

ratextual matter, approximately a century after its estimated production. The second part of her lecture examined the reception of the Eusebian Apparatus through the lens of a series of Hiberno-Latin commentary texts and, in particular, on the commentary on Luke in Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek lat. 997. The session ended with a talk by Beatrice Kitzinger (Princeton), who looked at the decorations of the Jumièges Gospels and their relation to the rest of the book's text and illumination program, as well as its history.

On Friday 18, Linley Anne Herbert (Baltimore) delivered an engaging presentation on the Sainte-Croix Gospels of Poitiers and on its complex program of visual and textual dualities. In particular, by looking at the prefatory texts and miniature, she argued that the two sets of Canon Tables present in the manuscript were carefully planned and intentionally included together. Stefan Trinks's (Berlin) paper entitled Multi-FACeTted Canon Tables highlighted the presence of human faces in the architecture of some Carolingian Gospel books and offered some remarks as to the possible literary sources of this motif. The session ended with a paper by Susanne Wittekind (Cologne), entitled 'Transfer of Semantics – Canon Tables as a Visual Model'.

The talks were followed by lively discussions which continued during the breaks. Most of the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to exchange views offered by the conference and their hope that it would be the first of a long series. Those who were unable to attend will be interested that proceedings of the conference will be published in a volume edited by its organizers.

The full programme is available at <<https://arthist.net/archive/18043>>.

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Natural Sciences and Technology in Manuscript Analysis

Hamburg, 13–14 June 2018

The third international conference on Natural Sciences and Technology in Manuscript Analysis organized by and held at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC) in Hamburg continued the tradition of bringing together scholars and scientists for discussing various aspects of a multi-faceted interdisciplinary approach adopted in the advanced research of manuscripts. This time the pre-conference workshop 'OpenX for Interdisciplinary Computational Manuscript Research', held on June 12 and 13, hosted the fast-growing field of computational techniques in the image and text analysis whereas material analysis and recovery of the lost writing constituted the three sessions of the one-and-a-half-day conference.

The first session, on 13 June, chaired by Oliver Hahn was dedicated to material analysis of manuscripts. In her key-note lecture ‘Radiocarbon and Dating of a Manuscript: Material, Archaeological Context and Date Relation’, Elisabetta Boaretto, the director of the archaeological Kimmel Centre in the Weizmann Institute in Israel, described in detail sampling, cleaning of the samples, measurements, data processing and the pitfalls associated with every step in the process of radiocarbon dating of writing surfaces. In addition, she shared with the audience her considerations on the latest developments in the time axis calibration. Two other papers of this session elucidated the contribution of the ink analysis for the manuscript studies conducted jointly by philologists, codicologists and scientists (Tea Ghigo; Zina Cohen). The session ended with a round table discussion dedicated to various strategies to facilitate interdisciplinary research, moderated by Oliver Hahn and Ira Rabin. The great success of the manuSciences ’15 and ’17, the German-French summer school for exhaustive manuscript studies held in September 2015 in Chiemsee, Germany and September 2017 in Fréjus, France, respectively stressed the role of the summer schools for dissemination of the new technologies. The next summer school in this series is planned for March 2019.

The second session, chaired by Daniel Stoekl in the morning of 14 June, focused on techniques for recovery of lost or damaged writing. The key-note lecture ‘Hyperspectral Imaging of Historical Artifacts: A Novel Imaging Approach for the Study of Materials and Methods’ delivered by David Messinger from the Rochester Institute of Technology, USA, focused on the differences between Hyperspectral and Multispectral imaging and the respective data processing. The remaining presentations of the session included optimization of the imaging protocols (Damianos Kasotakis), imaging systems (Roger L. Easton, Jr.), data processing (Keith T. Knox; Leif Glaser) and a detailed report of the service project Z1, i.e. spectral imaging at the CSMC.

The third and last session, chaired by Ira Rabin in the afternoon of 14 June, included a key-note lecture ‘Material-Technical Details on Papyrus as Writing Support’ delivered by Myriam Krutzsch from the Egyptian Museum and Papyrus collection in Berlin, who presented the protocol for the characterization of papyrus. This protocol, already containing an exhaustive details of papyrus physical properties, was broadened in the last years to include its chemical composition obtained through instrumental analysis. The rest of the session was divided between the report of the service project Z2 aimed at material analysis at the CSMC (Olivier Bonnerot), X-ray tomography for reading unopened bamboo scroll (Daniel Stromer), and case studies (Élodie Attia; Samanehalsadat Ehteram).

For the full programme of the conference, visit <https://www.manuscript-cultures.uni-hamburg.de/natural_sciences_2018.html>.

Ira Rabin

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Manuscript Cultures in Medieval Syria: Towards a history of the Qubbat al-khazna depository in Damascus

Berlin, 28–29 June 2018

On 28 and 29 June 2018, a two-day conference on Manuscript Cultures in Medieval Syria was convened jointly by Arianna D’Ottone Rambach (Sapienza Università di Roma), Konrad Hirschler (Freie Universität Berlin), and Ronny Vollandt (LMU München). Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, it was hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin and the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften.

The Qubbat al-khazna of the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus was ‘academically discovered’ as early as in 1900. Similarly to the famous Cairo Gheniza, it is a rich depository for worn-out books and disused documents, yet far less known or studied. It preserves great numbers of parchment and paper documents. The majority are in Arabic and pertain to the Islamic sphere (Qur’ān, theological works, legal documents, etc.), yet there are also writings of Jews, Samaritans, and Christians, not only in Arabic but also in Syriac, Christian-Palestinian Aramaic, Armenian, Georgian, Coptic, Greek, Latin, and even Old French. Scholars from across the world came together in order to evaluate this multilingual heritage and launch the Qubba studies similar to the established Genizah studies.

The morning sessions on both days were dedicated to the Qubba’s history and its academic discovery. On the first day, Said Aljoumani (Scholars at Risk/Freie Universität Berlin) on ‘The pre-Ottoman history of the Qubbat al-Khazna’ (delivered in Arabic) and by Boris Liebrez (Freie Universität Berlin/The Graduate Center, City University of New York) on ‘Fire, Consuls, Scholars: Conflicting Views on the Discovery of the Qubbat al-Khazna Documents’ both focused on the Qubba before its ‘academic discovery’ in 1900. On the second day, Cordula Bandt and Arnd Rattmann (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften) focused on the discovery itself in their talk ‘Bruno Violet and the exploration of the Qubbat al-khazna around 1900’. Studies by Hermann von Soden, a scholar of the history of Christian Bible who used Damascus materials, were in the focus of the talk by Christoph Marksches (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften) ‘Her-