



AGAINST REAL AND IMAGINARY DANGERS

**two recently discovered Arabic
block-prints**

Helga Rebhan, Bavarian State Library, Munich

Arabic blockprints from the library of Kurt Munzel (1905-86)



Middle Eastern Languages and the Print Revolution: a cross-cultural encounter, ed. by Eva Hanebutt Benz, Dagmar Glass and Geoffrey Roper, [Exhibition] Mainz, Gutenberg-Museum, 2002



SPRACHEN DES NAHEN OSTENS
UND DIE DRUCKREVOLUTION

MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES
AND THE PRINT REVOLUTION



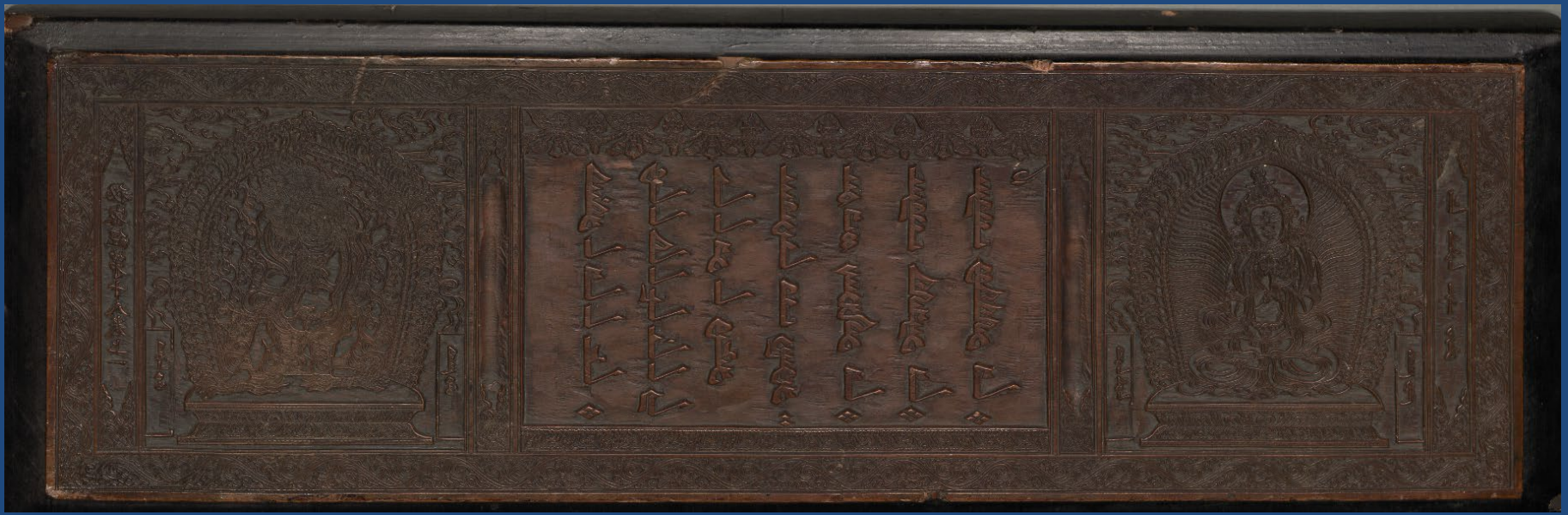
Arabic blockprints from the library of Kurt Munzel (1905-86)



