Clothing Sacred Scripture

Book Art and Book Religions in the Middle Ages
Thursday 9 October 2014

10:00 – 10:30 David Ganz (Universität Zürich): Welcome and Introduction

Session Chair: Barbara Schellewald


11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:30 Sarit Shalev-Eyni (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Aural and Performing Aspects of Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts for Liturgical and Ritual Use

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Session Chair: Sophie Schweinfurth

14:00 – 14:45 Vera Beyer (Freie Universität Berlin): When Writers Dream of Mental Sight... Images of Dreams as Mediators between Material and Immaterial Aspects of Persian and French Manuscripts


15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

Session Chair: Anna Bücheler

16:00 – 16:45 Michelle Brown (University of London): Concealed yet Revealed: Empowering Unseen Text by Iconic External Visualisation, from the Freer Gospels to the Lough Kirane Bookshrine

16:45 – 17:30 Karin Krause (The University of Chicago Divinity School): Divine Tablets, Heavenly Scrolls. Images and Metaphors of Sacred Scripture in Byzantium

17:30 – 18:00 Coffee Break

18:00 – 18:45 Robert S. Nelson (Yale University): Dressing and Undressing Greek Lectionaries in Florence

18:45 Apéro

Friday 10 October 2014

Session Chair: Silke Tammen

9:00 – 9:45 Barbara Schellewald (Universität Basel): Holy Scripture as Body of Christ. The Book in the Byzantine Liturgy

9:45 – 10:30 Vladimir Ivanovic (Università della Svizzera Italiana Mendrisio): The Ritual Display of Jewelled Bibles in Late Antiquity: Aesthetic and Typological Implications

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 Carsten Juwig (Universität Hamburg): Clothing the Corruptible with Incorruption. Views of Book and Baptism

11:45 – 12:30 Lindsey Smith (University of York): Glorious Bookends: The Performance of Ivory Embellishing Sacred Text and the Connection between Consumer, Image and the Word of God

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Session Chair: Vera Beyer

14:00 – 14:45 Silke Tammen/Romina Ebenhoch (Universität Giessen): Wearing Devotional Books: Book-shaped Miniature Pendants (15th–16th centuries)

14:45 – 15:30 Rostislav Tumanov (Universität Hamburg): Devotional Experience in a Jewellery Case – the Peculiar Layouts of two Late Medieval Books of Hours

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45 Thomas Rainer (Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung München): Adoring God’s Name: Images of the Torah Case (Tik) and its Erasure in Medieval Jewish and Christian Manuscripts (13th–15th century)

16:45 – 17:30 Maria Portmann (Universität München): Jewish Writings and Holy Scripture in Christian Paintings in Spain during the Late Mediaeval Period

Saturday 11 October 2014

Session Chair: Tobias Frese

9:00 – 9:45 David Ganz (The Medieval Institute, The University of Notre Dame): Performativity and Punctuation: Reflections on Carolingian Passion Narratives and their Liturgical Role

9:45 – 10:30 Beatrice Kitzinger (Stanford University): The Mantle of History: Carolingian-era Gospel Illumination in Narrative Mode

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:45 Anna Bücheler (Universität Zürich): Clothing the Saints: Two Textile-Ornamented Lives of Saints from the Eleventh Century

11:45 – 12:30 Tina Bawden (Freie Universität Berlin): Clothing the Page: Topological Functions of Colour in Early Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

Session Chair: David Ganz

14:00 – 14:45 Eyal Poleg (Queen Mary College, University of London): A Text without a Book, in the Middle Gilt and Ornate with Gems: The Bible in Liturgy and Courts of Law

14:45 – 15:30 Gia Toussaint (Universität Hamburg): Two are Better than One: An Essay on Relics in Medieval Book Covers

15:30 – 16:00 Final Discussion
Clothing Sacred Scripture.
Book Art and Book Religions in the Middle Ages

International Conference
University of Zurich, October 9 – 11 2014

In a traditional perspective, book religions are seen as agents of logocentrism, establishing a sharp dichotomy between scripture and aesthetics, religion and art. The conference aims to broaden this perspective by a comparative and transcultural approach to religious book culture exploring the specific »aesthetics of inlibration« of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the Middle Ages. The conference will reflect upon the different strategies of »clothing« sacred texts with precious materials and ornate forms in pretypographic cultures to create a close relation between the divine words and their human audience. Furthermore the conference will address the question to which extent the choice of materials, book formats, and artistic patterns mark religious difference. Conducted by an art historical focus the conference contributes to the nexus between sacred scripture and art by exploring how art shapes the religious practice of books, and how the central importance of religious books shapes the evolution of artistic practices.

Location:  Kollegiengebäude der Universität Zürich
Rämistrasse 71, CH–8006 Zürich
Room: KOL-G-217 (9./10.10.), KO2-F-150 (11.10)

Organizers:  Prof. Dr. David Ganz (Universität Zürich)
Prof. Dr. Barbara Schellewald (Universität Basel)

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