

The David Patterson Lectures Week 7

Josua Walbrodt
(Kurpfälzisches Museum, Heidelberg)

The Studying of Oriental Languages in the Mirror of Frontispieces of Early Modern Printed Grammar Books

Josua Walbrodt is the Curator of Drawings and Prints at the Kurpfälzisches Museum in Heidelberg, Germany. As an art historian with a particular expertise in Early Modern imagery, his scholarly work delves into the rich visual culture of this period. In his dissertation, Walbrodt conducted an in-depth analysis of the engraved title plates found in the works of Athanasius Kircher, using them to explore various conceptual approaches to the creation of frontispieces. Through this research, he sheds light on the symbolic and aesthetic choices that shaped the visual framing of scholarly knowledge in the Early Modern era.

Abstract: The scholarship of the Hebrew language was a strongly established subject at protestant and catholic universities by the end of the 16th century. European scholars pursued a better knowledge also of the Arabic, Syrian, Coptic and Ethiopian languages in the following decades. The lecture sheds light on the role of printed grammar books in this process, focusing on those containing title-plates: Which pictorial traditions did they follow? What iconographies were applied? What role did Hebrew grammar books play?

**Thursday, 28 November 2024
6 – 7 pm (UK time)**

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre.

No need to register if attending in person.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqc-Gorj8pH9KworE7i07GO3Zimj1EV4oe>

**ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
Refreshments to follow**