

## Scientific Report

### Comparative Oriental Manuscript Studies Workshop Book Materials in Oriental Cultures

#### Purpose of the visit

I participated in the workshop Book Materials in Oriental Cultures of COMST Team 1 Codicology, held in Pisa on the 26-27 November 2010. The workshop interested me in the context of my research project on Greek manuscripts of C.Tischendorf, a 19<sup>th</sup> century German biblical scholar and palaeographer. Most of his manuscripts come from monastic libraries in the Near East; many were probably produced in the region; several are bilingual (Greek-Arabic) and some are palimpsests (Greek on Greek, but also Greek-Arabic and Greek-Georgian).

I had two main purposes for participating in the workshop: first, to learn about production of Arabic, Syrian, Georgian, Armenian and other Oriental manuscripts; and second, to make contacts with scholars working with these manuscripts.

#### – Description of the work carried out during the visit

During the workshop, I attended all sessions and participated in the discussions as well as in informal talks during the breaks and joint meals. I had valuable discussions about production and circulation of Oriental manuscripts with my colleagues, as well as discussions about palimpsest-making techniques in different manuscript cultures.

#### – Description of the main results obtained

I learned about materials used in production of Oriental manuscripts, made numerous connections with scholars in the field, and contributed to the discussions about palimpsesting practices, a topic I have been working on since 1997, and about different materials used for copying Byzantine manuscripts.

During the workshop, I consolidated my contacts with COMST members (M.Maniaci, Cassino; C.Macé, Leuven; J.Gippert, Frankfurt), and made valuable new contacts (with A.Bausi, Hamburg; F.Deroche, Paris; Z.Gazakova, Bratislava; W.Witakowski, Uppsala). This scholarly interaction would be useful for my work – short and medium term on the Greek Oriental manuscripts from the Tischendorf collection, and long-term on other Greek Oriental manuscripts.

During the workshop, I shared my experience working for the Archimedes Palimpsest project, in the course of which we accumulated information on all aspects of palimpsest-making (chemical and physical preparation of parchment, writing materials, ruling and binding techniques, illustrations, etc) and have used a variety of scientific methods to analyse the palimpsest. This information and approach has attracted interest of the COMST members.

– Future collaboration with host institution

Particularly fruitful was exchange with my host M.Maniaci: we discussed a possibility of having a joint seminar in Cassino on the Archimedes Palimpsest next year. This seminar would allow me to share my experience with her students and colleagues, and its results would potentially enrich the COMST network.

Projected publications/articles resulting or to result from your grant

I shall mention the ESF support received for the attendance of the workshop in publications on the Tischendorf Greek manuscripts, which I am preparing.

Other comments

The workshop was very well organised and was particularly interesting thanks to participation of scholars from different fields, backgrounds, and countries.

I believe that bibliography accumulated during this and previous COMST workshops is extremely valuable. It would be useful for scholars outside the network and should be eventually distributed widely or made available on-line.