

## Nuns' Dust. Rediscovering the Archive of North German Devotional Culture



Kloster Lüne, Klosterarchiv, Hs. 15 = one of three collections of copies of letters written between 1460-1555

Photo: Wolfgang Brandis, rights: Kloster Lüne

### Short bibliography on manuscripts from the North German convents

Kloster Lüne:

Open Access Edition of the letters from Kloster Lüne: <http://diglib.hab.de/edoc/ed000248/start.htm>

Kloster Medingen:

A full list of relevant literature with open access links on <http://medingen.seh.ox.ac.uk>

Kloster Wienhausen:

List of manuscripts kept in the archive in Wienhausen <http://handschriftencensus.de/hss/Wienhausen>

Lähnemann, Henrike, "Text und Textil. Die beschriebenen Pergamente in den Figurenornaten," in: Charlotte Klack-Eitzen et al., *Heilige Röcke. Kleider für Skulpturen in Kloster Wienhausen*, Regensburg: 2013, pp. 71-78.

Lähnemann, Henrike, "Verhüllte Schrift. Pergamentmakulatur aus den Lüneburger Klöstern", in: *Codex und Material*, ed. by Patrizia Carmassi and Gia Toussaint (Wolfenbütteler Mittelalter-Studien 34), Wiesbaden 2018, pp. 119-135.

Mecham, June L., *Sacred Communities, Shared Devotions. Gender, Material Culture, and Monasticism in Late Medieval Germany*, ed. by A. Beach, C. Berman, L. Bitel, Brepols: 2014 (MWTC 29).

*Rosenkränze und Seelengärten. Bildung und Frömmigkeit in niedersächsischen Frauenklöstern*, ed. by Britta-Juliane Kruse, Wiesbaden: 2013 (Ausstellungskataloge der Herzog August Bibliothek 96).

*Schatzhüterin. 200 Jahre Klosterkammer Hannover*, ed. by Katja Lembke / Jens Reiche, Dresden: 2018.

Wehking, Sabine, *Die Inschriften der Lüneburger Klöster. Ebstorf, Isenhagen, Lüne, Medingen, Walsrode, Wienhausen*, Wiesbaden: 2009 (DI 76). Online <http://www.inschriften.net>

And for some fun reading: *Tending the Hearth. A Culinary Journey Through Protestant Convents and Women's Religious Foundations in Northern Germany*, published in 2014 for the General Convent by Abbess Bärbel Görcke (order via email [aebtissin@kloster-mariensee.de](mailto:aebtissin@kloster-mariensee.de))

**Brief 219 [Lage 16, f. 9v/10r]: Die Lüne Nun Gertrud von Eltzen to her name sake in Kloster Medingen (1490's)**

*The Lüne subprioress Gertrud von Eltzen writes to her relative and namesake in Medingen and asks after her health and that of their relative, presumably Lucia von Eltzen. She thanks her for the gilded devotional images. She sends money for the gloves which the Medingen abbess recently sent to the abbess of Lüne, Sophia von Bodenteich. She apologizes for her long silence towards the Medingen abbess and asks for the message to be passed on orally. She sends pickled fish and lets the abbess decide if she wants to share them with the recipient and her young relatives.*

- 1 Gertrud von Eltzen in Medingen
- 2 Fontem inundantis pietatis Jesum Christum, qui nobis in hoc vernali tempore paschalis iocunditatis  
3 reseravit vinarium sue suavitatis, pro salutatione condigna amicabiliter vestre caritati premissum!
- 4 Precordialissima N, *ik do caritati vestre fruntliken to wetende, dat ik*, permittente divina bonitate  
5 Dei, *byn in bona sospitate, idipsum affectere ik van juw unde van user leven amitem* Lucia von Eltzen  
6 *to wetende* tempore longevo secundum beneplacitum divinum. Ceterum, preamantissima amita,  
7 regrator vestre innate caritati pro multis et innumeris beneficiis, *sunderghen vor de groten*  
8 *lefmodicheyt, de gy my lest bewiseden* cum illis pulcherrimis foliis deauratis, in quibus manifestius  
9 declamastis fidele et benivolum cor vestrum cum caritate plenum, *dat is my noch nicht vorgheten, ik*  
10 *mud juw des dancken* toto tempore vite mee, *unde kan des ock nicht vorgheten* quamdiu vixero,  
11 nam quotiens ea intueor oculis corporeis totiens mirum et inauditum gaudium experior interius,  
12 *unde darvan werd myn herteken* sepius *recreert, wente wan ik* aliqua molestia *vexcert byn* ex multis  
13 occupationibus, *unde den illos principes gloriosos ansee, so lad ik my dunken, wo se my pondus*  
14 *totius meroris statim allevieren, unde darvan wert juwe leve jo mër unde meer aucmentert* in corde  
15 meo, *unde konde ik juw versa vice worane tho willen wesen, dat wolde ik* ex toto corde *gherne don,*  
16 *et nil opto aut desidero men allene, dat ik juw* illam caritatem *gruntliken opere mochte exhiberen, de*  
17 *ik cum stilo cotidie exprimere*, quia secundum dictum beati Gregorii „Probatio dilectionis exhibitio est  
18 operis“, tam insufficientiam meam *wil ik admitteren* summo largitori omnium gratiarum, a quo  
19 omne datum optimum et omne donum perfectum descendit, *de mote* hunc intime caritatis affectum  
20 *vorvullen unde juw causa mei geven* tot et tanta gratiarum munera, quanta celum continet gaudia et  
21 arva profert flores et gramina, quatenus in hoc ameno tempore in novitate vite cum omnibus  
22 elementis ipsius gloriose resurrectionis congratulantis renovari valeatis homine in utroque, ut post  
23 huius vite transsitarie curriculo pervenire valeatis ad amena paradise gaudia.
- 24 *My karissima, ik sende juw ad presens dat gelt vor dat paar hanschen, dar reverenda dompna vestra*  
25 *venerande dompne nostre lest wede tho hulpe quam, unde we synt humiliter begherende, dat gy us*  
26 *leffliken excuseren jeghen ere werdecheyt, dat we dar so langhe wede tartert hebben,* hoc evenit ex  
27 multis innumeris occupationibus, *dat we des nene mathe hebben konden juw aliqua to schrivende,*  
28 *vor so dorske we us des nicht presumeren, dat we in se sulven hedden schreven, daromme dat id so*  
29 *langhe tyd vorghan iß, idcirco hebbe ik maximam fiduciam do juw unde lave certliken, dat gy dat*  
30 *causa nostri wol willen to gude maken unde er vivo stilo bed declareren* intentionem nostram, *wen*  
31 *we er konnen schreven hebben.*
- 32 *Ock sende ik juw pisciculos conditos unde nimium obnixe, dat gy de willen don* reverende dompne  
33 vestre ex parte nostra, *dar schal se sick medeconfortert,* Deo ad laudem, *unde wel venerabilis caritas*  
34 *sua juw unde user lutken amiten* Lucia von Eltzen *wad van gheven, dat wil ik* eius benivolentie  
35 *ghansliken atmitteren, wente ik hebbe dat* sepiissime *uth juwen schriften vorstan, dat se juw materne*  
36 *et pie vor is* in omnibus, *daromme so dubitere ik dar nicht ane,* quin vobis optime administrat  
37 *quitquit* acquirere potest. Nil plus.
- 38 Cum hoc valeatis in Jesu Christo sponso nostro, qui vos inebriet lacte suavitatis et dulcedinis in hac  
39 labili vita, ut post hoc satiari mereamini melle sue divinitatis in presentia sancte Trinitatis. Amen.