

## Preface

The present volume is the seventh in the book series *LautSchrift.Sprache* (LSS), which is gradually establishing itself within the graphematics community. It contains contributions from the Sixth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Graphematics, held on 28–29 April 2025 in France, on the Île d’Oléron.

As a multidisciplinary field of research, graphematics forms a nexus between historical linguistics, epigraphy, and philology, with a consistent focus on attested writing systems as a concretely realized language.

As suggested by the title of both the conference and the present volume (*Linguistic and Cultural Aspects of Script Systems*), the organizers sought to emphasize explicitly that writing cannot be regarded as a purely abstract phenomenon to be studied and analyzed in isolation. Rather, it is the interaction between strictly linguistic aspects and extra-linguistic factors that leads to the selection, adaptation, and further development of a particular writing system.

Each LSS-conference to date has been organized around a clearly defined thematic focus. The inaugural meeting in 2008 in Zurich foregrounded processes of adoption and adaptation of writing systems in Western Europe, while the 2010 conference in Munich concentrated primarily on the disambiguation of grapheme–phoneme relations. The 2013 conference in Verona marked a significant expansion of the field of inquiry, extending the chronological and cultural scope to a broad spectrum of scripts ranging from the second millennium BCE to the present. At the same time, theoretical reflection was further consolidated and refined. In 2018, the graphematics community convened once again in Munich to examine issues concerning the exact correspondences between phonemes and graphemes, with a specific emphasis on the Germanic runic script. In 2022, at the conference in Fevik, Norway, the focus was broadened to include types of writing systems from distant geographical regions, such as Mesoamerica, China, and India.

In continuity with the penultimate conference, the Oléron meeting likewise offered a platform for research on the Maya script as a non-alphabetic writing system. This inclusion reflects the ongoing effort within the LSS-series to broaden the understanding of writing systems beyond well-studied alphabetic traditions and to incorporate cultures that have so far received comparatively limited scholarly attention.

The resulting conference volumes consistently attest to the diversity of graphematical approaches, encompassing both theoretical perspectives and detailed empirical case studies.

The first section of the volume focuses on the Greek and Latin worlds. Paola COTTICELLI-KURRAS’ article (pp. 1–18) examines the concept of *ductus*, understood as the set of particular forms of handwriting. After a historical overview, Paola Cotticelli-Kurras focuses on Hittite paleography, where *ductus* distinctions are particularly important. Andrea SANTAMARIA & Eleonora SELVI (pp. 19–48) examine the development of writing in the northern Aegean basin, particularly in Thrace, where a Greek-based alphabet has been used to record the Thracian language. Daniel PETIT (pp. 49–60) re-examines the adjectival form  $\nu\acute{\eta}\delta\upsilon\mu\omicron\varsigma$  of Homeric Greek, which shows evidence of metanalysis from a primitive form  $\acute{\eta}\delta\upsilon\mu\omicron\varsigma$  ‘sweet’ placed after a word ending in a euphonic nasal, and tries to determine whether this metanalysis took place during the oral phase of composition, during the redaction of the text written in *scriptio continua* or during the redaction of the text with spaces between words. Francesco ROVAI (pp. 61–72) describes the words written in Greek in a 10<sup>th</sup>-century Latin text, Liutprand of Cremona’s *Antapodosis*. Francesca COTUGNO (pp. 73–86)

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## Preface

examines the pragmatic and rhetorical functions of *interpuncta* in a selection of Vindolanda tablets written in Old Roman cursive.

The second section of the volume deals with northern Europe (Ireland and Scandinavia). Nora WHITE (pp. 87–99) describes the transition from ogham to Latin script in early medieval Irish epigraphy. Alessia BAUER (pp. 101–108) provides a new interpretation of a runic inscription attested on the spindle whorl from Saltfleetby (Lincolnshire), proposing that it reflects a specific orthographic strategy at the periphery of the runic writing region rather than orthographic errors. Julia-Sophie HEIER (pp. 109–126) examines geminate spellings and bind-runes in Bergen’s medieval rune-stick inscriptions, questioning a possible influence of Latin literacy.

The third section of the book opens up to more distant worlds. Alessandro DEL TOMBA (pp. 127–144) describes the graphic principles at work in Khotanese texts and attempts to determine their origin in the multicultural context of Central Asia. Christoph HELMKE (pp. 145–178) provides an overview of bilingual bicults in Meso-America. The final word goes to Antonio PERRI (pp. 179–199), who examines Nahua pictorial texts from the colonial period.

Hosts and main organizers of the symposium were Alessia Bauer and Daniel Petit; to the scientific advisory board belong, together with the editors, Paola Cotticelli-Kurras and Michael Schulte.

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the editors

