

HIM, HE, THE DEVIL
EXPLORING THE LATE MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN SATAN (1400-1700)

19-20 November 2020, Convent of Noble Maidens in Odense
Keynotes Michael Bailey (Iowa) & Debra Strickland (Glasgow)

The Devil goes by many names. The slayed dragon, Lucifer, Satan. He is the tempter and the trickster, the fraud and the traitor, the King of this World. The one luring humans into sin. For a large part of the Middle Ages he was an evil force called upon, but in later history he is ever present in the earthly world interfering with human lives and is working his influence over time, corrupting souls through both body and mind.

The many faces of the Devil are the theme of this conference. Scholars have long documented changes in the perception of the Devil and the attitude towards diabolical powers during the Middle Ages and into the early modern period. In late medieval and early modern demonology, the figure and the powers of the Devil was integrated in the ideas of magic and witchcraft. In the 13th century Thomas Aquinas had argued that the Devil was the source of all kinds of magic. He was the one providing magical rituals with their effect and in order to do so, the sorcerer needed to engage in a pact with the Devil. In 1398 the Faculty of Theology at the university of Paris stated that *maleficium* could only take place with the aid of the Devil, making it idolatry, apostasy and ultimately heresy. Since at least the early high Middle Ages the Devil was on biblical grounding understood as the “roaming lion looking for something to swallow” but the belief in this presence in the world was continuously elaborated throughout the late medieval period and by the early 16th century the Devil was no longer a creature who needed to be summoned to work in the human world; he was now clearly acting on and with his own agency, making him a more terrible presence than ever before.

We are particularly interested in papers exploring

- Changes in the metaphysical and visual understanding of the Devil as well as the spaces he occupies
- How the Devil was understood to act in the world and how humans could interact with him
- Questions of gender and body in connection with the imagining of the Devil

The conference is intimate and interdisciplinary in scope; app. 12 papers and two keynote lectures. We encourage papers from all disciplines, discussions after each paper and ultimately envision the outcome as an edited volume/special issue.

The conference is convened by the National Museum, Copenhagen, and the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Southern Denmark. The conference will cover the stay and all meals during the conference but does not include travel expenses.

Deadline for abstracts (250 words max) is **1 April 2020**. Notification of the outcome will be sent out by late-April 2020. We ask that you submit an extended abstract (500-750 words) three weeks ahead of the conference.

Please note that the deadline for submission of your article is **1 May 2021**.

For more information please contact:

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The conference is sponsored by the Carlsberg Foundation and is organized by the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, SDU, and the National Museum in Copenhagen.