Ivory trade and exchange in Late Antiquity and Early Islam

International Conference hosted by the Warburg Institute, 18 - 19 June 2013

Convened by Hugh Kennedy and Myriam Wissa (SOAS)

Organised with the support of the London Middle East Institute at SOAS
Held in association with The Leverhulme Trust

Speakers include: Silvia Armando (Università di Urbino, Italy), Doris Behrens-Abouseif (SOAS), Anna Contadini (SOAS), Rebecca Foote (London), Sarah Guerin (Courtauld Institute), Jeremy Johns (University of Oxford), Hugh Kennedy (SOAS), Anna McSweeney (SOAS), Robert Morkot (Exeter), Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS), Tim Power (UCL, Qatar), Stéphane Pradines (Agha Khan University), Stephen Quirke (Petrie Museum and UCL), Mariam Rosser-Owen (Victoria and Albert Museum), Oliver Watson (University of Oxford) and Myriam Wissa (SOAS)

Contributor: Anthony Cutler (Pennsylvania State University, USA)

In recent years Andalusian and Siculo-Arabic ivory carving has received a huge amount of attention from stylistic, iconographic and archaeological perspectives. This conference is organised in the context of a major Leverhulme-funded project, “Bridging Religious Difference in a Multicultural Eastern Mediterranean Society. Communities of Artisans and their Commercial Networks in Egypt from Justinian to the ’Abbasids (6th-10th centuries)”, in which Dr Myriam Wissa, the project researcher, and Professor Hugh Kennedy are involved. It invites scholars to give their pertinent and innovative views on ivory sources, local markets of the African hinterland, patterns of supply and demand, method of provisioning, trade routes and the transit trade in Indian Ocean ivory. The objectives of this conference is to go beyond the narrow confines of art history and archaeology, focusing on the history of trade and exchange, socio-political and diplomatic relations in Late Antiquity and early Islam, whilst combining carving and the transmission of techniques. The comparative and multi-disciplinary approaches allow, for the first time, a thorough understanding of such issues.
Tuesday 18 June 2013

9.15-10.00  Registration

10.00-12.30  SESSION 1  Ivory sources: the African connection

Chair:  Hugh Kennedy (SOAS)

10.00 – 10.05  Paul Webley (Director- SOAS, University of London, UK)

Opening

10.05 -10.15  Hugh Kennedy (SOAS, University of London, UK)

Opening remarks

10.15-10.50  Stephen Quirke (Petrie Museum, UCL London, UK)

Ivory – a long wave history: products and production, prehistoric to medieval, in the collections of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

10.50-11.10  Tea/coffee

11.10- 11.45  Robert Morkot (Exeter University, UK)

Where does ivory come from: changing empires changing Sources

11.45 -11.50  Response:  Myriam Wissa (SOAS)

Chair:  Hugh Kennedy (SOAS)

11.50 - 12.25  Stéphane Pradines (Aga Khan University, London, UK)

To the Sources of the Ivory: the Bilad al-Zendj and the Dar al-Fil

12.25-12.35  Response:  Tim Power (UCL, Qatar)

Lunch  (not provided except for the speakers and chairs)
### SESSION 2  Ivory trade, gift, exchange and diplomacy in Late Antiquity and the early Caliphate

**Chair:** Doris Behrens- Abou Seif (SOAS)

14.00 - 14.35 **Tim Power (UCL, Qatar)**

Red Sea Perspectives on the Late Antique and Early Islamic Ivory Trade

14.35-15.10 **Myriam Wissa (SOAS, University of London, UK)**

Three worlds at the crossroads in the early Abbasid Caliphate: Coptic, Carolingian, “Hashimiyya” and Abbasid ivory plaques, gift, exchange or re-use?

15.10-15.45 **Rebecca Foote (London, UK)**

The Humayma ivories: expression of the Abbasid rise to the Caliphate?

15.45-16.00 **Response:** Myriam Wissa (SOAS)

16.00 – 16.20 **Tea/coffee**

### SESSION 3  Ivory and the royal art of Norman Sicily

**Chair:** Mariam Rosser-Owen (Victoria and Albert Museum)


Strained relationships: carved ivories of the "Amalfi Group", "Siculo-Arabic painted ivories" and the royal art of Norman Sicily

16.55 -17.05 **Response:** Mariam Rosser-Owen (Victoria and Albert Museum)

17.45 **Reception/Drink**
Wednesday 19 June

10.00 -13.00  **SESSION 4**  Siculo-Arabic and Ifrīqiyan ivories: trade and technique

Chair: Anna Contadini  (SOAS)

10.00 – 10.35  Silvia Armando (Università di Urbino "Carlo Bo", Italy)

Cutting, assembling and painting. Towards a new classification of the 'Siculo-Arabic' ivories.

10.35 -11.10  Sarah Guerin (Courtauld Institute, London, UK)

Ivories of Ifrīqiya and southern Italy: Trade and technique

11.10-11.20  **Response:**  Jeremy Johns  (Oxford)

11.20 -11.35  Tea/coffee

11.35- 12.10  **SESSION 5**  Ivory of Al-Andalus: trade, gift and diplomatic relations

Chair: Jeremy Johns  (Oxford)

11.35- 12.10  Mariam Rosser-Owen (Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK)

West African trade and the ivories of al-Andalus

12.10- 12. 20  **SESSION 6**  Seljuk’s ivory

Chair: Wen-Chin Ouyang  (SOAS)

12.10- 12. 20  Anna Mc Sweeney (SOAS, University of London, UK)

A Seljuk carved ivory panel?

12.20- 12.45  Doris Behrens- Abouseif (SOAS), Anna Contadini (SOAS), Jeremy Johns (Oxford) Hugh Kennedy (SOAS), Mariam Rosser-Owen (V&A) and Myriam Wissa (SOAS)

General discussion
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