

# ETHNOCOLL

international  
symposium

14-15 april 2016

SHARED HERITAGE  
and  
COMMUNITIES  
OF ORIGIN



This symposium will take an in-depth look at the relationships between those responsible for managing ethnographic and non-European heritage and the communities of its origin that have particular links with such collections. The symposium is being held in conjunction with the exhibition *The Call of the Rockies – Pierre Jean De Smet and the Indian Tragedy* at the Caermersklooster, the Ghent Provincial Cultural Centre, until May 1st 2016. This exhibition focuses on the missionary Pierre Jean De Smet (1801–1873) and his many contacts with North American Indians, whose interests he went on to defend. As a missionary working among the Plateau and Plains Indians, De Smet was a privileged witness to an important phase in the development of the United States of America. He was also to see, from close up, how this young nation embarked on its massive expansion towards the West. This expansion was achieved to the detriment of the indigenous population, which saw the rapid loss and destruction of its traditional territories and way of life. Photographs, letters and drawings, as well as a selection of Indian objects from various European and American collections serve to illustrate this forgotten page of our shared history.

The symposium sets out to follow in the footsteps of Pierre Jean De Smet's own approach. How do heritage managers and curators in Belgium maintain relationships with the communities that have strong affinities with relevant historical material? What are their policies in this regard? What aspects are taken into consideration to help build and strengthen relationships with the communities of origin? Does cooperation take place in Belgium or in the communities of origin themselves? A number of experts, as well as representatives of communities of origin, will share their points of view and experience during the symposium.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

### 14 APRIL » ANTWERP [MAS|Museum aan de Stroom]

- 10h00 – 10h10 *Welcome and introduction*  
Mireille Holsbeke (MAS) and Luc Vints (KADOC)
- 10h10 – 11h00 Laura Peers (Curator Americas Collections Pitt Rivers Museum & Professor of Museum Anthropology, Oxford, GB)  
*Keynote (In English)*
- 11h00 – 11h30 Martin Schulz, (Historical Museum of Bern)  
*Shared heritage in North American missionary collections (In English)*
- 11h30 – 12h00 Chris De Lauwer (MAS)  
*The MAS and the collection East-Mongolia of Scheutist priest Father Raphael Verbois (In English)*

### LUNCH

- 13h30 – 14h00 Georges Dewispelaere (La Cambre – École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels)  
*Launch of a course in conservation and restoration at the Kinshasa Fine Arts Academy (DRC) (In French)*
- 14h00 – 14h30 Bambi Ceuppens (Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren)  
*Communities of origin and the Royal Museum of Central Africa (In Dutch)*
- 15h20 – 15h30 Saskia Willaert (Museum of Musical Instruments, MIM)  
*The MIM digitisation project being carried out with the Musical Instrument Museums of Ouagadougou and Brazzaville (In Dutch)*
- 15h30 – 16h00 Idesbald Goddeeris and Benjamin Steegen (KU Leuven)  
*Heritage and collective memory. A multidisciplinary study on missionary development work in postcolonial Ranchi (In Dutch)*

### 15 APRIL » GHENT [CAERMERSKLOOSTER AND PROVINCIAL PALACE OF EAST FLANDERS]

- 10h00 – 12h30 *Visit to and presentation of the exhibition The Call of the Rockies. Pierre Jean De Smet and the Indian Tragedy by the exhibition curators*

### LUNCH

- 14h00 – 16h00 *Testimonies, statements and discussion* with Raymond Brinkman (Anthropologist and advisor to the Coeur d'Alene tribe), John Abraham (Director of Court Services, Coeur d'Alene tribe) and Joe Horse Capture (Curator National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution Washington DC)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Registration is free but obligatory with Isabelle Carpentier: [carpentier.i@kbs-frb.be](mailto:carpentier.i@kbs-frb.be)

## ORGANISATION

Ethnocoll together with KADOC-KU Leuven and the MAS|Museum aan de Stroom, Antwerp.