

Research and Training Workshop / Atelier de recherche et de formation

Reading Sources in Area Studies, 2

Discovering and collecting information on Turko-Iranian societies
in travel context, 10th-19th centuries

Lire les sources en études aérales, 2

Découverte et collecte d'informations sur les sociétés turco-iraniennes
en contexte de voyage, X^e-XIX^e siècles



17 May 2022, Paris
9:30 – 17:30

Maison de la Recherche Sorbonne Nouvelle
4 rue des Irlandais 75005 Paris
salle Athéna (rez-de-chaussée)

Convenors/Responsables scientifiques : Maria Szuppe (CNRS / CeRMI), Camille Rhoné-Quer (Université Aix-Marseille / IREMAM), Sacha Alsancakli (CeRMI) Contact: maria.szuppe@cnrs.fr

The series of international Reading Sources in Area Studies Workshops is a part of the *Historiographie hors la cour / Historiography outside the court* research programme led jointly by the CeRMI and the IREMAM units of the CNRS with the support of the GIS Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans. Primarily intended for advanced Master students and PhD candidates, as well as for early career scholars working on the history of Turko-Persianate societies, it is open to all interested academic participants. It focuses on discussing historical source material from the relevant areas (texts, images, objects) in the medieval and modern periods. It also addresses the methodological and epistemological aspects related to the exploitation of these materials, with an interest in the historiographical and historical context of the sources analysed.

The 2022 edition of the workshop is concerned with the diversity of source material pertaining to the Turko-Persianate world produced in the context of travel, regardless of the origin of the traveller, their social or professional profile (merchant, pilgrim, scholar, spy...) or their motivations for travelling. The focal issue of the present workshop is the methods of acquisition of knowledge about “elsewhere”, the process of the construction and the practices of preserving and transmitting this knowledge.

The hybrid format makes it possible to reach an international audience, as shown by the experience of the first two sessions of the series in March and April 2021. [<https://cermi.cnrs.fr/reading-sources-in-area-studies-contribution-of-biographical-data-for-the-social-and-cultural-history-of-turko-iranian-societies-9th-18th-c/>].

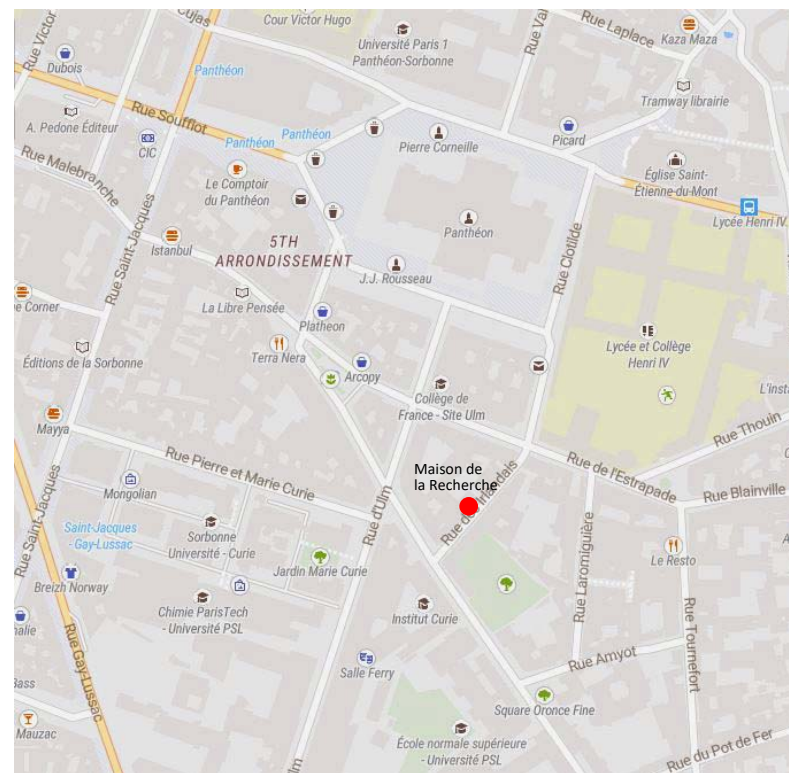
Talks are given in English, while discussions also leave room for exchanges in French. Knowledge of Persian is an asset, but not a prerequisite.

