

POETS, PRIESTS, SCRIBES AND (E-)LIBRARIANS. THE TRANSMISSION OF HOLY WISDOM IN ZOROASTRIANISM

Salamanca, 2nd-5th September 2009

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **Societas Iranologica Europea** is organizing a midterm Conference in Salamanca in September 2009 entitled "**Poets, priests, scribes and E-librarians. The transmission of holy wisdom in Zoroastrianism**". The conference will be held in Salamanca between 2 – 5 September 2009.

The aim of the Conference is to deal with the composition of the Avesta through its history. The main points should be: - oral composition and transmission of the Avesta; - the invention of the Avestan script; - the constitution of the different types of manuscripts between the invention of the script and the first manuscripts; - the relations between manuscripts and the *stemmata* of each type of manuscript; - presentation of manuscripts not used by K. F. Geldner (the editor of the standard edition of the Avesta); - the written and the oral transmission.

We intend the conference to throw as a result an updated overview of the different extant collections of manuscripts all over the world, their catalogues, state of preservation and accessibility. Actually, the Conference is organized in the frame of the Avestan Digital Archive (<http://www.avesta-archive.com>), a project that tries to solve the practical difficulties of researchers of the Avesta for getting access to the manuscripts. One of the main goals of our working with the Avestan manuscripts (though not the only one) is the electronic edition of the extant Avestan manuscripts and putting them online.

A deep revisiting of Geldner's procedures and methods in his edition has shown to be urgently needed. Therefore we would like to raise the general question of the necessity of a new updated edition of the Avesta. We also expect the conference to provide an overview about the last and the ongoing editions of single Avestan texts.

Although the main focus of the conference concerns the problems of the transmission of the Avesta, we also would like to expand the studies onto the transmission of other Zoroastrian texts, especially the Pahlavi books, since it shares some of the problems of the Avesta transmission. It should provide also an overview of the different Pahlavi works that are being edited at present.

The conference will be organized in sections opened with invited talks by relevant specialists. P.O. Skjaervø, J. Kellens, A. Hintze, F. Kotwal and U. Sims-Williams have already agreed to take some of them in charge.

The organizers would welcome proposals for papers or panels on these and other related topics. Proposals are to be presented by email to acantera@usal.es, or by fax to + 34 923 294657, and as a hard copy to:

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The deadline for proposals is the 31th. March 2009. For proposals please use the registration form you can find in the web of the Conference: <http://conference.avesta-archive.com>, where you can find also further information.

Salamanca, 13th October 2009

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Alberto Cantera

University of Salamanca