

Contributors

Alessandro Bausi, professor of Ethiopian studies at the Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', is a philologist and linguist working on ancient and medieval texts and manuscripts. He has especially contributed on the earliest phase of ancient Ethiopic scribal and literary history, epigraphy, canonical and hagiographical-liturgical collections, on the textual criticism of Ethiopic texts, and on the manuscript culture of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Franz Anton Cramer is a researcher in dance and performance, philologist, and author. Since 2009, he has been co-editor of the e-journal *MAP: media | archive | performance* (www.perfomap.de) together with Barbara Büscher. Forthcoming publications include *Choreographing Créolité: Nyota Inyoka and European Modernity* (co-authored with Sandra Chatterjee and Nicole Haitzinger; Palgrave Macmillan) and *Relational Acts: Performance Practices and Media of Documentation* (De Gruyter; co-edited with Barbara Büscher and Ulrike Hanstein).

Eliana Dal Sasso is a book and paper conservator with the Italian Ministry of Culture. She earned her PhD in 2024 from Universität Hamburg, where her research focused on the historical and typological classification of Coptic bookbinding and its relationship to the socio-historical context of production. From 2020 to 2023, she was a doctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts', where she contributed to the Research Field 'Archiving Artefacts'.

Philippe Depreux is professor of medieval history at Universität Hamburg. He specialises in the early Western Middle Ages.

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Ann-Sophie Hellmich-Schwan holds an MA in history from Universität Hamburg. Her areas of interest include early modern Europe, archival history and the history of the European nobility. She is currently working as an archivist and completing her PhD on the spatial and material dimensions of noble and princely archives in the Holy Roman Empire of the Early Modern Period.

Agnieszka Helman-Ważny is a member of the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts' at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg. Her publications include monographs and articles on the history of books and paper in Central Asia and the Himalayas, material culture of Tibet, heritage studies, codicology of Silk Road manuscripts and the history of Asian book collections.

Till Hennings is a medievalist specialising in codicology and diplomatics. He has published on the transmission of poetry in the Middle Ages and on the use of letter and charter templates.

Konrad Hirschler is professor of Middle Eastern history and the director of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg. His research focuses on North Africa and South-west Asia between circa 1200 and 1500, with a particular emphasis on social and cultural history, including the history of reading, books, and libraries, with a strong focus on material culture.

Dirbwork Bitsu Kassa is a research associate and PhD student at Universität Hamburg, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Culture. She holds an MA from Universität Hamburg (2022) in manuscript culture and an MA from Addis Ababa University (2017) in Ethiopian literature. Before moving to Hamburg, she was a lecturer and researcher at Aksum University, Ethiopia. Her current project focuses on the monastic archival tradition, the practice of recording and preserving archival documents in the Lake Tānā area, specifically in the Zage monasteries.

Cécile Michel is senior researcher at the CNRS, Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité – Histoire et Archéologie du Sud-Ouest Asiatique et de l'Égypte (ArScAn-HASAE), Nanterre, and professor at the Universität Hamburg, Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures. As an Assyriologist and member of the excavations team of Kültepe (Anatolia), her research focuses on the economy, society, archival practices, literacy, education and material culture of ancient Mesopotamia.

Peera Panarut is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz). He graduated with a MA in 2015 and earned his PhD in 2019 at Universität Hamburg, where he later worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts' from 2019 to 2024. His publications and research interests include Thai-Tai manuscript and epigraphic cultures, as well as the literary, archival and book history of Thailand.

Benedikt Reier holds a PhD in Middle Eastern studies and is a researcher at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg. He has published on library history, the history of reading and the culture of archiving in Palestine, Syria and Egypt from crusading period to the Early Modern Period.

Sebastian Schirrmeister is a literary scholar and currently a postdoctoral research associate at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures at Universität Hamburg working on German-Jewish archives held at the National Library of Israel. He studied Jewish studies and German studies in Potsdam and Haifa and completed his PhD in Hamburg on the entanglements of German and Hebrew literatures. He held positions and fellowships in Hamburg, Jerusalem, Göttingen, Munich and Leipzig.

Anna Steffen is a doctoral candidate in the Cluster of Excellence 'Understanding Written Artefacts' at Universität Hamburg. Her research explores documentary culture in the pre-Ottoman Middle East, with a particular focus on histories of archiving. Her PhD project studies a collection of Mamluk-era Arabic legal and administrative documents housed in the Islamic Museum, Jerusalem, investigating how these records were handled, preserved and circulated across a polycentric landscape of archival sites in fourteenth-century Jerusalem.

Jakob Wigand is a PhD candidate in history at Universität Hamburg and holds an MSc in global history from the London School of Economics. His research focuses on the history of science, provenance studies, colonial history and the history of papyrology. He is currently a research associate in a project investigating the provenance of the Hamburg papyrus collection.