

Winter school Amsterdam Literary Canons and Public Space after 1800

January 18-20, 2010

This winter the Huizinga Institute, in cooperation with SPIN – Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms – offers a postgraduate winter school on the theme of *Literary Canons and Public Space after 1800*. The winter school will be held in Amsterdam and aims at advanced Research Master students and PhD students.

The topic is inspired by the realization that cultural canonicity has played a major role in the identity formation of European nations and, as such, in the process of nineteenth- and twentieth century state formation. A cult of cultural and historicist hero-worship was hugely important in this process, and among cultural hero-figures canonized and invested with national symbolism, those from the field of literature stand out in particular. From earlier patterns such as the “Poets' Corner” in Westminster Abbey, by way of the canonization of cultural and literary saints by interment in the Parisian Panthéon following 1789, the process led to the erection of statues in public spaces all over Europe, from the Scott monument in Edinburgh to the Preseren statue in Ljubljana and from the Runeberg monument in Helsinki to the Dante monument in Firenze, as well as a practice of festive commemorations and centenary celebrations that fixed the position of hypercanonical “cultural saints” in the consciousness of existing and emerging nations alike - from Scott, Schiller and Shakespeare to Camões, Cervantes and Conscience.

These developments involved all parts of Europe, East and West, North and South; they affect metropolitan centres and provincial peripheries; and they involve both long-established “old states” (Denmark, France, Portugal) and emerging “minority” nations which only in the course of the twentieth century achieved sovereignty or limited autonomy (Iceland, Ireland, Finland, Slovenia, Flanders, Galicia). They also illustrate a powerful two-way interaction between the sphere of literature, with its romantic-historicist mentality, and the public spaces and public sphere of a civil society in the urban modernization process. The dynamics of this two-way interaction are among the most interesting topics for cultural historians and the various disciplines and specialism dealing with notion of heritage and inheritance.

Registration

The winter school is open to all advanced research master students and PhD students. Students have to apply via their research master's coordinator, PhD candidates can register directly at the Huizinga Instituut (huizinga-fgw@uva.nl) arguing in writing how the theme of the winter school relates to their own research.

Deadline for application: Friday 20 November 2009

Credits

5 ECT's

Venue

Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Oude Vergaderzaal, Kloveniersburgwal 29, Amsterdam.