

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin in cooperation with Orientalisches Institut der Universität
Leipzig



**Staatsbibliothek
zu Berlin**
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

**“Studies on Johann Gottfried Wetzstein (1815-1905): Manuscripts, Politics and Oriental
Studies”**

Berlin State Library, 19 to 21 February 2015

Venue: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Simón-Bolívar-Hall), Potsdamer
Str. 33, 10785 Berlin

The Symposium is made possible through the generous support of:



Opening – Thursday 19 February 2015, 18:00

Greetings:

Barbara Schneider-Kempf, Verena Klemm

Introduction:

Boris Liebrenz, Christoph Rauch

Keynote lecture:

François Déroche (Paris)

The Qur'anic collections acquired by Wetzstein

Music and Recitation:

Claudia Ott (Nay, recitation and introduction)

Accompanied by Hadi Alizadeh (Daff and Tonbak) and Farhan Sabbagh (Oud)

Small Reception

Exhibition of some original documents related to Wetzstein

First Conference Day – Friday, 20 February 2015

9:15 Registration and coffee

Session 1: Scholarship and diplomacy

Chair: Verena Klemm (Leipzig)

10:00 Ingeborg Huhn (Berlin)

Some remarks concerning the official correspondence of Johann Gottfried Wetzstein

10:30 Ludmila Hanisch (Berlin)

Semitic studies at the University of Berlin during Wetzstein's lifetime

11:00 Christoph Rauch (Berlin)

Slow and steady wins the race – The 19th century cataloguing projects of Islamic manuscripts at the Royal Library in Berlin

11:30 Discussion

11:45 Lunch break

Session 2: Damascus

Chair: Julia Gonnella (Berlin)

13:15 Anke Scharrahs (Dresden)

Living in mid-19th century Damascus – insights into lifestyle of foreigners and locals in Damascus' Old City

13:45 Boris Liebrecht (Leipzig)

Wetzstein as a broker of Arabic prints in Syria

14:15 Ibrahim Akel (Paris)

Wetzstein in Arabic sources and remarks on some manuscripts from his collections

14:45 Discussion

15:00 Coffee break

Session 3: Manuscript Collections

Chair: Yasmin Faghihi (Cambridge)

15:30 Helga Rebhan (München)

Collecting Islamic manuscripts at the Munich Court Library in the 19th century

16:00 Michaela Hoffmann-Ruf (Bonn)

The Wetzstein collection at Tuebingen University Library – its history, its content and its reception in Oriental studies

16:30 Kaoukab Chebaro / Samar El Mikati El Kaissi (Beirut)

Manuscript ownership and readership at the American University of Beirut at the turn of the 20th century

17:00 Discussion

Second Conference Day – Saturday, 21 February 2015

Session 4: Investigations into the collection

Chair: Ronny Vollandt (Berlin)

9:30 Florian Schwarz (Wien)

Between Medina and Damascus - Early modern landscapes of scholarship in the light of some codices in the Wetzstein (II) collection

10:00 Pavel Teptyuk (St. Petersburg)

The Maqāmāt by Muḥammad al-Qawwās (Manuscripts at Berlin, St.Petersburg and Cambridge collections)

10:30 Walid Saleh (Toronto)

The fantastic literature in medieval Islam: Wetzstein II 1173 Kitāb al-‘azamah as an example

11:00 Discussion

11:15 Coffee break

Session 5: Wetzstein and the Coran

Chair: Claus-Peter Haase (Berlin)

11:45 Hars Kurio (Raisdorf/Berlin)

On Wetzstein’s draft of a translation of the Coran

12:15 Michael Marx (Berlin)

Codex Wetzstein II 1913 and the textual history of the Coran

12:45 Alba Fedeli (Birmingham)

Tischendorf and the Mingana Collection: Manuscript acquisition and Quranic studies

13:15 Discussion

13:30 Lunch Break

Session 6: Wetzstein and Prose Epics

Chair: Boris Liebrecht (Leipzig)

15:00 Claudia Ott (Göttingen)

Wetzstein and the manuscripts of Arabian epics

15:30 Jan Just Witkam (Leiden)

Wetzstein's manuscripts with popular stories

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Faustina Doufikar-Aerts (Amsterdam)

The Consul and the King: Wetzstein and Alexander

17:00 Robert Irwin (London)

The Arabist and consul in Damascus Sir Richard Burton and the problematic nature of his translation of The Thousand and One Nights

17:30 Discussion and conference summary

Excursion: Sunday 22 February 11:00-12:30

Guided historical tour on the cemetery “Sophienfriedhof” (meeting point main entrance, Bergstr. 29, 10115 Berlin, tour in German)

As the organizers of the symposium, we support the initiative for an urgent restoration of the tomb of Wetzstein's family. We would appreciate your donation. About 20.000 € will be needed. More information will be available at the symposium.

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Verwendungszweck: Wetzstein

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