

respondents and moderators, is currently being prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed volume entitled *Armenia & Byzantium Without Borders*. This book will appear in the recently established series *Moving Byzantium*, published by Vienna University Press through Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht (Göttingen).

The ‘Armenia & Byzantium Without Borders’ conference as established in Vienna will continue in partnership with the University of Oxford in alternate years, under the joint organization of Theo Maarten van Lint and David Zakarian from Oxford, and Emilio Bonfiglio and Claudia Rapp from Vienna. The next conference will take place in Oxford on 22–23 March 2019.

The conference programme is available at <https://rapp.univie.ac.at/file-admin/user_upload/p_rapp/Events_2018/Armenia___Byzantium_Program.pdf>.

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Visualizing Sufism

Bonn, 14 May 2018

From the Late Medieval Period onward many Sufi treatises began to display an increasing amount of visual elements, mainly in the form of diagrams, which can either have an auxiliary function, i.e. to help explain the contents of specific written passages, or be themselves at the very core of the text.

A workshop was convened at Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn on 14 May 2018 by Giovanni Maria Martini in order to understand the significance and diffusion of such visual devices in Sufi literature—involving both traditional ‘manuscriptological’ disciplines such as codicology, history of the book, and philology on the one hand, and intellectual history and the history of ideas on the other hand.

The workshop aimed at investigating to which extent the diffusion of visual elements was one of the chief novelties and specific features of Sufi literature to develop in the Late Medieval and Early Modern period. Papers dealt with Arab, Persian, and Turkish Sufi authors, covering a time spanning from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century.

The workshop was opened by the papers by Noah Gardiner (University of South Carolina) on ‘Diagrams as Keys to the Kingdom in Aḥmad al-Būnī’s (d. 622/1225) *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fi al-ḥurūf al-’ulwiyāt*’ and Elizabeth Alexandrin (University of Manitoba) on ‘Secret Alphabets and Sealed Texts in Three Unedited Works of Sa’d al-Dīn Ḥamūyeh (d. 649/1252)’.

Two talks examined symbols used in his treatise by Ibn al-‘Arabī: Sophie Tyler (EPHE) on ‘Visualizing the Order of the Universe: the Cosmolog-

ical Diagrams in Chapter 371 of Ibn al-‘Arabī’s (d. 638/1240) *Meccan Openings*’ and Ali Karjoo-Ravary (University of Pennsylvania) on ‘Illustrating the Forms: Ibn al-‘Arabī’s (d. 638/1240) Images in *al-Futūḥāt al-Makkiyya*’.

Orkhan Mir-Kasimov (The Institute of Ismaili Studies) spoke of the ‘Use of Digrams in the Ḥurūfi and Nuḡṭavi Manuscripts, and Possible Links between the Ḥurūfi ‘Verbal’ and the Bektashi Visual Iconographies’. Eliza Tasbihi (McGill University) focused on the ‘Esoteric Deliberations on Visionary Unveiling: Mystical Knowledge from Ḥaydar Āmulī’s (d. after 787/1385) *Naṣṣ al-nuṣūṣ fī sharḥ Fuṣūṣ al-ḥikam*’.

Giovanni Maria Martini (University of Bonn) presented on ‘Shīrīn Maghribī’s (d. 810/1407) Visual Sufism: Diagrams, Intellectual Networks and the Transmission of the Spiritual Knowledge in 14th-Century Tabriz and Beyond’. Eryn Kropf (University of Michigan) talked on ‘Sensible Metaphors’: Pictograms in the Transmission of ‘Abd al-Wahhāb al-Sha’rānī’s (d. 973/1565) *al-Mīzān al-kubrā*’. Side Emre (Texas A&M University) presented a ‘Comparative Study in 16th-Century Sufi Images and Diagrams: Bāyezīd Ḥalīfe’s (d. after 921/1516) Sīrri-i-canān and Muḥyīyi Gülşenī’s (d. c. 1014/1606) *Devā’iru’l-ma’arīf*’.

The discussion addressed a number of questions concerning the emergence, use, and evolution of diagrams in Sufi literature.

A collective volume is expected as an outcome of the workshop.

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Manuscript Cataloguing in a Comparative Perspective: State of the Art, Common Challenges, Future Directions

Hamburg, 7–10 May 2018

In the recent years, several paradigmatic changes in manuscript studies have strongly influenced the cataloguing method. First and foremost, it is the onset and expansion of electronic cataloguing, which brings its advantages but also its constraints. Second, there is the increasing attention to the material aspects of the manuscript. And finally, connected to that, the new understanding of the historical complexity of the structure of the manuscript, its multi-layered nature, that has far too often been neglected in catalogues.

From 7 to 10 May 2018, a conference took place at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg, to address the old and new trends and challenges in scientific manuscript description. The organizers—Patrick Andrist (Munich), Alessandro Bausi (Hamburg), Michael Friedrich (Hamburg), and Marilena Maniaci (Cassino)—wanted on the one hand to compare the approaches and strategies currently applied to manuscript cat-