

**Academic Session about St. Gertrude's writings
in the International Medieval Congress 2022,
Univ. of Leeds, U.K.**

The Leipzig Ms 827 was discovered in 2006, during an inventory of medieval manuscripts in Leipzig University Library. Paleographic studies date the codex to the beginning of the 14th century, making it the oldest-known manuscript of *The Herald*, copied shortly after Gertrude died. The newly discovered codex has relevant implications for the understanding of *The Herald*, since it contains some portions of text until now unknown, while some parts present in the known version are missing.

The edition of the codex, as well as the development of the studies addressed to clarify the critical issues raised by the text, are ineludible steps to move forward in the path towards the acknowledgement of St Gertrude as a Doctor of the Church. Insofar this tasks are left to the initiative of individual scholars only, the progress in this path will be uncertain. Aware of this, the International Committee for Nomination of St Gertrude as Doctor of the Church (CNSG) assumed the challenge of the edition of the manuscript and the fostering of critical studies, from a monastic viewpoint. Holding academic sessions to discuss and spreading out the current discussion is a way to move research forward.

The first talk was on charge of *Sr. Marie-Hélène Deloffre, o.s.b.*, Saint-Michel de Kergonan Abbey, and titled: «Editing the Leipzig University Library Manuscript 827: another View of Gertrude of Helfta and her Circle». She summed up the main topics treated in the «Introduction» to the forthcoming edition of Leipzig Ms, briefly presenting the research results about issues there extensively discussed, such as authorship, dating, and historical accuracy of the events recorded in the text, roughly drawing out the chronological composition of the *Herald*. It also pointed out the main features of the spiritual theology emerging from the text and out lined a more realistic picture of Gertrude and of the Helfta community.

Following, *Dr. Elena Tealdi, Ph D.* by the Catholic Univ. of Milan, specialized in History of Christianity spoke about: «Writing and Re-Writing as a Way to “Perform” a Spiritual Text. The Case of the Legatus Divinae Pietatis in the Manuscript Leipzig, Universitätsbibliothek 827». Her paper is to offered some points of analysis of the text of Gertrude of Helfta's Legatus divinae pietatis as transmitted in the Ms. of Leipzig, moving from a comparison with the traditional version in its critical edition of the Sources Chrétiennes to face some theological and spiritual questions, such as: whether or not a mystical singular experience can be told and acknowledged; and which is the role of the community, the writer, the reader and the written text inside the complex phenomenon of the tradition, with its function of witness and recognition of the truth.

Finally, *Sr Ana Laura, Forastieri OCSO*, nun of Hinojo Monastery, Th MA candidate by the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA) spoke about: «The Florilegium of Leipzig Ms 827: A Brief Introduction and Hermeneutic Approach to its Main Issues». She presented this new work of mystical literature produced in the Helfta Monastery in the 13th century, which comes to enrich the theological corpus transmitted under the name of Saint Gertrude: «The Florilegium». It is a complete, independent, hitherto unknown work, consisting of a compilation of biblical and patristic quotations about the union of soul with God. She also introduced the main critical issues raising from the text, and offered some hermeneutic ways to solve them, interpreting the piece within the context of the whole Leipzig compilation.