Creativity, Utopia and Eternity at the Francke Foundations in Halle: Art between image politics and cultural memory

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Abstract

In this article, I will study the legacy of the Lutheran Pietist, pastor, professor and social reformer August Hermann Francke. I wish to draw attention to art pieces at the Francke Foundations in Halle in Germany and highlight their participation in the transmission of cultural memory from early modern Pietism. Employing theories from the fields of cultural memory as well as sociomateriality, I will present three works of art that have an extraordinary ability to communicate the core of Francke’s work and Halle Pietism from the past into the present. The works of art in question communicate the founder’s creativity, his Pietistic utopian views as well as focus on eternity through Christian salvation.

Keywords: Halle-Pietism, Art, Francke, Cultural memory, Sociomateriality