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About

THE BOOK SERIES

Like living beings, texts and ideas evolve and change. Some die out, others stay alive but take a different shape. The purpose of this series is to explore the mechanisms of evolution and survival of texts and ideas from Antiquity to the Renaissance, that is, in a period where texts were more fragile and ideas paradoxically freer (despite all kinds of censorship and social control) than in a time of increasing mass production. The unique character of this series is to keep together two aspects of scholarship which are too often, and wrongly so, kept separated: history of texts, textual criticism, and scholarship editing on the one hand, and intellectual, cultural and artistic history on the other.

THE CENTRE

The interdisciplinary research centre LECTIO has been established in 2010 at KU Leuven and is devoted to the study of the intellectual history of pre-modern Europe. It brings together more than fifty researchers from various research units of the faculties of Arts, Theology and Religious Studies, and of the Institute of Philosophy at KU Leuven. LECTIO’s research focuses on the transmission of texts and ideas in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, and it concentrates on the following questions: how was the authority of a text constituted and/or perceived? The study of this central question will be developed from hermeneutical, epistemological and political perspectives.

The research centre also incorporates a Laboratory for Critical Text Editing, that stimulates reflection on methodological questions with respect to the study of the transmission of texts in manuscripts and to critical editions, an important part of the research of LECTIO’s members. LECTIO’s mission includes the coordination, implementation and facilitation of its research programme, by developing further strategies in applying for funding, by organizing events that stimulate research, and by valorizing the results.


Tara L. Andrews & Caroline Macé (eds.)

Analysis of Ancient and Medieval Texts and Manuscripts: Digital Approaches


How has the digital turn truly changed the nature of our research, particularly in the field of medieval scholarship where collections are almost never large enough to justify the term ‘big data’? All kind of new avenues of research are emerging, thanks to the creativity of scholars and to their interest in what digital means can offer. This collection of articles aims to give an up-to-date overview of the use of computer-assisted methods in several fields of scholarship dealing with ancient and medieval texts and manuscripts (from codicology and palaeography to textual criticism and literary or historical studies), across the boundaries of languages and periods. In moving away from theoretical debates about what the field of digital humanities is or should be, we present here a clearer picture of what textual scholars can achieve when they use computers for their research needs and purposes, and what their expectations may be in terms of the technology and developments in computational methodology.

Tara Andrews is assistant professor of digital humanities at the University of Bern, specializing in medieval history of the Near East and the computational modeling of medieval text transmission.

Caroline Macé is assistant professor of Greek philology at the University of Leuven and has published several critical editions of ancient and medieval Greek texts and various articles on textual criticism.

Juan Signes Codester & Inmaculada Pérez Martín

Textual Transmission in Byzantium: Between Textual Criticism and Quellenforschung


Publication scheduled for Autumn 2014

A workshop was held in February 2012 in Madrid to stimulate a debate on textual criticism centred on the analysis of Byzantine texts and their modes of publication, rewriting and diffusion. The main aim was to provide future editors or scholars of the history of texts with a rich typology of concepts to guide their task, such as interpolation, paraphrase, metaphorisation, quotation, collection, amplification or falsification, but always taking into account that the principles upon which the discipline of textual criticism was founded needed to be reconsidered when dealing with the transmission of Byzantine texts. The present book brings together the different case studies produced by the participants of the workshop into a coherent whole and distributes them into five different sections according to their methodological approaches: 1. Language and style; 2. Virtual libraries and crossed readings; 3. Philosophical treatises and collections; 4. The sources of history; 5. Law texts and their reception. These different approaches result in a broad palette of methodological strategies that are, to a great extent, complementary, and will assist future editors with new tools and concepts.

Juan Signes Codester is professor of Greek philology at the University of Valladolid (Spain) and has a particular interest in Byzantine literature of the sixth to eleventh centuries and their historical sources.

Inmaculada Pérez Martín is research fellow at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid and specializes in the transmission and reception of Byzantine texts, mainly during the Palaeologan period.

Reinhart Ceulemans & Pieter De Leemans (eds.)

On Good Authority: Tradition, Compilation and the Construction of Authority in Literature from Antiquity to the Renaissance

Publication scheduled for 2015

This book brings together views from various disciplines on the concept of authority in Greek and Latin literature from Antiquity to the Renaissance. More specifically it deals with the questions how texts attempt to gain authority, and if and how they use — or abuse — earlier writings in the construction of their own authority. Moreover, this volume examines to what extent a text’s authoritative claims influence its transmission and reception and how these claims themselves are subject to evolution over time. In this context, special attention is devoted to compilation literature (such as anthologies and commonplace books), which is characterized by extensive use of existing source material and thus specifically poses the problem of the role played by compilers in transmitting and establishing authority. The volume contains 15 articles in which the contributors discuss various cases and texts that illustrate the different factors at stake in dealing with and constructing authority.

Reinhart Ceulemans is a post-doctoral fellow of the FWO at the Institute for Early Christian and Byzantine Studies of the University of Leuven.

Pieter De Leemans is assistant professor at the De Wolff-Mansion Center for Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Philosophy of the University of Leuven and academic secretary of Aristoteles Latinus.