

Sign & Design (Washington D.C., 12-14 Oct 12)

Washington D.C., Dumbarton Oaks, Oct 12-14, 2012

Registration deadline: Oct 12, 2012

Jeffrey Hamburger

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection

2012 Symposium

Sign and Design

Script as Image in a Cross-Cultural Perspective (300-1600 CE)

October 12-14, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.

Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to announce a symposium, to be held in the Music Room of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., on Friday, October 12th, Saturday, October 13th, and Sunday, October 14th, 2012. Please note that the symposium will be two and a half days: sessions will begin at 9 am on Friday, and conclude Sunday afternoon.

In the Middle Ages and beyond, legal, documentary, exegetical, literary and linguistic traditions have organized the relationship between image and letter in diverse ways, whether in terms of equivalency, complementarity or polarity. In this symposium, we wish to explore those situations in which letter and image were fused, forming hybrid signs that had no vocal equivalent and were not necessarily bound to any specific language. Although imagistic scripts work on the visible, arranging representation, they challenge the legible in terms of linguistic signification. The incorporation of figures, objects, colors, even events, within the letter insists on the material dimension of the sign. As the iconicity of the letter transforms reading into gazing, the script-like character of the image compels consideration of the co-signification of sign forms. In mediating each other into altered formats, the script-image disrupts a-priori models and ideas and thus redefines both text and image in terms of their signifying and representational processes. The disruptive effect of imagistic script inheres in a suspension of meaning that opens the system of representation and signification in which it was produced and circulated.

During the three-day conference, we propose to bring together scholars of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Arabic and Pre-Columbian cultures from numerous disciplines – art history, history, literature, religion,

linguistics, and law – to consider the purpose, operations, agency and specular forms of iconic scripts. What sort of communication did they facilitate? Did they imply reception by the inner eye? In prompting recognition of the aesthetic dimension of texts, did they open governance, law, literature, diplomatics, and theology to sensorial appreciation? Did they enforce a latent principle of non-representability? Does their use imply what might be called an iconomy, a practice of policing images?

The symposium is organized with Brigitte Bedos-Rezak (New York University) and Jeffrey F. Hamburger (Harvard University). Symposium speakers include Elizabeth Hill Boone, Ghislain Brunel, Anne-Marie Christin, Tom Cummins, Vincent Debiais, Ivan Drpi?, Antony Eastmond, Beatrice Frankel, Cynthia Hahn, Herbert Kessler, Katrin Kogman-Appel, Didier Méhu, Irvin Cemil Schick and Irene Winter.

Program

Schedule

Friday, October 12

8:30 am

Coffee on the Music Room Terrace

9:00 am

Welcome

Jan Ziolkowski, Dumbarton Oaks

9:15 am

Introductory Remarks

Jeffrey Hamburger, Harvard University

Before the Letter

Moderator: Jeffrey Hamburger, Harvard University

9:30 am

Elizabeth Boone, Tulane University

Pictorial Talking: The Figural Rendering of Speech Acts and Texts in Aztec Mexico

10:15 am

Anne-Marie Christin, Centre d'étude de l'écriture et de l'image
Visible/Lisible : Pour un Typologie iconique de l'écriture

11:00 am

Discussion and coffee

The Iconicity of Script

Moderator: Gudrun Buehl, Dumbarton Oaks

11:30 am

Ivan Drpic, University of Washington

Chrysepēs Stichourgia: The Iconicity of the Byzantine Epigram

12:15 pm

İrvin Cemil Schick, Istanbul Şehir University

Islamic Calligraphy between Representation and Text

1:00 pm

Discussion

1:30 pm

Lunch in the Orangery

Monumental Characters

Moderator: Ioli Kalavrezou, Harvard University

3:00 pm

Antony Eastmond, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London

Loud Inscriptions, Silent Prayers

3:45 pm

Irene Winter, Harvard University

Text in Sculpture, Text on Sculpture: Cases of the Ancient Near East

4:30 pm

Discussion and coffee

5:30-7:30 pm

Reception in the Orangery and Green Garden

Saturday, October 13

9:00 am

Coffee on the Music Room Terrace

Iconic Literacy

Moderator: Juan Antonio Murro, Dumbarton Oaks

9:30 am

Vincent Debiais, Université de Poitiers

From Christ's Monogram to God's Presence. Epigraphic contribution to the Study of crimson in Romanesque sculpture

10:15 am

Tom Cummins, Harvard University

From Many into One: The transformation of Pre-Columbian signs into European designs in the sixteenth century

11:00 am

Discussion and coffee break

The Text(ure) of Images

Moderator: Margaret Mullett

11:30 am

Cynthia Hahn, Hunter College, City University of New York

Excavating the Letter in the Carolingian Sacramentary

12:15 pm

Didier Méhu, Université Laval

A Spectacle for the Senses: The Description and Inscription of Church Dedication in Liturgical Manuscripts (Tenth – Twelfth Centuries)

1:00 pm

Discussion

1:30 pm

Lunch in the Orangery

Imaging the Ineffable

Moderator: Jan Ziolkowski, Dumbarton Oaks

3:00 pm

Herbert L. Kessler, Johns Hopkins

"De una essentia innectuntur sibi duo circuli." Dynamic Signs and Trinitarian Designs

3:45 pm

Katrin Kogman-Appel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Role of Hebrew Letters in Making the Divine Visible

4:30 pm

Discussion and coffee

Sunday, October 14

9:30 am

Coffee on the Music Room Terrace

Instrumental Images

Moderator: Brigitte Bedos-Rezak, New York University

10:00 am

Ghislain Brunel, Archives Nationales, Paris

Entre glorification du texte et nouvelle esthétique de l'image :

L'illustration des chartes françaises au Moyen Age

10:45 am

Beatrice Fraenkel, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

Signatures-rébus

11:30 am

Discussion

12:00 pm

Concluding Remarks

Brigitte Bedos-Rezak, New York University

Space for this event is limited, and registration will be handled on a first come, first served basis. For further information, including preliminary abstracts, please visit the website (<http://www.doaks.org/news/2012-symposium>) or contact Francisco López (directorsoffice2011@doaks.org).

Reference:

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