

Workshop:
"Reading Arabic Manuscripts: The Witness and the Text"
Prof. Adam Gacek
(McGill University)

Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa,
June 8-12, 2009
(Aula U. Dini)

The workshop is the continuation, at a more advanced level, of the introductory training on Arabic palaeography and codicology held by the leading world expert Prof. Adam Gacek in Scuola Normale Superiore in 2008 ("Arabic Manuscript Studies: An Introduction", Prof. Gacek, June 2-6, 2008).

The workshop will take into account a number of Arabic MSS (in digital form), in order to show how they were copied and corrected, and to read some of the marginalia and statements pertaining to their history. After a recapitulation of the main elements of palaeography and codicology discussed in the first workshop, participants will have the opportunity to ponder the issues of quality of surviving MSS (autographs, holographs, drafts, and fair copies, dictated, certified and collated witnesses, etc.) in relation to the author's intended text (critical analysis).

Format: four days of intensive training, with morning and afternoon sessions, at Scuola Normale Superiore (Mon-Wed, Fri); a one-day hand-on session at the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana of Florence (Thu). The workshop will be complemented by a series of lectures (on Mon-Wed, Fri afternoon, and on Sat. morning) in which the foreign participants will provide a report on their current research, with particular regard to issues of editorial technique affecting the history of Arabic philosophy.

The official language of the workshop is English. Participants are required to have a basic knowledge of Arabic language (at least one full year of instruction).

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