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Institut für Österreichische
Geschichtsforschung

ABC – Ancient Book Crafts

Collaborative cataloguing of medieval bindings from Klosterneuburg Abbey

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286. Institutsseminar des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung

Montag, 08. April 2024, 17 Uhr c.t., Hörsaal 6 (Franz-König-Saal) im Tiefparterre, Stiege 9

Since its foundation, Klosterneuburg Abbey has held manuscripts and incunabula with medieval bindings that have never been systematically described. Materials, binding techniques and decorations are decisive for determining the period of origin of the bindings. Archival sources provide additional information about economic and historical developments in the abbey's book production. At the same time, we are investigating the potential of infrared spectroscopy for the non-destructive dating of leather and parchment. Using the External Reflectance (ER) module of the Bruker Alpha II Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) instrument and multivariate statistical analysis, a calibration set of well-dated manuscripts is being developed. We are developing statistical methods to explain and explore the molecular decay rate.

Sarah Deichstetter, ÖAW (IMAFO), studied German and Dutch Studies in Vienna and is currently writing her dissertation.

Viviana Elisa Nicoletti, ÖAW (IMAFO), is a book conservator. She studied at the European Course for Restorers of Book Materials in Spoleto and obtained a degree in Conservation of Cultural Assets at the Università della Tuscia.

Patrick Layton, AK-Bild (INTK), is a PhD student developing a new dating method for library and archive materials using FTIR.

ABC Austria is a joint FWF project of AK-Bild and ÖAW, which is dedicated to the analysis of medieval leather bindings from a historical-codicological and chemical point of view.

Johannes **Tintner-Olifiers**, Principal Investigator, AK-Bild (INTK), Environmental Sciences

Maria **Theisen**, ÖAW (IMAFO), Medieval Studies/Codicology

Moderation: Alexandra Kaar, Maria Theisen