



NFDI4  
Objects

# Community Cluster

## Objects as Information Carriers

### Objekte als Inschriftenträger

## About us and how to Participate

The cluster hosts space for researchers, experts and institutions of all fields and periods working with written artefacts who see the need to make the materiality of all kinds of inscribed or written artefacts adequately accessible and researchable in the digital research environment. The material aspect of written artefacts has become more important ever since the *material turn*, which has shifted the focus to the objects' design, their use and their placement in (past) societies.



DFN Mailinglist



Rocket Chat Channel



Open Science  
Framework

## Scope

Objects bearing Inscriptions generate a multiplicity of research data. To the objects' data itself adds the information from the inscriptions which can be applied in different time periods of the objects' biographies using varying techniques and materials. These involve plentiful facts about the artefacts' background such as names, places, and their functions in (various) past societies. Whereas this written information by itself can be mapped using authority files and thesauri, the relation established between the objects' material design and its inscription(s) produces research questions and approaches which pose much more challenging tasks for modelling.

## Identifying Challenges – Cataloguing Recommendations

Therefore, one of the initial questions addressed is how the relationship between textual information as expressed in text, letters and signs and material design is represented in existing data collections and databases (fig. 1). The aim is to collect a catalogue of criteria in a TWG on how relevant material object properties can be made available appropriately for the research process. An online workshop on October 22 will provide a platform for experts from various fields to share their insights on the topic. The results will be consolidated on a conference planned for Spring 2025.

## Research Data Life Cycle and Object Biography

Text-bearing objects typically also generate specific data about their object biography either by repurpose for use in new function (Fig. 1) or by re- or continuous use as a palimpsest. The latter is impressively illustrated by the late 16th century glass tankard, which is inscribed with 106 mostly dated inscriptions from "users" spanning the period between 1580 and 1587 (Fig. 2). These inscriptions are incised on all sides of the vessel, both randomly and in deliberate reference to each other. From the resulting complex network of surrounding inscriptions, the altering design of the vessel over time can be revealed – but its adequate modelling remains problematic. Modelling the, not rarely complex, object history of written artefacts thus seems to be an issue for which the resolving requirements are yet to be defined. It is aimed to establish a corresponding TWG in close cooperation with working bodies of N40 such as the N40 Objects Ontology and Minimal Metadata-Set TWG and the TWG 3D Annotation.

## Co-Chairs of the Community Cluster

**Ulrike Ehmig** (BBAW/CIL)  
Managing Director of the CIL Research Centre  
[ulrike.ehmig@bbaw.de](mailto:ulrike.ehmig@bbaw.de)

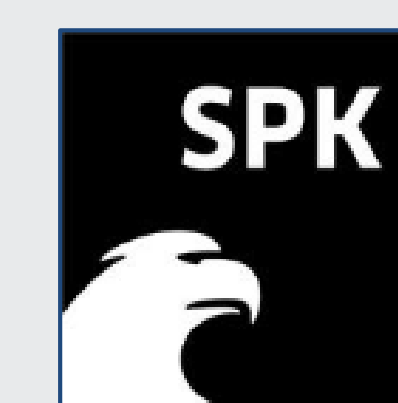
**Bernhard Weisser** (SMB-SPK/Münzkabinett)  
Director Münzkabinett Berlin  
[b.weisser@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:b.weisser@smb.spk-berlin.de)

## Organisation / Contact

**Christoph Klose** (SMB-SPK/Münzkabinett)  
[c.klose@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:c.klose@smb.spk-berlin.de)

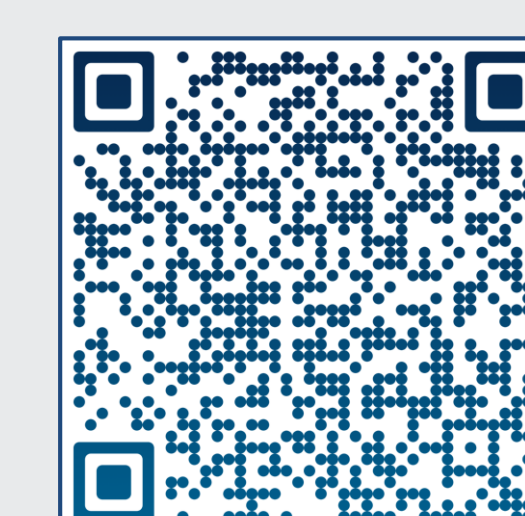
## About the Poster

NFDI4Objects Community Meeting 2024, Mainz.  
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (SPK)  
Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW)



## Citation

C. Klose et al. (2024), *Objects as Information Carriers*.  
NFDI4Objects Community Meeting, Mainz  
Zenodo. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.13798731](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13798731).



