In October of 2009, the Institut Valencià de Conservació i Restauració de Béns Culturals and the Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España del Ministerio de Cultura, the Diputación Provincial de Valencia and Xativa’s City Hall had organized conferences in Xativa regarding the important role that Spanish Arabic paper played as a writing ground support for the Mediterranean cultures during medieval times, and Xativa’s protagonism for being the first Occidental population with a documentary evidence to possess paper industry.

In 1154, the arab geographer El Edrisi (1100-1172) tells us. “Jativa is a nice Villa with Castles…. it makes paper not to be found anywhere else on earth. It is issued in Orient and Occident”. We should assume that if it possessed such perfection and diffusion, its manufacturing must have started many years before.

These study Conferences united Spanish and International specialists and professionals that established the necessity to organize a Congress that we now summon to share and complete the works that were being developed.

This I International Congress on Paper as a Ground Support in medieval times: The Protagonism of the Xativa Villa, will not only address paper characteristics, but other material aspects such as the inks employed or the different bookbinding typologies. At the same time it will analyze the socioeconomic context in the extensive Crown of Aragon and its relationships with other countries of the Mediterranean basin. It will also serve to collect Hispanic, Arab and Hebrew documentary sources that refer to these subject matters, and the influence that the Arab-Jewish terms have had to place names and the nomenclature of the paper manufacture in Spain.
The presentation of the communication proposals will be sent via e-mail to the following address: carmen.hidalgo@mcu.es up until February 15th of 2011, in Word text format, and with the following content:
e-mail Subject: “Congreso Escriptorio + Nombre Apellidos”
1. Title.
2. Authors.
3. Institutions to which they belong.
4. e-mail.
5. Five key words that identify the theme of the lecture.
6. Summary of 300 words max.
Deadline for summary delivery
February 25th 2011
Publication List of accepted lectures
March 4th 2011
Delivery of final texts
April 15th 2011
With the objective of expediting the congress records and unifying criterias, these should be turned in serving the established organization criteria whose norms will be spread by the authors once the lectures have been accepted.
Proposal Selection
The lecture proposals will be reviewed by the scientific committee and could be presented in Spanish, English or French.
The chosen lectures will be defended by the author/s in the development of the congress, in a 15 minute maximum time period, and will be published in the proceedings of the language presented, accompanied by a summary in Spanish, English or French.
Scientific Committee
Mª del Carmen Hidalgo Brinquis, Head of the Servicio de Conservación y Restauración de Patrimonio Bibliográfico, Documentario y Graphic Works, Instituto del Patrimonio Cultural de España (IPCE). Madrid, Spain.
Collaborators
If your institution wants to collaborate in the organization of the congress please contact the organizing secretary.