

**In Matter of Books and Records:
Forms, substance, forgeries, and meanings beyond the lines**



An International Workshop on the Materiality of Written Culture

London, The V&A Museum – 23 November 2015

On Matter of Books and Records: Forms, substance, forgeries, and meanings beyond the lines is an international and interdisciplinary workshop on the materiality of books and documents from Antiquity to the Modern Era. The workshop is aimed at junior scholars interested in the material culture of the written word, especially geared towards PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Papers will range chronologically and geographically, providing both methodological overviews and more specific case studies. Over the course of three sessions, we will look to answer different sets of questions, focusing on material supports, and subsequently on the binding and forgery of both books and documents respectively: How were writing supports created and employed, and what can they tell us about their users? What is the meaning of papyrus, parchment, and paper beyond their texts? How were written texts gathered and organised? What do structures and bindings communicate about the history of books and documents? How was the materiality of books and documents used as means of deception? How do physical elements of books and documents help us assess authenticity? Historians, classicists, art historians, and conservators will give short presentations accompanied by a discussion of examples. Ultimately, the workshop will provide junior researchers from diverse backgrounds with the chance to engage critically with textual sources using the approach of material culture.

Registration to the workshop is now open. Places are limited and we recommend you register as soon as possible. Shall the number of registrations exceed that of available places, we will be running a waiting list. Please register at <https://thematterof.wordpress.com> within 15 November 2015.

A limited amount of bursaries to cover at least some of the travel expenses is available and will be allocated on the basis of merit by 15 October 2015. If you wish to apply, please send your application to a.silvestri@bbk.ac.uk. You should include a presentation of your PhD project (max. 300 words) and a short CV, in a single PDF file. Please specify how you think participation in the workshop will contribute to your research. Please note that the application process is separate from the registration, and that you should still register on the website even if you already submitted an application for funding.



Programme

10.00-10.30 Registration and Coffee

10.30-10.45 **Filippo de Vivo and Marta Ajmar**: *Introduction*

10.45 – 12.15

First Session - Supports: Papyrus, Parchment, and Paper

Danae Bafa (UCL):

From Boats to Book-rolls: Unfolding the Materiality of Papyrus in Graeco-Roman Egypt

Jessica Berenbeim (Magdalene College, University of Oxford):

What Parchment is, and What it Means

Maria Alessandra Chessa (V&A Museum):

From the Nature of Paper to Meaning and Function

12.15-1.30 Break

1.30 – 2.30

Second Session - Binding Books and Documents

Anna Gialdini (Ligatus, UAL) and **Alessandro Silvestri** (Birkbeck):

Binding and Rebinding Records in Late Medieval Sicily. A Material Approach to Administrative History

Carlo Federici (Ca' Foscari, University of Venice):

Bindings, Parchments and Papers. My Pathway to the Archaeology of the Book

2.30-3.00 Coffee Break

3.00 – 4.10

Third Session - Forgery in Books and Documents

Emily Taylor (British Museum):

Book Forgeries: A Composite Fake and Egyptological Conundrum from the British Museum's Collection

Alfred Hiatt (Queen Mary University of London):

Forgery of Documents in the Late Middle Ages

4.10-4.30 **Ian Sansom**, University of Warwick: Closing remarks: *The Paper Museum*

5.00 Wine Reception

The programme is also available at <https://thematterof.wordpress.com/about/>,
<https://birkbeck.academia.edu/ARCHIVESProject> and www.bbk.ac.uk/history/archives/events

Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1579576988974641/>



A.R.C.H.I.ves
<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/archives/>



ual: university
of the arts
london

