



HERITAGE SCIENCE AND MANUSCRIPTS FROM ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES

13-14 NOVEMBER 2025

**SHULMAN AUDITORIUM
THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

**New directions in the study of written artefacts
from Antiquity to the late Middle Ages.**

Organised by the Crafting Documents project (AHRC-DFG) and
co-sponsored by the *Centre for Manuscripts and Text Cultures*,
University of Oxford.

REGISTER FOR FREE HERE

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-science-and-manuscripts-from-antiquity-and-the-middle-ages-tickets-1849527399239?aff=oddtcreator>



UK Research
and Innovation



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



BAM



CENTRE FOR
MANUSCRIPT
AND TEXT
CULTURES

DAY 1

9:30 Arrival and registration (coffee and tea available for all attendees)

9:45 Welcome

Julia M. H. Smith (Crafting Documents co-PI, All Souls College, University of Oxford)

Martin Kauffman (Head of early and rare collections, Special Collections, Bodleian Library)

Dirk Meyer (Director of the Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures, The Queen's College, Oxford)

TECHNOLOGIES TO RETRIEVE WRITING

(Chair Lesley Smith, Harris Manchester College, Oxford)

10:00 Brent Seales (University of Kentucky)

UnLost: uncovering lost knowledge from the ancient library of Herculaneum

10:50 Richard Gameson (Durham University)

The Hereford palimpsest psalter

11:40 Jess Hodgkinson (University of Leicester)

Insular manuscripts and their readers: using photometric stereo imaging to study drypoint writing

12:30 Lunch Break

INKS AND PARCHMENT

(Chair Martin Kauffman, Bodleian Library)

2:30 Kristine Rose-Beers (University Library Cambridge)

Early Islamic manuscripts on parchment: surface preparation and practice-based research

3:20 Andy Beeby (Durham University)

On the variation in the density of writing as seen by multi and hyper-spectral imaging: looking over the scribe's shoulder

4:10 Coffee and tea break

5:00 Ira Rabin (Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung)

Ana de Oliveira Dias (University of Oxford)

Ink analysis of early medieval relic labels

**Wine reception sponsored by the Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures,
The Queen's College, Oxford
(6:00 – 7:00)**

DAY 2

MATERIAL SCIENCE AND HERITAGE RESEARCH

(Chair Dirk Meyer, The Queen's College, Oxford)

- 9:30 **Alberto Campagnolo (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven)**
Approaches to heritage science for manuscripts in the Digital Humanities
- 10:20 **Michael Marx, Institut für Studien der Kultur und Religion des Islam**
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt / Institute of Advanced Studies Jerusalem
Results of carbondating of early Qur'ānic manuscript and their implications for our understanding of the history of the Qur'ān
- 11:10 **Coffee and tea break**
- 11:40 **Matthew Collins (University of Copenhagen/University of Cambridge)**
Proteomics analysis of parchment samples
- 12:30 **Colloquium pause**

BROADER PERSPECTIVES

(Chair Julia Smith, All Souls College, University of Oxford)

- 4:00 **Coffee and tea**
- 4:30 **Tessa Webber (Trinity College, University of Cambridge)**
Early medieval written artefacts: a palaeographical perspective
- 5:00 **Round table discussion**