

Acknowledgments

Things and Thingness developed out of our interest in bringing together a group of young scholars from Germany and the United States to explore a topic that had been gaining traction in medieval and early modern studies: things. Our initial interactions were virtual – we shared an online library of scholarly books and articles. Finally, in September 2018 we met at the site of the “Episteme in Motion” Collaborative Research Center at the Freie Universität Berlin, where the participants presented the “things” that intrigued them, drawing on a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches. A visit to the medieval collection of the Kunstgewerbemuseum rounded out our discussions. Eight months later, in April 2019, the same group met at Stanford’s Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), where they discussed and critiqued their precirculated papers. The meeting at Stanford was enriched by a hands-on exhibit of medieval and early modern manuscripts and incunabula at the Cecil H. Green Library organized for us by Kathleen Smith, curator of Germanic collections and medieval studies. This volume is thus the result of the participants’ ongoing engagement with the topic and with the group assembled around it, over the span of several years. We would like to thank all participants in the project. Our discussions have been stimulating, far-ranging, and collegial, and our successive meetings have forged a scholarly network that has continued to flourish beyond this volume.

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