Early modern English and German collecting networks and practice: medicine and natural philosophy

8 and 9 June 2018
Leopoldina Centre for Science Studies
Reading Room
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The shift from a purposefully and playfully disordered Kunstkammer to the well-ordered Enlightenment museum is known. What has yet to be explored fully is the process through which this transformation occurred. This two-day workshop will investigate the role of learned societies in that transformation between England and German-speaking lands, focusing on the relatively understudied period from the foundation of the Leopoldina as a medical association (1652) to the start of the Royal Society Presidency of Joseph Banks (1778). It will explore why it was that physicians seemed to have such a seminal role in collecting and connoisseurship in both regions. Did medics in the Leopoldina, the Society of Antiquaries in London and the Royal Society have similar collecting practices, strategies, and underlying reasons for collecting? What were their contributions to the creation of wonder cabinets and early museums, as well as their development of norms of connoisseurship and classification of knowledge?

Participants will engage with the archives of the Leopoldina and the Francke Foundation’s extant Kunst- und Naturalienkammer (art and natural history cabinet) in Halle, a rare survivor from the 17th century.

This workshop is part of a networking grant award from the AHRC: Collective Wisdom: Collecting in the Early Modern Academy.

Principal Investigator: Anna Marie Roos
Co-Investigator: Vera Keller

Friday June 8, 2018

9:45 – 10 am | Welcome
Rainer Godel (Leopoldina, Halle/Saale)
Vera Keller (University of Oregon, Eugene)
Anna Marie Roos (University of Lincoln)

10 – 11 am | Plenary
Studying Nature in the City circa 1700: Danzig and Frankfurt
Julia A. Schmidt-Funke (Forschungsverbund Gotha)

Session I: Medicine and Collecting in the Academy
Chair: Anja-Silvia Goeing (Universität Zürich)

11 – 1 pm
Empathy and Education in Late Eighteenth-Century Medicine: Challenging the Anatomical Collection of the Josephinum
Anna Maerker (King’s College, London)

Medical Alchemical Materials in Mid-Seventeenth Century Collections: An Analysis of Ashmole’s Musaeum Trades-cantianum (1656) and Worm’s Musaeum Wormianum (1655)
Georgiana Hedesan (University of Oxford)

1 – 2 pm | Lunch

Session II: Natural History and Collecting
Chair: Anna Maerker (King’s College, London)

2 – 3:45 pm
Physicians and Insects – Entomological Studies and Collecting at the Royal Society and the Leopoldina
Dominik Hünninger (Göttingen Institute of Advanced Study)

‘Only meer Love to Learning’: A Rediscovered Travel Diary of Naturalist, Apothecary and Collector James Pever (c. 1665-1718)
Anna Marie Roos (University of Lincoln)

3:45 – 4:15 pm | Guided tour
Treasure for Public Benefit - A Glimpse into the Collections of the Leopoldina
by Mirko Hanke (Leopoldina, Halle/Saale)

4:15 – 4:45 pm | Coffee break
Transport to Francke Foundation

4:45 – 5:45 pm | Guided tour
Kunst- und Naturalienkammer of the Francke Foundation, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 1, 06110 Halle (Saale)

Collecting Pietist Networks, Pedagogical Purposes and Image Politics: the Cabinet of Artefacts and Natural Curiosities at the Francke Foundation
by Holger Zaunstöck (Francke Foundation, Halle/Saale)

6 – 7 pm | Concert of Baroque Chamber Music
“Englischer Saal” in the historic English House, Francke Foundation, 06110 Halle (Saale)

Saturday June 9, 2018

9:30 – 10:30 am | Plenary
Engaging with Realia in the „School of Play“: Useful Knowledge and the Turn to Pedagogical Realism in Early Modern Central Europe
Kelly Whitmer (The University of the South, Sewanee)

Session III: Curious Classification within and without the Academy
Chair: Kelly Whitmer (The University of the South, Sewanee)

10:30 – 1 pm
Something „Kunstkammerish“: Hyphenated objects in the Museology of Johann Daniel Major
Vera Keller (University of Oregon, Eugene)

Cabinet of curiosities on paper: The Miscellanea curiosa between 1670 and 1706
Fabian Krämer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

The Introduction of the Linnaean Classification System at the Francke Foundation’s Kunst- und Naturalienkammer in Halle
Thomas Ruhland (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

1 – 2 pm | Lunch

2:30 – 3:30 pm | Session IV, TBA

3:30 – 4 pm | Coffee break

4 – 5 pm | Roundtable Discussion