

The Qur'an: Historical Context, Manuscripts, and Material Culture

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Description: The aim of this unit is to provide a cross-disciplinary setting in which to address the variety of interconnected issues that arise when questions concerning the Qur'an's text are explored in the areas of its manuscript history and its textual representation in Islamic material culture. This will provide a broad forum to explore the historical context of the Qur'an from various eras, as well as such diverse but related topics as the palaeographic, codicological and art historical study of the Qur'an's manuscript history, and the various epigraphic media of Islamic material culture. It is hoped that bringing scholars from the disciplines of material culture and manuscript studies together in this way will serve to enrich and strengthen both fields. This unit will consist of two panels. One will use as its focus the study of these issues as they apply to manuscripts. The second will focus on the study of these issues as they apply to epigraphic materials.

Call for papers:

Panel 1: For the 2014 Meeting in San Diego we invite papers that deal with all eras and regions of the Qur'an's manuscript tradition, as well as the variety of palaeographic, art historical, codicological, and historical issues one encounters in our discipline. For example, a paper topic may focus on presenting a particular manuscript or group of manuscripts, on exploring a feature of orthographic development, a particular script style, the dating of manuscripts, issues of textual criticism, systems of *qirā'āt*, on the Qur'anic arts of the book or on a feature of Qur'anic manuscript studies not listed here but that fits the general parameters listed in the description of the program unit.

Panel 2: Extending the practice of inscribing the Word of God beyond the *maṣḥaf* to other materials was a contentious issue in early Islam. This panel aims to provide a forum for the study of the Qur'an as it figures on objects of daily use, as well as elite artefacts and buildings, and for the investigation of scholarly reactions to these developments in hadith collections and other textual sources. In this panel we invite contributions on any aspect of the Qur'an's history and pre-history that lies outside the manuscript tradition. For example, topics relating to Qur'anic citation in the epigraphic (including graffiti as well as formal inscriptions), architectural, ceramic, numismatic and papyrological records and the use of the Qur'an in funerary, apotropaic and prophylactic contexts would be most welcome. Topics concerning

pre-Islamic inscriptions that might have a bearing on the later formulation of the text of the Qur'an are also welcome.

Proposals should include a title and an abstract of approximately 400 words. They can be submitted [here](#) from late January onwards. Informal queries in advance of submission can be addressed to the unit chairs.