Convenors:

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Notes

Programme

- 09h30 Introductory remarks
Camille RHONÉ-QUER (Aix-Marseille University) and
Maria **SZUPPE** (CNRS, CeRMI UMR 8041)
- Morning session:** Discussants **Christine KÄMPFER** (University of Bamberg) and **Francis RICHARD** (Bulac, Paris)
- Panel 1:** *Documenting elsewhere and others in Persian written tradition*
- 09:45 **Christoph WERNER** (University of Bamberg)
Persian travelogues as a historiographical genre
- 10:15 **Michele BERNARDINI** (University of Naples “L’Orientale”)
Timurid chronicles as travelogues
- 10:45 Discussion
- 11:00 *Coffe break*
- Panel 2:** *Material remains and monuments in photographs and descriptions*
- 11:15 **Emanuele GIUSTI** (University of Florence)
Travel and antiquarianism: Collecting information about antiquity in Iran, 15th-18th centuries
- 11:45 **Martina MASSULLO** (Bulac, Paris / CeRMI UMR 8041)
The Henry Viollet Archive reassessed: New insights into photographs and papers documenting medieval architecture in Iran and Central Asia (1904-1913)
- 12:15 Discussion
- 12:30 *Lunch*
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Afternoon session: Discussants **Francesco CALZOLAIO** (University of Venice) and **Francis RICHARD** (Bulac, Paris)

Panel 3: *Collecting and organizing information on Persia in global context*

14:00 Werner GABOREAU (PhD candidate - Sorbonne Nouvelle, CeRMI)
European geographical knowledge about Iran in the context of globalisation: Writing the story, filling in the maps during the 17th century

14:30 Christine KÄMPFER (University of Bamberg)
What to read on Qājār Persia? The travel diaries of the German botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838-1903) and their textual sources

15:00 Discussion

15:15 Coffee break

Panel 4: *Observations along the way: Campaigns, routes, and itineraries*

15:30 Davide TRENTACOSTE (Sorbonne Nouvelle - University of Teramo)
From Hormuz to Aleppo – and everything in between. Analysis of a 1586 report written by an Italian traveller

16:00 Sacha ALSANCAKLI (INALCO, CeRMI)
Memory and history in a 16th-century Ottoman ghazavātnāme. Ebūbekir b. ‘Abdullāh’s memoirs on the war against the Safavids

16:30 Maria SZUPPE (CNRS, CeRMI)
There, beyond, and back again. Remarks on some Early Modern journey descriptions in Persian in search of knowledge, trade, and intelligence (16th-early 19th c.)

17:00 Discussion

17:15 Closing remarks

Camille RHONÉ-QUER (Aix-Marseille Université, IREMAM) et **Sacha ALSANCAKLI** (INALCO, CeRMI)

Szuppe, Maria « En quête de chevaux turkmènes : le journal de voyage de Mīr ‘Izzatullāh de Delhi à Bukhara en 1812-1813 », in *Inde-Asie centrale. Route du commerce et des idées*, special issue of the *Cahiers d’Asie Centrale* 1-2 (1996): 91-111.

Szuppe, “Circulation des lettrés et cercles littéraires, entre l’Asie centrale, Iran et Inde du Nord (XV^e-XVIII^e s.,” *Annales. Histoire, Sciences sociales*, 59/5-6 (sept.-déc. 2004), numéro spécial « Asie centrale » (ed. Pierre Chuvin et Jacques Polony-Simard): 997-1018.

Touati, Houari, *Islam et voyages au Moyen Âge. Histoire et anthropologie d’une pratique lettrée*, Seuil : Paris, 2000.

Ebübekir b. ‘Abdullāh, *Târîh-i Osman Paşa. Özdemiroğlu Osman Paşanın Kafkasya Fetihleri (H. 986-988/M. 1578-1580) ve Tebriz’in Fethi (H. 993/M. 1585)*, éd. Yunus Zeyrek, Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, 2001.

Kütükoğlu, Bekir, *Osmanlı-İran Siyâsî Münâsebetleri*, I, 1578-1590, İstanbul: Edebiyat Fakültesi Matbaası, 1962.

