

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Literary Snippets: Colophons Across Space and Time

Editors

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The colophon, the ultimate or “crowing touch” paragraphs of a manuscript or a book, provides readers with a the historical context in which the scribe produced the manuscript (or the publisher, a book). At its most fundamental level, the colophon gives us the “metadata” of the manuscript: who was the scribe? When and where was the manuscript produced? For whom was it produced and who paid for it?

But colophons are far more rich. They are literary works on their own right, having a style and rhetoric independent of the main literary text of the manuscript. Some are *assertive*, providing contextual data about the scribe/publisher and manuscript/book; others are *expressive*, demonstrating the scribe’s feelings and wishes. Some are *directive*, asking the reader for an action; others *declarative*, providing all sorts of statements about the scribe/publisher or even the reader. The latter sometimes provide historical facts otherwise lost to histories: wars, earthquakes, religious events, legal agreements, etc.

The aim of this edited volume is to bring together scholars from various disciplines to study colophons in various languages and traditions across space and time. Topics may include:

- ◆ The colophon as a literary genre.
- ◆ Typology of colophons.
- ◆ The formulaic structure of colophons.
- ◆ Factoids found in colophons.
- ◆ How can colophons or confirm help us reconstruct historical events?
- ◆ Colophons born in print publications or born digital.

Contributors are expected to submit, in addition of their paper, text editions of a selection of colophons with an English translation. These will appear in a companion volume, a Reader.

Scholars interested in contributing may send via email a proposal between 1,000 and 3000 words (i.e. a good first draft) for consideration. After acceptance, final papers are expected to be around 6,000 words +/- . Proposals are to focus on the colophon (i.e. not a study of the main literary text of the manuscript). Papers are expected to have an analytical component. Comparative analyses across traditions is encouraged but not required.

Proposal submission deadline is **December 15, 2021**. Final papers are due **April 1, 2022**. Submissions are to be sent via email directly to Uta Nitschke-Joseph at nitschke@ias.edu.