

# Kenyon College

## Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture

---

Volume 3 | Issue 4

---

2012

### Historians discover Medieval Banking Records Hidden under Coats of Arms

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digital.kenyon.edu/perejournal>



Part of the [Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Art and Architecture Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

. "Historians discover Medieval Banking Records Hidden under Coats of Arms." *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture* 3, 4 (2012). <http://digital.kenyon.edu/perejournal/vol3/iss4/14>

This Discoveries is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture* by an authorized editor of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).



almost impossible to see clearly, but she suspected they were quite extraordinary. Dr Daunton and representatives of English Heritage using a cherry-picker and scaffolding confirmed their significance-- they appeared to have been carved the wrong way round with the evil demons apparently overcoming each of the smaller apostles. Various interpretations have been suggested as to their meaning: one observer suggested the demons were being forced to hold the church up, although conceded they did not appear to be suffering much as a result.

Re-written from

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/photo\\_gallery\\_medieval\\_demons\\_found\\_at\\_norfolk\\_church\\_1\\_1454279](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/photo_gallery_medieval_demons_found_at_norfolk_church_1_1454279)

See also <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azi7tSbG38c>



### ***Historians discover Medieval Banking Records Hidden under Coats of Arms***

Among the pages of a bound collection of traditional English crests held at the London College of Arms are several papers belonging to a book of debtors and creditors for Florentine merchant-banking company, Domenico Villani & Partners. The coats of arms are estimated to have been painted in 1480, during a time when good quality paper was scarce and anything that was available was re-used. The banking records, only half-covered by the design, date from 1422-24 and hint at the extensive trade in wool and other commodities produced in Britain during the era. Dr. Francesco Guidi-Bruscoli, based at the University of Florence and also a Research Fellow at Queen Mary, and Professor Jim Bolton of Queen Mary's School of History have spent more than a decade documenting the activity of Italian merchant bankers operating from London in the late medieval period. Dr. Guidi, who was alerted to the Villani ledger's location by Queen Mary historian, Professor Kate Lowe, comments: "What makes the discovery of these pages so surprising is that, usually, the foreign offices of the Florentine



companies periodically sent the books back home so they could be checked. In this case, the books remained in London, where they gradually lost their documentary value and some 55 years later were considered scraps of good quality paper to be re-used for the drawing of coats of arms.” “It is not possible to reconstruct, from such a limited number of transactions, the full activities of the company to which the ledger belongs, but we can get an idea of the goods being traded in the London marketplace,” Dr. Guidi says. “Raw wool, woolen cloth and tin were popular exports, while we imported spices, dyes and other luxury goods.” England’s trade in commodities led to the nation becoming the financial hub of the West, overtaking Italy in status.

Re-written from <http://phys.org/news/2012-07-qm-historians-medieval-banking-hidden.html>

### ***A Dutch Angel’s Cellphone Number is in Demand***

’S HERTOGENBOSCH, the [Netherlands](#) — High on the cathedral in this Dutch town, amid stone statues of local noblemen, crusaders, saints and angels, one figure stands out. Smiling faintly, with lowered eyelids, one of the angels wears jeans, has a laptop bag slung over one shoulder and is chatting on a cellphone. The angel gets about 30 calls a day on the phone. Shortly after the statue was unveiled last April, a local couple set up a number so people could call the angel. They placed business cards that pictured the angel and the number in restaurants and hotels. What began as a joke continues because the number has become something of a hot line, dialed by people of all ages in need of help or because they are lonely.

Dutch sculptor Ton Mooy created it among 40 statues to replace those on the cathedral that time and pollution had ruined. The Little Angel was the only unconventional one. “I tell kids, ‘There’s one button on that cellphone,’ ” he said with a chuckle — a direct line to heaven. “So she doesn’t get naughty, calling other angels.”



Re-written from [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/world/europe/a-dutch-churchs-angel-is-in-demand.html?\\_r=2&goback=.gde\\_4008284\\_member\\_173709067&](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/world/europe/a-dutch-churchs-angel-is-in-demand.html?_r=2&goback=.gde_4008284_member_173709067&)