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README file

Data Set Title: **“UseFool. Stolen Horses and Scented Garments”**

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Data set Contents

The data set consists of:

- 3 .zip archives
 - “UseFool_1_Stolen_Horses_Collation.zip”
 - “UseFool_2_Yellow_Dyes_2.zip”
 - “UseFool_2_Yellow_Inks_2.zip”
- 1 README file in .pdf format describing the data set
 - “UseFool_1_Stolen_Horses_README.pdf”

Data set Documentation

Abstract

This data set contains data collected in the framework of the Horizon Europe ERC project “UseFool”. In particular, the data were collected in the textual analysis of premodern Arabic technical sources and in the course of laboratory experiences to investigate vegetal and mineral yellow dyes and

pigments. The final results of this research were published in Lucia Raggetti, “Stolen Horses and Scented Garments: Vegetal and Mineral Yellow in Arabic Technical Literature”, *Ambix* 71/1 (2024), 35–72.

Content of the files

- Archive **UseFool_1_Stolen_Horses_Collation.zip** (36 kB) contains three .txt files of the collations of the three recipes for golden skin paints that have been published for the first time in Lucia Raggetti, “Stolen Horses and Scented Garments: Vegetal and Mineral Yellow in Arabic Technical Literature”, *Ambix* 71/1 (2024), 35–72. The files were obtained using the *ChrysoCollate* software.
- Archive **UseFool_2_Yellow_Dyes_2.zip** (204 MB) contains photographic and video materials produced in the course of replications and laboratory experiences to explore the material reality behind premodern technical sources in Arabic dealing with vegetal and mineral yellow dyes. The .zip folder contains 34 items for 361 MB (12 videos in .mp4 format, 22 photos in .jpg format). The file contained in this .zip folder share the first part of the name (“**UseFool_2_Yellow_Dyes**”) that refers to the general theme, whereas the second part of the name refers to the different specific procedures and ingredients involved, followed by item number, and date. E.g. “**UseFool_2_Yellow_Dyes_distillation_honey_001_20230628.JPG**” means that the file is related to replication (Task 2), the general theme of the replication is yellow dyes, that this the first of the items documenting the distillation of honey in order to obtain a yellow dye, the photo was taken on June 28, 2023.
- Archive **UseFool_2_Yellow_Inks_2.zip** (445 MB) contains photographic and video materials produced in the course of replications and laboratory experiences to explore the material reality behind premodern technical sources in Arabic dealing with vegetal and mineral yellow inks. The .zip folder contains 90 items (11 videos in .mp4 format, 79 photos in .jpg format). The file contained in this .zip folder share the first part of the name (“**UseFool_2_Yellow_Inks**”) that refers to the general theme, whereas the second part of the name refers to the different specific procedures and ingredients involved, followed by item number, and date. E.g. “**UseFool_2_Yellow_Inks_Orpiment_001_20230707.JPG**” means that the file is related to replication (Task 2), the general theme of the replication is yellow inks, that this the first of the items documenting the preparation of a yellow ink with orpiment, the photo was taken on July 7, 2023.

File specifics

The textual data of the collations of the three recipes for golden skin paints were processed using “*ChrysoCollate*”, a free software that can be downloaded from <https://cental.uclouvain.be/chrysocollate/>. The collation data were exported in .txt format by an internal function of the software. The so obtained files can again be opened, consulted, and modified using *ChrysoCollate*. The software allows to export the data in different formats, the



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decision to provide them in .txt files is oriented by reasons of readability, transparency and clarity in displaying the contents, and accessibility.

Notes

The data were presented in the following publication:

Raggetti, L. (2024). Stolen Horses and Scented Garments: Vegetal and Mineral Yellow in Arabic Technical Literature. *Ambix*, 71(1), 35–72.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00026980.2024.2311465>.

The paper traces the role played by yellow and gold in inks, cosmetic dyes, and coloured, scented fabrics, exploring the textual dimension of these recipes, their technical features, and their social role between the court and the street. It also presents translations of several important recipes for yellow and gold dyes retrieved in Mediaeval Arabic technical literature, which illustrate their diversity of applications, while also addressing such material problems as durability and substitution.

A copy of the publication can be found also in the University of Bologna publications archive, at <https://hdl.handle.net/11585/982475>.