Maria SZUPPE (CNRS, CeRMI)

“There, beyond, and back again. Remarks on some Early Modern journey descriptions in Persian in search for knowledge, trade, and intelligence (16th-early 19th c.)”

In spite of differences among political entities in Central Asia, Iran and North India, intense activity of short- and long-distance travel across the area is documented in different sources. People, goods, and ideas circulated along trade routes, bearing witness to the existence of a common cultural-economical space. A widespread practice among the literati, travel was thus instrumental in circulating literary works: literary biographies and anthologies (*tazkera*) often document the geographical mobility of different authors. Often, not only the detailed itineraries are described, but also local curiosities and other “things of interest” depending on the profile and goal of the traveller. Two texts have been chosen to illustrate these types of writings: literary memoirs by Zeyn al-Din Vāşefi of Herat (early 16th c.), and the geographical chapter of Maḥmud Ibn Vāli Balkhi’s historical work (early 17th c.). In the second part of this talk, we will turn towards a travel diary left by Mir ‘Ezzatallāh, a secretary of the British administration in India, entitled *Masir-e Bokhārā* (early 19th c.), detailing the itinerary from Delhi to Bukhara, in order to illustrate another type of interest, here in search of trade and military information. The original text, in Persian, has never been published although several manuscripts exist, as well as several incomplete and non-critical translations in English, French and German, all dating from the early and mid-19th c. This presentation is mainly based on one of the Bibliothèque nationale de France’s manuscripts, the Supplément Persan 1346. Commenting on the latter source also enables us to address some methodological problems, such as goals for writing, fact and source checking, and circulation of manuscripts during the author’s lifetime and afterwards, as well as their identification and cataloging in modern libraries.

• Further readings:

Foltz, Richard C., “Two 17th-century Central Asian travelers to Mughal India,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 3rd s., 6/3 (1966): 367-377.

Abstracts (in order of appearance)

Christoph WERNER (University of Bamberg)

Persian travelogues as a historiographical genre

Apart from some rare and outstanding classical examples, such as Nāşer-e Khosrow’s *Şafarnāmeḥ*, travelogues written in Persian are primarily a phenomenon of the nineteenth century and the Qajar period. Some were written explicitly for (lithograph) publication, some were only written as private diaries and were never intended to be read by a wider public. The authors of *şafarnāmeḥs* were rulers, nobles and princes, but also merchants, pilgrims and professionals; most were men, but women too entered the field and penned their experiences. Questions of genre are crucial as any clear-cut differentiation between travelogues, memoirs, diaries, political and geographical writings becomes more and more difficult, especially after 1848 during the reign of Naşir al-Din and Moẓaffar al-Din Shāh. While there is no question that travelogues can be valuable historical sources, their relationship to historiographical writing proper is much more ambiguous. The present paper thus focuses less on the question on how to mine travelogues as sources for writing history, but rather on how to integrate *şafarnāmeḥs* into the wider field of historiographical analysis. This means asking questions about authorial intentions, readerships and audiences, as well as their relation to other forms of ego-writing. Moving further, some texts – especially anonymous travelogues - might even be considered involuntary specimens of contemporary historiography in that they attempt to create a view of the present to be transmitted to posterity in the same way as diaries and memoirs do. Modern editorial decisions that place travelogues and histories side-by-side contribute to this discussion. Among other works, we will therefore discuss Khosrow Mirzā’s travelogue to St. Petersburg and Ẓell al-Solţān’s *Sargozasht-e Mas’udi*.

• Further readings:

Afshar, Iraj. *Persian Travelogues: A Description and Bibliography*, in *Society and Culture in Qajar Iran*, ed. E. Daniel, Costa Mesa 2002: 145-162.

Sohrabi, Naghmeh. *Taken for Wonder: Nineteenth-Century Travel Accounts from Iran to Europe*, Oxford 2012.

