



RESEARCH NETWORKING PROGRAMME  
COMSt

**TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP:** Editing the impossible: fragments, palimpsests, multiple recensions...

## 1. SUMMARY

This last workshop of Teams 2 and 3 addressed the particular problems posed by fragmentary or complex transmission of texts. We took advantage of this workshop being hosted by the Akademienvorhaben Turfanforschung to have a presentation of some highlights of the Turfan collection. Most of the papers presented in this workshop will serve as case studies in the chapter on philology in COMSt handbook. The two editorial meetings planned during this workshop were devoted to the discussion of the connection between the case studies and the methodological part of the chapter.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

### 2.1. Presentations

Two presentations were devoted to case studies which will be dealt with in the handbook chapter. **D. Durkin-Meisterernst** presented the editorial strategies used for the edition of the fragments in the Berlin Turfan Collection. This collection contains fragments of texts written in different languages and scripts, and their degrees of preservation vary from one fragment to the other. The participants were offered the possibility to see some of the most important pieces of this collection. **A. Cantera** presented the specific features of the edition of the Zoroastrian long liturgy. The text is preserved in more than 100 manuscripts written in Avestan script, the oldest one being dated from the 14th cent. CE. It is very difficult to classify the manuscripts since the text does not vary much, except for orthographical and phonetic variations, which can be explained by the fact that those manuscripts were produced in different regions.

Two other members of Team 2 offered methodological views which were of interest for a general discussion. **G. Kessel** showed the possibilities offered by imaging techniques to make possible the reading of a newly discovered palimpsest of the Syriac translation of Galen, *On Simple Drugs* by Sergius of Res 'Ayna (7th cent.) (possibly books VI-XI). Apart from this palimpsest (the underwriting is dated from the 9th cent.), there was only one known ms. containing this translation (books VI-VIII): London, British Library, MS Add. 14661. The parts of the text which are not contained in the British Library MS are much more difficult to read, because there is no possibility of comparison. The two witnesses present different readings on certain points. **P. La Spisa** is preparing the edition of the Arabic versions of the Martyrdom of Aretha and his companions in Najran, a

A third session was devoted to techniques and tools which can help scholars in dealing with manuscripts. **M. Raaf** presented *ImAnTo*, a software created for the edition of palimpsests. This software helps to link images and texts. **I. Rabin** showed some of the most recent developments in tools for scientific material analysis of parchments and inks, which can provide valuable information for the dating and localisation of manuscripts, a major issue as well in textual criticism.

### 2.2. Editorial work COMSt Handbook Chapter 2

During the editorial meetings, we mostly discussed the case studies (CS). It has been decided that the CS will be submitted to a peer-review inside of the team: each CS will be sent to two team members who will assess the CS and suggest corrections / improvements (the TL has sent the CS for peer-review already). The only language which is not covered by any of the CS is Turkish - Jost Gippert will ask someone he knows whether he would be able to deliver a CS within the next couple of weeks. D. Durkin-Meisterernst has been asked to write a CS as well.

Other issues were discussed: use of illustrations, English, style, terminology. It will be the task of the TL and editorial board of the chapter to highlight in the introduction to the CS the relevant methodological points and to make cross-references. The members of the team have been asked to fill in a grid and to provide a list of keywords in order to make this task easier.

Some of the methodological parts have been discussed as well:

1. Heuristics of the mss

Special points of attention: possible overlapping with chapter 4 (cataloguing) and chapter 5 (digitization), use of the COMSt website to store lists of website rather than putting them in the handbook.

2. Collation

Special points of attention: cross-references to the chapter on palaeography, DB of variants, different practices are observed and should be mentioned.

3. Classification

This part needs to be better subdivided (task of the TL).

4. Presentation of the text

This part is the most advanced. Some suggestions have been made directly to Sébastien Moureau.

As soon as the different methodological parts are in good shape, they should be circulated to all team members.

**3. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS AND IMPACT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FIELD**

In this workshop, which is the last one of Team 2, we have made considerable progress in the writing of the handbook chapter, which was the main point of this meeting.

**4. FINAL PROGRAMME**

**14-15 October 2013**

**Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften**

Jägerstrasse 22/23, 10117 Berlin

**Monday October 14**

9:00 Opening of the workshop (welcoming, practical information...)

9:30-11:00

G. Kessel, Towards a prospective edition of the Syriac Galen Palimpsest: challenges and possible solutions

P. La Spisa, The Arabic Versions of the Martyrdom of Aretha and his companions in Najran: multiple recensions and "fluid" tradition

11:30-13:00

M. Raaf, *ImAnTo*: A Software for Editing Palimpsests

I. Rabin, Presentation of tools for scientific material analysis of parchments and inks

13:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 Editorial Meeting COMSt Handbook Chapter 2 - Part I: Methodological Part

16:30 Visit of the exhibition of the Turfan manuscripts collection

**Tuesday October 15**

9:00-10:30

D. Durkin-Meisterernst, Editorial practices in dealing with the fragments in the Berlin Turfan Collection

A. Cantera, Editing the Zoroastrian long liturgy

11:00-12:30 Editorial Meeting COMSt Handbook Chapter 2 - Part II: Case Studies