

The Cluster of Excellence
Understanding Written Artefacts
at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
cordially invites you to the public launch of a digital edition

Signatures of Friendship.
Exploring the Jerusalem Guest Book of Miryam
and Moshe Ya'akov Ben-Gavriël (1927–1966)

Thursday, 23 January 2025, 2:15 pm – 4:00 pm CET
Warburgstraße 26, 20354 Hamburg, room 0001 (pavilion)

Registration:

<https://www.csmc.uni-hamburg.de/en/register/lecture58>

Digitising written artefacts offers many opportunities for researching and teaching. The increasing availability of digital representations, however, can challenge the human ability to process large amounts of visual information and therefore requires appropriate forms of presentation. This experimental digital edition of a multilingual private guest book from 20th century Jerusalem combines existing open-source visualisation technologies to make a unique written artefact intuitively and comfortably explorable, while linking it to other data, knowledge and media resources. Patterns become visible, and individual entries reveal remarkable personal stories as well as insights into the historical moments of recording. Among many others, these pages bring together Adolf Hitler's art enemy number one, C. G. Jung's dentist, Amos Oz's famous uncle, Franz Kafka's Hebrew teacher, Heinrich Heine's legitimate heiress, the chief editor of the last German newspaper in Israel, the inventor of Hebrew shorthand and a Nazi travelling to Palestine.

Programme

Konrad Hirschler (CSMC, University of Hamburg)

Welcome

Giuseppe Veltri (Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion, University of Hamburg)

Short address

Matan Barzilai (National Library of Israel Archive Department)

Short address

Sebastian Schirrmeister (CSMC, University of Hamburg)

Guess who? On illegible signatures, multilingual challenges, and the possibilities of revisiting a guest book of the past with the means of today

Martin Semmann (Hub of Computing and Data Science, University of Hamburg)

Just a bunch of scanned documents? How computer science enables us to dive into the past

Hanna Wimmer (CSMC, University of Hamburg)

Comment

The presentation will be followed by an informal get-together offering an opportunity for discussion and exchange. A touch table will be available for further exploration of the guest book.