

## BYZANTINE RECIPES AND BOOK ILLUMINATION

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Hundreds of recipes on colour production, book illumination and inks are known from the Latin West. On the contrary nearly nothing seems to have survived from Byzantium. Only the well known manual written by Dionysios of Phourna is often used as reference. But this text was written only in the 18th century and even if it depends partly on traditions from the Byzantine period one has to reckon also with large portions of post-byzantine origin and especially of Western influence. Professor Peter Schreiner, the former head of the department of Byzantine studies at the University of Cologne, could discover about 80 recipes on inks, chrysography, book illumination and pigments in manuscripts written between the 12th and 15th century. In a common project the edition, translation and technological commentary of these texts is prepared.

So far no treatise on art technology - comparable to Theophilus or Cennino - has survived. There are also only few traces from the late antique papyri. Most of the recipes are „new“ and unique. Some techniques are comparable to those described in Western texts but a direct influence can only be stated in manuscripts which were written by Greek exiles in 15th century Italy.

Most of the recipes are dealing with writing - iron gall inks, gold inks, undergrounds for gold inks - some also in general with the use of gold in manuscripts. The paper will discuss the topics of the recipes and their contexts. Some of the technological aspects will be compared with the results of analysis of Byzantine manuscripts.