



Twenty-first Colloquium of the CIPL

The rise of vernacular writing. The palaeographical perspective

The process by which the different European languages acquired a written dimension was neither linear nor straightforward: the chronologies involved were different, as were the particular circumstances, strategies employed, and the form and function of vernacular material. Scholarship in this field has tended to be dominated by philologists and historians of literature, but a palaeographical perspective has the potential to make an original and crucial contribution with regard not only to the technical issues of dating and localising the manuscript witnesses but also to an understanding of the modes employed and the wider significance of the adoption of writing in the vernacular.

The twenty-first Colloquium of the CIPL, which will take place in Florence, 19-21 February 2020, organised and hosted by the Università degli Studi, sets out to explore the material forms and scripts associated especially with the earliest and most experimental phases of the process. Of particular interest are questions concerning the extent to which the traditional forms of writing in Latin, involving conventions that in some cases had been established centuries earlier, functioned as points of reference for writing in the vernacular, or whether, by contrast, other approaches were taken in response either to new demands in communication or to the taste and expectations of a new audience and patrons. Suggestions for papers responding to this theme are sought from both established experts and junior researchers.

The following list of subjects and areas of enquiry is intended to provide examples of the various possible approaches to the theme of the colloquium. It is hoped that proposals will include not only contributions that focus upon individual case studies but also especially those that offer overarching analyses or consider issues of methodology.

1. General diachronic and synchronic perspectives
2. Strategies for exploring the written dimension
3. Types of written artefact: books, documents, inscriptions
4. Relationship between type of text and type of script
5. Interactions between the written vernacular and written Latin: material and graphic considerations
6. Scribes, patrons and the organisation of production
7. Forms of organisation and layout of the written text
8. Issues of legibility in the vernacular book
9. Graphic conventions (spelling, diacritical marks, abbreviations, etc.)
10. Vernacular books in medieval libraries

Proposals should be 2,000-3,000 characters in length, in English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish, and should include the **forename and surname of the author, a title and brief resumé** in English or French. Authors who are not members of the CIPL should also supply a short CV. Proposals should be submitted as a **WORD file attachment (not as part of the body of the email text nor as a .pdf file)** and sent to

Outi Merisalo (omerisalo@gmail.com), General Secretary of the CIPL,
by 31 December 2018 at the latest.