

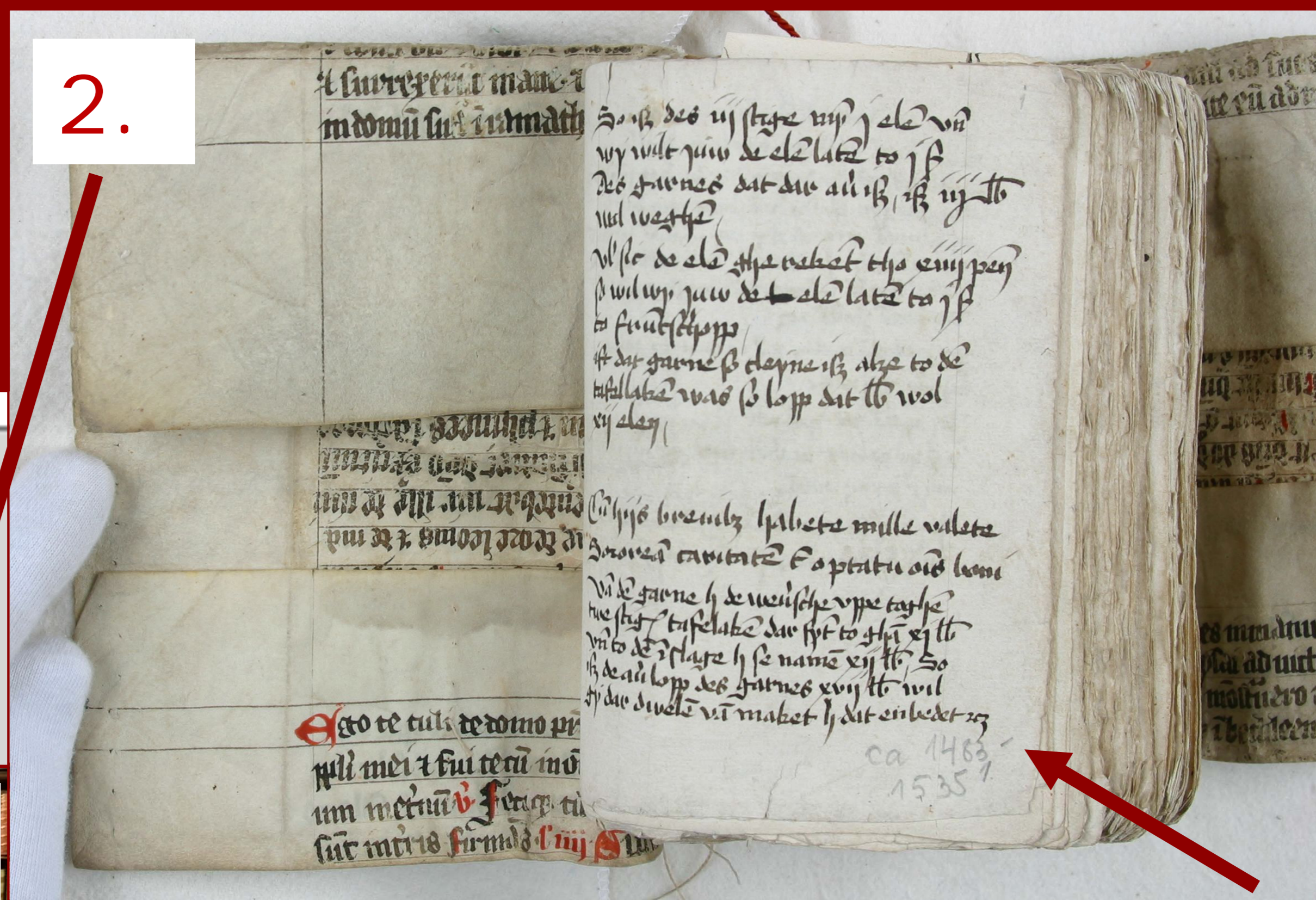
# The Nuns' Network

## How letters from a medieval convent turn digital in an Anglo-German collaborative project

3. Project group meeting in the Old Library, St Edmund Hall, Oxford

4. Prototype of open access edition in the Wolfenbüttel Digital Library

2.

