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Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Bulletin welcomes articles, project descriptions, conference reports, book reviews and notes on all topics connected with the written cultures of the Mediterranean Near and Middle East and related traditions or offering a comparative perspective. Contributions should be sent to Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies, Hiob Ludolf Centre for Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies, Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg, Alsterterrasse 1, 20354 Hamburg, Germany; eugenia.sokolinski@uni-hamburg.de. For submission guidelines and former issues visit <https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/comst/publications/bulletin.html>.

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of the Stephanites, rich and well-established in various monasteries in Təgrāy (Northern Ethiopia).

Six further papers followed in the afternoon sessions. Zewdie Gebreegziabher (Addis Ababa University) presented the case of the Ethiopian saint Fəqərta Krəstos, presenting the manuscript tradition and the textual transmission of her hagiography. Sophia Dege-Müller (University of Hamburg) examined how certain hagiographies of Christian saints included interactions with the non-Christian groups such as the Beta 'Ēsrā'el, and how they provide historical information on them. Solomon Gebreyes Beyene (University of Hamburg) underlined that hagiographical elements can also be incorporated into historiographic works, using the Chronicle of the Ethiopian King Śarḏa Dəngəl as a case study.

In the final session, Nafisa Valieva (University of Hamburg) presented and differentiated the miracles attributed to King Lālibalā as written and contained in the 'Gadla Lālibalā collection'. Olivia Adankpo-Labadie (Grenoble Alpes University) emphasized the value of the accounts of the miracles performed by the monk 'Ewostātewos as a crucial 'matériaux d'histoire' for a better understanding of Ethiopian Medieval History. Guesh Solomon Teklu (University of Hamburg) presented a distinctive group of *Miracles of Mary*, accompanied by corresponding hymns and miniatures, with particular attention to the role of angelic, martyr, and human assistants in supporting these miracles.

For a full programme visit <<https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/en/ethiostudies/research/gadlaqirqos/news/workshop2024>>. Workshop proceedings are expected to be published.

Vitagrazia Pisani, University of Hamburg

The Visual Scribe: Tables and Diagrams in Middle Eastern Manuscripts

Berlin, 10–11 April 2025

On 10 and 11 April 2025, the research group Middle Eastern Manuscript Traditions (MEMaT) headed by Sabine Schmidtke (Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton) and George A. Kiraz (Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton and Beth Mardutho) convened, together with Sonja Brentjës (Independent Scholar), Mathieu Ossendrijver (Freie Universität Berlin), an international workshop on 'The Visual Scribe: Tables and Diagrams in Middle Eastern Manuscripts'. Hosted by the Free University Berlin, it provided a platform to delve into the rich tradition of tables and diagrams in Middle Eastern manuscripts.

It aimed at examining various aspects of these visual representations, including their historical contexts, symbolic meanings, cultural significance, and methodological approaches. Topics of interest included the evolution of tables and diagrams, analysis of specific types of tables and diagrams (e.g., genealogical tables, astronomical diagrams, geometric patterns, tabular data), comparative studies across different manuscript traditions, the role of tables and diagrams in knowledge transmission and dissemination, digital tools and techniques for analyzing and reconstructing tables and diagrams. The workshop covered manuscripts in various languages, including, Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopic, Hebrew, Persian, and Syriac, in addition to the ancient languages of India, Egypt and Mesopotamia.

On the first day, Mathieu Ossendrijver and Alessia Pilloni (Free University Berlin) presented on the ‘Visual aspects of tabular texts in Babylonian Mathematical Astronomy’. Jean Michel Delire (University of Brussels) continued with a paper on ‘Diagrams in Sanskrit mathematical and astronomical works translated from Arabic and Persian at the court of Savaī Jai Singh II (1689–1743)’.