## References

- C. Klose, U. Ehmig & B. Weisser. (2024). NFDI4Objects – Community Cluster "Objects as Information Carriers". Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10686632>
- T. Meier, M.R. Ott, & R. Sauer, eds. (2015). *Material Textkulturen: Konzepte – Materialien – Praktiken*, Berlin, München, Boston: De Gruyter, 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110371291>
- N. Dietrich, L. Lieb, & N. Schneider, eds (2023). *Theorie und Systematik materialer Textkulturen: Abschlussband des SFB 933*, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111292229>
- G. Bodard, R. Cayless, C. Cenati, et al. (2021). *Modeling Epigraphy with an Ontology (0.1)*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4639508>
- S. E. Bond, P. Dilley & R. Horne, eds. (2021). *Linked Open Data for the Ancient Mediterranean: Structures, Practices, Prospects*. ISAW Papers 20. <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/isaw/isaw-papers/20/>
- J. Jünger et al. (2023). *Epigraf, A research platform for the collection, annotation and publication of text data* [https://epigraphy.info/documents/workshop\\_7/POSTER\\_JUENGER.pdf](https://epigraphy.info/documents/workshop_7/POSTER_JUENGER.pdf)
- C. Klose (2024). Community Cluster: "Objects as Information Carriers". [https://epigraphy.info/workshop\\_8\\_posters/poster9](https://epigraphy.info/workshop_8_posters/poster9)

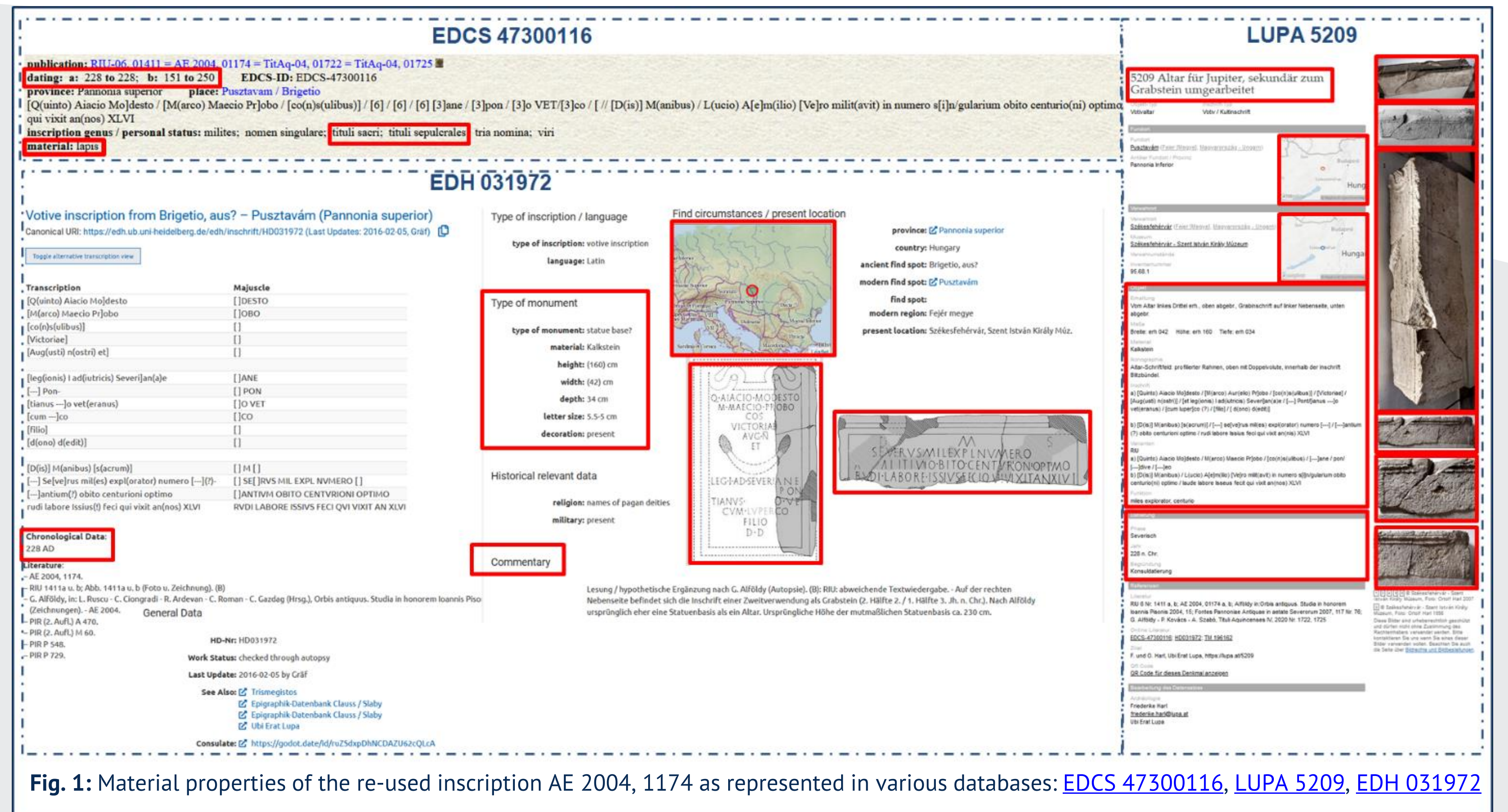


Fig. 1: Material properties of the re-used inscription AE 2004, 1174 as represented in various databases: [EDCS 47300116](#), [LUPA 5209](#), [EDH 031972](#)

