

Wesleyan University

From the Selected Works of Michaelle Biddle

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"New strategies in using watermarks to date sub-Saharan Islamic manuscripts"

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/mbiddle/27/>

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<https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/488161>

ABSTRACT: For more than a century watermarks have been used as an important component in cataloging, dating, and authenticating books, manuscripts, art work, musical scores, financial instruments and other paper items. The gains can be immense if watermarks and countermarks, not as singletons but in combination, are studied as only one aspect of a paper sheet and that examination is combined with study extending across many disciplines. The Andrea Galvani Pordenone paper mills provide a useful case study as to how we can deduce date ranges for their watermarks by using a holistic approach – combining paper sheet analysis with the information to be found in watermark directories, regional, town, family, mill or paper-sector economic history and archaeology, works that flesh out the activities of Italian papermakers.