

PATRONAGE AND THE SACRED BOOK IN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN



acred books (including Jewish Bibles, Christian Bibles, Qur'ans, prayer books, psalters, haggadot, translations of and commentaries on Scripture, etc.) were at the center of book production for Jews, Christians and Muslims

throughout the Middle Ages. This conference will investigate issues in the patronage, production, circulation and consumption of sacred books in the Western Mediterranean during the High and Late Middle Ages (roughly 10th-15th Century). In what ways did the demands of patronage nurture, determine, or constrain areas of intellectual and artistic engagement? How did patronage in the royal court differ from patronage in other contexts (the Church, religious orders, the madrasa, the university, the circles of learned elites, non-institutional settings)? What role did women play in the patronage, production or circulation of books? The interest of this conference is twofold: the patronage of sacred texts in comparative contexts and the role of inter-religious elements in the production of sacred texts. The participants will address the adoption of book-making techniques across religious boundaries, Jewish/Christian/Muslim collaborative translations of art/text productions, interest in reading, producing, or interpreting the sacred texts of other religious traditions, and other related questions.

PROGRAM

Monday, October 18

9:00-11:00

■ Introduction

Jonathan Decter, *Brandeis University*, and Esperanza Alfonso, *CCHS-CSIC, Madrid*

■ Models of Patronage and Book Production

Chair: Jonathan Decter, *Brandeis University*

Katrin Kogman-Appel, *Ben-Gurion University*
"The Illuminated Manuscript in Medieval Jewish Society: The Current State of Research"

Marina Rustow, *Johns Hopkins University*
"Patronage in the Context of Solidarity and Reciprocity: The Islamic East during the 10th-12th Centuries"

Eleazar Gutwirth, *Tel Aviv University*
"Models of Patronage in Medieval Spain"

11:00-11:30 – *Coffee break*

11:30-1:30

■ **The Production and Consumption of Sacred Books**

Chair: Jeffrey Hamburger, *Harvard University*

Houari Touati, *EHESS, Paris*

"Scribes and Commissioners of the Early Qur'anic Codices"

Ana Suárez González, *Universidade de Santiago de Compostela*

"On the Origin of Transition Romanesque Bibles: Reality and Fiction"

Walid Saleh, *University of Toronto*

"Reading as Piety: The British Museum Qur'an Manuscript OR 13002"

Javier del Barco, *CCHS-CSIC, Madrid*

"Ibn Gaon's Hebrew Bibles and the Circulation of Books in the 14th Century"

1:30-3:00 *Lunch*

3:00-4:30

■ **The Courtly Context**

Chair: Charles McClendon, *Brandeis University*

Nuria Silleras-Fernández, *University of Colorado at Boulder*

"Moralizing for Queens and by Queens: Adaptation, Translation and the Transmission of Eiximenis in Late Medieval and Early Modern Iberia"

Sarah Bromberg, *University of Pittsburgh*

"King Manuel I of Portugal's Postilla: A Case Study in Luxury Manuscripts"

Lucia Finotto, *Brandeis University*

"Jewish Exegetical Works and the Construction of Kingship in Medieval Naples"

4:30-5:00 *Coffee break*

5:00-6:30

■ **The Secular in the Sacred**

Chair: Daniel J. Lasker, *Ben-Gurion University*

Russel Hopley, *Bowdoin College*

"Abū Bakr al-Ṭurṭūshī: An Andalusian Jurist in Fatimid Egypt"

Deirdre Jackson, *The British Library*

"Sacred Book, Secular Court: Alfonso X's Cantigas de Santa María"

Tzvi Langerman, *Bar-Ilan University*

"The Prayers of the Philosophers"

Tuesday, October 19

9:30-11:00

■ **Transitions (geography, iconography, taste)**

Chair: Esperanza Alfonso, *CCHS-CSIC, Madrid*

François Deroche, *EPHE, SHP, Paris*

"Use and Re-use: Qur'anic Manuscripts and Patronage between the 9th and 11th Centuries"

Susannah Fisher, *Rutgers University*

"Byzantine Ivories, Western Covers: Patronage of Treasure Bindings from the 10th-12th Century"

Sonia Fellous, *IRHT-CNRS, Paris*

"The 'Siddurello' of the Norsa Family: A Masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance"

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-1:00

■ **Original, Translation, Conversion (1)**

Chair: Thomas Glick, *Boston University*

Ángel Sáenz-Badillos, *Colegio Real Complutense/Universidad Complutense, Madrid*

"Luis de Guzmán's Patronage and the Spanish Translation and Commentary of the Bible by Arragel"

Ronny Vollandt, *Cambridge University*

"The Arabic Old Testament Preserved in MS Paris BNF Arabic 1: Codicology, Textual Affinities and its Role in Making the Paris Polyglot"

Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz, *Universidad Complutense, Madrid*

"Translating the Qur'an into Romance: Two 16th-Century Morisco Renditions"

1:00-2:30 Lunch

2:30-4:00

■ **Original, Translation, Conversion (2)**

Chair: Deena Klepper, *Boston University*

Thomas Burman, *University of Tennessee*

"Patronage, Translation, and Uncertainty: Rodrigo Jiménez de Rada and Mark of Toledo's Latin Qur'an"

Marc M. Epstein, *Vassar College*

"Patronage Unknown, Artist Anonymous: Internal Evidence for Jewish Knowledge on the Part of the Authorship of 14th Century Illuminated Manuscripts"

Michela Andreatta, *University of Tennessee*

"The Translator and His Patron: Flavius Mithridates, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola and the Hebrew-Latin Translation of Gersonides' Commentary on the Song of Songs"

All sessions will be held in International Lounge, Usdan Student Center.

■ **Conveners:**

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

<http://www.csic.es>

Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry

Brandeis University

<http://www.brandeis.edu/tauber>

■ **Conference Coordinator:**

Miriam Hoffman, Tauber Institute



Conference venue:
USDAN Student Center
Brandeis University

