

	RESEARCH NETWORKING PROGRAMME COMSt
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TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP: *Oriental Textual Traditions and 21st-cent. Philology: New challenges*

1. SUMMARY

This third COMSt Team 2 workshop, organized in collaboration with Team 3 and the Interedition project (<http://www.interedition.eu/>), had a strong methodological and technological component. The lectures, mainly focused on methodological issues of editing Oriental texts belonging to different literary genres (in Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Greek, Slavonic, Syriac), gave rise to general discussions crossing the boundaries of languages. The importance of the phenomenon of multilingualism in Oriental traditions was underlined in almost every lecture. One session was organized specifically to allow junior scholars (COMSt grantees or scholars participating at their own expenses) to show the first results of their research and receive feedback from the participants.

An ample amount of time was dedicated to discussion. The main topics of the Round Table were the following:

1. Stemma / History of tradition: is a stemma always possible and / or necessary? Problem of the gap between "ancestor" and extant tradition
2. Type of edition: what is a critical edition / diplomatic? + question of readership
3. Digital or not? Going "digital" will not solve all problems
4. Are there intrinsic differences between editions of "oriental" texts / mss and others (Classical, Western medieval, Modern, Biblical, other languages...)

During the editorial meeting, the structure of the chapter was consolidated and the distribution of the work amongst the Team 2 and 3 members was confirmed and sometimes adjusted.

As stated earlier, technological / digital aspects were of major importance during this workshop. On the one hand, Stefan Hagel presented the new features of his (commercial) software, "Classical Text Editor", which many of the participants are using or have used, and this was the occasion for several people to ask questions and get concrete answers to their problems. On the other hand, several members of the Interedition project demonstrated possibilities offered by new (free) software developed in the framework of their project: from transcription and collation to editing and stylistic analysis of the texts. There was time to experiment with these tools and discuss to what extent they can be adapted to the specific needs of Oriental texts.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

Sever Voicu presented the complex tradition of John Chrysostom's homilies, which is an enormous corpus transmitted in Greek, Latin, Slavonic, Coptic, Syriac, Arabic, Ethiopian, Armenian, and Georgian. S. Voicu underlined the methodological problems posed when dealing with such a variety of languages and a corpus extending over such a large geographical and temporal span.

Valentina Calzolari and **Emilio Bonfiglio** presented the issues at stake in editing apocryphal literature, especially in Armenian. V. Calzolari gave a general and methodological overview, while E. Bonfiglio concentrated upon the specific case of the Martyrium of Philip. Apocryphal literature, being "non authorial", is more likely to be freely adapted and revised. It is therefore often impossible to draw one unique stemma of the whole tradition and to edit one single text. Often, the Armenian texts are

translations of Greek texts and can be used in the reconstitution of the Greek original, but with caution, because of the not infrequent free interventions of the translators.

In contrast, **Caroline Macé** offered a synthetic overview of the Greek tradition of Gregory of Nazianzus's homilies, which is a case of a very authoritative text, almost as intangible as the Bible. That kind of tradition poses other problems: within the "vulgate" text, transmitted in many manuscripts (up to several hundreds) the level of variation is so low and the level of contamination so high that the classification of the witnesses is challenging. Yet, the high number of Greek manuscripts is no guarantee for the quality of the text, due to large gap between the time of composition (end of 4th cent.) and that of the oldest manuscripts (end of 8th cent.). As often, the Oriental translations (in this case Armenian) preserve a "more ancestral" state of the text. If the archetypal text can therefore be reconstructed with some certainty, the order of the homilies in the collection (probably due to Gregorius himself) is much more difficult to restore - even though it is a meaningful element to understand Gregory's work.

Taking the example of Syriac monastic anthologies, **G. Kessel** showed that many texts were preserved only or mainly in florilegia. It is important to understand the historical, sociological and religious contexts in which those florilegia were produced in order to be able to better evaluate the complex process of "anthologizing" those texts. The excerptors chose specific texts for specific purposes and they have often altered the texts in such a way that it makes it difficult for modern philologists to use those fragments.

After having discussed the practices of editing Syriac in the early history of the CSCO (up to the death of Draguet) during the first Team workshop (in 2010), **Alessandro Mengozzi** now turned to the methodological and editorial choices made by S. Brock in his editions of Syriac dialogue poems. Brock intended these editions for a larger audience, and he consciously enhanced the legibility and literary value of those texts above philological considerations.

Junior researchers

- 1) Sophia Dege: Critical edition and translation of the *Aksimarios* (Ethiopian) and comparative analysis of hexaemeral literature
- 2) Gidena Mesfin: Variance and orality in magical medical Ethiopian manuscripts
- 3) Alba Fedeli: Qur'anic fragments in the Mingana Collection of Birmingham
- 4) Lucia Raggetti: Natural science, medicine and magic in a few Arabic texts
- 5) Maria Lacinakova: The edition of the "Wonders of Angels" (Arabic)
- 6) Cornelius Berthold: Editorial practices and (lacking) standards in editing Arabic texts

In his lecture, **J.J. Witkam** turned back to his influential article published in 1988, "Establishing the stemma: fact or fiction?". He explained the circumstances of this article. During his research on the manuscripts of Ibn al-Akfānī's 'Division of the Sciences', he came to realize that the theory of text-editing (mostly based upon P. Maas) was inapplicable in practice, and that pragmatic decisions had to be taken in order to accomplish the work within a reasonable time. This experience can be profitable to other scholars, since in every case we need to compromise between the (unreachable) ideal and concrete circumstances.

