

## FELLOWSHIP FINAL REPORT

# Museion. From Space to Place: Rebuilding Memory Institutions

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## REPORT INFO

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Hamburger kolleg  
*Host laboratory in region Centre-Val  
de Loire:* CESR  
*Host scientist:* **Benoist Pierre**  
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## ABSTRACT

*This research project is at the crossroads of museography, digital humanities, and Library science. It aims to analyze the transformation of physical areas in heritage spaces (museums, libraries, archives) consequent to the development of digital humanities. Until the present time, research in museography and library science has taken parallel paths that rarely converge. However, today museums, libraries and archives are obliged to rethink their public spaces in light of the fact that new practices of their often identical publics, navigate into virtual worlds generated by the digital revolution. The crucial question today is how to design and develop these new heritage spaces by offering a real dialogue between the physical collections and the digital humanities projects that are developed from them. Our research project aims to take stock of the research carried out in innovative places in order to propose new ways of developing heritage spaces in line with the current of the public. Six geographical areas will be considered (France, Belgium, Netherlands, England, Denmark, and Switzerland).*

## 1- Introduction

The fellowship started on the day of the second confinement in France, forcing us to reconsider the entire research proposal, as it became impossible to travel or visit cultural sites. Simply conducting video interviews was not satisfactory given the architectural analysis dimension of the project. In consultation with LE STUDIUM and Benoist Pierre (CESR), we have reoriented the project, collaborating with several CESR departments (Ricerca, Digital Humanities, Latin) to collaborate more locally than internationally. The research project covered three areas: museography, philology and history of ideas. On the institutional level, we have put our experience and our network at the service of the "Intelligence des Patrimoines" laboratory.

## 2- Experimental details

The COVID-19 situation gave us the opportunity to observe what new digital strategies were being developed in museums. We subscribed to 30 museum newsletters and followed the activity and reports of several institutions such as ICOMOS (UNESCO), EU guidelines, NEMO (Network of European organisations), the University of Graz (website "Museum digital initiatives during the Coronavirus Pandemic"), etc.

On the philological level: a project on Renaissance Latin, based on the figures of Erasmus, Christophe Plantin, Adrien Turnèbe and Guillaume Morel. The work on Erasmus was carried out with students in the CESR Latin seminar and with researchers in the context of a

printed publication. The edition of Turnèbe and Morel letters was published. An exhibition and publication on the work of the Antwerp printer Christoph Plantin are planned.

At the level of the history of ideas: organisation of 3 international colloquia (Milan, Tours, Brussels) around the work of the historian of the book and the Reformation Jean-François Gilmont.

### 3- Results and discussion

#### [Museography]

A first reflection was developed by videoconference in a seminar organised by the Cervantes Institute in the framework of "El humanismo en la esfera pública y sus instituciones" in December 2020. One lecture was delivered alone, and another in dialogue with Dr. Ottmar Ette from the University of Potsdam on the theme "Humanismo en la era digital."

A general presentation of the innovative projects in progress was given on 3 March 2021 at the CESR, in the RICERCAR laboratory, to feed the reflection on their mediation projects (Virtual Music Heritage). The director of Ricercar then invited me to participate in the group of musicologists' weekly meetings to bring my expertise on the mediation aspects.

The second state of research was presented in a video conference at the European Commission on 15 April 2021 (Museums in the face of Covid: the birth of a digital humanism or of an entertainment society?) This presentation led to several requests for more focused interviews, notably with three sociologists from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Marie-Laure Bernon, Irène Bastard and Floriane Zaslavsky) on the audience of online exhibitions on 21 May 2021. The EACEA Agency, which manages the Erasmus+ and Europe Creative programmes, proposed to me another seminar. The date has yet to be set.

A new state of research has been presented at the STUDIUM Thursdays on 9 September 2021.

Following these presentations, I participated in a reflection with the philosopher Catherine Larrère and the president of RESES (Réseau Étudiant pour une Société Écologique et Solidaire), Pia Benguigui, in order to deliver a proposal for a new cultural platform within the Cité des sciences de la Villette in Paris. A report on this future "city of the environment" was submitted to the president of Universcience, Bruno Maquart, on 4 July 2021.

