

WEDNESDAY, 7 FEB.

9:00-9:30 Welcome

9:30-10:00 Introductory talks

JONATHAN LOOPSTRA (Redeemer University) and ELVIRA MARTÍN-CONTRERAS (ILC-CSIC)

10:00-10:30 The Continuum of Scribal Practice: How Writers and Scribes of Varying Skill Perpetuated and Preserved the Scriptures for Everyday Use
ESTARA J ARRANT (University of Cambridge, The Genizah Research Unit)

10:30-11:00 Tracing Open and Closed Sections of the Torah
VINCENT BEILER (University of Cambridge, Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:00 Book Traditions and Writing Practices for Sacred Texts in a Multilingual and Multicultural Context
ARIANNA D'OTTONE (Sapienza University of Rome, Near Eastern Languages)

12:00-12:30 The Early Qurans of Andalusia: Reconstructing the Scribal Tradition of the 10th-11th Centuries CE
ELEONORE CELLARD (Independent Researcher)

12:30-13:00 Teaching Religious Texts in Islam: Reconsidering Sources and Scholarship
ASMA HELALI (Université de Lille, Faculté des langues, cultures et sociétés -LCS)

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:00 The Writing of Manuscripts and the Growth of a Grammatical Tradition
JOHAN LUNDBERG (University of Oxford, Oriental Institute)

15:00-15:30 The Remnants of a East Syriac Classroom Instructional Manual? The Earliest Form and Purpose of Aḥob of Qatar's Old Testament Exegetical Works.
SETH STADEL (University of Leicester)

15:30-16:00 How do we divide the Gospel text? Various Systems Employed in the Harklean Manuscripts of the New Testament – their Role, Meaning, and Transmission.
PIOTR JUTKIEWICZ (The Catholic Academy in Warsaw)

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:30 Discussion on specific examples, differences and similarities (open to Canadian students / 10:30-11:30am Toronto time)

20:00 Conference dinner

THURSDAY, 8 FEB.

9:00-10:30 Work groups

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:00 Group discussion

12:00-13:00 Virtual meeting with International scholars and Canadian students

13:00 Lunch

International Symposium

Techniques for Preserving God's Word in Syriac, Hebrew and Arabic Sacred Texts

7th-8th February 2024

We do not have a comprehensive picture of the many ways Jewish, Syriac Christian, and Muslim scribes developed pioneering tools such as the “Masora” to preserve and teach their holy scriptures. The impressive work of scribes from all three traditions in developing formal innovations, techniques of textual control, and marginal annotations to their scriptures remains relatively unacknowledged. How did scribal practices develop among Hebrew, Arabic, and Syriac scribes in the period of the eighth through twelfth centuries? In what ways might these developments overlap, either through direct borrowing or more informally? Which previously held assumptions about these manuscripts have now been proved false, given the growing number of digitized manuscripts and studies? And how can we best move forward in studying these complex medieval guides to the Hebrew, Syriac, and Arabic scriptures?

The purpose of this symposium is to create a forum of specialists in different language traditions to share insights into methods used by medieval scribes to read and preserve their holy books, to foster a dialogue between diverse fields of studies, and to produce an overview of the subject that at present has not been achieved.

Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales
C/ Albasanz, 26-28, 28037 - Madrid
Room: Menéndez Pidal

For attendance in person contact
Elvira Martín Contreras (elvira.martin@csic.es)

Online attendance upon registration:

<https://www.cchs.csic.es/es/event/international-symposium-techniques-preserving-gods-word-syriac-hebrew-arabic-sacred-texts>

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Organized by Elvira Martín Contreras and Jonathan Loopstra

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