Lost Treasures. The stained glass windows of St. Maria ad Gradus in Cologne and their donors

Having been one of the biggest and most important cities of the Holy Roman Empire, the German city of Cologne was in late medieval time not only famous for its wide-stretched trade relations and successful merchants but also for its beautifully and richly decorated churches. Over 100 chapels, parish, collegiate and monastery churches existed in late medieval Cologne. In these churches a large amount of magnificent stained glass windows could be found. This presentation deals with some aspects of the PhD thesis, the speaker is working on in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz and their Academy Project Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevi. The aim is, to give the audience an insight into the fascinating topic of medieval stained glass windows and to demonstrate how the speaker’s work will provide new knowledge in the field of the research on stained glass donations and the people who financed them.

The presentation focuses on the late Middle Ages, that is to say, the time of the 15th century, and on the German city Cologne. Answers will be given to questions, such as “Is it possible to reconstruct the medieval stained glass windows of a church although the church does not exist anymore?” or “Who were the people who donated stained glass windows and what was their relationship to the church for which they made their donation?”.

The presentation does not only appeal to students of history and art history but also to students and interested people of other disciplines.