The commonalities and variation in the quire production among the different Syriac-language communities through time were studied by Grigory Kessel. New findings in the field of Coptic manuscript studies, in particular within the framework of a recent PAThs project based in Rome, were highlighted by Paola Buzi. An overview of the state of the art in Ethiopian manuscript studies (including issues in codicology and philology) was presented by Alessandro Bausi.

Several papers dealt with what scientific research can contribute to manuscript studies. Henk De Groot discussed the questions that scientific parchment analysis may try to answer. Sarah Fiddyment presented the actual results of an ongoing parchment analysis project, that aspires, through protein analysis, to build up a picture of geographic distribution and craft production quality through time. The study revealed information not only about animal species and sex but also the history of the book object through microbial fingerprints. Ira Rabin showed convincingly how instrumental analysis of writing materials can facilitate codicological studies (in this case on the example of some Hebrew manuscripts). A successful attempt of a virtual reconstruction of palimpsested codices (on the example of some Caucasian manuscripts) was demonstrated by Jost Gippert.

Programme and selected abstracts are available at <https://www.manuscript-cultures.uni-hamburg.de/register_beitarie2017.html>.

<div align="right">(Red.)</div>

The Zograf Library and Archives: Research Approaches to Digitizing, Cataloguing, and Editing the Sources

Sofia, 27–28 October 2017

The library of the Zograf Monastery on Mount Athos is among the richest monastic repositories in the Slavic area that have been continuously used for centuries—from the Middle Ages till present day. Since 2014, the project 'The Zograf Digital Archive' at the University of Sofia 'St. Kliment Ohridski' has had the ambition to examine the library and archive repository of the monastery in its entirety, combining the expertise of a number of scholars from different fields. Thus over 400 manuscripts have been digitized by the monastery and made available in the *Zograf electronic research library* located in Sofia University (<http://www.slav.uni-sofia.bg/zograflib/>).

The conference 'The Zograf Library and Archives', held at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia from 27 to 28 October 2017, had as its initial aim to publicize the intermediate project results. Its broader aim was to bring together a wider range of scholars working on other materials from the Zograf collection and a number of experienced researchers in the fields of digitizing, cataloguing, and editing manuscripts and archival sources in hopes to foster a productive debate and exchange of varied academic experiences.

The inaugural address from the librarian of the Zograf Monastery, father Atanasii, was followed by twenty-one papers. In the first session, Marina Krutova introduced the audience to a number of unknown Zograf materials from the manuscripts' collection of the Russian State Library in Moscow; Ralph Cleminson talked about the *Sermons* of Dorotheus of Gaza surviving in medieval Slavonic manuscripts currently kept in the Zograf collection and in the Cromwell collection of the Bodleian Library; Petr Zhgun and Vera Podkovyrova focused on a number of manuscripts from the Zograf collection, authored and copied by students of Reverend Paisii Velichkovski; and Zhanna Levshina presented a newly built internet platform encompassing the whole corpus of manuscripts of non-jus one-jer (Serbian) orthography housed in the Manuscript Department of the Russian National Library in Saint Petersburg (<http://expositions.nlr.ru/ex_manus/Serbian_Manuscripts/>).

The collection of Byzantine and medieval Slavonic documents from Zograf, currently under preparation for publication in the *Archives de l'Athos* series, was presented by Gencho Banev, who pointed out that in terms of quantity, the Zograf Byzantine archive ranks fifth on Mount Athos. The Moldo-Wallachian documents written in Slavonic (49 originals and 17 copies) from the Zograf Monastery were introduced by Dimităr Peev. Petronel Zahariuc and George Lăzar fittingly traced the ties of the Moldavian elite with the Monastery of Zograf.

A small round table discussed the challenges faced by the researchers describing late Slavonic manuscripts from the Zograf Library. Andrey Bobev outlined the results of the research team working on a short catalogue of 118 previously uncatalogued manuscripts (nos. 287–405). Elisaveta Musakova discussed some fine examples of the otherwise humble decoration of these late Slavonic manuscripts. Georgi Parpulov argued rather convincingly that the now lost part of the Zograf royal bead-roll, whose single first page is preserved bound at the beginning of another manuscript in Zograf, is actually to be found in another manuscript.

A session was dedicated to the Zograf materials from the Ottoman period. Grigor Boykov and Damyan Borisov described this collection, which consists of more than 800 documents of various kinds from the mid-fifteenth

century to the beginning of the twentieth century. Mariya Kiprovska reported of the team's work on the fifteenth-century Ottoman Sultanic decrees and judicial (*kadı*) court decisions (19 in total) and commented shortly on the adopted principles of their edition. Father Kozma (Popovski) and Grigor Boykov focused on the watermarks of some of the accurately dated Ottoman documents, which showed that they could not only serve as a dating tool for the hitherto undated manuscripts, but also represent a supplementary extension of the thus far known watermark catalogues. Finally, Gencho Banev elaborated on the rather large collection of *kondika*s in the Zograf archive and shared some of the pitfalls and limitations in the process of their cataloguing.

A special session was dedicated to late Slavonic musical manuscripts. Gotse Risteski shared his experience in cataloguing the Slavonic musical manuscripts housed in the Zograf Monastery; Svetlana Kujumdzhieva elucidated the relations between the Hilandar and Zograf brotherhoods in the production and use of musical manuscripts; and Vasja Velinova described the collection of late Slavonic musical manuscripts in Professor Ivan Dujchev Center for Slavo-Byzantine Studies at St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia.

The final round table centered on the theme of using digital resources for description and edition of medieval manuscripts and documents and early printed books. Elena Uzunova talked about the practices of manuscript cataloguing at Sts Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia through COBISS in the framework of shared model of Balkan public libraries. M.A. Johnson reviewed the advantages of digital colour images of manuscripts, but reiterated that microfilm is still the preservation standard, urging the creation of microfilm from the digital copies for deposit in a secure environment for long-term preservation and access. Andrej Boyadžiev and Grigor Boykov presented samples of the electronic models of the ongoing project at Sofia University aiming at creating an encompassing electronic description of both manuscripts and archival documents held in the Zograf Monastery. Stefan Peev reported on the work in progress on a new Old Cyrillic font, Suprasal Font, seen in the context of the need for development of digital historical typography.

The participants all agreed that the monastic library and archives that have survived till present and were used during the centuries as an inseparable unity should be studied with holistic approaches requiring information exchange amongst scholars examining different kinds of sources written in different languages and scripts during different historical periods.

Mariya Kiprovska, Margaret Dimitrova
St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia