

Documents and Manuscripts in the Arab-Islamic World: The VII International Society for Arabic Papyrology Conference

Berlin, 20–23 March 2018

Last years have seen a significant development in Arabic papyrology. New editions appear; documents are increasingly used in literary and historical research; and the cooperation with neighbouring disciplines including Demotic, Greek, and Coptic papyrology, as well as with Genizah Studies has steadily improved.

From 20 to 23 March 2018, the Seventh International Society for Arabic Papyrology Conference (ISAP VII) was convened by Lajos Berkes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Beatrice Gruendler, Konrad Hirschler (both Freie Universität Berlin), Andreas Kaplony (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München/ISAP), Verena Lepper (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Michael Marx (Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences), Johannes Niehoff-Panagiotidis, and Tonio Sebastian Richter (both Freie Universität Berlin). The venues included Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, but also Bodemuseum, Berlin Papyrus Collection, and the Manuscript Collection of the Berlin Staatsbibliothek, for hands-on workshops on Arabic documents.

The keynote lecture by Fred Donner (University of Chicago) focused on ‘The Earliest Extant Arabic Letter? Several Puzzles in Search of a Solution’. The panels grouped papers on Omayyad Imperial Documents (two sessions), Literary Documents, Economic Documents, on Scribal Culture, and on Science Manuscripts.

Several papers dealing with the Omayyad Imperial Documents focused on the linguistic problems illustrated by the papyrus evidence. Thus, Tomasz Barański (University of Warsaw) spoke of ‘The Arabization of Lower-Rank Officials in Early Islamic Egypt: A Reconsideration of Two Bilingual Tax Receipts from the Heracleopolites/Ihnās’ and Lajos Berkes (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) of ‘Greek as an Administrative Language in the 8th-century Caliphate’. Multilingualism was also the topic of the paper by Said Reza Huseini (Leiden University) ‘Thinking in Arabic, Writing in Sogdian: Diplomatic Relations Between the Arabs and the Local Rulers in Transoxiana in the Early Eighth Century’. Particular terms and expressions were studied by Esther Garel (IFAO Cairo), ‘People of Edfu: Some Considerations on Onomastics and Prosopography in the Papyri from the Early Arab Period’, and Petra Sijpesteijn (Leiden University), ‘“After God, I turn to you.” Religious Expressions in Arabic Papyrus Letters’. Others aimed at historical interpretation of the data, such as Jelle Bruning (Leiden University), who talked of

‘Organizing the War Fleet in Early-Islamic Egypt’, or Nils Purwins (Freie Universität Berlin), whose paper was entitled ‘The Noble Ones of Ērānšahr: About wuzurgān, āzādāz, dahīgān, šahrīgān’. Coptic documents were in the focus of the paper by Vincent Walter (Leipzig University), ‘For you know about my life and the prison I am in’: The Late Coptic Paitos Dossier’.

Economic Documents session hosted papers by Cecilia Palombo (Princeton University) on ‘Power, Exaction, and Paternalism in the Enforcement of Taxation: The Egyptian Monastic Context, 2nd–3rd Centuries’, by Janneke de Jong (Leiden University) on ‘Who Did What in Eighth-Century Aphrodito? Some Observations on Tax Documents and Prosopography’, by Saied el-Maghawry Mohamed (Sadat City University) on ‘Wheat Through Arabic Papyri in the World Wide Collections: Rare Unpublished Texts’, by Matt Malczycki (Auburn University) on ‘Livestock Sales and Social History’, by Mohamed N. Abdelrahman Gad (King Faisal University) on ‘An Unpublished Arabic Document from Mamluk Jerusalem: Ḥaram Šarīf no. 646’, and by Rocio Daga Portillo (LMU Munich) on ‘Writing in Arabic after the Christian Conquest: Toledo Documents Comparing Islamic and Christian Arabic Documents’.