#### [Philology]

At the CESR, Professor Concetta Penutto asked to lead, with her and Daniel Saulnier, a workshop on Renaissance Latin, around a text by Erasmus that I had already edited in 2006, "Abbatis et eruditae", in March and April 2021 (12, 26 March and 9, 19, 26 April). In parallel with this work on Erasmus, I have finalised for Brepols a volume that I co-edited on the New Testament of 1516. I also took advantage of the fellowship to finalise another work, an edition of the correspondence of two scholarly printers of the second half of the sixteenth century, Adrien Turnèbe and Guillaume Morel. Given the quality of the sixteenth-century editions published by Christophe Plantin, I took advantage of my stay to study the editions preserved in Tours in the CESR library and to lay the groundwork for a biography to be published in 2023 by the London publisher Reaktion Books.

#### [The history of ideas.]

Together with Professor Chiara Lastraioli, Professor of Italian at the CESR and Director of the Humanist Virtual Libraries, we organised three study days collaborating with Professors Edoardo Barbieri and Luca Rivali of the University of Milan, and Wouter Bracke of the University of Brussels. These days aimed to put into methodological perspective the reflections developed in the work of Jean-François

Gilmont on the history of the book and the history of the Reformation. The first colloquium was held in Milan on 27 April, "Jean-François Gilmont (1934-2020) storico del libro" with 8 speakers from Switzerland, Belgium, France, and Israel (<https://centridiricerca.unicatt.it/creleb-2021-jean-francois-gilmont-1934-2020-storico-del-libro>). The day in Tours at the CESR took place on 15 June and brought together 11 speakers from France, Belgium, the United States, Italy and Switzerland (<https://cesr.univ-tours.fr/en-ligne-le-livre-et-ses-secrets-etudes-en-souvenir-de-jean-francois-gilmont-1934-2020>). The last day will take place after the end of my fellowship in Brussels on 24 November. A publication of the proceedings of the first two days is already in progress with the publisher Brepols in the Renaissance Studies collection of the CESR.

[At the institutional level]

Given the pandemic situation, I was not able to collaborate with the "Intelligence of Heritage" laboratory. The dispersion of the teams during the COVID-19 crisis did not allow me to meet and develop projects as I had hoped. Nevertheless, at the request of my scientific host, Benoist Pierre, I participated in January in drafting the strategic document and the project sheet of the ARD CVL "Programme Intelligence des Patrimoines" in the framework of the framework new subsidy programme. In this context, I put Benoist Pierre in touch with the Digital Humanities Laboratory of the EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), directed by Frédéric Kaplan, head of the European Time Machine programme. EPFL became a partner in the project.

When I heard about the collaboration of the Department of History and the CESR with the University of UQAM in Montreal, I arranged a videoconference meeting between Benoist Pierre, Elena Pierazzo (responsible for Digital Humanities at the CESR) and Louise Déry, Director of the Galerie de l'UQAM and Professor in the Department of Art History at UQAM. This meeting took place on May 31, and allowed to consider new ways to welcome CESR students when they go to Canada. The

relationship now continues directly between Benoist Pierre, Elena Pierazzo and Louise Déry.

#### **4- Conclusion**

In conclusion, although I was naturally disappointed not to be able to implement the project I had submitted to STUDIUM, and not to be able to develop a scientific collaboration with the "Intelligence des Patrimoines" laboratory. Nevertheless, this fellowship year was intellectually very stimulating and allowed me to collaborate and carry out a large number of projects, not so much in the field of digital humanities or museography, but rather in that of humanistic studies.

The CESR library had the majority of my scientific production, but after discussion with the librarian, I donated 23 publications, in series that I edited for different publishers, to the CESR library and to the University library (Tanners).

#### **5- Perspectives of future collaborations with the host laboratory**

Three collaborative projects have emerged from my fellowship. The first one is with Elena Pierazzo, who invited me to be part of the scientific committee and to present a lecture for the conference she will organise in 2023 at the CESR on orthography in the Renaissance.

