

The Materiality of Magic (Cologne, 24–25 May 12)

Internationales Kolleg Morphomata – Center for Advanced Studies Weyertal 59
(Back Building) 3rd Floor 50923 Cologne, Germany, May 24–25, 2012

Boris Burandt

The Materiality of Magic, Conference

Ancient magic has been a focus of great interest since the early 1990s. Although much has been written on the concept of magic itself, its origin, its various genres, formulas, etc., there has thus far been little attention to the fact that magical knowledge became enshrined in certain types of material, such as lead, stone, gems and papyrus – material that sometimes was used for specific genres of magic.

It is the aim of the conference to take the material as the point of departure for a discussion of various types of magic. The centre of the discussion is antiquity, but the conference will also include discussions of preceding and subsequent eras in order to supplement, compare, and contrast the classical material.

Programme

Thursday, 24 May

9.15 Dietrich Boschung (Cologne) | Jan N. Bremmer (Groningen) Welcome Address, Introduction

9.30 Laura Feldt (Copenhagen) Mesopotamian magical figurines for the protection of houses

10.15 Jacco Dieleman (UCLA) From Papyrus to Metal in Amulet Production from pharaonic to Graeco-Roman Egypt

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Jaime Curbera and Sergio Giannobile (Berlin) Attic Curse Tablets

12.15 Chris Faraone (Chicago) Voodoo Dolls in Greek and Roman Antiquity

13.00 Lunch Break

14.30 Árpád M. Nagy (Budapest) Developing Ancient Amulets: the Magical Gems of the Roman Imperial Period

15.15 Jan N. Bremmer (Munich|Groningen) From Books with Magic to Magical Books

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 Richard Gordon (Erfurt) Magic and Materiality: where do we stand now

17.30 Andrea Zeeb-Lanz (Speyer) Magic in prehistory

Friday, 25 May

9.30 Andrew Reynolds (UC London) Magic in Anglo-Saxon England: An Archaeological Perspective

10.15 Tanja Klemm (Basel) The Magic of Corals in the Renaissance

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Willem de Blecourt (Amsterdam) Bewitchment by Body-Parts. Love Magic in Late Medieval Flanders

12.15 Peter Forshaw (Amsterdam) Amulets, Seals and Talismans in Early Modern Europe

13.00 Lunch Break

14.30 Heike Behrend (Cologne) Photo-magic

15.15 Owen Davies (Hertfordshire) The Materiality of Magic Today

16.00 Veronique Dasen (Fribourg) Magical Amulets in Antiquity

Concept

Jan Bremmer

Dietrich Boschung

Contact

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Venue

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Reference:

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