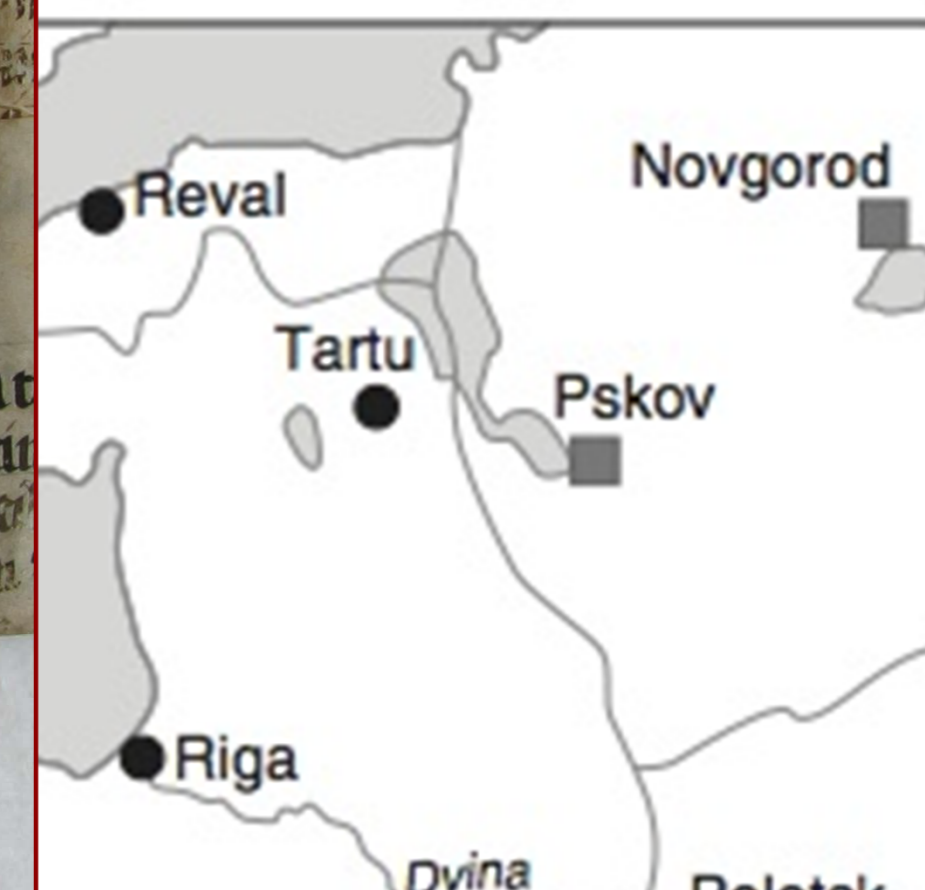


2. Letter collection, Klosterarchiv Lüne, Hs. 15, fol. 1r

1. Medieval buildings at the Benedictine Protestant Kloster Lüne



3.



1.



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Anna greets her parents and lets them know that she is well. She thanks them for all that they have given her and prays that God will repay them. She hopes that when she is older and serves God in this vineyard that her prayers will have an effect and be worthy. She will maintain what she has promised and will be obedient to God, the prioress and the all the nuns. She has not confronted anything bad in her praise of God. The prioress loves her as she loves herself, she eats from the same bowl as her and drinks with her. The prioress provides her with the best bites to eat, including chicken legs and wings, and lets her choose what she wants to have. Anna would often say to the prioress that she wished that her parents knew how well she was. If she were a little bird and had two wings then she would fly to her parents and tell them how much she loved the prioress and how much she has given her. But the prioress would respond that she could not go without her and would ask the holy spirit that it fly to her parents in the form of a white dove and let them know in their hearts how well Anna is. Anna also thinks that if she had two wings and could fly then she could not take everything with her. Therefore the parents should be satisfied and come and visit as soon as they can so that she can talk with them and say in words what she cannot put in writing. They themselves should have 300,000 good night wishes and be commended to a healthy and long life by God. Dictated from the mouth of Anna Molen and written by a different hand.

