International Conference
17th – 20th December 2014

EAST AND WEST IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES
The Merovingian Kingdoms in Mediterranean Perspective

The conference aims to study the Merovingian Kingdoms in a broader Mediterranean context. In addition to being deeply rooted in the traditions and practices of the Western Roman Empire, Merovingian Gaul had complex and multi-layered economic, cultural, religious and political relations with the Byzantine and Islamic worlds. By analyzing Western and Eastern sources as well as archeological findings, the symposium seeks to offer a new perspective on the Merovingian period.

WEDNESDAY, 17.12., 14:15-18:30
Welcome and Introduction (Stefan Esders)
Opening Address (Bonnie Effros)
Shared Traditions and Forms of Exchange
(Andreas Fischer, Jörg Drauschke, Jamie Kreiner, Yitzhak Hen)

THURSDAY, 18.12., 9:15-17:30
Expanding Horizons – The Formation of the Merovingian Kingdoms
(Christian Stadlermann, Yann Fox)
The Pope as a Mediterranean Player
(Sebastian Scholz, Rosamond McKitterick, Charles Merivael, Laury Sarti)
Pippin the Younger looking East
(Brik Goosmann, Wolfram Brandes)

FRIDAY, 19.12., 9:15-17:00
Patterns of Intensification – The 580s
(Philipp Wynn, Wolfram Drees, Benjamin Fourlas, Holmut Reimitz)
Religious Landscapes and Spiritual Connections
(Gaël Naga-Banai, Max Diesenberger, Ora Limor, Ann Christy)

SATURDAY, 20.12., 9:15-12:45
Rethinking the Later Merovingians
(David Ganz, Ian Wood, Lawrence Nees, Stefan Esders)
Comments (Philipp von Rummel, Mayke de Jong)
Closing remarks (Yitzhak Hen)

http://www.geschicht.fu-berlin.de/e/fml/arbeitsbereiche/ab_esders/termine/EWC.html
Please register at: pia.bookias@fu-berlin.de

Stefan Esders, FU Berlin
Yitzhak Hen, BGU Be'er Sheva
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Minerva-Gentner Symposium

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, 17.12
Opening Session
14:15-15:30
Stefan ESHERS (Berlin): Welcome and Introduction
Bonnie EFFROS (Gainesville): Merovingians and the Mediterranean – The Enduring Attraction of the Pirenne Thesis

15:30-15:45 Break

Session I: Shared Traditions and Forms of Exchange
15:45-17:00
Andreas FISCHER (Vienna): Money for Nothing – Franks, Byzantines and Lombards in the Sixth and Seventh Century
Jörg DRAUSCHE (Mainz): Communication and Trade Between the Merovingians and the Eastern Mediterranean – Archeological Perspectives

17:00-17:15 Break

17:15-18:30
Jamie KREINER (Athens/Ga.): A Generic Mediterranean – Hagiography in the Early Middle Ages
Yitzhak HEN (Be’er Sheva): Defender of Ligugé’s Liber scintillarum and the Migration of Knowledge

18:30 End of first day

Thursday, 18.12
Session II: Expanding Horizons – The Formation of the Merovingian Kingdoms
09:15-10:30
Christian STADERMANN (Tübingen): Passio sancti Vincentii Aginnensis – A Different Interpretation of the Franco-Visigothic War 507/508
Yaniv FOX (Ra’anana): Anxiously Looking East – Burgundian Foreign Policy on the Eve of the Reconquest

10:30-11:00 Break

Session III: The Pope as a Mediterranean Player
11:00-12:15
Sebastian SCHOLZ (Zürich): The Papacy and the Frankish Bishops in the 6th Century
Rosamond MCKITTERICK (Cambridge): Perceptions of Rome and the Papacy in Late Merovingian Francia – The Cononian Recension of the Liber pontificialis

12:15-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:45
Charles MÉRIAUX (Lille): From East to West – Constantinople, Rome and Northern Gaul in the Seventh Century
Laury SARTI (Berlin): Knowledge Exchange and Perception of the Eastern Empire in the Late Merovingian West

15:45-16:15 Break

Session IV: Pippin the Younger looking East
16:15-17:30
Erik GOOSMANN (Utrecht): New Dynasty, New Frontiers? Pippin’s Politics and the Wider Mediterranean World
Wolfarm BRANDES (Frankfurt/M): The Byzantine Background to the So-Called “Donation of Pepin”

17:30 End of second day

Friday, 19.12
Session V: Patterns of Intensification – The 580s
09:15-10:30
Phillip WYNN (Be’er Sheva): Cultural Transmission Caught in the Act – Gregory of Tours and the Relics of St Sergius
Wolfram DREWS (Münster): Hermeneugetics: Rebellion and Conversion – Merovingian and Byzantine Connections

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:15
Benjamin FOURLAS (Mainz): Early Byzantine Church Silver Offered for the Eternal Rest of Framarich and Karilos – Evidence of “the Army of Heroic Men” Raised by Tiberius II Constantine?
Helmut REIMITZ (Princeton): Pax inter utramque gentem – The Re-Evaluation of Frankish Identity in Merovingian Encounters with the Empire During the Last Decades of the Sixth Century

12:15-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:15
Galit NOGA-BANAI (Jerusalem): Relocation to the West – The Relic of the True Cross in Poitiers
Maximilian DIESENBERGER (Vienna): Martyrs and Apostles from the Mediterranean in Early Medieval France

15:15-15:45 Break

15:45-17:00
Ort LIMOR (Ra’anana): Willibald in the Holy Places
Ann CHRISTYS (Leeds): ‘Sons of Ishmael, Turn Back!’

17:00 End of third day
Saturday, 20.12

Session VII: Rethinking the Late Merovingians
09:15–10:30
David GANZ (Notre Dame): Getting to Know the Late Merovingians – What Bern 611 Reveals
Ian WOOD (Leeds): Contact with the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Merovingian Period

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–12:15
Lawrence NEES (Newark): ‘Merovingian’ Illuminated Manuscripts and their Links with the Eastern Mediterranean World
Stefan ESDER (Berlin): Unplugging the Merovingians from the Mediterranean – The Case of Ebroïn

Conference Closing Session
12:15–12:45
Philipp VON RUMMEL (Berlin): Comment
Mayke DE JONG (Utrecht): Comment
Yitzhak HEN (Be’er Sheva): Closing Remarks

End of conference

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Letter from the church of Milan to Frankish envoys headed to Constantinople (ca. AD 551/552), Berlin, SBPK Phil. 1743, fol. 248r

International Conference
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Solidus of King Theudebert I (AD 533-549) emulating Byzantine models, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main

Minerva-Gentner Symposium

Organizers: Stefan ESDER, FU Berlin • Yitzhak HEN, BGU
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