Typographic Orient
Printing «Oriental» languages, between Europe(s) and the East(s) | 16th-19th centuries
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Program
This international conference aims to bring together researchers—historians, typographers and graphic designers, linguists,...—whose works focus on the way “Oriental” languages were printed, in various places, between 16th and 19th century, and on the technical, social, political or cultural issues of such practices.

Three main themes, though not exclusive, will guide our discussions. The first concerns technical mobility. Techniques (xylography, typography, lithography, monotype, linotype, etc.) were in fact “translated”, i.e. acclimatized and therefore transformed, according to context. So, depending on one’s point of view, what constituted a “good” Oriental printed script, and what gestures governed its creation? How could the actors involved in the world of writing, whether handwritten or printed, interact, or not? With regard to typography, how were the punches (or types), with their technical requirements and specificities (the diversity of characters in Chinese, the ligatures in Arabic or Persian, the dots or accents to be associated with certain letters...), able to circulate and be readapted in different places, sometimes over a long period of time?

Alongside this typographic material, the actors likely to set it in motion have also circulated. The aim is to address typographic workshops and the editorial projects they launched as genuine collective and collaborative undertakings involving a wide variety of actors with diverse and fluid social identities. The observatory that printing workshops constitute highlights the essential role of practitioners and “technicians” in the elaboration of linguistic knowledge. The study of these workshops makes it possible to explore the materiality of Orientalist writings in order to reconstruct their manufacturing processes, and to consider the actual manipulation of languages through their scripts and typefaces. As a result, printing workshops appear to be real “places of knowledge”, where philologists, printers, punch-cutters, typographers, interpreters, proofreaders, etc. interact, between collaboration and tension.

Finally, we will attempt, during the conference, to refine the geography of these workshops specialized in Oriental language printing, by emphasizing the importance and effects of localization, between Europe and the Orient: the role of ports and their diasporic communities; the importance of metropolises, and their cosmopolitanism with fluctuating contours... The very definition of what, in these varied contexts, “Oriental languages” were – and the “Orient” itself? – can be questioned on the basis of the workshops and their organization: were they sometimes limited to “biblical” languages, with varying perimeters? Or did they encompass all non-European languages, or rather all those using “non-Latin” types to be printed? All in all, does this topography of Oriental typography allow us to rethink the geography of “Orientalisms”? On a local scale, on the one hand, workshops were linked to other places and institutions that need to be taken into consideration. On a global scale, different printing centers, in Europe or the Orient, collaborated or competed with each other: can we, for example, speak of a typographic imperialism, and what were its contours depending on the contexts?
December 12  
EFEO | 22 avenue du Président Wilson, Paris 16e

13:45 WELCOME OF PARTICIPANTS
14:15 INTRODUCTION

Typographic techniques and styles
Chair: Raphaële Mouren The British School at Rome, Centre Gabriel Naudé, The Warburg Institute

14:40 Variations of Layout in Greek textbooks in 16th century Greek editions in France
   Natasha Constantinidou University of Cyprus

15:20 Syriac in metal type: technical problems and their historical solutions
   J. F. Coakley Cambridge University

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:20 Detached Arabic type systems in the late Ottoman Empire: Concepts, objectives and models
   Özlem Özkal Özyeğin University, Istanbul

17:00 From Suzhou (苏州) to Paris: The Chinese Origin and European Influence of Chinese Characters in Song Style (宋体字)
   Chen Zhenghong Fudan University, Shanghai

17:40 GENERAL DISCUSSION

December 13  
IEA de Paris | 17 quai d’Anjou, Paris 4e

09:00 WELCOME OF PARTICIPANTS

Paris, typographic capital (1)
Chair: Stéphane Van Damme École Normale Supérieure, Ulm, Paris

09:30 Dictionnaires et caractères chinois : quelques notes à propos d’Étienne Fourmont 1683-1745
   Michela Bussotti École Française d’Extrême Orient, Paris, CCJ (UMR 8173)

10:10 Scholars in the workshop. The Inspectors of the Oriental Typography of Paris’s Imprimerie nationale, end of the 18th-mid-19th Century
   Fabien Simon Université Paris Cité, ICT-Les Europes dans le monde

