

Organizers

Stéphane Ipert – Centre de Conservation du Livre

Karin Scheper – Library of Leiden University

Participants

Arietta Revithi – Hellenic Parliament

Dr. Marie-Odet Scalliet – Library of Leiden University

Chantal Keijsper – Library of Leiden University

Zeina Grenady – Book Conservator

Athanasios Velios – University of the Arts

Nicolas Pickwood – University of the Arts

Mayer Manfred – University of Gratz

Ira Rabin – Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing

Sara Fani – Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze

Joseph Moukarzel – Main Library Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

Ewa Balicka Witakowska – Uppsala University

Adam Larsson – Uppsala University

Dr. Maurits van den Boogert – Brill Publishers

Lara Sels – Ghent University

Wido van Peursen – Library of Leiden University Pershita project Leiden

Nikolas Sarris – Technical Educational Institute of the Ionian Islands

The COMST program, scheduled for the years 2009–2014, aims at facilitating cross-cultural academic dialogue and active exchange in the field of Oriental manuscript studies with the focus on the Mediterranean and North African cultural areas.

Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies

Team 5 / Workshop N°3

Preservation of Middle Eastern Manuscripts Restoration and digitalization process: what should be done first?

4th April 2011

University Library, University of Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands



The workshop is supported by the European Science Foundation and the project MANUMED financed by the European Union in the framework of the EUROMED HERITAGE IV programme.

GLOBAL OBJECTIVE

The objective of the workshop 3 of COMSt Team 5 is to address and analyze the central issues (of preservation, conservation and digitization) from the perspective of Middle Eastern Collections kept in Western circumstances, for research and education purposes. The central issues of team 5 need to be examined from the different perspectives and approaches, in order to determine the differences in perception of the problems and consequently finding solutions for the preservation (conservation and digitization) of Middle Eastern manuscripts in those diverse situations (that is: manuscript collections kept in the East or the West, in private libraries or institutions, preserved for museum or accessibility reasons and purposes).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

Digitizing is a set of operations resulting in the production of a document in digital form. It involves a number of steps to both logistical and technical aspects, more complex according to the quantity, the diversity and the heritage values of the documents to be scanned.

The established plan of digitalization has to determine documents requiring a restoration before their digitalization. Indeed, the aspect of manuscripts has to allow a faithful reproduction of the image, which is not the case when the document presents deteriorations. On the other hand, the manipulations due to the operation of digitalization contain mechanical risks for manuscripts. The noticed deteriorations can be there stressed and must be thus handled previously.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to answer to the following question:
Restoration and digitalization: what should be done first?

PROGRAM

9.00

Welcoming and opening:

Chantal Keijsper, Head of the Special Collection in the University Library,
«Introduction to the Library Special Collection and digitalization activities ».

9.15–9.45

Dr. Marie-Odette Scalliet, curator of the South-East Asian collections.
« The collection of Leiden University and the project of its digitalization »

9.45-10.15

Joseph Moukarzel

« Digitalization as conservation or as diffusion process? ».

Coffee break

10.15— 10.45

10.45— 11.30

Zeina Grenady & Stéphane Ipert

« Legal aspects of digitalization of documents ».

11.30— 12.00

Arietta Revithi

« Digitization project of the Hellenic Parliament Library ».

Lunch Break

12.00— 13.30

13.30-14.15

Karin Scheper:

« Examples of repairs and conservation treatments prior to digitalization».

14.15-14.45

Dr. Maurits van den Boogert:

« The Brill digitization project of the Library of Leiden University ».

14.45— 15.15

Nicolas Pickwoad & Athanasios Velios:

«The experience of Ste-Catherine of Sinaï and the digitalization project».

15.15— 15.45

Manfred Mayer

« Norms and recommendations for digitalization».

15.45— 16.15

Ewa Balicka-Witakowska

« Digitization and preservation of the Ethiopian «geniza» in the church of the Four Celestial Creatures at Agwaza,Tigre ».

Coffee break

16.15— 16.30

16.30-17.15

Nikolas Sarris

« Uses for the Digitization of Manuscripts in the Conservation Practice: Colour Measurements for Observing Colour Changes in Paper Conservation ».

17.15— 18.00

Round panel of various short presentations from some of COMSt's group 5 participants

– **Sara Fani**, The BNCf experience and project for Arabic manuscripts digitalization

– **Adam Larsson**, Past and Future, digitization and conservation at Uppsala Universitylibrary

– **Lara Sels**, Ghent University

– **Wido van Peursen**, Pershita project Leiden

– **Ira Rabin**, Material analysis accompanying digitalisation