

SUMMER SCHOOL IN MEDIEVAL CODICOLOGY AND PALAEOGRAPHY

SUMMER UNIVERSITY, CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY, BUDAPEST

JULY 18-23, 2011

Course director:

Anna Somfai (Codicology, Latin book hand), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Faculty:

Anna Adamska (Diplomatics, Latin diplomatic hand) University of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Niels Gaul (Greek book hand), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Marco Mostert (Codicology, Latin book hand), University of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Inmaculada Pérez Martín (Greek book hand), Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Madrid, Spain

Anna Somfai (Codicology, Latin book hand), Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Katalin Szende (Diplomatics, Latin diplomatic hand) Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Course coordinator:

Ivana Dobcheva (Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University)

Aim of the course

The aim of the Summer School is to provide practical training in Latin and Greek palaeography at an intermediate level combined with a new approach towards manuscripts based on the latest trends in research. While the practical palaeography seminars focus on the skills of reading and transcribing medieval scripts, the codicology and diplomatics lectures and the one-day workshop contextualise these skills applying the novel approach. Manuscripts are more than just the physical objects that transmitted classical and medieval texts and images. Being individually produced and consequently used by generation of scholars, they reflect the cognitive processes that lie behind their production and use.

Rationale

Medieval manuscript books are the basis for our modern printed editions and we rely on them for the understanding of our literate past. Charters, accounts and other archival documents are products of pragmatic literacy in the service of administration. These two groups together form the bulk of the written heritage of the Middle Ages. Their study requires specialised knowledge covered by the fields of codicology and palaeography. The current digitisation projects, encouraged internationally, give an excellent opportunity for the dissemination of the manuscript material worldwide. Without proper training in manuscript studies and palaeography, however, scholars of the next generation will not be able to make use of the material that is now made available at a high cost.

Details of course

Length

The length of the course is one week (six days), 18-23 July, 2011.

Target audience

The main target audience of the Summer School is PhD and MA students and young researchers.

Level of course

The palaeography classes are at an intermediate level. The course requires a general background in medieval studies for situating more specific information, hence degree in a related field is an asset.

Prerequisites

Applicants must be able to provide evidence (proof of transcript or exam) of having a working knowledge of Latin and/or Greek and prior study of elementary palaeography.

Assessment of participants' performance and assessment of course

A practical palaeography test at the end of the course enables both students and faculty to assess student progress. The discussion of the test that follows the exam provides an opportunity to discuss the impact of the course. Students are encouraged to provide feedback on any aspect of the programme.

Administration

CEU MA students choosing the Specialisation on Medieval Manuscript Studies at the Department of Medieval Studies will receive 4 credits toward their Specialisation credit requirement for taking the proposed summer school.

Structure of course

The course consists of group and plenary sessions. Palaeography seminars run parallel for the three options with students divided into three groups according to their choice of option. Plenary sessions include lectures, library visits, a workshop, the exam and the closing roundtable. Evening programs visiting medieval sites in Budapest, a reception and a closing dinner provide social occasions.

Course list

Palaeography seminars: The intensive Latin and Greek palaeography seminars run parallel for the three options, all at an intermediate level: Latin book hand (Somfai, Mostert), Latin diplomatic hand (Szende, Adamska) and Greek book hand (Gaul, Pérez Martín). The classes are allocated morning and afternoon sessions facilitating students with the possibility of combining the two Latin options by choosing a mixture from the morning and afternoon sessions of each day. The seminars focus on reading and transcribing various scripts across broad chronological and geographic areas. They also include the discussion of the features of the different scripts and of the particular hands as well as the abbreviation practice and the clues to the dating of hands.

Introductory lectures (Monday). The introductory lectures provide an introduction to the course and cover the general notions of Latin and Greek codicology, diplomatics and palaeography given by Anna Somfai, Katalin Szende and Niels Gaul.

Lectures (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday). Four lectures on codicology and diplomatics.
19 July, Tuesday: Anna Somfai: 'Codicology: the physical and intellectual production and use of manuscripts'.

20 July, Wednesday: Anna Adamska: 'Charters and pragmatic literacy'.

22 July, Friday: Marco Mostert: 'Latin Learning and Learning Latin: Space between Words, Punctuation and the Development of the Western "Grammar of Legibility"'.
23 July, Saturday: Niels Gaul: 'The Greek Palaeography Seminar'.

23 July, Saturday: Inmaculada Pérez Martín: ‘Byzantine and “alla greca” Bookbindings’.

Workshop (one full day): The main aim of the workshop is to bring together all faculty and students to discuss in a workshop setting a theme that connect the Latin and Greek traditions, codicology and diplomatics. The theme selected for the focus of the workshop is the layout of manuscripts and documents and the cognitive aspects of book and document production that lies behind the layout. The workshop will explore what a close look at folio layouts of manuscripts and of documents can tell us about medieval writing, reading and communication practices, covering the period from the 6th to the 15th centuries. We shall look at the process of designing manuscript layouts (ruling, using a hierarchy of scripts, planning the text-image spatial relationship, planting bookmarks, etc.) and document layouts (use of scripts, graphic symbols, etc.) and the consecutive engagement with the content (the annotator-reader’s textual and visual glosses, intellectual and physical additions and cut-outs). The physical and intellectual production and use of the manuscripts reveal the reading and writing practices and the cognitive process behind the layout and thus the transmission of ideas or information.

Visits to libraries include the Manuscript Department of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Science which has a large collection of manuscripts, the National Széchényi Library Fragmenta Research Group which offers the unique possibility to see how research is done on binding fragments, and the Hungarian National Archive that holds archival material. The visits help students to explore manuscripts and charters in the original with guidance at hand.

Practical palaeography test: The exam takes place on the last day. It includes the transcription of a Latin or Greek text (xeroxed copy), recognition of script, the description of the main characteristics of the script and the hand, approximate dating of hand, brief summary of content.

Course schedule

	18 July Monday	19 July Tuesday	20 July Wednesday	21 July Thursday	22 July Friday	23 July Saturday	
9:30-11	CEU welcome	Palaeography seminar	Palaeography seminar	Workshop	Palaeography seminar	Palaeography seminar	
11-11:30	Break				Break		
11:30- 1:00	Introductory lectures	Library visit	Library visit	Workshop (till 5:45)	Library visit	Lecture	
1:00-2:15	Lunch break						
2:15-3:15	Palaeography seminar	Lecture	Lecture		Lecture	Exam (test)	
3:15-3:45	Break				Break		
3:45-5:15	Palaeography seminar	Palaeography seminar	Palaeography seminar		Palaeography seminar	Roundtable, conclusion	
Evening	Welcome reception		Visit to the medieval ruins of Margit Island (picnic)		Closing dinner		