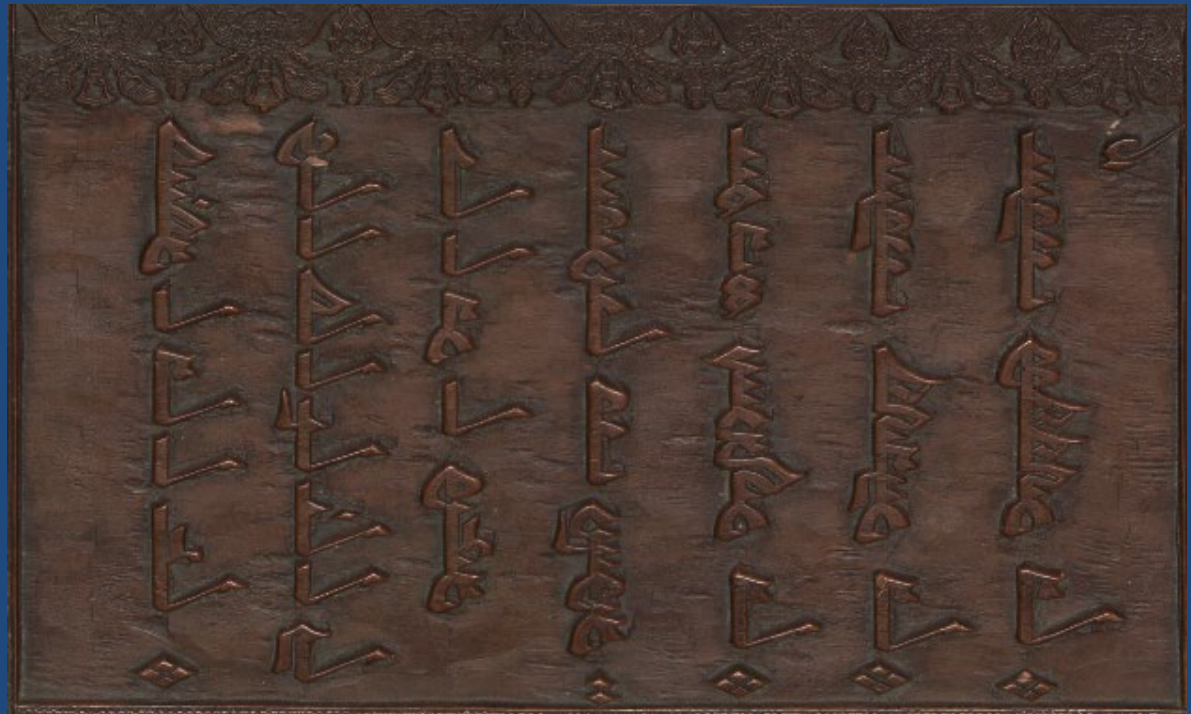


Technique of block printing

- ▣ The letters for a block printed text are cut or engraved mirror-invertedly into a block or a shape made of wood, metal or clay. The script block will be inked and pressed onto the writing material or vice-versa the writing material onto the block.



Mongolian print block
BSB: Cod.mongol. 65





- ▣ Chinese block printing 8th century-
- ▣ Arabic block printing ca 900-1430
- ▣ Xylography in Europe 15th-
- ▣ Gutenberg's printing press ca 1450-
- ▣ Müteferrika imprints 1729-
- ▣ Christian-Arabic prints 1610-
- ▣ Arabic typography 19th century-

The frontispiece of the *Diamond Sutra*, British Library
 Tang Dynasty, China, 868 AD, the first printed book



Printed Buddhist Scroll, Japan 764-770 (BSB: L.jap. C 591)





Mold for Arabic script, Kunming, China

Courtesy of Dr Florian Sobieroj

Nancheng Mosque in Kunming



Courtesy of Dr Florian Sobieroj



Mold for Arabic script, Kunming, China

Courtesy of Dr Florian Sobieroj

Arabic block prints discovered and identified by the Orientalist Joseph von Karabacek (1845-1918) in 1894



