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The Committee for the Nomination of St. Gertrude as a Doctor of the Church

The nomination of St. Gertrude as a Doctor of the Church is a project led since 2012 by the Benedictine and Cistercian Orders, to obtain recognition of the eminence of her doctrine, which involves orthodoxy, originality, universality, opportunity, validity, and a broad influence over the centuries. In promoting these panels the Committee looks to foster historical, linguistic, and literary studies on St. Gertrude's work and to provide opportunities to spread their results to the scholarly community.



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

53th International Congress on Medieval Studies Cistercian and Monastic Studies Conference Kalamazoo - May 10-13, 2018



Panels on the work of St. Gertrude the Great: *The Herald of the God's Loving-Kindness*

The discovery of some new manuscripts of *The Herald* during the last twenty-five years raises new questions about Helfta's writings.

In 2008, during an inventory of medieval manuscripts in the University Library of Leipzig, some passages from Book 2 of *The Herald of God's Loving-Kindness*, by St. Gertrude of Helfta, were discovered in the manuscript registered as Ms 827. Paleographic studies date the codex to the beginning of the 14th century, making it the oldest-known manuscript of *The Herald*, copied very shortly after the death of Gertrude. The Leipzig codex has significant implications for knowledge of *The Herald*, since it contains some previously unknown portions of the work, while some portions of the more familiar version of the work are absent from the newly discovered codex.



The Early Transmission of Saint Gertrude the Great's *The Herald of God's Loving-Kindness*

The transmission history of *The Herald of God's Loving-Kindness* by St. Gertrude the Great refers to questions such as these: How has the work reached us? How did it circulate? In what geographical areas and in what historical periods has it been copied? Partly because the original manuscripts of Gertrude's works remain unknown, it has long been thought that she was forgotten until the publication of 1536 *editio princeps* of *The Herald*. But in the last twenty-five years, several new partial manuscripts of the work have been discovered, both in Latin and German, attesting to its reception in Central and Southern Germany and so demonstrating the impact of her works across Germany. This panel focuses on the early period of *The Herald's* transmission, specifically the 14th and 15th centuries, presenting the two most important of those manuscripts, one in Latin, the other in German.

- **Dr. Almuth Märker**, German philologist and librarian at the Manuscript Center of the University Library of Leipzig, Albertina. She will present the manuscript Ms 827, focusing on the circumstances of the discovery, paleographic studies, dating, and the codex relevance in the early transmission of *The Herald*. She, along with Dr. Balázs Nemes, was the first who drew the attention of the scholars to the newly known manuscript.



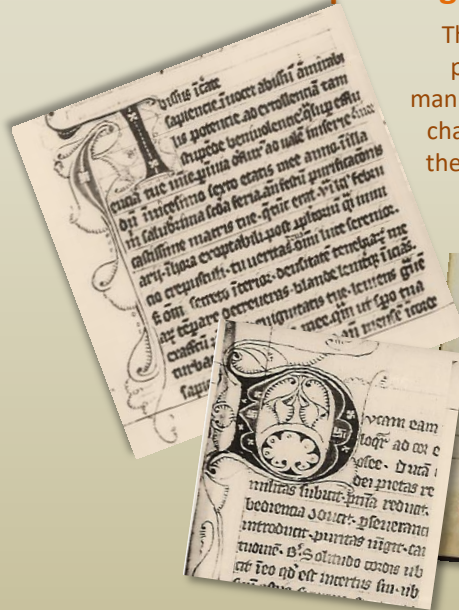
- **Dr. Racha Kirakosian**, D.Phil. Oxford University. Assistant Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Religion at Harvard University (USA).

She will present Gotha, Forschungsbibl. Cod. Chart. B 269, the oldest-known translation into German of *The Herald*.

- **Dr. Cornelia Oefelein**, specialist in the history of Helfta Monastery; she will provide a historical framework on Helfta cloister's relationships with other monasteries in Germany in the 14th and 15th centuries.



Decorations and paintings in Ms 827



The decorations and paintings in Leipzig manuscript Ms 827 pose a challenge to determine the dating and origin of the codex.

Questions about *The Herald of God's Loving-Kindness* raised by the discovery of Leipzig manuscript, Ms 827

This panel focuses on *The Herald's* composition history, that is, the text's production process. We know the redactional history of the currently known version of *The Herald* as it has been described in the text itself. But Ms 827 offers new elements, in part agreeing with, and in part differing from what we already know. This fact raises new questions, such as the determination of the circumstances of redaction, the role played by the *Redactrix* (the work's anonymous compiler), the original order of St. Gertrude's Second Book, and the reason for the differences of content between the two versions. The panel to discuss these issues, will be composed of

- **Dr. Balázs J. Nemes**, Senior Lecturer of Medieval German Studies at Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg (Germany), author of several articles on Leipzig Ms 827.



- **Dr. Alexandra Barratt**, Emeritus Professor at the University of Waikato (New Zealand), English translator of St. Gertrude's work.

- **Sr. Ana Laura Forastieri, OCSO**, a Cistercian nun and representative of the Cause for the Nomination of St. Gertrude as a Doctor of the Church.

