

*How Did the Armenians Make Parchment? Textual Analysis and Experimental Reproduction of Some Armenian Medieval Recipes for Diagnostic Characterization.*

Despite the great number of recipes for codices manufacturing witnessed in medieval Armenian manuscripts, only a few of them have been studied, published, and translated. Moreover, academic literature on the subject is generally scarce and virtually non-existent for parchment and adhesives production. This paper will focus on some Armenian parchment recipes, some of which are still unpublished. Discussing their textual tradition, variants, vocabulary, and manufacturing techniques, the question will be raised as to whether their authors and/or copyists actually knew these manufacturing processes first-hand or not, as some inconsistencies with empirical findings seem to suggest. Peculiarities and similarities of these recipes will also be highlighted in comparison with other traditions. Model samples prepared following these recipes and characterized with diagnostic techniques (e.g. macroscopic, microscopic, and spectroscopic non-destructive analysis) will be presented, together with a provisional reference library of data, which could prove essential for the diagnostic characterization of Armenian medieval manuscripts.