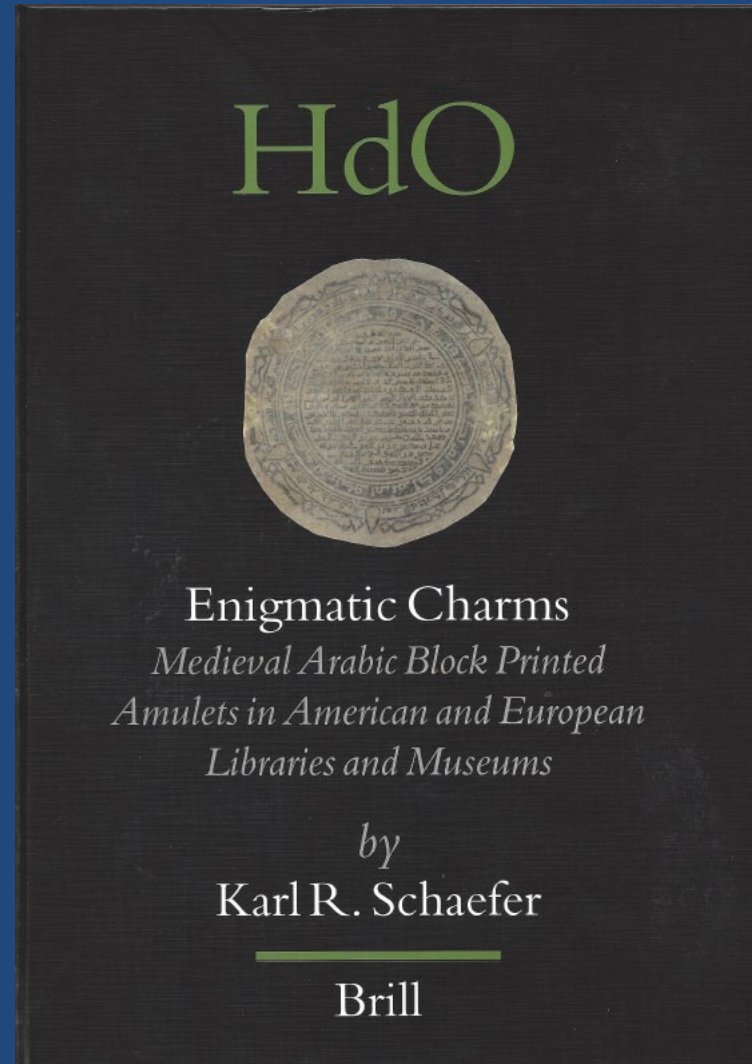
Joseph von Karabacek

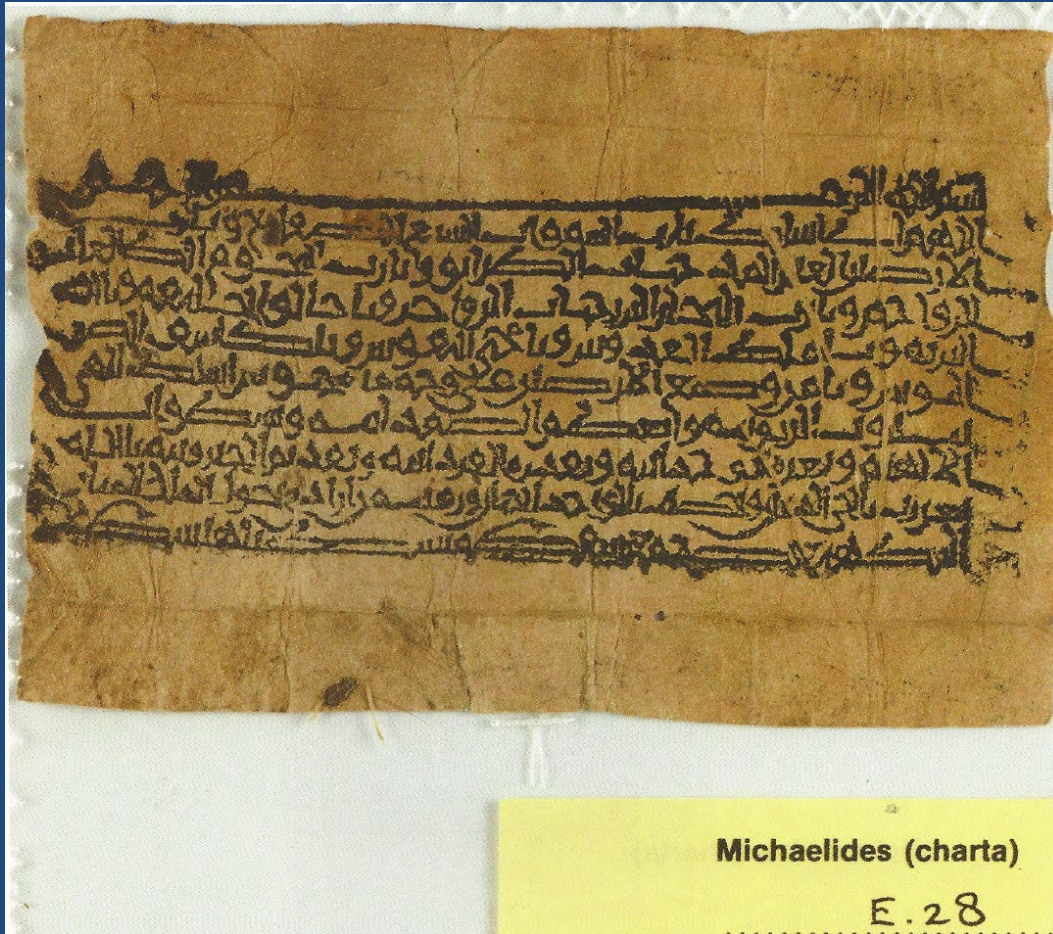


Karl Schaefer:

Enigmatic Charms: Medieval Arabic block printed amulets in American and European Libraries and Museums.

Leiden, Brill, 2006, (Handbook of Oriental Studies, I,82)





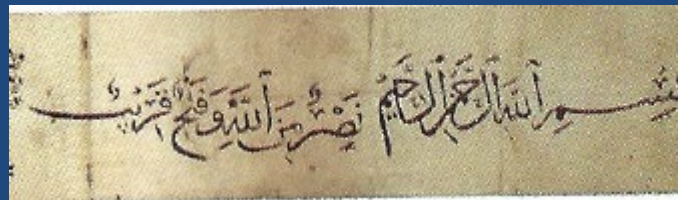
Michaelides (charta)

E.28

Kufic script



Magic scroll
Gutenberg-Museum



Qur'ān, 1388
