

BRITISH MUSEUM BYZANTINE SEMINAR

RECENT RESEARCH ON ENGRAVED GEMSTONES IN LATE ANTIQUITY, AD 200-600

A three-day conference on Thursday 28th May, Friday 29th May and Saturday 30th May 2009 to be held in the Stevenson Lecture Theatre, the Great Court, British Museum

Thursday 28th May

Morning session Chair:

- 9.00-9.45 Registration
- 9.45-10.00 *Introduction*
Professor Sir John Boardman (University of Oxford)
- 10.00-10.30 *'Late Antique cameos and intaglios in 18th-century cast collections'*
Dr Lucia Pirzio Biroli (Rome)
- 10.30-11.00 t.b.a
Dr Elisabetta Galletti (University of Milan)
- 11.00-11.25 Coffee
- 11.25-11.55 *'Non-destructive gemmological tests on ancient gems'*
Dr Cigdem Lule-Whipp (American Gemmological Association)
- 11.55-12.25 *'The origins of gemstones in the ancient world'*
Lisbet Thoresen (Los Angeles, USA)
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch

Afternoon session Chair:

- 14.00-14.30 *'The use of diamond in ancient and medieval gem engraving'*
Dr Jack Ogden (Gemmological Association of Great Britain)
- 14.30-15.00 *'Are there reliable criteria for dating magical gems? A sceptical view'*
Dr Richard Gordon (Munich)
- 15.00-15.30 Tea
- 15.30-16.00 *'The colours of magical gems'*
Professor Attilio Mastrocinque (Venice)
- 16.00-16.30 *'Text, image and medium: the evolution of Greco-Roman magical gemstones'*
Professor Chris Faraone (University of Chicago)
- 16.30-17.00 *'Phyge Podagra, Perseus se diochi' – Greek myths on magical gems'*
Dr Árpád Nagy (Dept. of Classical Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest)
- 19.00- Reception

Friday 29th May

Morning session Chair:

- 10.00-10.30 *'Studies on magical gems in the British Museum'*
Dr Simone Michel (Germany)
- 10.30-11.00 *'The Belgrade Cameo'*
Dr Antje Krug (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin)
- 11.00-11.25 Coffee
- 11.25-11.55 *'A cameo portrait of Numerianus (AD 283-84) and related gems'*
Professor Dr Erika Zwierlein-Diehl (Institut für Kunstgeschichte und Archäologie,
University of Bonn)
- 11.55-12.25 *'Love and passion: personal cameos in Late Antiquity'*
Dr Martin Henig (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford) and Dr Helen Molesworth
(Christie's, Geneva)
- 12.25-14.00 Lunch

Afternoon session Chair:

- 14.00-14.30 *'Late Roman gems from Portugal'*
Dr Graca Cravinho (Lisbon) and Professor Shua Amorai-Stark (Kaye
Academic College of Education, Beer-Sheba)
- 14.30-15.00 *'Selected antique gems from Israel'*
Professor Shua Amorai-Stark (Beer-Sheba) and Malka Hershkovitz
(Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 15.00-15.30 Tea
- 15.30-16.00 *'Intaglios in military contexts in 2nd-4th century AD Palestine: the case of
Legio and Aelia Capitolina'*
Dr Orit Peleg (Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Dr
Yotam Tepper (Israel Antiquities Authority)
- 16.00-16.30 *'Late Antique gems: some unpublished examples'*
Dr Jeffrey Spier (University of Arizona)
- 16.30-15.00 *'Recent excavated finds of gems from Gaul (3rd-4th century)*
Professor Hélène Guiraud (University of Toulouse)

Saturday 30th May

Morning session Chair:

- 10.00-10.30 *'Statues on gems'*

Dr Ken Lapatin (Getty Museum)

- 1030-11.00 *'Contexts in the study of Early Christian glyptics'*
 Professor Corby Finney (Princeton)
- 11.00-11.25 Coffee
- 11.25-11.55 *'The argument from silence – iconographical statements of 1981 on
faked gems reconsidered'*
 Professor Dr Josef Engemann (Vienna)
- 11.55-12.25 *'On some Sasanian seals with 'classical' motifs'*
 Dr Rika Gyselen (CNRS, Ivry)
- 12.25-14.00 Lunch
- Afternoon session** Chair:
- 14.00-14.30 *'Transformations of the Roman gem'*
 Dr Genevra Kornbluth (Maryland, USA)
- 14.30-15.10 *'Seals in transition: their change of function and value in Late Antiquity'*
 Dr Gertrud Platz (Antikensammlung Staatliche Museen zu Berlin)
- 15.10-15.35 Tea
- 15.35-16.05 *'The re-use of gem stones in the late-Roman and medieval West'*
 Professor Sena Chiesa (University of Milan)
- 16.05-16.35 *'The re-use and re-interpretation of gemstones in medieval Hungary'*
 Dr Tamás Gesztelyi (Debrecen, Hungary)

Contact: Chris Entwistle, Curator, Late Roman and Byzantine Collections, Department of Prehistory and Europe, British Museum, Gt Russell Street,
London WC1B 3DG

Email: centwistle@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk; Tel. no. 0207-323-8724

Conference fee: £30. Cheques payable to the British Museum