

FROM THE EAST AND BACK

Conference

on the manuscript tradition,
translation and reception of

***Historia trium regum* by
John of Hildesheim**

20 – 22
JANUARY
2027

VIENNA



Potential presentation topics include (but are not limited to):

- ✦ manuscripts of *Historia trium regum*: preservation and genealogy
- ✦ vernacular translations
- ✦ Asian origins of the Three Magi legends



Abstract submission deadline

1 August 2026

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CfP: “From the East and Back: manuscript tradition, translation and reception of *Historia trium regum* by John of Hildesheim”.

20-22 January 2027, Vienna, Austria.

The Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations" announces a conference “**From the East and Back: manuscript tradition, translation and reception of *Historia trium regum* by John of Hildesheim**”. On the bicentenary of the translation of the Three Wise Kings’ relics from Milan to Cologne in 1164, the Carmelite friar John of Hildesheim composed a work known today as *Historia trium regum*. The text assembles and reworks narratives concerning the prophecy of the Saviour’s birth and the Star of Bethlehem, the Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi, as well as descriptions of Oriental lands. It survives in more than a hundred Latin manuscripts across Europe and in six incunabula editions. From the fifteenth century onwards, the treatise was translated into a range of vernacular languages. Extant translations are known in English, Flemish, Dutch, French, German, Czech, Polish, and Ruthenian.

Potential presentation topics include (but are not limited to):

- manuscripts of *Historia trium regum*: preservation and genealogy;
- vernacular translations;
- Asian origins of the Three Magi legends.

Thanks to the support of the Cluster of Excellence "EurAsian Transformations", the conference has no fee; accommodations, travel costs and lunches are also covered for the participants.

A peer-reviewed edition of the conference material is planned for 2028.

We understand that travel may be complicated for any number of reasons, and while we encourage in-person attendance and community, a virtual presentation and attendance option will be available via Zoom.

Please submit proposals, consisting of a 200-300 word abstract and a short bio, to Aliaksandra.Valodzina@oeaw.ac.at by **1 August 2026**.

Please also indicate whether you are considering in-person or virtual attendance, if accepted.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by 1 September 2026.

