

African Voices in Islamic Manuscripts from Mali
Hamburg, 31 October–1 November 2018

On 31 October and 1 November 2018 the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC, at Hamburg University) hosted the conference ‘African voices in Islamic manuscripts from Mali’ sponsored by the DFG-funded project ‘African voices in Islamic manuscripts from Mali: documenting and exploring African languages in Arabic script (Ajami)’.

Various little explored manuscript traditions from Islamic Africa were featured. Soninke tradition was explored by Djibril Drame (Hamburg) in his talks ‘Soninke of the Islamic Manuscripts: A comparative overview of a written register and modern (spoken) Soninke’, and, together with Samby Khalil Magassouba (Bamako), ‘Analysis of a Soninke Ajami poem’. Darya Ogorodnikova (Hamburg) explored the marginal notes left in study manuscripts coming from the greater Senegambia region and Guinea to describe ‘The scribes of the Soninke Islamic manuscripts and their networks’. Lameen Souag (Paris) presented some ‘Preliminary notes on a page of premodern Songhay and Tamasheq poetry from Timbuktu’. Fula poetry, transmitted in Arabic script, was explored by Hamadou Boly (Bamako) in his talk ‘Une étude analytique de la poésie du cheick Mouhammad Abdoulaye Souadou’.

The programme and abstracts are available at <<https://www.manuscript-cultures.uni-hamburg.de/cal-details/181031111%20Ajami%20WS%20programme.pdf>>.

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Medieval Biblical Manuscripts
from the Thames to the Euphrates
Texts, Paratexts, Forms, and Uses
Aix-en-Provence, 8–9 November 2018

On 8 and 9 November 2018, the conference ‘Medieval Biblical Manuscripts. From the Thames to the Euphrates: Texts, Paratexts, Forms, and Uses’ took place in the Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l’homme at Aix-en-Provence. It was convened by the principal investigators of two major research projects, Élodie Attia of the *Manuscripta Bibliae Hebraicae* (funded by the French National Research Agency, Aix-Marseille University) and Patrick Andrist of the *ParaTexBib – Paratexts of the Bible* project (funded by the European Research Council, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), with support from Marilena Maniaci (Università degli studi di Cassino e del Lazio meridionale).

Following the growing interest in the study of late medieval Bibles, the conference aimed at stimulating studies that are cross-cutting and synchronic rather than diachronic or based on identified cultural spaces of the Middle Ages. Scholars working on Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic language tradition discussed specific aspects of manuscript studies focusing on possible distinctive or shared features of Bible manuscripts, and on the possible products of exchanges, cultural transfers, or the *Zeitgeist*.

The conference papers were grouped in three panels, Complete Bibles, Partial Bibles, and Bibles with Commentaries.

The first panel, on 8 November, grouped papers dealing with Complete Bibles (in one volume or several volumes clearly designed as a single unit). Chiara Ruzzier (Leuven) discussed the compression techniques used in Latin Bibles in her talk 'Item Biblia in uno volumine. Le "compactage" du texte biblique du XI^e au XIII^e siècle'. Latin glossed Bibles were studied by Martin Morard (Paris) in his paper 'Les problématiques de la Bible glosée latine'. Patrick Andrist focused on the Greek complete Bible manuscripts and their paratexts in his talk 'La structure des pandectes: modularité, séries ininterrompues, paratextualité'. The Hebrew Bible manuscripts were the object of study by Ben Outhwaite (Cambridge University Library), 'Maḥzor and Muṣḥaf: form and function of the Hebrew Bible codex in the Middle East' and in the focus of comments provided by the discussant Philippe Cassuto (Aix-Marseille University).

The second panel, in the morning of 9 November, grouped papers dealing with Partial Bibles produced as separate volumes (various texts brought together). Hebrew collections of selected biblical books of the Ashkenaz were in the focus of the talk of Élodie Attia, 'Bibles hébraïques partielles: le cas des 'Pentateuque-Megillot-Haftarot' ashkénazes'. Latin partial Bibles were discussed by Roberta Casavecchia (Cassino) and Marilena Maniaci, 'Partial Bibles in Southern Italy: The Case of Montecassino'. Georgi Parpulov (Birmingham) spoke of 'The Emergence of Biblical Lectionaries'. Greek manuscript tradition was further explored by the discussant Gilles Dorival (Aix-Marseille University).

The final panel, in the afternoon of 9 November, focused on Bibles with commentaries. Several presenters saw the commentaries as a first step towards a critical edition, e.g. Caroline Chevalier-Royer (Lyon) who spoke of 'Les annotations marginales des Bibles de la première Renaissance carolingienne (780-850 environ): une ébauche d'apparat critique?', or Ronny Vollandt (Munich) who discussed some 'Text-critical marginalia in Arabic Bible Manuscripts'. Javier del Barco (Madrid) presented on 'La Bible hébraïque glosée au Moyen Âge en Europe occidentale: Mise en (con)texte'. The final dis-

cussion was led by Manuel Sartori and Christian Boudignon (Aix-Marseille University).

The programme of the conference is available at <<http://cpaf.cnrs.fr/IMG/pdf/web-medieval-biblical-manuscripts.pdf>>.

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**L’Africa nel mondo, il mondo in Africa
Africa in the World, the World in Africa**
Accademia Ambrosiana, Classis Africana, V Dies Academicus
Milan, 24–25 January 2019

On 24 and 25 January, Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan hosted a conference entitled ‘L’Africa nel mondo, il mondo in Africa / Africa in the World, the World in Africa’. Convened by Alessandro Gori and Fabio Viti, it took its title from the collection of papers by the Afro-American intellectual William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1965) and aimed at exploring connections between Africa and the Occident, including those witnessed by manuscript traditions.

Thus, the Ethiopian connection to Rome was explored on the basis of manuscripts in the paper ‘An Early Ethiopic Collection on Calendar and Chronology: Between Northern Ethiopia and Rome’ by Denis Nosnitsin (Hamburg). Paul M. Love (Ifrane) focused on the interaction between manuscripts and books at the boundary between the Orient and the Occident in his paper ‘The Charlatan and the Library: At the intersections of manuscripts, colonialism, and Ibadi Muslims in late-Ottoman Cairo’. The role of Timbuktu manuscripts in the transmission of knowledge was, among other things, explored by Shamil Jeppie (Cape Town) in his talk ‘Timbuktu, the world and Africa’.

Full conference programme is available at <<https://www.ambrosiana.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/V-DA-2019-Africana-Locandina.pdf>>.

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Coptic Literature in Context. The Contexts of Coptic Literature
Late Antique Egypt in a dialogue between literature, archaeology
and digital humanities

Rome, 25–27 February 2019

From February 25 to 27, 2019, the conference *Coptic Literature in Context. The Contexts of Coptic Literature: Late Antique Egypt in a dialogue between literature, archaeology and digital humanities*, organized in the