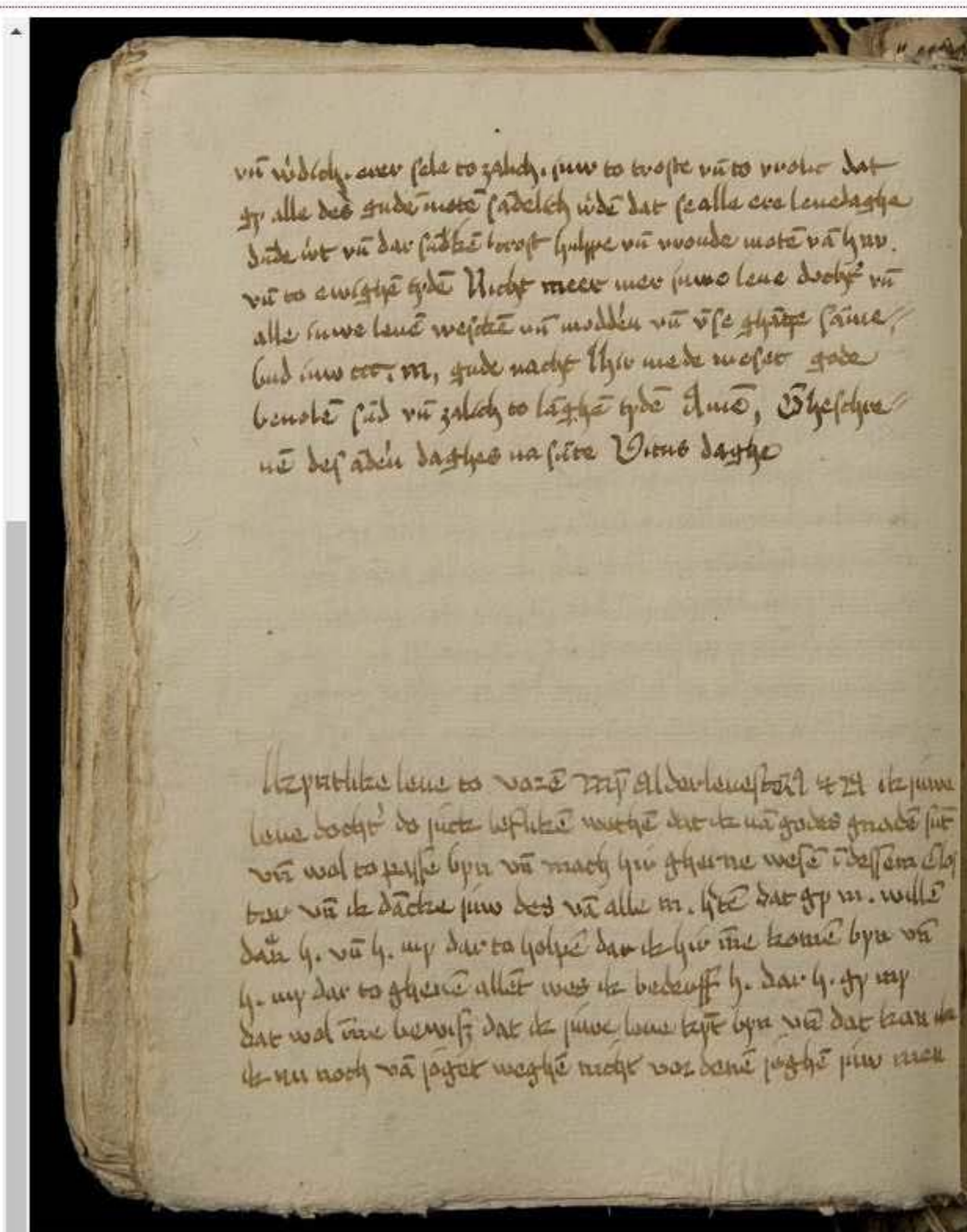
[E]

Kyntlike leue to-voren! Myn Alderleueste N vnde N, ik juwe leue dochter, do juck leflike wethen, dat ik uan godes gnaden sunt vnde wol to passen byn vnde mach hir gherne wesen in dessem Closter vnde ik dancke juw des van alle mynem herten, dat gy mynen willen dān hebbet vnde hebbet my dar-to holpen, dat ik hir-inne-komen byn vnde hebbet my dar-to gheuen allent, wes ik bederff hebbe, dar hebbet gy my dat wol inne beviset, dat ik juwe leue kynt byn vnde dat kan ik nu noch van joget weghehen nicht vor-denen jeghen juw, men

[Scan 23 14c]

ik hope, wan ik nu groter werde, dat ik dem leuen gode hir in dessem wyngarden denen mach, so wil ik dat myd

4.



### Significance

- ❖ **Quantity:** Largest collection from medieval Germany (1,800 letters!)
- ❖ **Quality:** New insight into high educational standards of women
- ❖ **Creativity:** Use of code switching between Latin and Low German
- ❖ **History:** Women's voices on reform and reformation
- ❖ **Economy:** Contextualising archival material on how a convent functioned

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