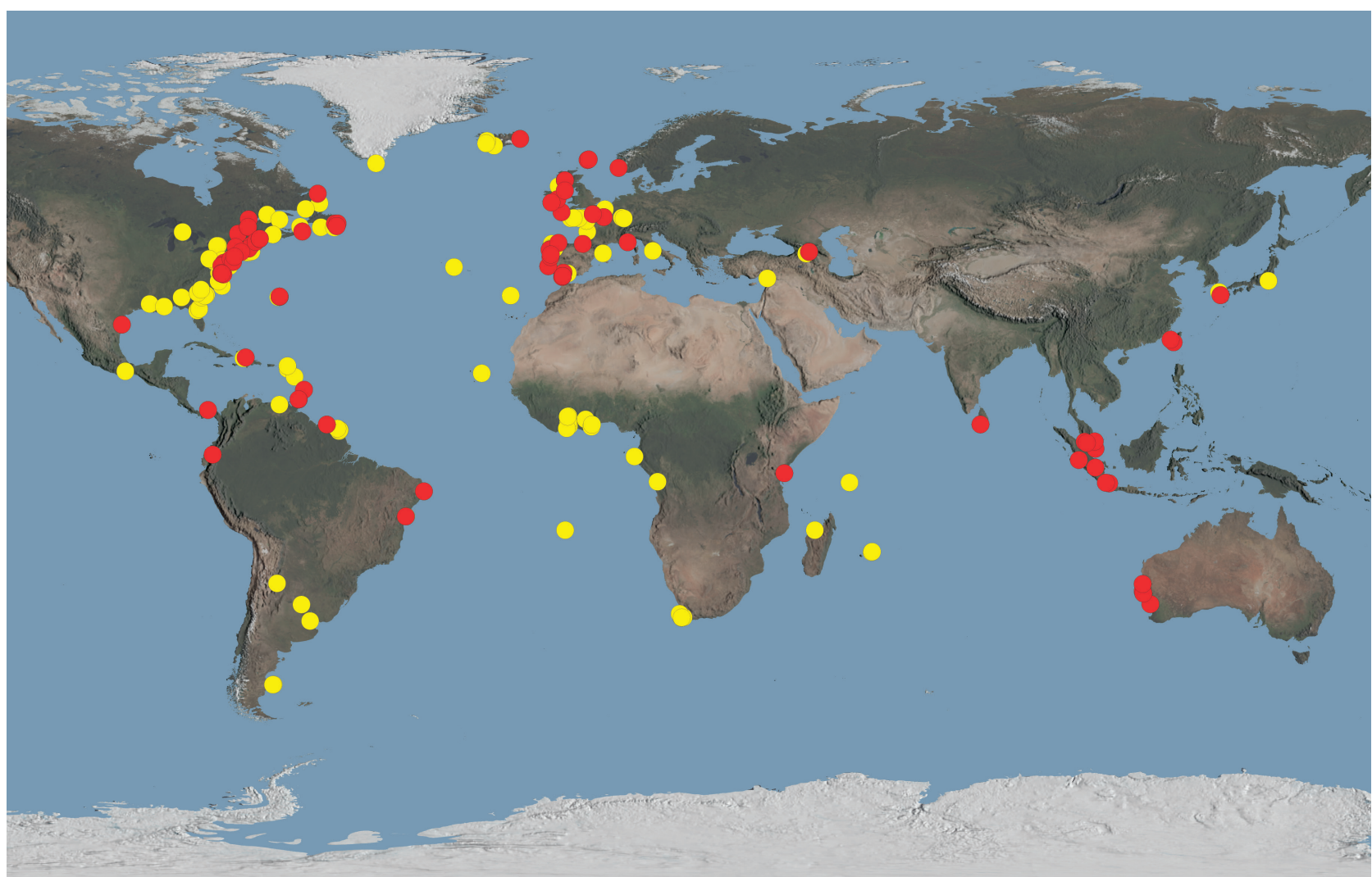


The research project „Bartmann goes global“

the cultural impact of an iconic object in the early modern period



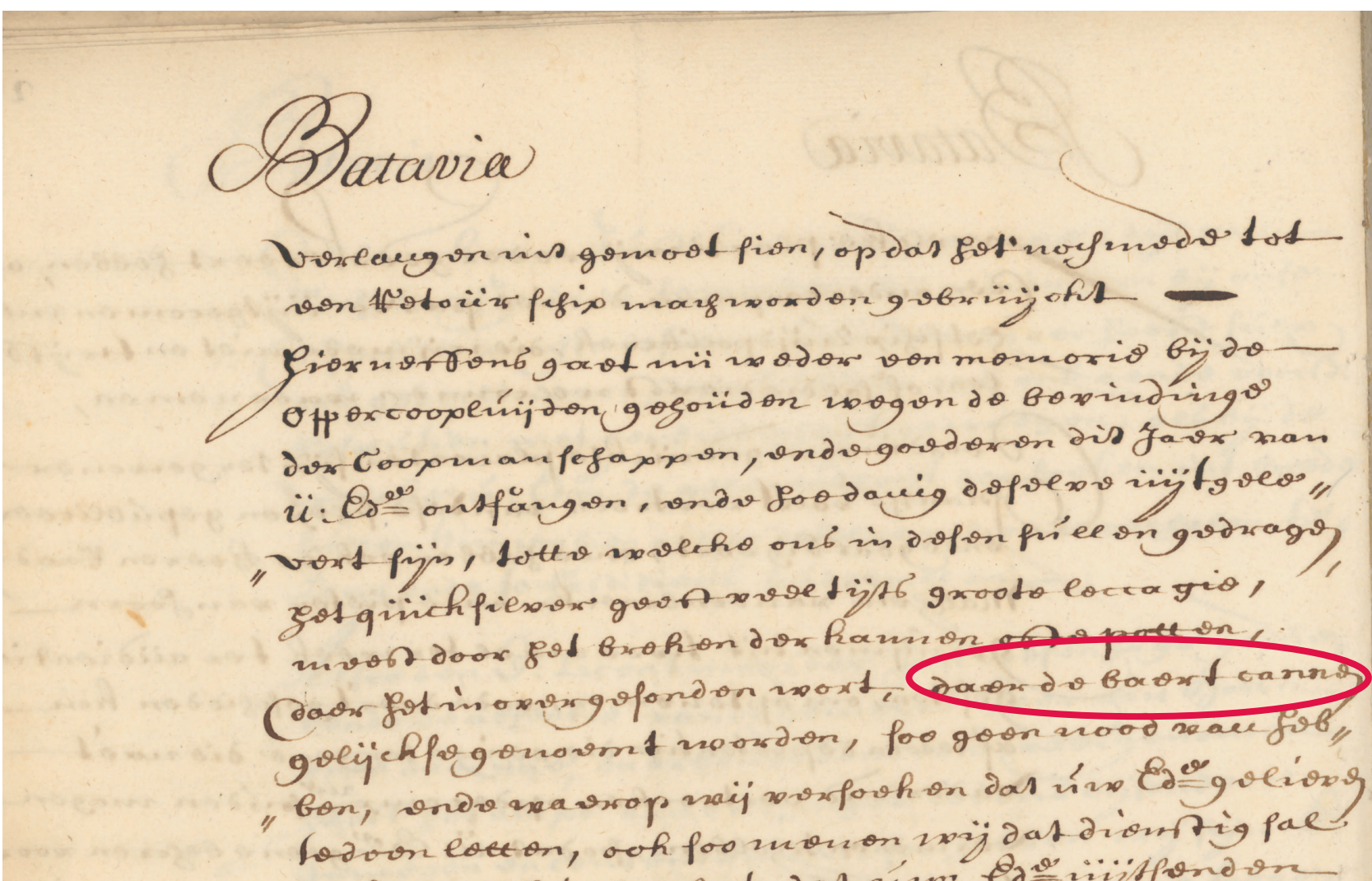
From 2024, the research project „Bartmann goes Global“ jointly designed by the LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, the LVR-Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege im Rheinland, the Universities of Tübingen and Bonn, and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) will receive three years of funding for a team of international specialists to work on fundamental research and specific cultural-historical issues relating to Bartmann jugs and Rhenish stoneware. The project forms part of the bilateral program „Joint German-UK Project Proposals in the Humanities“ that is financed by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the German Research Foundation (DFG).



