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A Dutch Angel's Cellphone Number is in Demand

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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&>