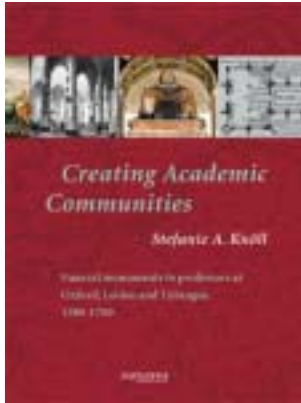


PRESS RELEASE
EQUILIBRIS NEW TITLE

Creating Academic Communities - Funeral monuments to professors at Oxford, Leiden and Tübingen, 1580-1700



This volume explores 17th-century funerary monuments to professors in three North-European Protestant university towns. It deals with the historical, religious and political background of each of the universities, and subsequently analyses the monuments under thematic headings. The extensive illustrated catalogue and accompanying CD-ROM with full-colour images discusses each of the memorials separately, listing all documented memorials erected to professors in these towns, together with an inter-disciplinary approach to their interpretation, biographical data and documentary sources.

It therefore constitutes an important source of information for further study of these memorials. Moreover, Stefanie Knöll proposes a typology for the study of funerary monuments, and gives a detailed examination of funerary symbolism and portraiture, also placing particular stress on the importance of inscriptions and monument location. The study argues that funerary monuments were pivotal in creating academic identities, and regards them as active mediators of the image which professors wanted to convey of themselves in order to shape and influence society. This book will form an important contribution to the understanding of the identity of professors at a time when their place in society was first established.

By bringing together this scholarship on the academic world, themes of death and mourning and the actual material culture of death, this book provides both an introduction to death rituals as practised in early modern North-European university towns, and a close analysis of related funerary monuments. The latter are particularly rewarding sources for the study of culture and the expression of beliefs. For professors – a group of patrons that has left few illustrated works of art – funerary monuments constitute a rich source of information.

“The study and the catalogue are important contributions to art history, the history of European universities and the intellectual history of late northern Humanism ... an impressive interdisciplinary achievement and a fine work of truly comparative research” - Professor Martin van Gelderen, University of Sussex

Dr Stefanie Knöll read History of Art, and German and English studies at Tübingen. After taking an MA at Oxford Brookes University, she was awarded the European doctorate in the History of Art for the present study. She is assistant-curator at the Museum for Sepulchral Culture at Kassel, Germany. She regularly publishes on her subject both in English and in German, and has also written *Die Grabdenkmale in der Stiftskirche Tübingen*.

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