

DK-Copenhagen 'Care and Conservation of Manuscripts'

The fourteenth seminar on the 'Care and Conservation of Manuscripts' was held in Copenhagen from the 17th to the 19th of October 2012. The seminar, which was attended by some 150 people, was arranged by the Arnamagnæan Institute at the University of Copenhagen and the Royal Library of Denmark.

Altogether, 32 papers were presented, on topics ranging from universal finding aids for world manuscripts (*Lynn Ransom*), the pros and cons of opening up manuscript bindings (*Patricia Engel*) and *Maria Luisa Russo's* paper on 'Mirabilia' and over-familiarity, which addressed the balance that must be reached between looking at manuscripts at objects just for admiring or just for use, to descriptions of individual preservation and conservation projects such as *Jiri Vnoucek's* paper on King Valdemar's Cadastre and *Amy Junker Heslip's* paper on the 'Conservation of a Ripley Scroll' in the Wellcome Collection.

There was a session on Islamic manuscripts where *Karin Scheper*

presented a paper on our perception of Islamic manuscript structures, *Marco Di Bella* and *Nikolas Sarris* on field conservation experiences in Ethiopia and *Paul Hepworth* on illuminated endowment deeds of Ottoman royal women.

As usual there was a session of more technical issues as the use of RTI in exploring a medieval illuminated manuscript (*Michael Maggen*). *Felix Albrecht* presented a cheap and portable multispectral camera system currently under development and *Greg Bearman* presented two papers, one on the application of spectral imaging for monitoring changes in parchment and a non-contact imaging method to measure and map water in parchment, a method also under development. And *Ian Christie-Miller* showed how we can rediscover Charles Dickens through back-lighting. The final paper of this session was a presentation by *Peter Leerkamp* on the strengthening of acidified paper.

There is no room to mention all the papers presented, but the programme (with abstracts) is still available on the seminar website: <<http://nfi.ku.dk/cc/programmecc14>>.

One of the strengths of the sem-

inars has always been that they bring together different groups of manuscript 'users' from scholars to conservators and curators. They come from large and small institutions or are independent. The overall aim is to get these groups together, both in the lecture halls and in more relaxed surroundings over dinner and a glass of wine. Here the traditional 'buffet supper' at the Monks' cellar in the main building of the University of Copenhagen serves as the perfect setting.

Traditionally the proceedings from the last seminar are published in time for the next one. This was also the case this time even if the proceedings from the 13th seminar are the biggest in the history of the seminars and contain 33 of the 38 papers presented at the seminar. The proceedings are available from Museum Tusulanum Press <www.mtp.hum.ku.dk/default_e.asp>. Back numbers are also available.

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Patricia Engel. Photo: Natasha Fazlic'.



At the workshop: Elisabeth Schubert and Robert Fuchs. Photo: M.J. Driscoll.



Maria Bedynski, Ragnheidur Mósedóttir and Robert Fuchs. Photo: M.J. Driscoll.



Jiri Vnoucel and Gillian Fellows-Jensen. Photo: M.J. Driscoll.



Nil Baydar and Mustafa Edeer during the coffee break. Photo: M.J. Driscoll.