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## **Report on the pre-editorial meeting**

### **COMPARATIVE ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPT STUDIES. CHAPTER 4**

**Hamburg, 18-19 May, 2013**

#### **Purpose of the visit.**

I organised this meeting in order to regroup COMSt's Team 5 after the Team's Leader defaulted due to severe health issues, and communication was interrupted for several months. I took up the task of leading the Team and facilitating its work, recuperate delays and get back on track with the submission of its contribution to the Handbook of Comparative Oriental Codicology.

#### **Description of the work carried out during the visit.**

We had three very tight and busy meeting sessions.

All of May 18 was devoted to brainstorming and the creation of consensus around the Chapter's contents and to single out and motivate members of the Team to take up roles as coordinators for parts of it. The morning of May 19, the discussion was devoted to brainstorming over the Workshop the Team needs to organise as part of its activities in 2013, and over a breakdown of contents and suggestions about potential speakers.

#### **Description of the main results obtained.**

A precise **timeline was established** for submission of the drafts, revision thereof, and an editorial meeting to be hosted on 9 October in Zakynthos, Greece.

Topics were defined and a list of potential speakers finalised for the **Workshop on best practice in preservation and conservation**, to be held on 8 October, in conjunction with editorial meeting in Zakynthos.

A **coordinator has been appointed for each of the subchapters**, to which up to three other scholars will contribute. It has also been agreed that the drafts will be circulated internally three months before the final deadline, so that all Team members can provide feedback.

Some of the **subchapters have been substantially reworked** in their internal structure, and brainstorming has identified their contents in greater detail, and further clarified who is going to contribute what contents.

A precise **page breakdown has been finalised**.

Potential **image contributors** to each of the subchapters **have been identified**, and a **preliminary list of illustrations has been finalised**.

The remaining active members of Team 5 have been reassembled and motivated to work; all perplexities have been clarified. For a Team where communication has been poor since the start of the project, and non-existent for several months, where two of the key members (including the current Leader) have only been part of COMSt since 2012, and where most of the Team had never seen the Chapter's outline until it was circulated in preparation of this meeting, talking face-to-face has been especially important to bring all the many unresolved issues to the table, and reassure everyone that the others were equally committed to the project.

#### **Future collaboration with host institution.**

As one of COMSt's five Team Leaders, I will attend Hamburg conference on the Secondary Life of Manuscripts on July 11-13, 2013.

#### **Projected publications resulting from grant.**

Chapter 4 of COMSt Handbook.