

Welcome to the conference:

EPIGRAPHICS IN AN INTERMEDIAL CONTEXT

Auditorium 2, Georg Sverdrups hus (The University Library), Oslo, campus Blindern

Wednesday 16th of November 2016

- 13.00–13.45 Welcome and introduction. **Terje Spurkland**: *What is this all about?!*
- 13.45–15.15 **Lisbeth Imer**: *In the beginning was the word* and
Rikke Steenholt Olesen: *The contribution of medieval amulets to language history*
- 15.15–15.30 Short break
- 15.30–16.15 **Elise Kleivane**: *Epigraphic Ave Maria as evidence of Medieval literacy*
- 16.15–17.00 **Katherine Forsyth**: *The only way is up? Layout and letterforms for the origin and development of the ogham script*

Thursday 17th of November 2016

- 9.00–9.45 **Kristel Zilmer**: *Runic sticks as media of Medieval communication*
- 9.45–10.30 **Elisabeth Okasha**: *Runic script and Roman script in Anglo-Saxon inscriptions*
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee-break
- 10.00–11.45 **Jan Erik Rekdal**: *Cultural memory and the archaism of writing – inscriptions where Irish and Norse meet*
- 11.45–12.30 **Marco Bianchi**: *Stones on paper*
- 12.30–13.30 Lunch
- 13.30–14.15 **Annika Ström**: *Latin inscriptions on tombstones and church bells in Medieval Sweden*
- 14.15–15.00 **Anthony Harvey**: *Philological considerations set in stone: Looking again at the early Medieval inscriptions of Wales*
- 15.00–15.30 Coffee-break
- 15.30–16.15 **Svein Harald Gullbekk**: *Epigraphy and Coins in 11th century Scandinavia*
- 16.15–17.00 **Magnus Källström**: *Haraldær stenmæstari – Haraldus magister: A case study on the interaction between runes and Roman script*

Friday 18th of November 2016

- 10.00–10.45 **Jonas Nordby**: *Demanding cryptic runes*
- 10.45–11.30 **Alessia Bauer**: *Manuscript runes in an intermedial perspective*
- 11.30–12.00 Summing up. **Terje Spurkland**: *What was this about?*
- 12.00 Lunch

The conference is funded by:



UiO : Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies
University of Oslo

Invitation and background information about the topic for the conference:

EPIGRAPHICS IN AN INTERMEDIAL CONTEXT

In connection with an initiative within Old Norse and Celtic philology at the Department for Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Oslo, we will host a conference that takes place at the **University of Oslo, campus Blindern**, on the **16th–18th of November 2016**.

The study of epigraphics represents an important part of Old Norse, Celtic and Medieval studies. The subject of the present investigation will be all kinds of inscriptions from north-western Europe, such as runic inscriptions, Roman letter inscriptions and Ogham, from the Viking Age and Medieval Period. By focusing on inscriptions with different writing systems, we aim to open up for comparative analyses of Scandinavian and Insular epigraphical records and their functions.

Interpretations of epigraphical texts are, more than texts in manuscripts, dependent on the material context carrying them. This context should be taken into consideration in order to get a better understanding of the inscriptions which often are rather short and laconic. The object on which the text is written, will in most cases give insight into the situational context the written communication was produced in, and hereby reveal the function it may have had. In connection to this, we may ask to what extent the carver was aware of the material and kind of object he was using. This opens for the possibility that different speech acts required specific materials and artefacts, and a question in relation to that is if we then may observe different kinds of *literacy* at play.

Intermediality is an important aspect in the study of epigraphics. The range of definitions of intermediality is quite wide: in a narrow sense intermediality is the combination and adaptation of very diverse material vehicles of representation, for example text and image. In a broader sense it could also be meant as two separated variants of one medium, through which a particular function can be achieved, by highlighting parts of text.

In our opinion different writing systems – such as runes, Roman letters and Ogham – can be considered as distinct media, and we intend to explore their interaction and the interplay between writing and ornamentation or other paratextual features, as well as their lay-out. In addition we consider the use of more than one language – Nordic, Latin, Celtic and Anglo-Saxon – as a facet of intermediality.

Manuscript runes do not belong to epigraphics in a proper sense; yet they combine the epigraphical aspect they were originally meant for with the medium of book culture. For this reason *runica manuscripta* are an expression of multi- or intermediality and will be considered in the investigation.

We would like to welcome all who are interested to attend the conference. The conference is free and attendance is open for all. We would however be very grateful if you will send an email (elise.kleivane@iln.uio.no) to let us know if you are coming. Also, please contact us if you have any further questions.

Best regards,

Terje Spurkland

Elise Kleivane

Alessia Bauer



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