

**TITLE OF THE WORKSHOP: Towards the Handbook in Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies
(Writing Up of Chapter 4)**

1. SUMMARY

This Meeting of Team 5 was intended as a first editorial workshop to take final and binding decisions on the composition of the Handbook Chapter Conservation and Preservation.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

The meeting has been convened in order to regroup COMSt's Team 5 after Team Leader defaulted due to severe health issues, and communication was interrupted for several months. L. Parodi 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.

The most significant outcomes of the meeting were:

- A precise **timeline was established** for submission of the drafts, revision thereof, and an editorial meeting to be hosted in early October in Zakynthos, Greece.
- The editorial meeting will be hosted in conjunction with a **Workshop on best practice in preservation** and conservation (Zakynthos, Greece, 8-9 October 2013). More specific topics of the Workshop: diversity of structures in Oriental manuscripts, and how that reflects on conservation; emphasis on those manuscript structures and traditions that are underrepresented in general, and in previous COMSt meetings in particular. Potential speakers have been identified, and a timeline for a Call for Papers and reservations has been outlined.
- 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.
- All but one of the subchapters were represented at the meeting, but contributors have been identified for that subchapter as well, and a few suggestions have been made on this subchapter.
- 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**.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS AND IMPACT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FIELD

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.

The decisions as to the deadlines and the subsequent meetings are particularly essential in the work progress. The key dates are:

- 15 July** Contributors to **circulate a draft** to Team Leader and everyone else working on Chapter 4, and **submit a bibliography** (not only for the draft but additional bibliography for the website, **with keywords** if possible) REMINDER: no footnotes in the draft; references to be cited as (Author YEAR) and only these appended as bibliography to the book. Additional, relevant bibliography has to be provided to be uploaded on the COMSt website.
- 15 August** Response on the draft from all contributors to the Chapter
(we feel this is a particularly important step: in this way we can all fill in gaps and omissions, and improve the scientific profile of our Chapter)
- 15 September** Submission of revised (final) subchapters to Team Leader
- 8-9 October** **Zakyntos**: Editorial Meeting; final approval of Chapter text and illustrations

4. FINAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, 18th of May

- 10.00-10.15 *Welcome of the participants, introduction to the meeting and practical remarks*
- 10.15-11.30 *I session: Discussion of the chapter structure (s. distributed proposal)*
- 11.30-12.00 *Coffee break*
- 12.00-13.30 *II session: Discussion of the structure with the task assignment*
- 13.30-15.00 *Dinner*
- 15.00-16.30 *III session: Cross-team cooperation; missing competences: search for authors (?)*
- 16.30-17.00 *Coffee break*
- 17.00-18.30 *IV session: Bibliography, illustrations, technical issues*
- 19.30 *Dinner*

Sunday, 19th of May

- 9.30-11.30 *V session: Assignment of a model subchapter to be circulated; Definition of the final deadlines for model, bibliographies and texts; Precise work planning and inter-team cooperation; Establishment of the date and place of the next workshop*

5. PARTICIPANTS

COMSt Team 5:

- Paul Hepworth (Turkey/Iraq)
- Manfred Meyer (Austria)
- Laura Parodi (Italy)
- Ira Rabin (Germany)
- Nikolas Sarris (Greece, via Skype)
- Karin Scheper (Netherlands)

COMSt:

- Alessandro Bausi (Chair: opening session)
- Evgenia Sokolinskaia (Coordinator: opening session)

ATTACHMENT: REVISED CHAPTER OUTLINE

Chapter 4: Conservation and Preservation

Subchapter	Authors (COORDINATOR)	pp
<p>1. Conservation and Preservation: definitions. (conservation, preventive and curative restoration – what are they and why are they needed; definition history; main notions)</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM THE TEAM: Terminology (from dictionaries, encyclopaedias, reference works). Why do conservation? To save, keep, make accessible for the future... Why preserve the manuscript itself and not just the content? (feedback from people who teach conservation: first issue to be covered)</i></p>	SCHEPER Hepworth	4-5
<p>2. History of conservation and preservation across the world.</p> <p>a. “History” is problematic here, since preservation and conservation are modern concepts: unless what is meant is a comparison of modern and “traditional” approaches to repairs of damaged materials</p> <p>b. Approaches to conservations</p> <p>c. Historic and current human damage from improper treatment</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM THE TEAM: Aim of this subchapter is to show how our view has changed in relatively recent times; to say “don’t do that anymore” with regard to practices of the past (which still persist in the present, esp when untrained people are in charge). And to introduce, through comparison, the archaeology of bookbinding, and the concept of reversibility. The related issue of documentation should be introduced here and discussed in #4-5.</i></p>	SCHEPER Hepworth Sarris	4-5
<p>3. Types of decay in manuscripts. (climate, sand, mold, rodents, fungi, bacteria, fire, human factor, manuscript materials [paper, ink, interaction[, etc.]. General overview with additional focus on the factors prevalent in the regions covered by COMSt.</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM THE TEAM: This section will be illustrated through pictures exemplifying the most common agents of deterioration; some of the less common agents will be described, and the reader directed to further literature.</i></p> <p><i>SUGGESTIONS FOR PICTURES: fungi, insects, water/mould, human damage (to improve readability)</i></p>	HEPWORTH Scheper Rabin	4-5
<p>4. Preservation: current situation in Europe and the Orient (libraries, archives).</p> <p>a. Comparative overview of the conditions</p> <p>b. Best practice in preservation (with Rabin contributing something on materials science)</p> <p>i. Environment, climate, instalments (including emissions)</p> <p>ii. Storage (boxes, maintenance)</p> <p>iii. Exhibition (supports, reading aids)</p> <p>iv. Documentation</p> <p>v. Transport</p> <p>vi. Security</p> <p>vii. Disaster planning</p> <p>viii. Training/Human resources</p> <p><i>FEEDBACK FROM THE TEAM: Some slight changes and additions to the chapter’s structure. The difference in priorities between different institutions should be highlighted: e.g. the priority for an art institute might be to have an object suitable for display; for a national library to stabilize an object and perhaps make it accessible for study. Training in the East may often be virtually non-existent.</i></p>	REVITHI Vinourd (?) Balicka Sarris Hepworth Rabin	20

