Libraries of Curiosities - CfP

Cabinets of curiosities, also called Kunstkammer, panopticon, emerged in the Middle Ages gaining great popularity in modern times. Not only books, but also various types of objects belonging to archaeology, history, art, geology, or natural history, like works of art, numismatic items, antiquities, scientific instruments, naturalia, were collected by rulers, nobles, scientists, universities and libraries.

The conference Libraries of Curiosities concerns those non-book items held in the libraries. We invite you to take a part in discussion on the historical and contemporary institutional and private collections, which provide the libraries the attribute of a museum of curiosities.

The conference aims to consolidate the community of scientists - bibliologists or art historians, and also practitioners - librarians and museologists, as well as to promote less known, non-book library collections. It is a part of the program of the celebrations of the 425th anniversary of the Gdańsk Library, one of the oldest libraries in Poland the oldest unit of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Due to the pandemic restrictions, we propose an on-line event formula.

As for the subject of considerations, we propose the discussion on for example institutional and private collections of curiosities, or documents related to the collections, like inventories, catalogs (including auction catalogs). The basis for the papers can be both the preserved collections and the specific artifacts derived from them, as well as documentation allowing for the reconstruction of scattered and currently non-existent collections.

The conference will take place on the 24.09.2021. The participation in this event is free of charge.

Steering Comittee:

Prof. dr hab. Dorota Folga-Januszewska

Dr hab. Arkadiusz Wagner, prof. UMK

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