Michele BERNARDINI (University of Naples “L'Orientale”)

Timurid chronicles as travelogues

Timurid chronicles are frequently considered as propagandistic texts written in a bombastic style, lacking any literary or scientific value. Nevertheless, these texts conceal some remarkable surprises, describing the conquered lands. This is certainly the case of Sharaf al-Din 'Ali Yazdi's *Ẓafarnāme*, with its encyclopaedic digressions, or various works by Ḥāfiẓ-e Abru who introduced substantial historical and geographical descriptions into his work. Other chronicles like the *Bazm-o-razm* by 'Aziz Astarābādi introduced ethnological data, while Ghiyāth al-Din 'Ali Yazdi included a long heresiographical digression in his *Ghazavāt*. A recent tendency to set aside the historical chronicles deserves to be taken into account: these works offer a substantial contribution not only in terms of data but also concerning the perception of the world during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Emanuele GIUSTI (University of Florence)

Travel and antiquarianism: Collecting information about antiquity in Iran, 15th-18th centuries

Information gathering about antiquity in Iran in the context of early modern travel is increasingly attracting scholarly attention. This kind of study implies a close reading of travelogue sections dealing with human settlements and travel routes. Sections about inhabited centers can include historical and geographical segments (to be analyzed in order to assess the sources used by the traveller); descriptions of material remains; information on the traveller's network (local *élites* and other Europeans). Sections dealing with travel routes can include references to material remains, and to modes of information gathering differing from those of the urban context. In both cases, it is important to assess the specificity of the information conveyed by urban and non-urban groups, and by Iranians and Europeans. Both sections can also provide insight on how travellers produced visual documentation about antiquity. This kind of analysis, which will be illustrated by drawing on Jean Chardin's *Voyages en Perse* (1711) and other travelogues, can serve three main purposes. The first is to collect data on monuments that have now disappeared; the second is to trace the disciplinary development of Ancient Near East studies; the third is to study global practices of antiquarianism in the early modern Iranian context, and how such practices shaped non-Eurocentric conceptions of antiquity.

Ṭahmāsp I (1555), the Third Ottoman-Safavid war broke out in 1578, as Ottoman sultan Murād III wished to benefit from the anarchy at the heart of the Safavid state following Ṭahmāsp's death to make territorial inroads in Iran, thereby breaking a thirty-three year peace and sparking a bloody conflict that lasted a dozen years or so.

Similar to other Ottoman-Safavid conflicts, the 1578-1590 war is mainly known to us through historical chronicles and Ottoman archival documents, while personal accounts from soldiers or commanders on either side are few and far between. One such account is the *Relaciones* (1604) by Orūch Beg Bāyat, better known as Don Juan, a Qizilbash commander who went to Spain with a Safavid embassy and stayed there, converting to Christianity. Don Juan tells of the major events and battles he took part in, from the Ottoman conquest of Tabriz, in 1585, to the end of the war.

The early years of the war are recounted in a lesser-known Ottoman text, the *Tevārīh-i 'Osmān Paşa*, composed in Turkish by Ebūbekir b. 'Abdullāh, a cavalryman in the Ottoman army. Ebūbekir fought at the battle of Childir (1578), before being taken prisoner by the Safavids in 1579 and brought to Qazwin, whence he escaped and came back to Istanbul in 1582, and then penned his recollections. Three manuscript copies of Ebūbekir's text are extant; they are kept in Istanbul's Millet Kütüphanesi (Ali Emiri Tarih 366), Vienna's Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (H.O. 68), and Paris' Bibliothèque nationale de France (Supplément Turc 123), with the latter possibly being the autograph. There is also an edition based on the Vienna manuscript, published in 2001 by Yunus Zeyrek.

In his war memoirs, Ebūbekir tells us very little that we do not already know through contemporary chronicles; however, as a cavalryman, he offers an original perspective on the conflict, providing information on logistics and the concrete, day-to-day business of being part of the Ottoman army. In this talk, I will present Ebūbekir's account of the war, discuss its value beyond mere factual specifics for our knowledge of this particular conflict and Ottoman history, and I will conclude by making a broader case for the use of war memoirs to write a history of Turco-Iranian encounters, connections and conflicts.

- Further readings:

Don Juan de Persia, *Relaciones de Don Juan de Persia*, Valladolid : Juan de Bostillo, 1604.

Don Juan of Persia, *Don Juan of Persia. A Shi'ah Catholic, 1560-1604*, éd. et trad. Guy Le Strange, New-York et Londres : Harper & Brothers, 1926.