Map with distribution of Bartmann jugs (red) and Rhenish stoneware (yellow). Map by Christian Roeser (LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn) and Christoph Keller (LVR-Amt für Bodendenkmalpflege im Rheinland), data source: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7516266>



16th to 18th century Bartmann jugs from the collection of the LVR-LandesMuseums Bonn (Photo J. Vogel, LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn)



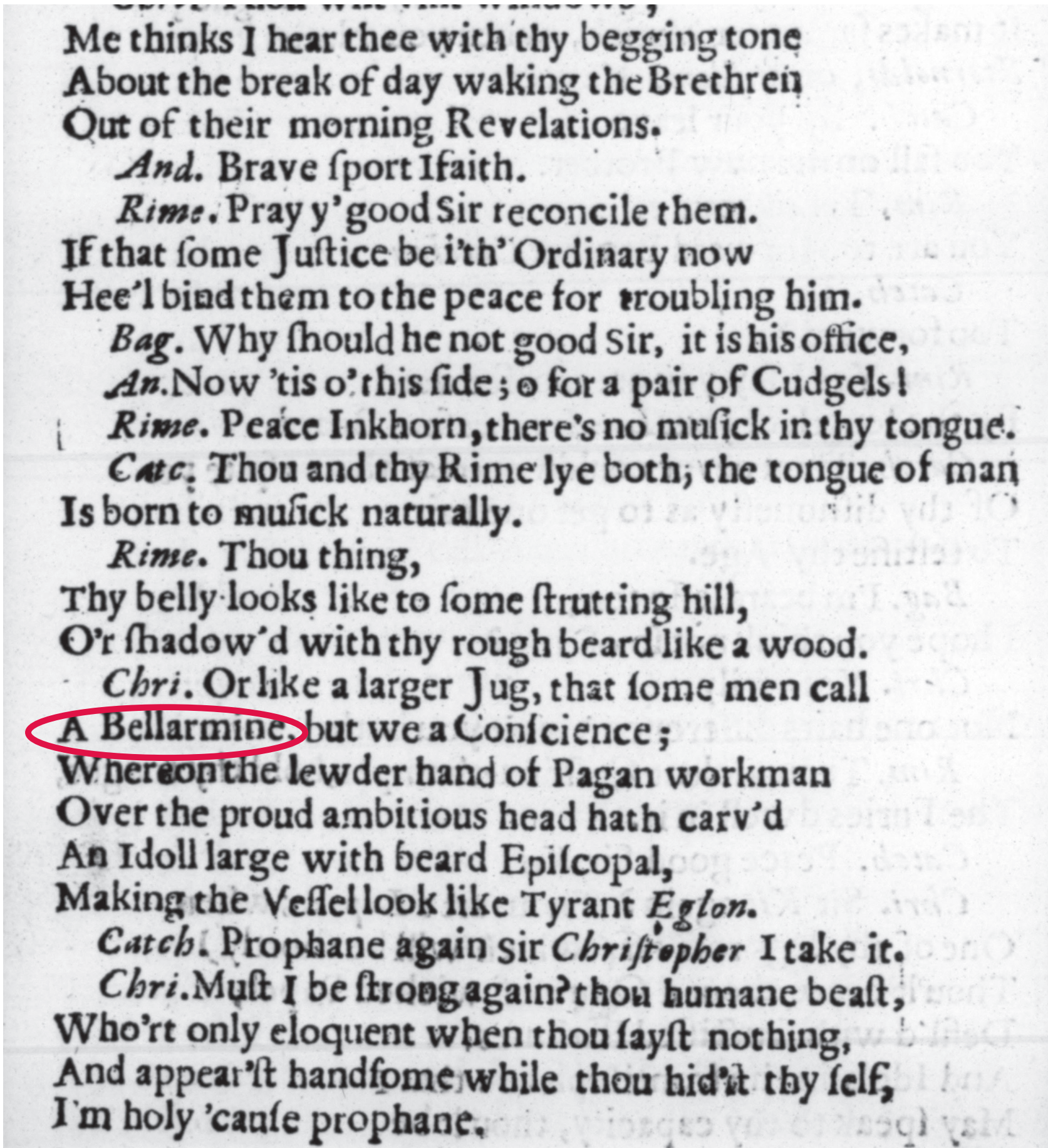
Page from a book of a VOC-Archiv List from the settlement Batavia (today Jakarta) and mentioning the Bartmann (baert cannen) as a container for mercury (red circle/line) provided by: nationalearchief.nl

