



# Forum Antike

Lorelei VANDERHEYDEN  
Universität Heidelberg

## **From the Nile to the Danube. A Survey of the Coptic Letters in the Vienna Papyrological Collections**

Vienna's papyrus collection is one of the largest in Europe. There are about 21,000 Coptic texts in the collection: documentary pieces (of which the letters are a significant part) as well as theological and literary texts. A wealth of unpublished documents remains unstudied, despite the efforts of the team's papyrologists.

Within the framework of the on-going project on Coptic letters written between the fourth and eighth century AD carried out in Heidelberg at the SFB 933 Materiale TextKulturen, I propose an overview of the Coptic letters in the Vienna collection, with particular emphasis on their materiality. This conference will also shed new light on the late evolution of the epistolographic tradition in multilingual contexts and networks. The study of these letters will become part of a broader, transdisciplinary project in collaboration with the Heidelberg University Library, the "Ancient Letters Research Environment", which will cover the entire papyrological millennium.