Davide TRENTACOSTE (Sorbonne Nouvelle – University of Teramo)

From Hormuz to Aleppo – and everything in between. Analysis of a 1586 report written by an Italian traveller

Studying Safavid Iran and its surroundings through Italian manuscripts requires the treatment of an extremely varied documentation produced by the most diverse subjects. Diplomatic and commercial documents, military and travel reports, among others, are extremely useful for “getting to know” Safavid Iran. In particular, travel reports can be real mines of information, especially regarding what Europeans were interested in knowing. Indeed, while bearing in mind that the reports written by European travellers certainly responded to a curiosity that existed in Europe about the “Orient”, above all they also served to provide useful information.

An example of this is undoubtedly the report, kept in Florence, of the journey made by a certain Alessandro Piccolomini from Hormuz to Aleppo in 1586, where the author does not focus so much on the journey as on what the traveller met along the way, providing valuable information on the geopolitical situation of the Persian Gulf, and Persia and its western boundaries.

- Further readings:

Aubin, Jean, « Chroniques persanes et relations italiennes : Notes sur les sources narratives du règne de Šâh Esmâ'il I^{er} », *Studia Iranica*, 24, 2, 1995, pp. 247-259.

Matthee, Rudi, « The Safavids under Western Eyes: Seventeenth-Century European Travelers to Iran », *Journal of Early Modern History*, 13, 2009, pp. 137-171.

Rota, Giorgio, *Under Two Lions. On the Knowledge of Persia in the Republic of Venice (ca. 1450-1797)*, Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2009.

Sacha ALSANCAKLI (Inalco, CeRMI)

Memory and history in a 16th-century Ottoman ghazavât-nâme: Ebûbekir b. 'Abdullâh's Memoirs on the war against the Safavids

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Iran fought a series of wars for control of the frontier provinces of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Kurdistan, among other places. Following Ismâ'il I's crushing defeat at Châldirân at the hands of Selîm I (1514) and the signature of the Treaty of Amasya between Süleymân I and

- Further readings:

Allen, Lindsay. 2007. “Chilminar olim Persepolis’: European Receptions of a Persian Ruin”. In *Persians Responses. Political and Cultural Interaction with(in) the Achaemenid Empire*, edited by Christopher Tuplin, 313–42. Swansea: The Classical Press of Wales.

Gyselen, Rika, ed. 1996. *Sites et monuments disparus d’après les témoignages de voyageurs*. Res Orientales 8. Bores-sur-Yvette: Groupe pour l’étude de la civilisation du Moyen-Orient.

Sancisi-Weerdenburg, Heleen, and Jan Willem Drijvers. 1991. *Through travellers’ eyes. European Travellers on the Iranian Monuments*. Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten.

Martina MASSULLO

The Henry Viollet Archive reassessed: New insights into photographs and papers documenting medieval architecture in Iran and Central Asia (1904-1913)

The Henry Viollet Archives (Bulac, Paris) are an invaluable resource of over 4,500 documents on Islamic architecture collected by the French architect Henry Viollet during his travels to the “Orient” from 1904 to 1913. Photographs constitute the majority of the collection but the archives also contain drawings, maps, sketchbooks, notebooks, travelogues, correspondence and manuscripts of scholarly work. Items document both original findings and synthetic research pertaining to sites and monuments in Iraq, Iran and Central Asia but also Syria, Turkey and Egypt. A first study (Fromanger 2002) resulted in a complete inventory of the collection, helping to reconsider Viollet’s pioneering contribution to the knowledge of Islamic architecture. Recently, a new project was set up (EpiPOM, Collex-Persée) giving the author the opportunity to gain a new insight into this manifold documentation. By focusing on Viollet’s travels in Iran and Central Asia, this contribution seeks to highlight the value of this collection which provides a wealth of information for scholars, who can examine the visual evidence of architecture that is now destroyed or deeply altered. It will also show the complementarity of such a mosaic of materials. By offering multiple views for a same site, enriched with original written documentation, these archives prove to be a key source for renewing research on monuments from the Islamic Middle East and the Turco-Iranian regions.