In the field of digital humanities, Elena Pierazzo wanted us to collaborate with the visiting professor at CESR, Dr. Øyvind Eide, Institut für Digital Humanities - Historisch-Kulturwissenschaftliche Informationsverarbeitung, Universität zu Köln. Professor Eide works mainly on data modelling issues. In this context, he invited me on 19 January 2022 to present the reflection and the DH projects I have initiated in the museums and libraries where I have worked.

In 2022, I will organise with Professor Concetta Pennuto a colloquium at the CESR "Voices of authority, voices of narrative: female characters in the texts of Erasmus and the humanists".

In 2022, the proceedings of the colloquia we organised with Chiara Lastraioli will be published. I am currently working on the edition of the texts. The book will be published in the Renaissance Studies collection of the CESR, directed by Benoist Pierre and Philippe Vendrix.

## 6- Articles published in the framework of the fellowship

### [Books]

- *Le Nouveau Testament d'Erasmus (1516). Regards sur l'europe des humanistes*, ed. Thierry Amalou et A. Vanautgaerden, 2020. XX+370 p., 19 colour ill., 7 b/w tables.
- *Adrien Turnèbe et Guillaume Morel, médecins des textes, médecins des âmes, les préfaces de deux imprimeurs érudits*, ed. Marie Barral-Baron, Judith Kecskeméti, A. Vanautgaerden, 2020, XVIII+527 p.

### [Articles]

- "Print and Humanism: Portrait of Erasmus as a paper oracle", in *Companion to Erasmus*, ed. Eric Mc Phail, Leyden, Brill, 2022 (to be published).
- "Libraries: what can we learn from this fast-reinventing field?", *Spokes*, the science engagement magazine, 2022, 74 (April 2022). To be published.
- "Les trois vies de Jean-François Gilmont (1934-2020)", *Bulletin de la Société française d'Etude du Seizième siècle*, 2022 (to be published).

### [Report]

- *Le forum de la Terre. Propositions pour une cité de l'environnement à Universcience* (Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris), 2021, 35 p. Avec Catherine Larrère et Pia Benguigui.

- *ARD CVL Intelligence des Patrimoines*, Dossier de soumission, février 2021. Collaboration with Intelligence des Patrimoines team.

### [Review]

- Bibliothèque Humanisme Renaissance, Geneva, Vol. 83-2 (2021), pp. 374-377, of the book: Valentina Sebastiani, *Johann Froben, Printer of Basel. A Biographical Profile and Catalogue of His Editions*, Leiden, Brill (Library of the Written Word, Volume: 65), 2018, 830 pp.

### [Evaluation]

- "Anabases. Traditions and Receptions from Antiquity to the Renaissance » : "From Eroded and Crystallized Antiques to Acrylic on Canvas Capricci. The uchronies of Daniel Arsham", 2022, vol. 34.

## 7- Acknowledgements

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I would first like to thank my scientific host, Benoist Pierre, for his benevolent welcome. At the CESR, after months of great solitude, because of the confinement, I had the happiness to be invited within the community of musicologists. The Ricercar team, led by Professor Philippe Vendrix, was an absolute ray of light. The high level of intellectual exchange in their meetings and the open-mindedness that reigns there have been very stimulating. I want to thank them warmly. I would also like to thank Professor Chiara Lastraioli for the ease with which we could organise the study days "The

book and its secrets". It was also a great joy to reconnect with the students in the Latin seminars with Concetta Pennuto and Daniel Saulnier. I want to thank them for allowing me to participate and to lead this seminar. I contacted with Elena Pierazzo, head of the Digital Humanities department at CESR, relatively late during the fellowship, but I would like to thank her for her ability to immediately imagine collaborative projects that we will be able to carry out in the future.

I would like to thank the CESR services. First, the CESR librarian, Ms Agnès Journet, who always facilitated our research. To thank her, I have offered the library the books of the collections I manage at Brepols, which had not been acquired by CESR, in order to complete the CESR collections. 23 publications were donated, both to CESR and to the Tanneurs University Library. Thanks also to Jean-Louis Bouteiller from the IT department for his availability.