

# Contributors

**Serena Ammirati** is an associate professor in palaeography at Roma Tre University. The ancient Latin book (its scripts and morphologies) is one of her main research topics, together with the history of written culture in medieval Rome and Latin legal books from Antiquity through the Middle Ages. She is also currently interested in the development of novel methods and tools to support content analysis and knowledge discovery from handwritten documents.

**Alessandro Bausi**, professor of Ethiopian studies at the Universität Hamburg, is a philologist and linguist working on ancient, late antique, and medieval texts and manuscripts. He heads several projects as a journal and series editor in Ethiopian-Eritrean philology, manuscript studies, linguistics and corpus linguistics. He has contributed especially on the earliest phase of ancient Ethiopic scribal and literary history, epigraphy, and canonical and hagiographical-liturgical collections, and generally on the textual criticism of Ethiopic texts and the manuscript culture of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

**Dmitry Bondarev** is head of West Africa projects at CSMC and senior lecturer at the Department of African Studies, Universität Hamburg. His research interests cover African linguistics (Saharan, Chadic and Mande languages), literacy studies, especially in the context of Islamic exegetical traditions in African languages, the history of writing in Arabic-based scripts (Ajami), and the palaeography and codicology of West African manuscripts.

**Georgios Boudalis** is the head of the book and paper conservation laboratory at the Museum of Byzantine Culture in Thessaloniki, Greece. His research focuses on the techniques and evolution of bookbinding structures in the Eastern Mediterranean. He has authored books on book-related crafts in Late Antiquity and bookbinding traditions of the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Giovanni Ciotti** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts' (Lübeck, Hamburg). His main research interests are comparative manuscript studies, the history of manuscripts in Tamil Nadu, Sanskrit-Tamil linguistic and literary interactions, and Indian grammatical literature, along with its influence on the formation of modern Western linguistics. Within the Cluster, he is the spokesperson of the Palm-leaf Manuscript Profiling Initiative, which aims to develop an integrated approach to studying Indian palm-leaf manuscripts that includes humanities, and natural and information sciences.

**Amélie Couvrat Desvergnès** is a paper and book conservator and researcher. She holds an MA in museology from the École du Louvre and an MA in conservation from Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. Her research interests include the technology and history of paper and the materiality of Islamic and South Asian manuscripts. Her current project explores the production and characteristics of paper in nineteenth-century north-western India and Qajar Iran.

**Eliana Dal Sasso** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts' of the CSMC. She previously held the position of a research fellow at the Sapienza Università di Roma for the ERC project 'PATHs: An Atlas of Coptic Literature' and was a research guest at the Hiob Ludolf Center for Ethiopian and Eritrean Studies. She holds an MA in conservation and

restoration of library and archival material from ICPAL in Rome. Her areas of interest encompass Ethiopian and Coptic binding techniques.

**Michael Friedrich** was professor of Chinese language and culture at the Universität Hamburg and director of the CSMC. Among his interests are Chinese intellectual history and the study of manuscript cultures.

**Imre Galambos** is professor of Chinese at the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the study of Chinese and Tangut manuscripts from the sites along the region commonly referred to as the Silk Road. He is particularly interested in contacts between different languages and cultures, especially in the realm of manuscript cultures.

**Francesca Maltomini** is associate professor of papyrology at the Università degli studi di Firenze. Her studies have focused mainly on the transmission of epigrammatic literature in ancient and Byzantine times, gnomological texts, magic in Greco-Roman Egypt, and problems relating to the use and reuse of ancient writing materials.

**Cécile Michel** is director of research at the CNRS, Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité – Histoire et Archéologie de l'Orient Cunéiforme, Nanterre, and a professor at the Universität Hamburg, CSMC. She is an Assyriologist and member of the excavations team of Kültepe (Anatolia). Her researches focus on the economy, society (especially women and gender), archival practices, literacy, education and material culture of the Ancient Near East. She studies the cuneiform tablets from Turkey, Syria and Iraq, and, through experimentation, the palaeography and shaping of clay tablets and envelopes.

**Nikolas Sarris** is a book and paper conservator at the National Library of Greece, with a PhD from the University of the Arts London. He has previously worked at the British Library, the monastery of St John Theologian in Patmos, Greece, and the Conservation School of Zakynthos as an assistant professor. He has taught widely and been involved in several international projects with a focus on the conservation and study of manuscripts and historic bookbinding of the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Karin Scheper** heads the conservation workshop in the Leiden University Library. Out of necessity (but with much pleasure), she started studying the manuscripts in the Oriental collections as material objects. She received a PhD in 2014 and published her first monograph and a range of articles on the structures and materials of manuscripts from the Islamic lands. She also teaches and gives workshops. Terminology is one of her key interests, especially for the conservation and description of Islamic manuscripts, for which she co-authored an illustrated terminology.

**Thies Staack** is a postdoctoral researcher at the CSMC, Universität Hamburg. His PhD dissertation systematically approached the reconstruction of ancient Chinese bamboo manuscripts, showcasing especially the significance of material and codicological features. Following a strong research interest in Chinese manuscript cultures across the ages, he has investigated written artefacts from diverse realms, including law, administration and medicine. His current project focuses on recipe books as sources for the social history of medicine in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century China.