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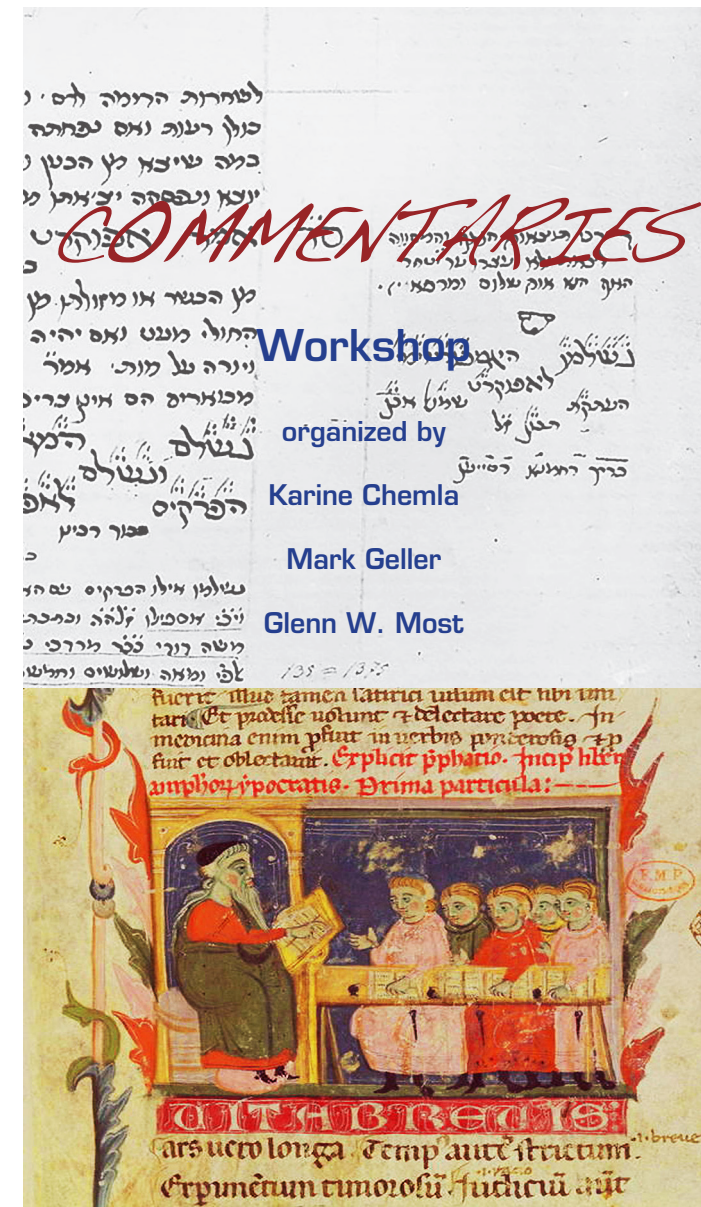
University of Chicago

Illustrations:

An illustration showing the teaching of the Aphorisms of Hippocrates with a commentary by Galen, translated from Arabic into Latin (Science Photo Library). Aphorisms of Hippocrates with Maimonides commentary (Wellcome Images). Nasir al-Din al-Tusi's Commentary on Euclid's Elements.

COMMENTARIES from many cultures and scholarly fields have been edited and studied increasingly over the past years, from a variety of perspectives, above all for their explicit and implicit exegetical methodologies and for the light they can cast upon the texts they comment upon. In this interdisciplinary collaborative project, we would like to try the experiment of examining commentaries from a slightly different perspective, that of the teaching and research ends for which they serve as means, within the educational institutional contexts within which they were produced, transmitted, and used. Our hope is that by focusing upon commentaries in two important scientific scholarly fields, medicine and the mathematical sciences (this latter conceived broadly) but by expanding the traditions examined to include Mesopotamian, ancient Greek, Chinese, those of the Indian subcontinent, and Syriac, we will be able to create useful dialogue among specialists of comparable expertise and understand better which forms of commentary are widespread (and why), and which ones are more locally limited. A preliminary workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science from Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 August 2016 may be followed by a collaborative volume on the issues involved.

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Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science, Berlin

25-27 August 2016

Thursday 25 August

- 09:00 Introduction and First Short Discussion
- 09:30 **Large scale approaches to commentaries**
Eckart Frahm
Cuneiform Commentaries on Medicine and Astrology in Their Institutional, Geographical, and Diachronic Contexts
Discussion opened by Donald Harper
10:30 Break
- 10:45 Reviel Netz
Teacherly Circles
Discussion opened by Lorraine Daston
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 **Commentaries by contrast to other types of texts**
Donald Harper
Comment before Commentary in Early Chinese Medical Literature: Theoretical and Methodological Strategies Based on Manuscripts
Discussion opened by Zackary Wainer/John Steele
- 13:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 Sho Hirose
Between a treatise and a commentary: Some examination on works related to the Āryabhaṭṭya
Discussion opened by Miranda Brown
- 15:30 Break
- Discussing limit cases**
- 15:45 Zackary Wainer and John Steele
Cuneiform Commentaries and the Astral Sciences
Discussion opened by Agathe Keller
- 16:45 Break

- 17:00 Stefanie Rudolf
The creation of the heavenly lights in Jacob of Edessa's Hexaemeron
Discussion opened by Mark Geller
- 19:00 Conference Dinner at:
Miss Wu, Königin-Luise-Straße 71
14195 Berlin
Tel. (030) 89540001

Friday 26 August

- 09:00 **Second General Discussion**
- Commentators' projects and their contexts**
Daniel Morgan
Calling out Zheng Xuan (127–200 CE) at the Crossroads of Ritual, Maths, Sport and Classical Commentary
Discussion opened by Eckart Frahm
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Orna Harari
Philosophical Commentaries on Mathematical Texts: The Case of Proclus' Commentary on the First Book of Euclid's Elements
Discussion opened by Emilie Villey
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Agathe Keller
What are the proofs of Prthūdaka's Vāsanābhāṣya? An exploration of his explanations of Brahmagupta's rules on progressions
Discussion opened by John Wee



- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 **Commentators' projects and their contexts (second part)**
- 14:30 Philipp Maas
The Generation and Transmission of Medical Knowledge in Classical India: With special reference to the Carakasamhitā and its early commentarial tradition
Discussion opened by Daniel Morgan
- 15:30 Break
- 15:45: **Commentaries: uses and publics**
John Wee
Pan-astronomical Hermeneutics and the Arts of the Lamentation Priest
Discussion opened by Glenn W. Most

- 16:45 Break
- 17:00 **Third General Discussion**

Saturday 27 August

- 09:00 Emilie Villey
A Scientific Commentary in Syriac: The Severus Sebokht's Treatise on the Astrolabe (7. C. AD)
Discussion opened by Karine Chemla
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Miranda Brown
Commentarial Episodes in Early Chinese Medicine
Discussion opened by Reviel Netz
- 11:15 Break
- 11:30 **Final General Discussion**