

Editorial

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Stories in Motion. The title of our first contribution sets the tone for the entire volume. Stories are constantly told, retold, adapted, translated. What happens, then, when a story is retold in a different cultural context, a different language, a different political situation? Our first contribution approaches this question from a literary perspective and uses the metaphor of a kaleidoscope to examine a tale taken from the Sindbad tradition in the comparative analysis of its early Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Latin versions.

The second individual article focuses on the translation of Greek texts into Latin and draws our attention to practical texts for daily use that were popular in the early Middle Ages, such as prognostics and handy tables for according local calendars with the Roman one, calculating Easter or showing days of the week for specific dates. They are categorised as non-literary, but charmingly contain stories of their own, explaining how to calculate one's future based on numerical values of letters in one's name; or what to do to ensure the best outcome if one travels abroad, if one feels ill, if one wants to find love, or how to be well received, to escape scandal, to ward off magic, to build a house and many other everyday situations in the vagaries of life.

Our thematic section then addresses stories as potential evidence for identity construction in the past. For this, it turns to origin myths, one of the earliest form of stories. They do not necessarily recount the beginnings of the world or the human race, many explain the beginnings of specific groups: Japanese, Jurchen, Manchu, Gaoche, Kazakh, Bulgar, Greek, Goth, Langobard, Burgundian, Anglo-Saxon, Irish or Bohemian, as the case studies in our cluster on *Medieval Origin Myths in Eurasia* present. The versions that have come down to us in the written sources provide insight into adaption and narrative change. Examined with suitable tools, they are not only literary fiction but could also be used to learn more about the groups which shaped them. The introductory article discusses the methodological and philosophical approaches with which to tackle this aspect of stories in motion. The conclusion focuses on the comparative aspects and provides a synthesis of the most striking motifs that seem to permeate many Eurasian origin stories. This section was the result of a work package and an international workshop of the Austrian Cluster of Excellence »EurAsian Transformations«.

Finally, we would like to make it transparent that one of the authors in the cluster is the editor of this journal. Of course, he was not involved in the peer review process. Still, it may raise ethical questions and be seen as constituting a short-cut to enhancing his publication record. However, this publication will not bring him any personal benefits in academic competition, given that he is already retired.