The panel on Literary Documents hosted papers by Mathieu Tillier (Université Paris IV-Sorbonne) and Naïm Vanthieghem (CNRS Paris) on ‘A Quranic Manuscript on Papyrus From the End of the 7th and the Beginning of the 8th Century in the Hamburg Staatsbibliothek’, by Ursula Bsees (University of Vienna/University of Cambridge) on ‘Some from the Zabur, Some from the Prophet: Religious Advice Collected as Seen in P.Vind.inv. A.P. 1854a+b’, by Hazem Hussein Abbas Ali (Beni-Suef University) on ‘Reconstructing Dhūr-Rumma’s Poem Through an Unpublished Document from the P.Cair.Arab. Collection’, by Edmund Hayes (Leiden University) on ‘The Epistolary Imam: Comparing the Correspondence of the Shii Imam with Documentary Letters’, by Samer Ben Brahim, Mahmoud Kozae, and Rima Redwan (Freie Universität Berlin) on ‘Digital Approaches to a Mutable Textual Tradition: *Kalīla wa-Dimna* in Manuscripts from the 13th to 19th Centuries’. The final paper in the panel, by Yousry Elseadawy (Freie Universität Berlin), on ‘Scribes and Manuscripts: The Scribes of Arabic Manuscripts: A Historical and Codicological Approach’, anticipated the topics of the Scribal Culture session convened on the following day.

Other papers grouped in the Scribal Culture panel included the talk by Abdullah al-Hatlani (Leiden University) on ‘What’s in a Name? Names, Kunyas, and Nisbas in Islamic-Era Inscriptions from Arabia’, Eline Scheerlinck (Leiden University), ‘We will not require anything of you, except for... Permits, Protection and Problem Solving in Early Islamic Egypt’, Eugenio Ga-

rosi (LMU Munich/University of Basel), ‘An Early Islamic Validity Cause: P.Ness. 56 Revisited’, Maher A. Eissa (Fayoum University), ‘More Late Coptic Texts from the National Archive of Egypt’, Daisy Livingston (SOAS London), ‘Late-Mamlūk Archival Practices on Ice: The View from Sultan al-Ghawrī’s Waqf Archive’, Tarek M. Muhammad and Noha A. Salem (Ain Shams University, Cairo), ‘*Tārīkh Mulūk al-Qusṭanṭīniyya* (The History of the Kings of Constantinople): An Attempt to Know its Author and Sources’.

Science was the content of the documents discussed by Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University), ‘Arabic Manuals of Twitch Divination from the Cairo Genizah and from Qusayr’ and Johannes Thomann (University of Zurich), ‘Scientific Texts-Books and their Application in Practice: Interdependencies of Literary and Documentary Evidence of Scientific Activities’.

A number of projects, individual and group, were presented during a poster session entitled ‘Hands-On Discussion of Documents, Archives and Collections’. It included poster presentations by Ahmed Nabil Maghraby (Sadat City University) ‘Fragment of a Lost Hadith Collection of al-Mu’tamar ibn Sulaymān al-Taymī Preserved on Paper’, Alon Dar (Leiden University), ‘Power or Persuasion: Qurra b. Sharīk’s Letters’, Ahmed Kamal Mamdouh (Cairo University), ‘Two Unpublished Personal Letters from al-Ashmūnain’, Tamer Mokhtar Mohamed (Helwan University), ‘Four Arabic Inscriptions on Wooden Panels’, and Lahcen Daaïf (Université Lumière Lyon 2), ‘The Archive of a Christian Wealthy Family from Ṭuṭūn’. In this context, the current work on the Arabic Papyrology Database was presented by the group of scholars including Andreas Kaplony, Daniel Pothast, Johannes Thomann, Sebastian Metz, Angélique Kleiner, Rocio Daga Portillo, Leonora Sonego, and Michail Hradek (LMU Munich).

The conference programme is available at <http://www.naher-osten.lmu.de/isap_vii>.

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Armenia & Byzantium Without Borders: Mobility, Interactions, Responses

Vienna, 20–22 April 2018

The international conference in form of a workshop ‘Armenia & Byzantium Without Borders’ took place in Vienna on 20 to 22 April 2018. The event was organized by Emilio Bonfiglio (Universität Wien) and Claudia Rapp (Universität Wien and Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften) within the framework of the Wittgenstein Prize Project ‘Moving Byzantium: Mobility, Microstructure and Personal Agency’—a five-year project begun in 2016 at