

PTOLEMAEUS ARABUS ET LATINUS (PAL)

Project description

1. This project is dedicated to the edition and study of the Arabic and Latin versions of Ptolemy's astronomical and astrological texts and related material. This '*Corpus Ptolemaicum*' includes three categories of texts (see also Synoptic Table in Appendix 1):
 - A. Ptolemy's authentic works, comprising the *Almagest*, the *Tetrabiblos* and the minor works *Analemma*, *Phases of the Fixed Stars*, *Planetary Hypotheses* and *Planisphaerium*.
 - B. *Pseudepigrapha* (works falsely attributed to Ptolemy), i.e. mainly the *Centiloquium*, but also other astronomical and astrological works, about 30 of which are known in Arabic and Latin.
 - C. Commentaries on the texts under A and B above.
2. *General aim* – The aim of the project is to provide a full treatment of the *Corpus Ptolemaicum*, including a catalogue of manuscripts (§3 below), editions of the texts (§§4-6), and various tools and studies towards a better understanding of Ptolemy's reception in the Arabic/Islamic world and Latin/Christian Europe up to 1700 A.D. (§§7-8).
3. *Catalogue of manuscripts* – The catalogue of manuscripts will describe all surviving Arabic and Latin manuscripts (and early printed editions) of the *Corpus Ptolemaicum*, categories A, B and C. It is anticipated that this catalogue will include at least 100 Arabic and 500 Latin manuscripts.
4. *Editions (Authentic works and pseudepigrapha, A-B)* – The edition of the *Corpus Ptolemaicum* (categories A and B) will take place in three steps, as follows:
 1. *Digital reproductions*: each text (and each version in cases of multiple translations) will receive an online digital reproduction in scanned form from one or more selected manuscripts, so as to make the primary material available to scholars at an early stage of the project. The digital reproductions will be accompanied by reading aids, such as a table of contents listing all chapters and diagrams, with links to the relevant pages of the manuscript.
 2. *Online transcriptions*: the digital reproductions will be gradually linked with online standardised transcriptions, so as to make each text searchable. State of the art technology will be used, so that, for example, parallel passages in the various translations of the same text can be easily compared. Technical terms will be linked to the glossary (§7.1 below), so that definitions as well as occurrences in other texts can be found immediately.
 3. *Critical editions*: the online transcriptions will be gradually supplemented by proper critical editions based on examination of all extant manuscripts. All works of the *Corpus Ptolemaicum* under A (authentic works) and B (*pseudepigrapha*) will receive a critical edition. In cases of multiple translations, only the most influential Arabic and Latin versions will be edited, but detailed comparisons with all other versions will be made, and sections which significantly diverge from the base version will be separately edited. The critical edition will be published in the PAL book series and the plain text (i.e., without introduction and critical apparatus) will be published online.
5. *Editions (Commentaries, C)* – Texts of category C (commentaries, including glosses found in the manuscripts) will be the subject of a critical survey and the most important of them will be edited following the three-step procedure described above. As far as possible, digital reproductions and online transcriptions (§4.1-2) will be provided for all texts, but only the most significant of them will be critically edited (§4.3). 'Significant' refers to influential texts which played an important role in conveying Ptolemy's ideas and especially those texts which expand on, correct, question or criticise Ptolemy's original texts (as opposed to mere paraphrases and commentaries for educational purposes). It is anticipated that a dozen substantial texts or groups of shorter texts will receive a critical edition. These will definitely include Jābir ibn Aflāḥ's *Iṣlāḥ al-Majisṭī* and its Latin translation by Gerard of Cremona (see Synoptic Table, C1.2.1-2); the anonymous *Almagestum parvum* (C1.24); and both the Arabic and Latin versions of 'Alī ibn Riḍwān's commentary on the *Tetrabiblos* (C2.1.1-2) and of Abū Ja'far's commentary on the *Centiloquium* (C3.1.1-2). Besides the commentaries proper, there are numerous Arabic and Latin works which relate to Ptolemy less directly, such as basic expositions of Ptolemaic astronomy (e.g. al-

