

ARIANNA D'OTTONE

THE BLUE QUR'ĀN AND THE BIBLE OF DANILA: A MEANINGFUL CONNECTION

Monday Majlis Online on the 11th of May, 17:00-18:30 (UK time)

Centre for the Study of Islam, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

Register please on this link:

<https://Universityofexeter.zoom.us/meeting/register/ulEfgH8jSiOX1FUwG9wHCg>



Bio: Arianna D'Ottone. Formerly professor at the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies – Sapienza, University of Rome (Italy) where she taught Arabic Palaeography: Codicology and Numismatics (2008-2025), she is currently Senior Numismatic Specialist at Qatar Museums Authority. Her research approach connects Arabic – both Islamic and Christian – material and textual culture with a wider Mediterranean and global context. Often dealing with multilingual and multigraphic material, she contributed to the rediscovery of the *Qubbat al-khazna* deposit of manuscript fragments and documents which led to the establishment of a new field of research, the so-called *Qubba* studies. In 2024/25 she has been appointed Marjorie Bond Research Fellow at the Wilson Library, Chapel Hill (N.C.), in 2023, she was Petra Kappert Fellow at the *Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures* (CSMC) – Cluster of Excellence “Understanding Written Artefacts” (Hamburg, Germany) and in 2022 Visiting Researcher at Berkeley – *Centre of Middle Eastern Studies* (CMES). Her catalogue of Arabic coins in the Royal Italian Collection has been awarded with the Samir Shamma Prize by the *Royal Numismatic Society* (London, 2018). She authored four and edited nine volumes and published over eighty articles and book chapters.

<https://qma.academia.edu/AriannaDOttone>

In the spirit of the label ‘Majlis’ and also to make the talks even more interesting, our speakers present the topic discussed as embedded in their own journey. You can watch the previous Majlises here

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8YRkUahFj_81OjzCSDLTx4kVQQgeHLC-

However, we don't record the Q&A in order to keep the discussion free. Please come and enjoy the talks and the discussions :) If you'd like to be included in the CSI (Centre for the Study of Islam, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter) mailing list, please write to me (I.T.Kristo-Nagy@ex.ac.uk). We'll be happy to welcome you!

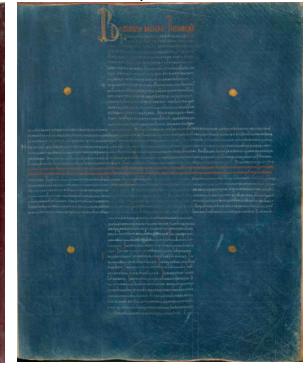
István T Kristó-Nagy <https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/4333-istv%C3%A1n-t-krist%C3%B3nagy>



Folio of The Blue Qur'ān. New York, Metropolitan Museum.



Orléans Bible, Paris, BnF.



Bible of Danila. Cava' de Tirreni

Abstract: The talk will explore the multiple bonds linking the iconic Blue Qur'ān – the main bulk of which is in Tunisia whilst many of its folios are dispersed in different private and public institutions worldwide – and the Bible of Danila – Cava' de Tirreni (SA), Biblioteca statale del Monumento Nazionale Badia di Cava, Cava 1. Despite many unsuccessful attempts to find a significant precedent for the Blue Qur'ān in the Eastern lands, its production only makes sense in the context of the Byzantine and Western tradition of *codices purpurei*. Codicological factors, textual and paratextual details of these two masterpieces containing, respectively, the Islamic and Christian sacred texts, will be discussed – namely the Oriental glosses in Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic in the Bible of Danila – to make apparent the Andalusian provenance of the Blue Qur'ān, a luxurious manuscript produced in Cordoba in the first half of the 3rd/9th century.