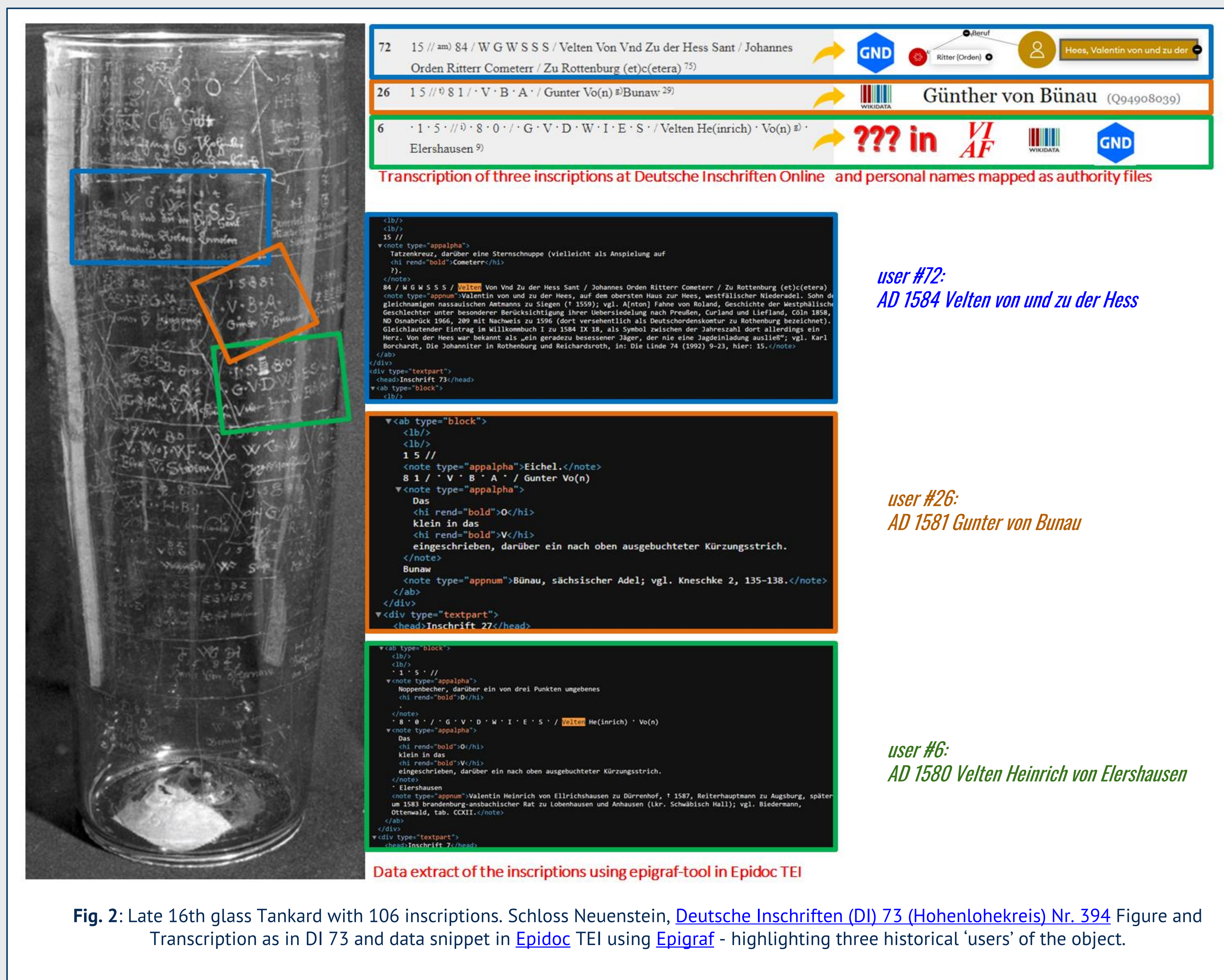


Fig. 2: Late 16th glass Tankard with 106 inscriptions. Schloss Neuenstein, [Deutsche Inschriften \(DI\) 73 \(Hohenlohekreis\) Nr. 394](#) Figure and Transcription as in DI 73 and data snippet in [Epidoc](#) TEI using [Epigraf](#) - highlighting three historical 'users' of the object.