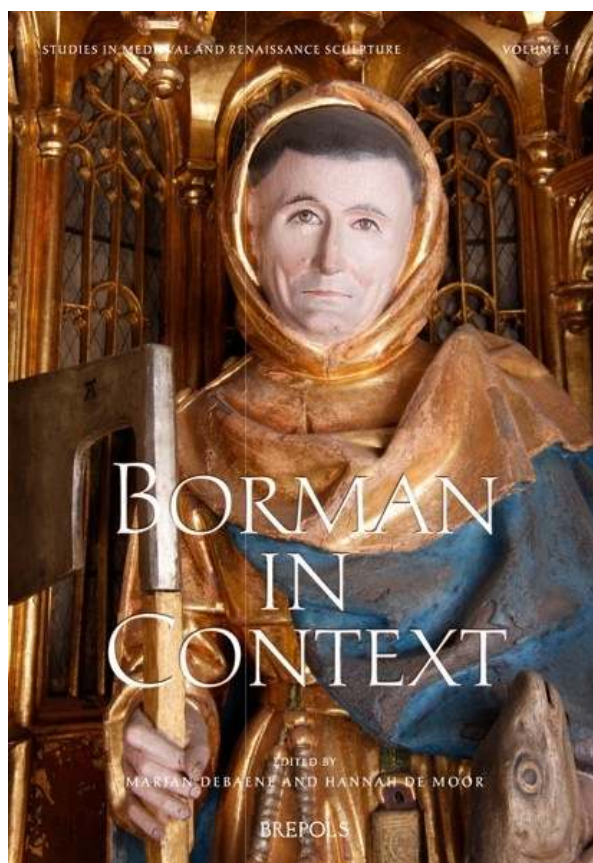
In the Renaissance, the technique of wood intarsia emerged as a highly valued art form, transforming humble materials into breathtaking pictorial narratives, illusionistic spaces, and symbolic meditations. From the celebrated *studioli* of Urbino and Gubbio, where intarsia created immersive environments of intellectual contemplation, to the elaborate choir stalls and sacristy cupboards of monastic churches and cathedrals, intarsia served as a powerful visual language. It was a medium through which princely patrons articulated their erudition and power, religious institutions conveyed theological doctrines, and civic bodies projected their cultural aspirations. The meticulous arrangement of different woods, often stained or scorched to achieve subtle gradations of color and texture, allowed *intarsiatori* to render complex perspectives, detailed figural scenes, and masterful trompe l'oeil effects, blurring the lines between art and reality.

This session seeks to explore the multifaceted dimensions of Renaissance intarsia (both in Italy and beyond), delving into its rich history, diverse applications, and enduring significance. It aims to foster a dynamic discussion that sheds new light on the artistic techniques, the intellectual frameworks that informed its iconography, the patrons who commissioned these extraordinary works, and the broader cultural contexts in which intarsia flourished.

Abstracts are due to Joanne Allen, American University by July 25:
drjoanneallen@gmail.com

Please follow the abstract guidelines provided by RSA:

- paper title (15-word maximum)
- paper abstract (200-word maximum) RSA: "A good abstract will state the topic and argument and will inform specialists in the field of what is new about the research. Generalities known to everyone or research that a scholar intends to do but has not yet begun are not appropriate. Relevant information, e.g., the presentation of a newly discovered manuscript or work of art, should be included."
- resume (.pdf or .doc upload)
- PhD or other terminal degree completion year (past or expected)
- full name, current affiliation, and email address.



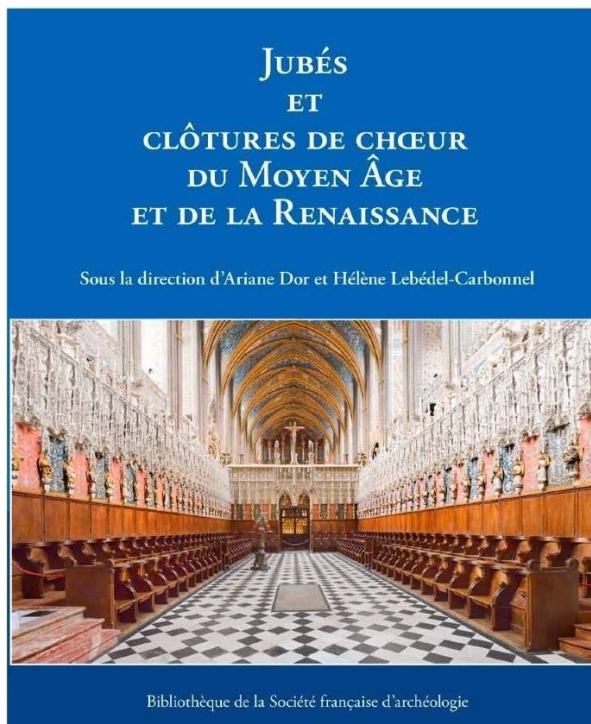
Borman in Context, edited by Majan Debaene and Hannah de Moor including a contribution by Christel Theunissen entitled *Lost and Found: Tracing the Origin of Scattered Choir Stall Fragments*. Available to order [here](#).

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 2024 until now:

- Allanche
- Barjols
- Basel Basler Münster
- Besse-et-Saint-Anastaise
- Bridgwater
- Dunblane
- Edinburgh, National Museum of Scotland
- Edlesborough
- Glasgow, Burrell Collection
- Holdgate
- Le Puy-Notre-Dame
- Lincluden
- Lochgilphead
- Ludlow
- Middlezoy
- Orebić
- Poreč
- Poulaines
- Prees
- Rigny-Ussé
- Tong

Other



There has been a new publication out on rood screens that may be of interest to our members. You can find the order form [here](#).

The collaboration between **ARDS** and ICONostalla was very successful. **ARDS** is a network platform aiming to generate and promote knowledge about Western European medieval and Renaissance sculpture. Its goal is to increase the interest from both specialists and the broader public in this segment of Art History. If you are interested you can subscribe to the **ARDS** newsletter at www.ards.be.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2025 using the form below.

Subscription 2025

Name:
Address :
Zipcode and country:
Email:
University, Institution:
Field of expertise:

Members are requested to offer their publications for our documentation center. Please send your recent publications by mail.

Please send this form by mail and by post with the payment (in euros) to:

Misericordia International
29, rue Emile Forichon
F - 36230 Neuvy-Saint-Sépulchre
France

Mail :
frederic.billiet@gmail.com
willy.piron@ru.nl

Fee for 2025
Active members: € 20,-
Students: free
Honorary members: from € 20,-

You can make a bank transfer on
the Association Misericordia International's account
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