

# ARABIC CODICOLOGY: THE ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPT HERITAGE IN THE EL ESCORIAL COLLECTION

FROM 3rd TO 7th JULY 2017

**Director:** Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz. École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris

**Secretary:** Carlos Leo Roca

**Sponsor:** Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation



Due to the use of original manuscripts during the hands-on sessions, the number of students cannot exceed 16. Thus, a motivation letter and a one-page CV are required and will be considered during the selection process. Applicants have to send these documents to [mss.arabicscript@gmail.com](mailto:mss.arabicscript@gmail.com). Please note that the course will be taught in English. Application deadline is 30th April 2017.

The course “Arabic codicology: The Islamic Manuscript Heritage in the El Escorial Collection” aims at providing the students with the basic codicological knowledge and the research procedures they will need when studying and analyzing Arabic manuscripts, as well as at familiarizing them with the libraries of the Arabic Islamic world in Medieval and Modern times, more especially that which belonged to the Moroccan sultan Muley Zaydân. To achieve that, the design of the course programme allows the students to apply the knowledge they acquire with the manuscripts. The Royal Library of the El Escorial Monastery houses the most important collection of Arabic manuscripts in Spain, one of the most interesting ones in Europe. Its proximity to the venue for the summer courses makes this particularly valuable as far as the aims of this course are concerned since practical training will take place there, owing to the collaboration which has been set up with the Library. Actual manuscripts of the collection will be examined.

The course will be taught by François Déroche and Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz. The course provides a global overview of the field, thus proving a groundbreaking programme in the frame of Arabic codicological studies, mainly due to its practical approach and to the quality and diversity of the examples which will be examined during the course. It intends to answer to the growing interest among scholars and professionals, as well as researchers, university students and bibliophiles with the international stance required by Arabic codicological studies.

### Monday, 3rd July

- 10.30 h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.** École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris  
**José Luis del Valle.** Director of Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial  
The Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial and its manuscript collections
- 11.15 h. Break**
- 11.45 h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz**  
About the importance of the Codicological studies
- 12.15 h. François Déroche.** Collège de France. Paris  
Writing surfaces: parchment and paper.
- 16.00 h. Karima Benaicha.** Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London  
Al-Furqan Digital Library Portal: World Islamic manuscript collections, catalogues and written heritage resources.
- 16.30 h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz and François Déroche**  
Writing surfaces II: Western paper

### Tuesday, 4th July

- 09.30 h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla**  
The basis of Codex Composition
- 11.30 h. Break**
- 12.00 h. François Déroche**  
Inks and lay-out
- 16.00 h. Round-table:** How to observe and describe an Arabic manuscript?  
Discussants: **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz** and **François Déroche**

### Wednesday, 5th July

- 09.30 h. François Déroche**  
Arabic paleography
- 11.30 h. Break**
- 12.00 h. François Déroche**  
Decoration of manuscripts
- 16.00 h. Round-table:** Towards a History of the Arabic manuscript  
Discussants: **François Déroche** and **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz**

### Thursday, 6th July

- 09.30 h. Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz and François Déroche**  
Arabic Bindings
- 11.30 h. Break**
- 12.00 h. François Déroche**  
Notes and Colophons
- 16.00 h. Round-table:** Bookbinders at work  
Discussants: **Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz** and **François Déroche**

### Friday, 7th July

- 10.00 h. François Déroche**  
History of Manuscripts
- 12.30 h. Closing session and diploma delivery**