

(Written) **Artefact of the Month** (AoM) at the CSMC Guidelines

General Information

Imagine a Written Artefact – be it a dusty manuscript, a majestic inscribed stele, or a delicate hand fan with a secret message – if it had a voice of its own, what story would it tell? Would it tell the extraordinary tale of its origin, or how kingdoms were torn apart or united on its basis? Does it whisper the life of a reader through inadvertent traces? Does it bear the signals of changing traditions in the processes of its making? Did it lead a weathered life on multiple continents? Was it a token of friendship, an object of power, a gift of love, a witness to war?

Every Written Artefact has a story, and we would like you to tell us about it.

The AoM presents **a unique written artefact to a general audience**. Therefore, it should be **written in an engaging way, clear and accessible to non-specialists**. Of course the underlying work must uphold scholarly standards, but the AoM is not supposed to be a scientific article.

Whether the AoM presents cutting-edge research or introduces a known subject, we would like for you to tell a story about your artefact – that is of course **the entire object, not only the text!**

We welcome inquiries; if you are unsure whether the object / topic you have in mind is suitable for a AoM, please do not hesitate to consult with the editors (see Editorial Procedures, below).

The article must include

- **A (catchy) title and a compelling introduction.** The first paragraph appears prominently on our homepage; we would like to entice readers to click the ‘read more’ button, so a compelling, short introduction is essential. One possibility is to frame a question at the end of the introduction opening up to the larger story.
- A text of altogether **ca. 1,200-1,500 words** about your manuscript.
- Please remember to **describe the artefact** in your text somewhere, with information such as size, material support, binding, writing instrument, etc. This information will not be obvious for most readers. The handmade artefact (and not just bearer of content) should be at the center of attention.
- A list of **references**. If there are no publications on your specific written artefact, general background reading on the (manuscript) culture or topic discussed is appreciated.
- A short **description** of the origin, present location, and physical features of the written artefact.
- One or more **images** of the manuscript with corresponding **captions**. Authors are responsible for acquiring permissions for all images in time for the scheduled publication of the AoM. As this process can take time, we suggest that you look into permissions well in advance. We can offer reasonable financial assistance.

Language

The article will appear bilingually in English (British) and German (Neue Rechtschreibung). Please feel free to send your article in either language (if applicable, please use your native language for the first version). We will look after translations of the article into the other language.

The AoMs are read by a broad range of readers, so **please explain any terminology** specific to your artefact or your field (e.g. 'colophon', 'codicology' or area-specific references) or replace them with more accessible words.

Editorial procedures

Please send your text to wiebke.beyer@uni-hamburg.de or karin.becker@uni-hamburg.de in Microsoft Word format. Please send the images as separate files. Experience has shown that most articles benefit from **revision**, so please be prepared to be asked to make changes to your article - usually more than once.

Disclaimer

While we make every effort to work with authors to produce pieces suitable for publication, **we cannot guarantee publication of every submission**. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.