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Call for Papers

VOL 25

Intersections

Yearbook
for Early
Modern
Studies

Foundation, Dedication,
and Consecration Rituals
in Early Modern Culture

Intersections Yearbook for Early Modern Studies

INTERSECTIONS brings together new material on well considered themes within the wide area of Early Modern Studies. Contributions may come from any of the disciplines within the humanities. The themes are directed towards hitherto little explored areas or reflect a lively debate within the international community of scholars.

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Call for Papers for Volume 25

Foundation, Dedication, and Consecration Rituals in Early Modern Culture

Throughout history, mankind has associated the founding of cities, buildings, and institutions with the foundational moments of a society as a whole. Because of the mythic aura and sacrosanct stature of founders, the act of foundation itself has been invested with celebratory acts of considerable scale and expenditure. With marked foundation and inauguration ceremonies, early modern buildings, such as the Amsterdam Town Hall, the Escorial near Madrid, or St Peter's in Rome, became part of communities with their own beliefs, fears and hopes. At the laying of the first stone, the inauguration of a new church or institution, or the embarking upon new territory, multiple preoccupations and agendas were at play. The foundation rituals were thus invested with highly specific ideas about identity, memory and meaning.

This volume of essays wants to investigate, first of all, the ritual aspect of foundation and dedication acts in the early modern period. Which models were deemed most successful to convey the messages of authority and authenticity inherent to the acts of foundation? How did the foundation and occupation of territory translate into claims of patrons and juridical thought? To what extent were ritual models considered universal and applicable to the situation of, for instance, the New World?

We are also very much interested in papers discussing the massive material and ephemeral artifacts generated by foundation rituals in the early modern period, e.g. foundation medals, building deposits, sermons pronounced at the dedication ceremonies, commemorative prints, poems and inscriptions.

Finally, we are welcoming papers on the reception and appropriation of founders and founding acts in early modern historiography. The interest in the histories of cities, churches, and organizations generated an unprecedented *hausse* in historiography, in which founding acts were important and recurring ingredients. Early modern biographies of important rulers or saints not only included foundation acts, but often appeared when buildings carrying their name were dedicated, or even re-dedicated.