BSB: Cod.arab. 1113



BSB: Cod.arab. 2616



Ibn al-Nadīm (d. 995 or 998)

Abū Dulaf al-Khazrajī, 10th c.

Şafī al-Dīn al-Ḥillī (d. ca 1350)

Handwritten amulets



Qur'an
Ottoman Empire
15/16th c.
Cod.arab. 1114



Qur'an,
Iran
18/19th c.
Cod.arab. 2694



Magic scroll
Iran, 18/19th c.
Cod.arab. 2616

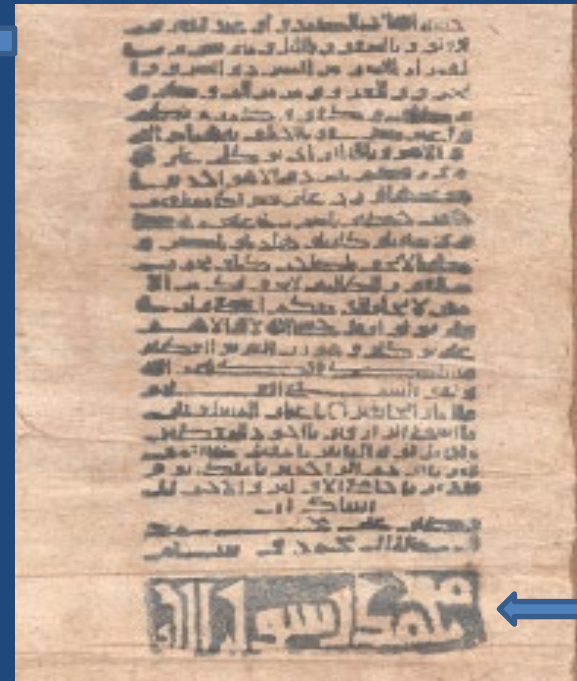
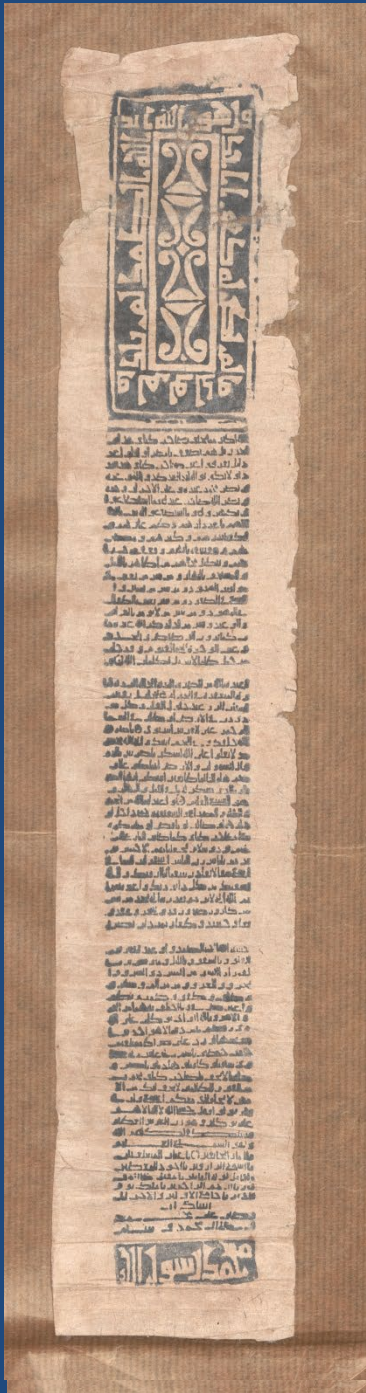
Magic circle and octagon

