

Medieval Iberian Treasury (Princeton, 19–20 May 17)

Louis A. Simpson International Building, Room 399, Princeton USA, May 19–20, 2017
ica.princeton.edu/conferences/

Jitske Jasperse

The Medieval Iberian Treasury in the Context of Muslim-Christian Interchange

In collaboration with the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Madrid and Princeton's departments of Art & Archaeology and History, the Index of Christian Art will sponsor a two-day interdisciplinary conference.

The medieval treasury offers an extraordinary material witness to the desires, aspirations, and self-conception of its creators. Treasuries could function as sources of gifts (and obligations) for their allies, as prestigious private storehouses for ostentation before an elite audience, or as financial reserves that could be made use of in times of need. Luxury items from non-Christian cultures, such as the many Islamic objects that found their way into church treasuries, or those made from materials of great intrinsic value, such as ivory, gold, silver, or silk, became even more valuable if the piece were turned to a sacred use. We will examine these dimensions of the treasury by giving special emphasis to the rich holdings of the royal-sponsored monastery of San Isidoro de León in northern Spain. Taken as a whole, both texts and objects offer a rich body of evidence for interdisciplinary investigation and serve as a springing point for larger questions about sumptuary collections and their patrons across Europe and the Mediterranean during the central Middle Ages.

Hosted at the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, the conference brings together international and US scholars from multiple disciplines and professions, with specializations including Islamic law and sumptuary production, Christian chronicles, patronage and royal studies, identity and gender studies, and political history across the cultures of medieval Spain. The diversity of questions and perspectives addressed by these scholars will shed light on the nature of treasury collections, as well as on the broad efficacy of multidisciplinary study for the Middle Ages.

Registration now open.

For further information, contact Pamela Patton: ppatton@princeton.edu

PROGRAM

Friday 19 May

1.00-1.30 Pamela Patton and Therese Martin, Welcome

Beatrice Kitzinger, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University

Opening Remarks: "The Treasury, a Material Witness to Long-Distance Contact and Pivot Point for Interdisciplinary Exchange"

1.30-2.00 Therese Martin, Instituto de Historia, CSIC

"Ivory Assemblage as Visual Metaphor: The Beatitudes Casket in Context"

2.00-2.30 Ana Rodríguez, Instituto de Historia, CSIC

"Narrating the Treasury: What Medieval Iberian Chronicles Choose to Tell Us about Luxury Objects"

2.30-3.00 Discussion

3.00-3.30 Coffee break

3.30-4.00 Eduardo Manzano, Instituto de Historia, CSIC

"Beyond the Year 900: The 'Iron Century' or an Era of Silk?"

4.00-4.30 Ana Cabrera, Victoria & Albert Museum, London/Museo Nacional de Artes Decorativas, Madrid, and María Judith Feliciano, Independent Scholar and Director, "Medieval Textiles in Iberia and the Mediterranean"

"Medieval Textiles in León in the Iberian and Mediterranean Context"

4.30-5.00 Discussion

5.00-5.30 Julie Harris, Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

"Jews, Real and Imagined, at San Isidoro and Beyond"

5.30-6.00 Maribel Fierro, Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, CSIC, and Luis Molina, Escuela de Estudios Árabes de Granada, CSIC

"Christian Relics in al-Andalus"

6.00-6.30 Discussion

Saturday 20 May

10.30-11.00 Pamela Patton, Index of Christian Art, Princeton University

"Demons and Diversity in León"

11.00-11.30 Thomas Burman, Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame

"Seeing and Not Seeing Islam in Twelfth-Century Europe"

11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.00-2.00 Lunch break (on your own)

2.00-2.30 Jitske Jasperse, Instituto de Historia, CSIC

"Set in Stone: Questioning the Portable Altar of the Infanta Sancha (d. 1159)"

2.30-3.00 Amanda Dotseth, Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University and Prado Museum, Madrid

"Medieval Treasure and the Modern Museum: Christian and Islamic Objects from San Isidoro de

León”

3.00-3.30 Discussion

3.30-4.00 Coffee break

4.00-4.30 Ittai Weinryb, Bard Graduate Center

“The Idea of North”

4.30-5.00 Eva Hoffman, Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University

“Arabic Script as Text and Image on Treasury Objects across the Medieval Mediterranean”

5.00-5.30 Discussion

5.30-6.00 Jerrilynn Dodds, Sarah Lawrence College

Closing Remarks: “The Treasury, Beyond Interaction”

6:00 Wine and cheese reception for all attendees

Reference:

CONF: Medieval Iberian Treasury (Princeton, 19-20 May 17). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 29, 2017 (accessed Jul 14, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/14807>>.