

CONVENORS:

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The writings of Jacob Böhme (1575-1624), the mystical philosopher from Görlitz, reached England in the 1640s and by the 1660s most were published in English. From their earliest publication, Böhme's writings were influential in Britain. Those who imported Böhme's texts hoped his views would help to overcome sectarianism. They looked forward to a return of paradise on earth, as described in Böhme's writings. Furthermore, as new scientific discoveries shook traditional views, seventeenth-century philosophers and scientists were inspired by Böhme's efforts to reconcile religion and science.

This conference explores the varied paths through which Böhme's thought spread in Britain. It accompanies the exhibition *Light in Darkness: The Mystical Philosophy of Jacob Böhme* in the Chapel of Christ the Servant, Coventry Cathedral (30th April-5th July 2019).

Jacob Böhme in Britain

23rd - 25th May 2019

St Michael's House
Coventry Cathedral



Dionysius Andreas Freher/Jeremias Daniel Leuchter:
Drei Tafeln (Three Tables), 1717.

Pop-up image, watercolor and ink on paper
British Library, Add Ms 5788

THURSDAY, 23RD MAY

17:30: Welcome

17:30-18:30 **Claudia Brink:** The Relevance of Böhme's Thought Today: The Work of Wolfgang Tillmans und the Significance of Coventry

19:00 Reception



FRIDAY, 24TH MAY

9:30-9:45 **Claudia Brink, Lucinda Martin, Cecilia Muratori:** Introduction

Session 1. Chair: Douglas Hedley

9:45-10:30 **Ariel Hessayon:** Curing and Healing 'Decayed Nature': Jacob Böhme's Influence on Early Modern Medical Science

10:30-11:15 **Jan Rohls:** John Pordage

11:15-11:45 Coffee break

11:45-12:30 **Lucinda Martin:** Pietists and Behmenists: An International Exchange

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Visit of the exhibition

Session 2. Chair: Marilyn Lewis

15:00-15:45 **Christian Hengstermann:** Cambridge Behmenism? Jacob Böhme in the Radical and Rational Religions of Henry More and Anne Conway

15:45-16:30 **James Bryson:** True Enthusiasm in Henry More's 'Platonico-Cabbalistic' reading of Jacob Böhme

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:30-18:15 **Adrian Mihai:** Jacob Böhme and Ralph Cudworth in Johann Lorenz von Mosheim's Translation of the *True Intellectual System of the Universe*

19:00 Conference dinner

SATURDAY, 25TH MAY

Session 3. Chair: Lucinda Martin

9:30-10:15 **Catherine Sulpizio:** William Blake's Formal Reception of Böhme in *The (First) Book of Urizen*

10:15-11:00 **Kevin Fischer:** Böhme, Blake, and the Life of the Three Principles

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:15 **Cecilia Muratori and James Vigus:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge as Reader of Böhme

12:15-12:30 Concluding remarks

12:30 Lunch