Production

Production of Bartmann jugs started in Cologne between 1520 and 1530 and rapidly developed, particularly in Frechen, into a proto-industrial production, with an output up to one million vessels per year. Starting in the trading hub Cologne, a wide range of Bartmann jugs and other Rhenish stoneware was shipped down the Rhine to the Netherlands and, from there all over the world.



Late 17th century bartmann bottles from the production centre of Frechen (near Cologne), (Photo J. Vogel, LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn)



The Ordinary, a comedy written by Cartwright and first printed in 1651, mentions the Bartmann Jug. It shows the cultural impact of Rhenish Bartmann jugs and the use of the term „Bellarmine“ in 17th century England.

Typochronology

The Form, function and style of Bartmann jugs gradually changed over the following two centuries. Although the earliest examples are richly decorated and luxurious tablewares showing a naturalistic depiction of a bearded face, over time the Bartmann-Jug became simpler and more standardized as it developed into a mass-produced item used for transport and storage (especially of wine).

Research today

Today, Bartmann jugs are a globally significant phenomenon, of outstanding importance for interdisciplinary research into cultural and economic history. However, studies on this topic have much wider potential since fundamental, methodical research on typochronology, distribution and contextualization is currently lacking.

Goals

The research project „Bartmann goes global“ aims to close this gap. Our project aims to develop a wider understanding of the importance of the Bartmann jug across the globe. We'll be:

- Tracing the jugs' journeys – and the relationships between the manufacturers, traders and the consumers
- Studying cultural contexts – exploring the jug's representation in the archaeological and historical record
- Exploring typological changes between c. 1550–1750

Trade

On ships these stoneware jugs formed part of the equipment for the crew as well as containers for traded goods such as wine or mercury. Their global distribution along existing trade routes is documented by archaeological finds from British and Dutch colonies overseas as well as shipwrecks. In some regions, such as North America and Japan, the indigenous population also adopted and reproduced this distinctive form.

Poster by:

Prof. Dr. Michael Schmauder, Prof. Dr. Natascha Mehler, Jacqui Pearce B.A. FSA, Lyn Blackmore B.A. FSA, Nigel Jeffries M.A. FSA, Dr. Christian Röser, Christoph Keller M.A.

WANTED

Have you seen these men?

Mr. Cologne

Mr. Frechen

Mr. Siegburg

Archaeologists are looking for Bartmann jugs, which are wanted in connection with international trade and worldwide distribution

- Bartmann (aka Bellarmine) jugs are distributed world wide - have you found one?
- We are interested in large assemblages containing Rhenish stoneware.
- Information on well dated finds is needed.
- Bartmann jugs were made at Cologne, Frechen, Siegburg and many other places in Germany, Belgium and England.

Your information could be vital.
Please contact: bartmann.abr@lvr.de

