

FINAL REPORT

Programme for safeguarding the manuscripts of private libraries in Zabid

Following the application submitted to TIMA in October 2008, a training programme for preservation of manuscripts of private libraries has been delivered to the team of cataloguers, Zabid's Programme (<http://www.anne.regourd.org/programme-zabid>). Equipment and boxes have been bought from Stouls Cie (www.stouls.fr).

When ordering the non-acid boxes, I encountered two problems. First of all, the boxes which size is 26x38 cm are no longer available from Stouls. Then, the price per unit of the boxes which size is 23x32x6 cm & 20x26x6 cm has increased. I had as well a global envelope to respect for this budget line. This is the reason why I ordered rather less boxes than I expected.

I personally supervised the delivery of the equipment and boxes to Sanaa through a delivery agent, then the beginning of the process at the Yemeni customs, in Sanaa. The French Centre for Archaeology and Social Sciences (CEFAS) took over until the delivery to Ursula Dreibholz, the trainer. Thanks to her, the equipment and boxes were transported from Sanaa to Zabid in her car.

The experience at the local customs was not very encouraging. The total amount paid is far much more expensive than expected. Fortunately, as the trainer is based in Sanaa, the travel expenses, which were input purposely in the provisional budget, could be moved to the customs expenses. Another, less expensive, way to proceed exists, which I will be able to follow in the future.

After the instruction of André Le Prat, Head of the workshop for restoration, The Louvre, who made an estimation of the needs in July 2008 (<http://www.anne.regourd.org/cmy/07/cmy07.00.actu.doc>), a Head for preservation operations has been chosen among the members of Zabid's team. His choice was in favour of Faraj Abu al-Khayr, whose main profession is binder. He was then the key person to be trained. Out of him, I stressed that a second person had to be trained on his side, in order to secure the future. The second person was 'Arafat al-Hadhrami.

In spite of all problems encountered at the moment to circulate and conduct a project in the face of huge electricity cuts (see the trainer reports), the training happened. It was delivered in two sessions, 31.10-05.11.2009 and 6-9.12.2009. It allowed the trainer to check during the second session the work in progress in boxing manuscripts and whether the training has been understood. At the end of the second session, all the manuscripts of the Library of 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hadhrami were put into boxes.

We started with the Library of 'Abd al-Rahman al-Hadhrami, because it was the first library of Zabid to have been catalogued (<http://www.anne.regourd.org/livre/01/index.html>, <http://www.anne.regourd.org/livre/02/index.html>, <http://www.anne.regourd.org/livre/03/index.html>). It is for Zabid's Programme a way to encourage owners of libraries to have their manuscripts catalogued. As agreements for

cataloguing have been already signed with three other libraries, we already have an idea about our future needs in non-acid boxes.

The next step of preservation will be the production of cabinets, for which I approached the GTZ in Zabid.

The final budget shows a deficit of £32.02, in spite of the fact that the manuscripts put into boxes were less numerous than planned. This is mainly due to the budget for the equipment and boxes (Stouls) and the variation of rate Euros/Pound Sterlings.

TIMA's grant to Zabid's Programme was advertised in the *Chroniques du manuscrit au Yémen* 7 (CMY), see <http://www.anne.regourd.org/cmy/index.html>. The training sessions will be as well advertised in CMY 9. Above all, I am submitting an abstract for the TIMA Conference 2010 to present the strategies of preservation/conservation in the frame of Zabid's Programme.

Anne Regourd
Paris, the 11th of January 2010

Financial Report

EXPENSES	Local currency	Pounds Sterling*
<i>Paid</i>		
STOULS	2 432.52 EUR	2,187
Yemeni Customs (bills)	209 149 YR	635
Yemeni Customs (tips)	5 000 YR	15
Head of Zabid's team for preservation (boxing of 101 manuscripts)	77 270 YR	234.42
Translator	40 000 YR	121
Trainer (fees)	2 000 EUR	1,798
	Total	4,991

* at the rate of today, the 9th of January 2010