

Editorial

Walter Pohl and Ingrid Hartl

In our 2021 summer issue, the medieval Mediterranean takes a prominent place. The first of two thematic sections addresses this macro-region that has received increasing attention in historiographic debates recently, a contact zone in which evidence of movement and mobility can be used to trace the exchange of cultures, of ideas and products. Under the title *Movement and Mobility in the Medieval Mediterranean: Changing Perspectives from Late Antiquity to the Long-Twelfth Century*, guest editors Christopher Heath, Clemens Gantner and Edoardo Manarini have assembled a series of articles, which will appear in this and the following volume 14 of *Medieval Worlds*.

Furthermore, our successful series *Ideologies of Translation* continues, focusing once again on the emerging research area of historical multilingualism, in which philological, linguistic, palaeographic and historical methods are combined to trace the scribes' and preachers' engagement with the texts and with their audience. This sub-series was launched in volume 12, in which multilingual sermons from England, France, Italy, Catalonia and Ireland were examined, and guest editor Jan Odstrčilík provided the readers with an overview of recent research and methodologies in this vibrant field of studies. In the present volume, this thematic section is complemented by studies on code-switching between Latin and English or Irish in sermons of the 7th, 9th and 15th centuries, and rounded off by a discussion of a compelling and little-known piece of evidence for multilingual preaching.

Both these thematic sections are featured on the cover. But of course, as usual in our volumes, there is more to discover. Three stand-alone articles provide interdisciplinary and comparative insights into an exceptional world map from a Christian Iberian manuscript; into Byzantine and Chinese gardens in comparison; and into the relations between religions among the 9th century Khmer. The relationship between religions also takes centre-stage in our report about the ongoing activities of the ERC Synergy Grant *EuQu (The European Qur'ān. Islamic Scripture in European Culture and Religion 1143-1850)*, which concludes our present summer edition.

We would like to round off this preface with two announcements. As we keep receiving more and more submissions and suggestions for thematic volumes, we have decided to start a loose series of supplementary issues prepared by responsible guest editors, each covering only one coherent topic. The first issue is planned for October 2021 under the working title *Medieval Biographical Collections: Perspectives from Buddhist, Christian and Islamic Worlds*. It includes cases studies on manuscripts from widely different cultural backgrounds, and with often surprisingly similar structural features. Secondly, the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, which hosts our journal, has promised to upgrade our website and make it more attractive and usable. So, watch out for more from *Medieval Worlds*!