



This International Seminar wants to pay tribute to Dr. Friedrich Niessen who passed away last January 16th, 2009. This distinguished Semitist started his academic education in the field of Theology at Bonn University and he later got a PhD in Jewish Studies at Cologne University, with a dissertation on a Samaritan tradition of the Book of Joshua and the Shobak legend. Dr. Niessen's research work later focused on the description and study of the contents of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection (Cambridge University Library) and, more specifically, those written in Judeo-Arabic, Hebrew, Samaritan, Syriac and Coptic. A group of colleagues and friends who shared with him research interests will meet in this International Seminar to present contributions that continue his main research themes and pay tribute in this way to this excellent scholar and dear friend.

Memorial Conference for Dr. Friedrich Niessen

# The Semitic languages of Jewish intellectual production

Este seminario internacional desea rendir homenaje al Dr. Friedrich Niessen, fallecido el pasado 16 de enero de 2009. Este distinguido semitista inició su formación universitaria con estudios de Teología en la Universidad de Bonn y posteriormente se doctoró en la Universidad de Colonia en el campo de los estudios judíos con una tesis en torno al Libro de Josué y la leyenda de Shobak en la tradición samaritana. Posteriormente su actividad investigadora se centró en describir y analizar los contenidos de la colección de manuscritos de la Geniza de Cambridge (Colección Taylor-Schechter, Cambridge University Library), a través de catálogos y estudios especializados sobre fragmentos judeo-árabes, hebreos, samaritanos, coptos y siríacos. Un grupo de colegas y personas cercanas a su ámbito de trabajo nos reuniremos en este seminario internacional para presentar contribuciones que retomen algunos de sus temas de trabajo y así rendirle homenaje póstumo a este querido amigo y excelente investigador.



Conveners: M. A. Gallego – J. P. Monferrer-Sala  
 Organization: Research line "Judíos y musulmanes en la trama social mediterránea"

Sala Menéndez Pidal  
 Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, CSIC. C/ Albasanz 26-28, 28037 Madrid



March 11-12th, 2010

## March 11th, Thursday

9:30 - 10am Opening session:

Greetings:

Eduardo Manzano Moreno (Director - Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales)

Maria Teresa Ortega Monasterio (Director - Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo)

Geoffrey Khan

*The academic career of Friedrich Niessen*

(Introduced by Elizabeth Niessen)

### First Session: 10-11.00

Chair: Federico Corriente (Universidad de Zaragoza)

José Martínez Delgado (Universidad de Granada)

*Hayyuj's Books on Verbs: Fragments from the Cairo Genizah (T-S)*

Geoffrey Khan (University of Cambridge)

*The textual development of Ibn Nuh's Diqduq in the course of its transmission in manuscripts*

Coffee break

### Second Session: 11:30 - 13:30

Chair: Mariano Gómez Aranda (ILC, CSIC)

Gregor Schwarb (Freie Universität Berlin)

*Jewish Mu'tazilite approaches to Hebrew semantics*

Juan Pedro Monferrer (Universidad de Córdoba)

*Swearing in conditional clauses: Grammatical goals through exegetic attitudes in Saadyah's Judaeo-Arabic rendition of Job 31:7-14*

Ronny Vollandt (University of Cambridge)

*Non-Jewish Arabic translations of Pentateuch in the Cairo Genizah*

Discussion

Lunch break

### Third Session: 16:00 - 17:30

Chair: Luis Vegas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Siam Bhayro (Exeter University)

*Treasures old and new: the significance of a Karaite commentary of Hosea*

Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University)

*New Judaeo-Arabic Fragments of Toledot Yeshu from the Cairo Genizah*

Federico Corriente (Universidad de Zaragoza)

*Hebrew plant names in Andalusí botanical treatises: a contribution to the study of the development of Hebrew technical lexica in Medieval Sepharad*

Coffee break

### Fourth Session: 18:00 - 20:00

Chair: Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University)

María Angeles Gallego (ILC, CSIC)

*Business is business: Genizah trade letters as a source for the non-economic history of Jews*

Benjamin Outhwaite (University of Cambridge)

*Social class and Hebrew letters: a linguistic perspective*

Miriam Wagner (University of Cambridge)

*The Linguistic Impact of Social Transformation: Variety in Judaeo-Arabic Letters*

Discussion

21:00 Dinner

## March 12th Friday

09:00 - 10:00

General discussion and conclusions

10:00 Trip to Segovia