

extant Coptic colophons'. It offers a new valuable instance of a so far poorly attested type of scribal subscriptions, while enhancing our knowledge of the prosopography of Byzantine Thebes and allowing a quite likely dating thanks to the analysis of its palaeographical features.

Another finding of the Polish Archaeological Mission, two leaves from the parchment codex found in Šayḥ 'Abd al-Gurnah, was studied by Przemysław Piwowarczyk who provided 'Some remarks on the codex decoration and the text of *Martyrium Petri* preserved in the manuscript from Sheikh Abd el-Gurna'. The leaves appear to contain the text of the *Martyrium Petri* in a version differing reasonably from the already published manuscripts; the opening section (roughly corresponding to the section four of the Greek text) was previously unknown in the Coptic translation.

A general discussion completed the conference.

The full programme and conference abstracts are available at <<http://paths.uniroma1.it/international-conference-coptic-book>>.

(Red.)

## **Von der Historienbibel zur Weltchronik: Die byzantinisch-slavische Palaea / Paleja**

**Greifswald, 28–30 September 2017**

*Palaea / Paleja* is a term referring to a genre of anthologies about Old Testament history. It includes the Byzantine *Palaea Historica* and the Old Church Slavonic *Tolkovaja Paleja* and their chronographic arrangements. The *Paleja* is a particular branch of biblical reception, closely linked to other genres, above all to Christian chronography. The *Palaea* literature paraphrases and embellishes the great narrative from the creation to the time of the kings. Among the many additions there are attacks against various Jewish and Christian apocrypha. While some of the apocrypha themselves have since been lost, the *Palaea* passages are their only reflections remaining. The conference 'Von der Historienbibel zur Weltchronik. Die byzantinisch-slavische *Palaea / Paleja*', convened by Christfried Böttrich at Alfried-Krupp-Wissenschaftskolleg from 28 to 30 September 2017, dealt with this great literary context and the manifold intertextual connections of *Paleja* literature.

In his opening talk Christfried Böttrich tried to answer the question, 'Wovon erzählen 'Historienbibeln'?' Whereas most papers focused on the Slavic *Paleja* (e.g. Alen Novalija, 'The Serbian Transmission of the *Tolko-*

vaya *Paleyā*', Tetjana L. Vilkul, 'The Story of Varangians' Calling to Rus' (about the sources of the Short Chronographic *Paleyā*)', Florentina Badalanova-Geller, 'Slavonic oral tradition and the *Paleyā*', Tat'jana V. Anisimova, 'New information about the history of the apocryphal *Testaments of the 12 Patriarchs* in Old Russian Chronographs', Evgenij G. Vodolazkin and Tat'jana R. Rudi, 'Working on the Short Chronographic *Paleyā*', Julian Petkov, 'World History and Otherworldly Journeys: The Framing of Apocalyptic Narratives in the *Paleyā* Literature', Ivan Christov, 'Logical IT Data Access in Terminological Studies on the *Short Chronographic Paleyā*', some contributions touched upon other topics, such as Byzantine chronicles (e.g. Paolo Odorico, 'The *Chronicle* by ps.-Eustathius of Antioch in the Codex Parisinus: an unknown chronicle or a collection of materials?'), Dieter Fahl, 'Fragments of the *Chronicle* by ps.-Eustathius of Antioch in the Short Chronographic *Paleyā*', Caroline Macé, 'The text of the *Physiologus* in ps.-Eustathius of Antioch's *Chronicle*', Christian apocryphal literature in Greek and Armenian (e.g. Igor Dorfmann-Lazarev, 'Melchizedek traditions in the Armenian corpus of sermons attributed to Epiphanius of Salamis', Martin Meiser, 'Patristic Literature and Apocrypha or the *Biblia Scholastica* of Petrus Comestor', Sabine Fahl, 'The Ladder of Jacob in the three types of *Tolkovaya Paleyā*'), Jewish studies (e.g. Aleksandr I. Griščenko, 'Hebrew influence on the *Palaea* Interpretata', William Adler, 'New Perspectives on the Textual Transmission of the *Palaea Historica*'), Biblical commentaries (e.g. Jan Doehorn, 'The Fate of Parabiblical Literature in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD'), or the Septuagint (Martin Rösel, 'The Septuagint as a Document of Biblical Chronography').

The proceedings will be published in Greifswalder theologische Forschungen monographic series.

(Red.)

## 44<sup>th</sup> Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies

Saint Louis, 13–14 October 2017

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference of St Louis University was organized at the Vatican Film Library of Saint Louis University on 13 and 14 October 2017.

While the majority of papers dealt with occidental manuscripts, several presentations covered traditions within the COMSt scope.

The keynote talk by Marianna Shreve Simpson was dedicated to 'Persian Manuscripts and the Meaning of Masterpiece'. Illuminated Persian man-