

Presentation of the series

LautSchriftSprache | ScriptandSound

Graphemics is a multidisciplinary discipline that is connected to philology, language history, language policies, epigraphy, and semiotics. While not an independent subject, graphemics deserves its own space among the many scientific approaches to language and culture. Historical graphemics describes common structures and independent solutions of the different documented writing systems, which represent cultural products, local knowledge of many traditions throughout time and space. Even if its core principally deals with the relation of written signs (within systems and rules) to the underlying spoken language, graphemics, and especially historical graphemics, must be open to cultural interests that include the interfaces between language and communication, and beyond.

In 2008, Elvira Glaser organized a conference *LautSchriftSprache* at the University of Zurich. Elvira Glaser set off on a journey through space and time in the galaxy of historical graphemics and she went where no one had gone before. She and her team succeeded in bringing researchers of different writing systems together. Hence, the first *LautSchriftSprache* conference gave an overall introduction to the broad field of historical graphemics, summing up the results of many research programmes on runes and writing systems in the Middle Ages.

The conference and its topic, comparative graphemics in historical writing systems, was too great an enterprise to let it stop at this point and too promising not to build on its achievements. It was the editors' determination to continue in the spirit of the first conference. Its continuation (*LautSchriftSprache – ScriptandSound*) followed in 2010 in Munich, organized by Hans Sauer and Gaby Waxenberger. The second conference focused on the (dis)ambiguity of the grapheme and the depiction of sounds by characters in terms of the 'perfect fit', giving an overview of different writing systems.

In 2013, Paola Cotticelli Kurras organized the third conference *LautSchriftSprache – ScriptandSound* (Variation within and among writing systems: concepts and methods in the analysis of ancient written documents) in Verona. The topics this conference focused on were in the spirit of the preceding conferences, introducing the geo-historical aspect and enlarging the kind of writing systems on the one side, and the metalinguistic problems on the other. New questions also emerged about the relation of written documents and their semasiological status, within and beyond the written language.

The aims of the series

Since graphemics is not (yet) a discipline in its own right, the new series *LautSchriftSprache – ScriptandSound* will hopefully fill up a lacuna in this field. Therefore *LautSchriftSprache – ScriptandSound* is designed as an independent medium for publications in the field of graphemics, be it in the form of monographs (e.g., doctoral dissertations) or collected papers on a certain topic. It is our intention to publish volumes on special topics at irregular intervals,

thus encouraging colleagues carrying out research in graphemics to contribute to the new series.

As graphemics covers a great number of writing systems, we are open for monographs, or articles dealing with writing systems, also the ones that have not yet been covered by our conferences.

International advisory and scientific board

We would like to thank our colleagues of the international board for their support and expertise (in alphabetical order):

Paola Cotticelli-Kurras (Università di Verona)

Elvira Glaser (Universität Zürich)

Kerstin Kazzazi (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Marco Mancini (Università La Sapienza di Roma)

Anna Marinetti (Università di Venezia)

Alfredo Rizza (Università di Verona)

Elke Ronneberger-Sibold (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Hans Sauer (LMU München)

Michael Schulte (University of Agder)

Gaby Waxenberger (LMU München)

Sabine Ziegler (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)

Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks go to Elvira Glaser as well as Annina Seiler and Michelle Waldspühl for the idea and the concept of a conference in a hitherto neglected field. We are also very grateful for being allowed to use Elvira Glaser's outstanding title *LautSchriftSprache*.

Paola Cotticelli Kurras and Gaby Waxenberger

Verona and Munich, May 2015