

Call for papers

Symposium Peregrinum 2016

Tarquinia

Thursday, June 16—Sunday, June 19, 2016

The Mysteries of Mithras and other Mystic Cults in the Roman World

Research on Mithras, Cybele, Isis, Serapis and other foreign gods within the Roman world is still ongoing and necessary. We barely know how these cults were shaped, what their aims were, how and why they firmly took roots in the Roman world. Formerly known as "Oriental cults" or "Mystery cults", they could more appropriately be identified as "foreign cults", which was a Roman concept, and which allows a broader approach to the problem. Starting from the 3rd century BC "foreign" referred to all of Italy, and no longer merely to the area outside Rome, as we learn from the repression of foreign elements of the Bacchanalia, which affected the whole of Italy.

The occasion for a new conference on this topic arises from the recent discovery of new monuments of Mithras in Tarquinia, Veii, Rome and Ostia, which could allow new research on Italian Mithraism.

Old and new discoveries of temples to Cybele could give impulse, moreover, to research the cultic connections with Isis or Mithras (see, for example, the cases of Ostia and Mainz). Interactions between other oriental cults are also rarely studied, or are their relations with the imperial ideology or specific interactions between foreign cults and Christianity.

We will also welcome discussions of a better definition of the relationships between what was mysteric and what was not.

Hotel accommodations will cost, for a double room, about € 100 for two people (breakfast and dinner included); a single room will cost somewhat more. Registration will be 40 € per person, which will cover buffets and coffee breaks, excursion by bus to Vulci (possibly another trip as well to Cerveteri or another archaeological site), and a visit to the Etruscan necropolis and the archaeological museum of Tarquinia, where the new room for the statue of Mithras will probably take place during the conference. The conference organizers are: Attilio Mastrocinque (Università di Verona) (attilio.mastrocinque@univr.it<mailto:attilio.mastrocinque@univr.it>), László Tákács (Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest) (takacs.laszlo@btk.ppke.hu<mailto:takacs.laszlo@btk.ppke.hu>), and Patricia A. Johnston (Brandeis University, Waltham, MA) (johnston@brandeis.edu<mailto:johnston@brandeis.edu>).

We hereby invite proposals for panels and individual papers on these and related topics. They should be submitted to Patricia A. Johnston (johnston@brandeis.edu<mailto:johnston@brandeis.edu>) no later than March 1, 2016. All paper proposals will be peer-reviewed, and the decisions will be communicated by March 15, 2016. Panel session proposals will be reviewed as soon as they are received, and these proposers will receive notification within 30 days.

Abstracts (written in English) for individual papers should not exceed 400 words; abstracts for panels should not exceed 600 words. Presentations should be in English. If that is not possible, ample materials should be distributed to all attendees to facilitate discussion after each talk.

Registration Form

"The Mysteries of Mithras and other Mystic Cults in the Roman World"

Thursday, June 16 - Sunday, June 19, 2016

Name _____

Address: Street _____

Town _____ Country _____ Zip-Code _____

Telephone/Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution _____

Lecture Title _____

Mode of Travel: _____

Arrival: Day: _____ Time: _____

Registration Fee: 40 Euros (to be paid on arrival at symposium)

Abstract (Abstract must be in English and should not exceed 400 words or one-half page).

Please send this form by 1 March 2016 to Prof. Patricia A. Johnston,
johnston@brandeis.edu <mailto:johnston@brandeis.edu>. (Department of Classical Studies MS 092, Mandel Humanities Center, Brandeis University, Waltham MA 02454-9110).