PERSIA & RUM

14 & 15 November 2013
A British Institute of Persian Studies conference hosted by:
The British School at Rome

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With the additional support of:
— 14 November 2013 —

The Sasanian Empire and Rome

Welcome: 9.00am – 9.10am

Panel One: 9.10am – 10.50am

Surplus production, urban growth and the environment

Chaired by Pierfrancesco Callieri

• St John Simpson | British Museum
  *Sasanian cities: archaeological perspectives from top down and bottom up*

• Seth M. N. Priestman | British Museum
  *Regional Ceramic Diversity in the Sasanian World*

• Marjan Mashkour | CNRS, Paris
  *Feeding Empires - Animal exploitation in Sasanian Persia*

• Morteza Djamali, Valérie Andrieu-Ponel, Philippe Ponel | Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d’Ecologie - CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université
  *Arboricultural revolution during the Persian Empires: insights from new pollen data*

Coffee Break: 10.50am – 11.20am

Panel Two: 11.20am – 12.35pm

Frontiers and frontier landscapes

Chaired by Simon James

• Tony Wilkinson and Dan Lawrence | Durham University
  *The Northern and Western Borderlands of the Sasanian Empire: Contextualizing the Roman/Byzantine and Sasanian Frontier*
● Kristen Hopper | Durham University  
*Urban, rural and nomadic interaction: Route systems associated with the Sasanian Frontier*

● Warwick Ball | Formerly British Institute of Afghan Studies  
*The north-eastern fringes of the Sasanian Empire*

**Lunch: 12.35pm – 1.30pm**

**Panel Three: 1.30pm – 2.45pm**

**Contested territories**

Chaired by St John Simpson

● Tim Greenwood | University of St Andrews  
*Sasanian and Roman rule over Armenia*

● Khodadad Rezakhani | London School of Economics  
*Between the Hammer and the Anvil: The Economy of the Borderlands between Rome and Sasanian Iran*

● Craig Morley | University of Liverpool  
*Arab Clients and the Roman-Sasanian Imperial Competition*

**Break: 2.45pm – 3.00pm**

**Panel Four: 3.00pm – 3.50pm**

**Cultural contacts between the Sasanian World and Rome**

Chaired by Christopher Smith

● Pierfrancesco Callieri | University of Bologna  
*Cultural contacts between Rome and Persia at the time of Ardashir I*

● Lee E. Patterson | Eastern Illinois University, Charleston IL  
*The Role of Religion in Romano-Sasanian Relations*
Tea Break: 3.50pm – 4.20pm

Panel Five: 4.20pm – 5.10pm

The power balance

Chaired by Geoffrey Greatrex

- Simon James | University of Leicester
  Martial interactions between the Partho-Sasanian world and Rome: archaeological and historical testimony

- Eberhard W. Sauer | University of Edinburgh
  Innovation and stagnation: military infrastructure and the shifting balance of power between Rome and Persia

Break: 5.10pm – 5.30pm

Keynote lecture: 5.30pm – 6.15pm

- James Howard-Johnston | University of Oxford
  Grand Strategies of the Great Powers in Late Antiquity

Discussion: 6.15pm – 7.00pm

Chaired by Eberhard W. Sauer

Drinks reception & Buffet dinner: 8.00pm
Keynote lecture: 9.15am – 10.00am

- Angelo Piemontese | Sapienza - University of Rome
  Ancient and modern Persia depicted in Rome

Panel Six: 10.00am – 11.00am

Middle Ages:

Chaired by Tim Greenwood

- Roderick Grierson | Rumi Institute, Near East University, Nicosia
  ‘A Flute in Tune with Two Hundred Religions’: Jalal al-Din Rumi in the Sultanate of Rum

- Michele Bernardini | University of Naples
  Rome/Rum and the Timurids

- Angus Stewart | University of St Andrews
  The Ilkhanate, the Armenians and the West

Coffee Break: 11.00am – 11.30am

Panel Seven: 11.30am – 1.15pm

Modern Period:

Chaired by Michael Axworthy

- Giorgio Rota | Institut für Iranistik, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
  Persian relations with the Venetian Republic in the Safavid Era

- Ali Ansari | University of St Andrews
  Iran and the Enlightenment

- Firuza Melville | University of Cambridge
  Vis & Ramin: from Parthian romance to le ballet Tajik
• Rudi Matthee | University of Delaware
  From Splendor to Ruin: Western Travelers to Iran after the Fall of the Safavids

Lunch: 1.15pm – 2.30pm

Panel Eight: 2.30pm – 4.15pm

Late Modern:
Chaired by Ali Ansari

• Anja Pistor-Hatam | Christian-Albrechts-Universität, Kiel
  Modern Iranian Historiography and the Mongols

• Paul Luft | Durham University
  Italian-Iranian relations in the interwar years

• Pejman Abdolmohammadi | University of Genoa
  The influences of European Political Ideas on the first generation of secular and constitutional Persian thinkers in the modern era

• Lloyd Ridgeon | University of Glasgow
  Nativist Iranian Approaches to the West (1882-1946)

Tea: 4.15pm – 4.45pm

Discussion: 4.45pm – 5.15pm

Speakers' Dinner, British School at Rome: 7.30pm
Tour of Sites in Rome: 10.00am – 1.30pm

An optional tour of sites guided by Professor Angelo Piemontese.

First leg: Meeting point at Piazza di Sant’Onofrio on Mount Gianicolo (Janiculum) visits:

- The church and convent of Sant’Onofrio | Highlight: sanctuary of the Persian Saint Onofrio;

then a brief walk, at Piazza Monte d’Oro, near Via Giulia and the Tiber to:

- The church of San Giovanni dei Fiorentini, Firenzuola Chapel | Highlight: the baptism of a Parthian king by two Apostles.

Time: 1½ hours.

Second leg: From the Firenzuola Chapel by bus to:

- Santa Maria della Scala at Trastevere | Highlight: the tombstone of Robert Sherley and his wife Theresia Sampsonia;

then a brief walk to:

- San Salvatore in Onda, near the Tiber, at Ponte Sisto | Highlight – Esther and the Achaemenian king Ahasuerus (Xerxes);

- San Carlo ai Catinari, Filonardi Chapel | Highlight – the Persian saint Mario and his family;

then by tram / bus to:

- San Marco at Piazza Venezia | Highlight – sanctuary of the Persian saints Abdon and Sennen.

Time: 2 hours.
Front cover image: ‘The Humiliation of Emperor Valerian by Shapur, King of Persia’ by Hans Holbein the Younger, 1521. (Kunstmuseum, Basel, Switzerland). Design originally commissioned as one of a set of murals for the Council Chamber of the Town Hall in Basel.