

"The iconography of horses in Armenian miniatures"

In a cooperation with the art historian and specialist for Armenian miniature painting, Dr. Mikayel Aṙak'elyan (Institute for Ancient Manuscripts Matenadaran Yerevan, Armenia), J. Dum-Tragut will work on the painting of horses in various Armenian manuscripts.

The horse appears rather frequently in Armenian miniature painting, not only in illustrations of the four riders of the apocalypses, but also in various not-theological manuscripts showing battle scenes (as e.g. Alexander romance, Eliše's Vardan and the Armenian war etc.), noblemen and kings on horses and even mounted saints, such as St. George, St. Sargis, St. Theodoros etc.

The paintings of the horses may not only shed light on the horse breeds being known and used in historical Armenia, but also on the Armenian horsemanship (to be seen in saddlery and bridles, horse's gaits, harness, knighthood etc.). The form of painting horses (movements, coat colours) may also give insights to the iconography of horses in a religious environment (mounted saints and their typical horses).

The first step of the project is to collect digitalized pictures of miniatures showing horses from collections all over the world.

The results of this interdisciplinary study will contribute to studies in art history, Armenian cultural and to equine studies.