BSB: Res/A.or. 88.2022 (8,5 x 8,5 cm)



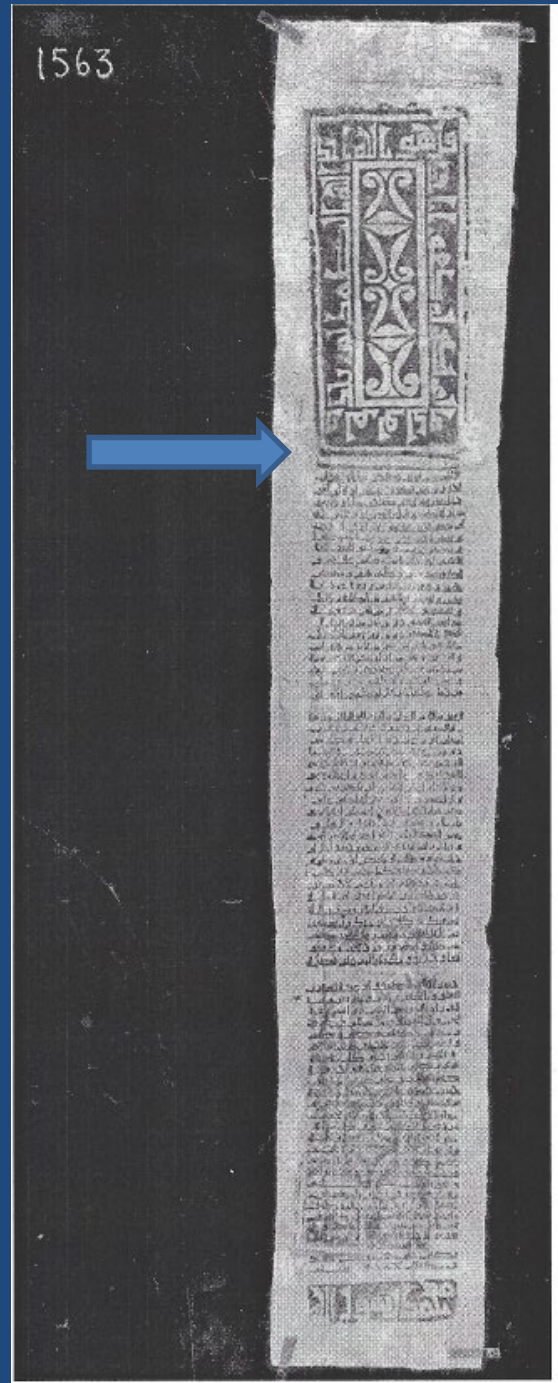


Magic scroll
BSB: Res/A.or. 88.2023
(32 x 6 cm)





BSB Res/A.or.
88.2023
(32 x 6 cm)



J. Willard Marriott
Library
MS. Utah Or
P1563
(ca 32 x 6 cm)

Karl Schaefer, Drake University



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