

The Power of the Book. Medial Approaches to Medieval Nordic Legal Manuscripts

International Workshop
19-20 August 2010



NORDEUROPA-INSTITUT



Organisation

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Nordeuropa-Institut
Prof. Dr. Lena Rohrbach
Unter den Linden 6, D-10099 Berlin
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Workshop Site

Dorotheenstraße 24
Universitätsgebäude am Hegelplatz, Haus 3
1st floor, room 3.134



Contact and Registration

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registration fee: 20 € / 5 € (students)

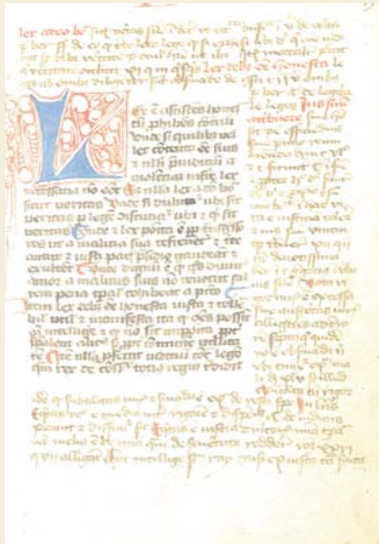
The transmission of Nordic legal manuscripts begins in the middle of the thirteenth century and extends long into modernity. These legal manuscripts form a large proportion of all Nordic codices handed down to us. The legal texts recorded in these codices are well known, and substantial work has been done on the textual evidence in the past decades. The nature of the codices as objects, as books with particular material characteristics – such as format, illuminations, rubrications, paratexts, choice of language, patterns of compilation and the like – has to this date received only isolated analysis. As an attempt to move beyond the merely descriptive, as implied by material, into a consideration of how these features constitute and communicate meaning, this workshop will focus on the medial qualities of such material features.

This workshop aims to bring together scholars from different disciplines working on such material and medial aspects of medieval Nordic legal manuscripts. Questions at the heart of the workshop will be: How do the material features interact and interfere with the texts? What do these features tell us about the use of these manuscripts as well as about the (changing) social functions of the legal texts? What were the scribal centres and who were the scribes of legal manuscripts in the four Nordic countries? Can we detect different traditions in the Nordic countries, and how are they related to the rest of Europe?

Wednesday, 18 August 2010

Thursday, 19 August 2010

Friday, 20 August 2010



- 17.00 Welcome
- 18.00 Guided Tour through Berlin

- 9.15 Introduction
- 9.45 Per Andersen (Århus Universitet)
The Power of the Law: Danish Law Manuscripts and the Legal Culture's Conception of the Power of the Book
- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Patricia Pires Boulhosa (University of Cambridge)
The Order of the Text and Layout in Konungsþók
- 11.45 Lena Rohrbach (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Matrix of the Law? A Material-Medial Study of Staðarhólsbók
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Anna Catharina Horn (Universitetet i Oslo)
Production and Reception of the Old Norwegian Common Law 1274-1400
- 14.45 Friederike Richter (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Pictorial Strategies in Jónsbók and the Mirror of the Saxons
- 15.30 Coffee
- 16.00 Karl G. Johansson/Lena Liepe (Universitetet i Oslo)
Text and Images in Norwegian and Icelandic 14th c. Law Books

- 9.00 Már Jónsson (Háskóli Íslands)
The Size of Medieval Icelandic Law Books
- 9.45 Patrik Åström (Stockholm universitet)
Codex, Bosses and Leaf Markers: Reflections on the Social Significance of Book Design
- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Jonas Carlquist (Umeå universitet)
The Birgittine Lucidarium as Witness of the Life at Vadstena Abbey's Female Convent
- 11.45 Stefan Brink (University of Aberdeen)
Who, Why and How – The Background to and Usage of Swedish Provincial Laws
- 12.30 Coffee
- 12.45 Final Discussion