

## **Wer nicht liebt Wein, *Weib* und Gesang...: Women and the Ranzelberg Guestbook**

„Who doesn't love wine, *women* and song, remains a fool his whole life long.” Perhaps the most repeated adage in the Ranzelberg Guestbook, this gives a first impression of the guestbook's signatories and the topics that were important to them. Originally housed in a North Frisian guesthouse, this guestbook contains over 1,600 entries written by travelers from 1834-1888 (Rieken 2018). Known in North Frisia for its sociocultural value, due to inscriptions by famed Low German poet, Claus Groth, and the oldest known instance of the Frisian slogan, *Livre düed as Slaav* (rather dead than [a] slave) written in Frisian (ibid.), the guestbook, which has only recently been fully transcribed, is the source of inquiry for this project.

Women, who are often *invisibilized* in language history (Langer & Havinga 2015), are the focus of this presentation. How they are invisibilized, how they are spoken about by others, and how their entries are received when they do write in the guestbook are the basis of this qualitative sociolinguistic analysis. By identifying and analyzing the idiomatic and lexical choices regarding women, I show how invisibilization applies not only to languages, but to an entire group (regardless of which language they use) and how a specific *community of practice* (Eckert 2006: 109) leads to the invisibilization of another.

### **References**

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