Lara Sels and **David Birnbaum** are working together on a digital edition (every step of the editorial process has been digitized as much as possible) of a medieval Slavonic collection of female saints' lives, translated from Greek texts of various origin. They showed the difficulties when dealing with Slavonic texts where the original Greek is not always identified (and almost never critically edited). The interface developed for this digital edition should facilitate the comparison between the Slavonic texts and their potential Greek source(s), and should allow scholars to see the different texts in themselves, but also within the collection they belong to.

During the **Round table**, several methodological questions of general interest were raised. Wrapping up this very rich and intense discussion within one sentence, the main point which emerged is that every

edition is a compromise, taking into account many constraints (nature of the textual tradition, nature of the text, readership, type of edition, time, circumstances...) and scholarly requirements.

Stefan Hagel showed the last developments of his software "Classical Text Editor", which is widely used for the edition of classical and medieval texts in several languages: XML output in TEI, generating full texts from the apparatus, sigla management, export to a phylogenetic software...

The **editorial meeting** resumed from the situation of the last Team 2 workshop in Athens (December 2011): some of the Team members had already submitted a draft, the format and improvement of the bibliography was discussed, the structure of the chapter was reworked and the distribution of the work confirmed or adjusted.

A few training sessions were organized and led by members of the **Interedition** project (Tara L. Andrews, Troy Griffiths, Gregor Middell, Florian Willems, Joris J. van Zundert).

Several tools were demonstrated, and the participants had the opportunity to try them either with their own material or with texts provided:

- tools for online transcription of uploaded manuscript images: T-PEN, eLaborate
- computer assisted collation tools (based on sequence alignment): Juxta, CollateX
- project management for indexing, transcription, collation, and regularization: the INTF virtual manuscript room
- stemmatic analysis: the Tree of texts project
- statistical tools for stylistic analysis: Delta3D
- methods for dealing with very large corpora: the DARE project

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS AND IMPACT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FIELD

The workshop was very fruitful in several respects. First of all the cohesion of the Team has been enhanced, thanks to the amount of time dedicated to discussion and exchange. This opened up new perspectives for further research and collaboration, and will greatly facilitate the work for the handbook's chapter. The role of each Team member as for the composition of the chapter was clarified and the possible gaps in the structure were filled as much as possible. The lectures and subsequent discussions covered other aspects and other genres of Oriental literatures than those envisaged during the two previous Team 2 workshops. The interaction between Team 2 and Team 3 was reinforced: the new perspectives and possibilities offered by the computational tools demonstrated by Interedition made clearer which aspects of the philological work could be made more digital and which results could be expected from that. The dialogue between senior and junior scholars was extremely positive and encouraging.

4. FINAL PROGRAMME

3rd Team 2 Workshop, in collaboration with Team 3 and Interedition

"Oriental Textual Traditions and 21st-cent. Philology: New challenges"

Leuven, 5-7 September 2012

Venue: Faculty Club (Groot Begijnhof)

Wednesday, 5 September

13:30 *Welcome of the participants* (and coffee)

14:00-14:15 *Opening address and practical remarks* (C. Macé & A. Bausi)

14:15-16:00 **Session 1: Multilingualism and translated texts** - **Chair:** Alessandro Bausi

Sever Voicu, *The diffusion of John Chrysostom in Oriental languages*

Valentina Calzolari, *The edition of apocryphal literature*

Emilio Bonfiglio, *The Armenian Versions of the Martyrium of Philip: Status Quaestionis and Editorial Issues*

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:15 **Session 2: Types of textual traditions and philological responses- Chair:** Hugo Lundhaug

Caroline Macé, *Dealing with an overabundant textual tradition - stemmatology and beyond*

Gregory Kessel, *Syriac Monastic Anthologies: Mediators or Obstacles in the Study of Monastic Literature in Syriac? - Some methodological considerations on transmission of the texts*

Alessandro Mengozzi, *History of transmission and publication of Syriac dialogue poems*

18:15-19:15 **Short presentations by Junior Researchers**

Thursday, 6 September

09:00-10:45 **Session 3: Establishing the Text : Traditional and Digital approaches - Chair:** Jost Gippert

Jan Just Witkam, *The philologist's stone. The continuing search for the stemma*

Lara Sels - David Birnbaum, *Editing Medieval Slavonic Translations of Byzantine Texts: a Digital Edition of the Vidin Miscellany, between Artifact and Origin (or The Words on the Page and How they Got There)*

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:30 **Round Table: Oriental Textual traditions and 21st-cent. Philology: New challenges - Chair:** Caroline Macé

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:00 **Editorial meeting** about Chapter 2 of the Handbook

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 **COMSt – Interedition Schooling programme - Part I: Problems and approaches for transcription for oriental manuscripts - Automated text collation**

Tutors: Joris J. van Zundert (Huygens ING), Tara L. Andrews (KU Leuven), Gregor Middell (Uni. Würzburg), Troy Griffitts (Uni. Münster), Florian Willems (Uni. Köln)

18:00-19:00 **Presentation of *Classical Text Editor*** by Stefan Hagel, and discussion with people using the software for Greek and Oriental languages

Friday, 7 September

09:00-10:45 **COMSt – Interedition Schooling programme - Part II: Stemmatic, stylistic, linguistic analysis of collated text - Critical edition, representation, publication**

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:30 **Discussion: Digital tools for editions of Oriental texts – Publication needs and desiderata**

12:30-13:00 **Concluding remarks** (C. Macé & J.J. Witkam)