Armenian Manuscripts from the Invention of the Alphabet to the Modern Era: An Illustrated History

The literary experience of the Armenian people begins in the first decade of the 5th century, when an Armenian script is created thanks to the joint efforts of Mesrop Maštoc‘ and Bishop Sahak I Part‘ew. From this moment, an imposing translation activity from Syrian and Greek takes place, followed by the first original literary works written directly in Armenian. The Late Antiquity period, the Middle Ages, and the early Modern Times see an enormous production of literature in Armenian, which is testified by the ca. 30,000 Armenian manuscripts that are still extant nowadays. In spite of its recognized historical, literary, and artistic value, Armenian manuscript culture remains often less known to the public at large.

The lecture intends to offer an overview of the manuscript tradition in the Armenian culture, focusing on the centers of production of the manuscripts, codicology, a brief outline of the development of the Armenian script, the decoration of the manuscripts, and other related matters. In the final section, the speaker will present a project for a digital handbook of Armenian codicology and paleography, which is currently being prepared at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Ort: Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik der Universität Wien
1010 Wien, Postgasse, 1. Stiege, 3. Stock
Zeit: Mittwoch, 18. Jänner 2017, 18:30 Uhr

Anschließend wird zu einem Glas Wein gebeten!
Eintritt frei. Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen!