

The Cluster of Excellence
Understanding Written Artefacts
at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)
cordially invites you to the workshop

Paper Matters:
Global Perspectives on Decorated Paper

Thursday, 1 October 2026, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm CEST

Friday, 2 October 2026, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm CEST

Warburgstraße 26, 20146 Hamburg

Organised by the ERC-funded project
GLOBAL DECO PAPER (LMU Munich)

Registration:

<https://www.globaldecopaper.gwi.uni-muenchen.de/workshop/>

Decorated paper is a global phenomenon since at least the early modern period. The ERC-funded project GLOBAL DECO PAPER (Decorated Paper in the Early Modern Islamicate World: Aesthetics Techniques and Meaning in Global Contexts), at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich, systematically studies the production, use, and significance of decorated paper in a globally comparative perspective. With the workshop *Paper Matters: Global Perspectives on Decorated Paper* the project ventures out to the CSMC (Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures) in Hamburg to discuss decorated paper with distinguished scholars, some of whom are also artists, from the fields of art history, conservation (science), digital humanities, history, manuscript studies and codicology, and material culture studies. The materials discussed will take us from Song-period China (960–1279 AD) via early modern Asia and Africa to Europe and contemporary paper decoration practices. Presentations will discuss various historical paper decoration techniques and their uses, focus on practices of collection and reuse, investigate possibilities for the conservation of decorated paper, and consider exchange between artisans across half of the globe. The programme furthermore features a demonstration of paper decoration as well as an exhibition and a discussion of European decorated papers.

Programme

Wednesday, 30 September 2026, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Guided Tour I of the CSMC Mobile Lab by Sebastian Bosch (speakers and chairs only)
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Guided Tour II of the CSMC Mobile Lab by Sebastian Bosch (speakers and chairs only)
- 7:00 Dinner (speakers and chairs only)

Thursday, 1 October 2026, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

- 9:00 am – 9:15 am Registration
- 9:15 am – 9:30 am Introduction

9:30 am – 11:30 am **Panel 1**

Objects in Motion: Anthologies and Alba Amicorum

Chair: tba

Jake Benson and Yana van Dyke

Unravelling an Enigma: A Collaborative Analysis of the Composition, Creation, and Current Condition of Metropolitan Museum of Art 1997.71

Marika Keblusek

The Material Construction of Alba Amicorum

Robyn Radway

Sixteenth-Century Decorated Papers and the German House in Ottoman Constantinople

- 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Visit to the Hamburg State and University Library and viewing of the *album amicorum* of Caspar von Abschatz (Cod. in scrinio 198a) with Anne Liewert (speakers and chairs only)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch (speakers and chairs only)

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Panel 2**

Constructing the Decorated Surface

Chair: Uta Lauer

Nil Baydar

The Technical Construction of Decorated Papers in the Albums of Qalandar Pāshā

Yan-chiuan He

The Vanished Patterns: Song Dynasty Embossed Decorated Paper and the Culture of Writing

Jaimee Comstock-Skipp

Amazing, Technicolour Yūsuf ū Zulaykhā Manuscripts from Bukhara

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Break

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm A Survey of the GLOBAL DECO PAPER Project by Ilse Sturkenboom, Hanieh Arjomand-Fard, Lily Baumeister, Yih-chuen Liao, Negar Kazemipourleilabadi, Theresa Zischkin

7:00 pm Dinner (speakers and chairs only)

Friday, 2 October 2026, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

9:00 am – 9:30 am Exhibition and discussion of European Decorated Papers by Susanne Krause, Henk Porck, and Julia Rinck

9:30 am – 11:30 am **Panel 3**

Living Traditions: Contemporary Practice and Historical Techniques

Chair: Susanne Krause

Esma Akoğlu

Around the World in 80 Cuts: A Brief Review of the Technical and Aesthetic Aspects of Kaatı, the Art of Turkish Paper-Leather Cutting, Through the Observation of Historical and Contemporary Examples

Paul Hepworth

Decorated Papers of the Shah Tahmasp Album and Directions for Research

Anita Chowdry

tba

11:30 am – 12:00 pm A Demonstration of Preparing Decorated Paper by Anita Chowdry

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch (speakers and chairs only)

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Panel 4**

Techniques of Repetition and Surface Transformation

Chair: tba

Huan-shen Lin

Gold-Decorated Paper (JinhuaJuan) from a Conservation Perspective: Towards a Classification of East Asian Decorated Processed Paper

Rita Capitani

A Spray-Stencilled Yemeni Manuscript under the Microscope

Elena Laura Jakobi

Collecting and Exchanging Knowledge of Marbled Paper in 17th-Century Europe – A Reconstruction Based on Manuscript Sources

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Panel 5**

Collective Practices, Conservation, and European Perspectives

Chair: Henk Porck

Negar Habibi

Paper Matters, or How to Make New Ones: Persian Folios in the Jean Pozzi Collection

Mariana Uhde

Carl Beitel (1866–1917) and the Decorated Papers of the Wiener Werkstätte

Amélie Couvrat Desvergues

Borders Without Borders: Reimagining the Persian Muraqqa‘ with European Decorated Papers in the So-Called Nasir al-Din Shah Decoupage Album (c. 1888)

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Closing Discussion and Publication Plans

7:00 pm Dinner (speakers and chairs only)