- Further readings:

Kervran, Monik, Fromanger, Marine, « Le fonds Henry Viollet (1880-1955) : documents d'archives et photographies », in M. Szuppe (éd.), *Iran : Questions et connaissances. Actes du IV^e congrès européen des études iraniennes, organisé par la Societas Iranologica Europaea, Paris, 6-10 septembre 1999*, vol. II : *Périodes médiévale et moderne*. Paris, Peeters/AAEI, 2002, pp. 513-524. (*Studia Iranica*, Cahier 26).

Porter, Yves, « Les jardins d'Ashraf vus par Henry Viollet », *Sites et monuments disparus d'après les témoignages de voyageurs, Res Orientales VIII*, 1996, pp. 117-138.

Werner GABOREAU (PhD candidate - Sorbonne Nouvelle, CeRMI)

European geographical knowledge about Iran in the context of the globalisation: Writing the story, filling in the maps during the 17th century

The travel context in Safavid Iran contributed to an attempt at localisation. European travellers in the Iranian world were collecting information, whether for the nascent global empires or for the public sphere. At the beginning, landscape was read through the prism of ancient knowledge. Ptolemy's geography has thus long reinforced and maintained ancient ideas. To this end, late 16th-century (Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1570) and early 17th-century travel literature and atlases were part of this system of ideas. Safavid Iran is an example of the rediscovery of geographical space: although the sources of the modern period are devised without completely freeing themselves from the geographies of Antiquity, the observations made on the spot lead to an initial questioning of established knowledge. "Leafing through of ignorance" (Alain Corbin, 2020) does not, however, lead to a definitive setting aside of the classical sources.

In this paper, I will study geographical compilations from the 17th century such as *L'Asie en plusieurs cartes nouvelles* (1670), published by Nicolas Sanson, as well as several different maps by Pierre Duval, published in *Diverses cartes et tables pour la géographie ancienne pour la chronologie et pour les itinéraires et voyages modernes* (1665), to demonstrate how the updating of knowledge has long coexisted with the ancient frame of reference.

- Further readings:

Besse, Jean-Marc, *Les grandeurs de la Terre : aspects du savoir géographique à la Renaissance*, Lyon, ENS éditions, 2003.

Lauthelier-Mourier, Rachel, *Le voyage en Perse à l'âge classique*, Paris, Classique Garnier, 2020.

Petto, Marie-Christine, *When France was king of cartography: The patronage and the production of maps in early modern France*, Plymouth: Lexington Books, 2007.

Christine KÄMPFER (University of Bamberg)

What to read on Qājār Persia? The travel diaries of the German botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838–1903) and their textual sources

Travelogues constitute one of the most important sources for modern Middle Eastern historiography, yet the travelogue itself and in many cases even the itinerary are partially the result of the author's own reading of various literary sources including historiographical works. This engagement with texts is usually omitted during the travelogue's editing process, thus the author's own sources are not visible anymore in the published product. We will examine the travel diaries of the German botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838–1903) who travelled the Ottoman Empire and Qājār Persia extensively in the years 1865-1869 and noted his experiences in fifteen travel notebooks supplemented by notes he wrote during the preparation for his journey and on the road. Since his travel diaries were neither edited nor published until recently they provide us with important information and give us a clue to help answer the questions which researchers face when working with travelogues as a source, including questions of reception, trends and canonicity.

- Further readings:

Hellwig, Frank, Kristin Victor, "The botanist Carl Haussknecht (1838–1903) in the Ottoman Empire and Persia (1865 and 1866–1869). Biographical Sketch and Itinerary of his Expeditions." In: *Travellers in Ottoman Lands. The Botanical Legacy*. Ed. Ines Aščerić-Todd, Sabina Knees, Janet Starkey and Paul Starkey. Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd, 2018.

Hellwig, Frank, Christine Kämpfer, Stefan Knost, Hanne Schöning, Kristin Victor, Christoph U. Werner: „Die Reisen des Botanikers Carl Haussknecht (1838–1903) in das Osmanische Reich und nach Persien (1865 und 1866–1869). Die kommentierte digitale Edition seiner Tagebücher.“ URL: haussknecht.thulb.uni-jena.de [14.03.2022].

Victor, Kristin (Ed.), *Carl Haussknecht. Ein Leben für die Botanik*. Jena: Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, 2013. (Beiträge aus den Sammlungen der Universität Jena 2)