

29 January, 2014

Invitation

Fascinating new findings in Shakespeare research:

Scholar discovers a portrait of Shakespeare in his youth and a likeness of him in old age, both true-to-life depictions of the bard's facial features and signs of illness

The Shakespeare scholar Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel, who – in close cooperation with other scientists – authenticated the Darmstadt Shakespeare death mask, the Chandos and Flower portraits as well as the Davenant bust (see www.hammerschmidt-hummel.de), discovered two further powerful Shakespearian images: a likeness of the bard in his youth and another one in his old age. By means of detailed picture comparisons using a previously established interdisciplinary catalogue of Shakespeare's facial features and signs of illness, these portraits have been examined comprehensively with regard to the identity of their sitters and their genuineness.

The results show that we are dealing with true-to-life portrayals of Shakespeare, and that the poet must have sat as a model to the painters. Professor Hammerschmidt-Hummel had her results checked by four specialists from different disciplines. The experts confirmed her conclusions and presented additional findings, further substantiating her proofs of authenticity.

The extraordinary new portraits depict Shakespeare as a young London playwright and author of sonnets who appears to have reached the first height of his unparalleled literary career, and as an elderly poet and gentleman apparently at his Stratford refuge New Place. On 12 February 2014, they will be introduced to the public in the Cathedral Museum of Mainz.

On this occasion we would like to cordially invite you to the

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF TWO NEW PORTRAITS OF SHAKESPEARE on Wednesday, 12 February 2014, 12:00 (noon)

at the Episcopal Cathedral and Diocese Museum, Mainz
(Bischöfliches Dom- und Diözesanmuseum)
Domstraße 3, 55116 Mainz, Germany

The speakers are:

Dr. Winfried Wilhelmy, Director of the Episcopal Cathedral and Diocese Museum, Mainz

Dr. Gerhard Kölsch, Episcopal Cathedral and Diocese Museum, Mainz

Prof. Dr. Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel, formerly Johannes Gutenberg-Universität
and Academy of Science and Literature, Mainz

Bischöfliches Dom- und Diözesanmuseum

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Further information: The Cathedral Museum presently prepares an exhibition on Count Franz von Kesselstatt (1753-1841), Canon of the Cathedral of Mainz and art collector, who during his journey to England in 1775 purchased Shakespeare's death mask and kept it for many decades in his collection at the so-called Kesselstatt House situated next to the Mainz Cathedral. Today the mask is the property of the City of Darmstadt and is on permanent loan at the University and State Library Darmstadt.

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