

Summary of the Dissertation „The Beard - to the cultural history of the beard from the ancient world up to the present time“ from Christina Wietig

The beard as part of phylogenetic remaining of our anterior completely hair-garment presents evolutionary a specialized form of body-covering and indicates unambiguously sexuell dimorphism.

As symbol of vitality by constantly growth and as an optical indication of sexual ability for the reproduction, the beard gained in importance for visual communication and elevated for an exposed cultural signal. The purpose of corporally changing has been and still is, to transform the natural status quo into idealized surreality for gain social reputation. The conscious beard-styling therefore is an expression of cultural revaluation increase in value and regarding this, part of the mental body-image at any time. Therefore beards were skilful styled, oiled, perfumed and supplemented with golden dust, golden strings and hairy substitutes. This development resulted formation of order of social ranks and different groups of membership. The history of civilization gives evidence of the fascination, which causes beards by peoples all over the world.

From the aesthetical point of view in time the body-sign beard, the holy symbol of divine omnipotency, changes into an individual virile expression depending on the cultural environment. Therefore the differentiated dividing source research shall give evidence. Restricted to this presented elaboration the attempt will be done, to analyse and comment on main focusly the value of communication of beard-styling, concerning European conception of the world, based on the classical antiquity, considering interdisciplinary evolutionary, religious, visual arts referenced and fashionsociological theories, to prove neglected cross references up to now. The complexity of this phenomenon causes unavoidable incompleteness.

In the past the phenomenon beard has been documented in cultural history, but has been scientificly disregarded in its totality, though the beard currently fashionsociological and sociopsychological plays an influential role within communication. One reason may be, that the beard is attached with individual-subjective, which hinders the objectively verification of common scientific method. The beard represents an exceptional feature concerning innovative

fashionsociological questions, because being part of the mental body-image, which presents his representative simultaneous as well as corporally and visually.

The beard as symbol of genuine virility, of dominance, of a political-minded person and individuality presents furthermore a permanent in changing situated confession to the focal point between mental body-consciousness and demanded conventional public-image. Resulting this, beard-fashions are only in accordance with the respective given room to move for individuals in the process of civilization. As well proves the plurality current identity donating beard-imagery of individualists the desire of self-conscious exposition within the modern mass-society. The history of the epochal development of visual arts verifies relating to this perpetual change of the different appearances of the special beard-consciousness and confirms the fashionable phenomenon as human mental evolution.

An appointed statistical verification testifies the relevance of the actual importance of the beard as fashionable bodysignal to communication.

By the technical development, lining the current medical-biological-physical-psychological-philosophical-arttheoretical-ethical discourse of the human-machine, the body-image will be changed and also the beard-consciousness. Till now the beard symbolized the ability of reproduction of a healthy man. In future however beard-optics will be given only playful value isolated from thereby for the virtual pattern-identification.