The second session was dedicated to Arabic Islamic manuscripts with papers by Mykhaylo Yakubovych (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg) on ‘A Sufi Gestaltpsychologie? Diagrams of *naḥs* in the Manuscripts of Ibrāhīm al-Qirīmī (d. 1593)’ and Hallie Voulgaris (Yale University) on ‘Strings, Lines, and Circles: Diagramming Musical Pitch and Perception in the Treatises of Ṣaḥī al-Dīn al-Urmawī’. Arabic Islamic manuscripts were back on stage during the fourth session, with the talks by Natalie Kraneiß (University of Münster) on ‘Visualizing Verified Knowledge: Genealogical Charts in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century North Africa’ and by Valentina Sagaria Rossi (University of Rome Tor Vergata), ‘The Arabic Manuscript of Dioscorides’ *Materia Medica* in the University Library of Bologna: The Dialogue between Plants and Text’. Scott Trigg (Affiliated Researcher Observatoire de Paris-PSL) presented (via zoom) on “‘Visual Idioms’ in Islamicate Astronomy (‘ilm al-hay’a) Diagrams’. The topic was continued on the second day with talks by Kaveh Niazi on ‘Graphing the Cosmos: The Astronomical Illustrations of Ṭūsī’s *Risāla-yi Mu’īnīya*’, Hassan Amini and Germano Gorga (IMT School of Advanced Studies, Lucca) on ‘Healing Figures: Avicenna’s Geometry and Arithmetic’, and Francesco Chiabotti (INALCO-CERMOM), “‘Popular art’ and the Muḥammad Reality: the ‘Millstone of the spiritual energy’”. A diagram from Qandūsī (d. 1861, Fez)’. As part of the seventh session, Maryam Zamani spoke on ‘Diagrams of the Two Planetary Equations in the Ninth Book of the *Almagest*: Insights from Arabic Medieval Manuscripts’.

Diagrams in Hebrew manuscripts were in the focus of the third session, with papers by Michael Friedman (Universität Bonn), ‘How to use and where to place a geometrical diagram? The case study of *Hibbur ha-Meshihah ve-ha-Tishboret*—on various copies, translations and critical editions’, and Sivan Gottlieb (University of Granada), ‘From the West and the East: “Tree of Porphyry” Diagrams in Hebrew Manuscripts’.

Christian manuscripts from the Byzantine and mediterranean area covered included the Greek tradition, with a talk by Julia Lougovaya (Universität Heidelberg) on ‘Tables and Diagrams in Greek Mathematical Papyri’. Yury Arzhanov (University of Salzburg) focused on the Syriac manuscript tradition in his paper ‘Sergius of Reshaina, Proba, and the Tradition of Presentation of Philosophical Divisions and Definitions in the Diagram Form’. Two papers dealt with the Ethiopic manuscripts: Daria Elagina and Augustine Dickinson (University of Münster) presented on ‘Tables and Diagrams in Christian Ethiopia and Eritrea’, and Yiqing Li on ‘Astronomical Diagrams accompanying the *Book of Enoch* in two Ethiopic Manuscripts’. Armenian manuscripts were the subject of the paper by Anush Sargsyan (Matenadaran, Yerevan), ‘Zodiac Man in Armenian Tradition’.

The final session was dedicated to issues connected with the digital turn. Mohammad Golshan (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales) presented on ‘Manuscript to Digital: Records of Mapping Knowledge of Anatomy in Middle Eastern Manuscripts Project’. Ralph Neuhäuser (University of Jena) spoke of ‘Colors of stars in pre-modern texts, tables, and drawings’. Pouyan Shahidi (Indiana University) presented a paper on ‘Revealing the latent mathematics in historical horoscopes through a digital reconstruction method’.

For more information, including conference abstracts, visit <<https://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/zodiac/workshops/The-Visual-Scribe/>>.

Red.

Legal Texts on the Move: Normative Texts Crossing Boundaries in the Medieval World

4–5 September 2025, Vienna

On 4 and 5 September 2025, Adrian C. Pirtea and Till Stüber (Austrian Academy of Sciences) convened an international conference in the framework of two projects funded by the European Union: ‘The African Origins of Western Canon Law. An Investigation into the Corpus canonum Africano-Romanum’ (AFRICANON, Marie Skłodowska Curie Project, PI Till Stüber) and ‘Reviving the Ascetic Ideal in the Eastern Mediterranean Entangled Memories