10:50 COFFEE BREAK

Paris, typographic capital (2)
Chair: Liliane Hilaire-Pérez Université Paris Cité, ICT-Les Europes dans le monde

11:10 Les ouvriers de l’imprimerie nationale et la typographie orientale: transformation des pratiques, identité et culture de métier au tournant du XIXe siècle
   Juliette Milleron Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IDHE.S (UMR 8533)

11:50 Armenian types in Paris: a tale of two key moments
   Elena Papassissa Senior Type Designer, Lecturer in Graphic Design at Oxford Brookes University, UK

12:30 GENERAL DISCUSSION

13:00 LUNCH

Politics of typography
Chair: Pierre-Emmanuel Roux Université Paris Cité, CCJ (UMR 8173)

14:20 Asia’s Communications Revolution: The Technologies of Inter-Asian Transmission
   Nile Green UCLA

15:00 The Printing Bureau and the Development of Korean Typography in Colonial Korea
   Michael Kim Yonsei University, Seoul

15:40 From ‘Oriental Type’ to ‘Non-Latin’: Type Design, Media, and Empire in Asia
   Thomas S. Mullaney Stanford University

16:20 COFFEE BREAK
December 14
Université Paris Cité | Bâtiment Sophie Germain, Amphithéâtre Turing
8 place Aurélie Nemours, Paris 13°

09:00 | WELCOME OF PARTICIPANTS

Typographic metropolis
Chair: Margherita Farina Université Paris Cité, HTL - CNRS

09:30 | Imprimer en caractères non-latins: le creuset de l’Italie du Nord (années 1460-1530)
Catherine Rideau-Kikuchi Université Paris-Saclay, UVSQ, DYPAC

10:10 | Les typographies « orientales » à Rome et en Italie: langues, caractères, personnel (XVIIe-XVIIIe siècle)
Giovanni Pizzorusso Université « G. d’Annunzio », Chieti-Pescara

10:50 | COFFEE BREAK

11:10 | Setting Up a New Printshop in Istanbul in the 1720s: the Case of the Müteferrika Press
Orlin Sabev Institute for South-East European Studies, Romanian Academy

11:50 | Istanbul–Cairo–Vienna: Arabic type-making in three nineteenth-century capitals
Titus Nemeth Type designer, typographer and independent researcher

12:30 | GENERAL DISCUSSION

December 15
Atelier du Livre d’Art et de l’Estampe | Imprimerie nationale - IN Groupe
Rue des Frères Beaumont, 59128 Flers en Escrebieux

13:00 | LUNCH

Typographic actors (1)
Chair: Quentin Deluermoz Université Paris Cité, ICT-Les Europes dans le monde

14:20 | Une « imprimerie royale » pour le grec? Claude Garamont, François Ier et le Collège des trois langues
Rémi Jimenes Université de Tours, CESR (UMR 7323)

15:00 | L’arméniste Jean Saint-Martin (1791-1832), inspecteur de la typographie orientale à Paris
Didier Barrière Imprimerie nationale, Atelier du Livre d’art et de l’Estampe

15:40 | Firmin Didot, Théophile Beaudoire, Charles Tuleu and the Greek printers: the production of display types for the modern Greek type market
Achilles Tzallas Independant researcher

16:40 | Opening doors to China: language acquisition, experimental typefounding, and evangelical printing projects of the London Missionary Society’s Ultra-Ganges Mission at Penang and Malacca, 1821–69
Darryl Lim University of London

17:20 | Printing the Bible in pothi format: the first Mongolian translations printed through the co-operation between the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Russian Bible Society
Alice Crowther EPHE-PSL, CRCAO (UMR 8155)

18:00 | GENERAL DISCUSSION

VISIT OF THE ATELIER DU LIVRE D'ART ET DE L'ESTAMPE
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Michela Bussotti | EFEO
Margherita Farina | CNRS - Université Paris Cité
Fabien Simon | Université Paris Cité

INFORMATIONS
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A zoom link will be available, on request, to follow the Conference remotely