

## Inside MCAA

# MCAA People 2009

## Visiting Fellows

Due to the generous funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG), the research group has been able to offer a Visiting Fellowship to researchers from different fields of manuscript studies. The Fellowship has been designed for both junior and senior researchers who are working on regions or periods not covered by our projects, or who can provide us with new methodological input into the topic in order to foster communication for our mutual benefit. We encourage our fellows to give public lectures and workshops and to participate in the internal meetings of the research group during their stay, and offer them a stimulating environment to focus on their current manuscript-related project for a period of two to three months.

Our very first research fellow was Dr Agnieszka Helman-Ważny (Cornell University), a paper conservator and manuscriptologist, who joined us in February and March. Her main research area is the history of paper and books in Central Asia. The pioneering methodological approach to manuscripts pursued by Dr Helman-Ważny, combining the evaluation of historical documents on material culture with scientific methods of paper analysis, gave us many points for discussion. During her stay in Hamburg, Dr Helman-Ważny worked on a new project dealing with the history of Chinese paper and gave public lectures on ‘The Art of Tibetan Gold Manuscripts’ and ‘Tibetan book formats and bookbinding styles—casual links between books’ regional origin, dating and text affiliation.’

Professor Dr Jost Gippert (Universität Frankfurt / Main), who sojourned with us for the months of June and July, is a renowned specialist in Comparative Linguistics and also both founder and leader of the TITUS project which aims at a comprehensive collection and online edition of texts in ancient Indo-European languages (since 1987). He is working

on palimpsests of Caucasian origin (Georgian, Armenian, ‘Caucasian-Albanian’) and on manuscripts of Indian and Central Asian provenance (Tocharian, Avestan, Maldivian, etc.). Professor Gippert shared with us his broad experience in scrutinizing manuscripts by giving a public lecture on findings in St. Catherine’s Monastery on Mt. Sinai (‘Manuscripta Sinaitica. Neufunde im Katharinen-Kloster’) and as part of two workshops on the function of formatting elements (such as different colours, different scripts) in various manuscript traditions. His research activities in Hamburg comprised work on the *editio princeps* of the Armenian parts of the Caucasian Albanian palimpsests of Mt. Sinai (vol. III of The Caucasian Albanian palimpsests of Mt. Sinai, ed. by Jost Gippert et al. Monumenta palaeographica medii aevi: Series Ibero-Caucasica) and the preparation of an online catalogue of Old Georgian Gospel manuscripts (<http://titus.fkidg1.uni-frankfurt.de/texte/caucasica/georgica/saxareba/saxareba.htm>).

From October through to December 2009, Haeree Park, PhD (University of Washington), a linguist and palaeographer working on early Chinese manuscripts, stayed with us while continuing her work on the Handbook of Warring States Manuscripts. Based on her excellent knowledge of recently excavated bamboo manuscripts, Dr Park delivered a series of lectures dealing with the archaeological circumstances of the manuscript discoveries, methods for reconstructing bamboo strips as well as questions regarding the relationship between manuscripts and text transmission.

We would like to express our gratitude to our visiting fellows, who significantly contributed to the progress of our project. At the same time, we look forward to welcoming our future fellow researchers and we hope to establish further long-lasting partnerships for fruitful cooperation.

*Hanna Sofia Hayduk | Hamburg*