Celestial Bodies and their Orbit in Art (AAH Reading, 11-13 Apr 2013)

Reading, University of Reading, Apr 11–13, 2013
Deadline: Nov 12, 2012

Maria Athanasekou, Athens

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Celestial Bodies and their Orbit in Art

The visible planets and the stars have provided important themes and images for artistic practitioners in almost all human cultures. Ancient peoples made close observations of planetary orbits, and constructed complex calendars upon this data. Awareness of astral influences upon the Earth also supported the allocation of various attributes to individual planets, stars and constellations, as well as their deification. Thus, the celestial bodies, and their representations, have played key roles within a wide range of discursive practices, including those of religion, science and magic.

This session seeks to explore celestial imagery and its significance in the period before the construction of advanced telescopes made close viewing of the nearer planets possible. In other words, the focus will be upon the transmission and contestation of imagery and meanings within and across cultures from antiquity through the European Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Examples of specific issues to be addressed might include:

Planetary imagery and magical power
Planets and personification
Astrology and the visual arts
Celestial bodies, cosmology and religious discourse(s)
Celestial imagery and scientific practice
Stars and the sciences of time.

It is our intention to have the proceedings of the session published.

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The deadline for paper proposals is 12 November 2012. For more information please visit

http://www.aah.org.uk/annual-conference/sessions2013.

Reference:

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