

Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea  
Congressus internationales Smyrnenses XI

Call for papers

**Ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine engraved  
gems in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea  
area**

An international e-conference  
on archaeological and archaeogemological approaches



May 13-14, 2021 / Izmir, Turkey

***Meeting venue***

Join us on Zoom.us

***E-mail***

terraccottas@deu.edu.tr

***Deadline for the abstracts' submission***

January 1, 2021

***Website***

<https://deu.academia.edu/ErgunLAFI/Congressus-internationales-Smyrnenses>

***Institutional organizer***

Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir

All are welcome.

## *First circular - Call for papers*

Dear Colleagues,

We are glad to inform you that an international video conference on engraved gems in the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea area will take place on May 13-14, 2021 on Zoom.us. An engraved gem, frequently referred to as an *intaglio* or *cameo*, is a small and usually semi-precious gemstone that has been carved, in the ancient Greek and Roman tradition normally with images or inscriptions only on one face. The engraving of gemstones was a major luxury art form in the ancient eastern Mediterranean. Near Eastern glyptic art covers the field of small carved stones, including cylinder seals and inscriptions in archaeological contexts. Though in the Graeco-Roman Mediterranean they were keenly collected in classical antiquity, most carved gems originally functioned as seals, often mounted in a ring.

Engraved gems were found in relatively large quantities in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea area, where they were in use and produced frequently between the Bronze Age and Medieval periods. So far the study of these multifunctional objects has been overlooked in the eastern Mediterranean whereas there is still a huge amount of unpublished material from excavations and museums in an area from Albania down to Egypt, including Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. Ancient engraved gems can be categorized based on different criteria, including their gemological and mineralogical material, genres of material, decoration, production, use and distribution.

In this online conference we only focus on Greek, Roman and Byzantine engraved gems from the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea area between *c.* early sixth century B.C. and early seventh century A.D., and attempt to set out a comprehensive model for the study of engraved gems, including their definition, typology, chronology, contexts, function, regional characteristics and distribution patterns in the whole eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea geographies. It is also our intention to create a complete bibliography of previous publications on engraved gems.

We warmly invite contributions by scholars and graduate students from a variety of disciplines related to these objects. Intended to bring together scholars of Greek, Roman and Byzantine archaeology to discuss a range of issues concerning these instruments' characteristics, this electronic conference should be an excellent opportunity to increase our knowledge about this material. The following theme groups are the main questions of this online conference which are prescriptive:

- Engraved gems from archaeological field projects, museums and private collections,
- Ancient Greek and Latin textual sources on engraved gems,
- Evolution of engraved gems in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea area during the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods,
- Similar *instrumenta* in the ancient Near East and their relations to ancient Graeco-Roman gems,
- What ancient Greeks and Romans thought about afterlife? Engraved gems in funerary and votive contexts,
- Domestic and commercial use of engraved gems,
- Magical gems,
- Related *instrumenta* to engraved gems in the regards of their function,
- Decoration, iconography and epigraphy at engraved gems in Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods,
- Major production centers of engraved gems in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea,
- Signatures at engraved gems,
- Byzantine engraved gems in religious contexts,
- *Miscellanea*.

On these themes and questions, all disciplines, approaches and methods susceptible to bring some progress to our current knowledge are of course welcome: classical archaeology, Byzantine archaeology, gemology, mineralogy, archaeometry, petrography, history of art, ancient history, sigillography, glyptics and cultural anthropology etc. Gemological, mineralogical and archaeometric papers related to engraved gem research are most welcome. English is the official language of the e-conference. Your lecture will be recorded during the conference and this record will be displayed in Youtube after. The e-conference is free of charge.

We would be delighted, if you could consider contributing to our e-conference and contact us with the required information below **before January 1, 2021**. Our e-mail addresses are: [terraccottas@deu.edu.tr](mailto:terraccottas@deu.edu.tr) or [gul1988kaynakci@gmail.com](mailto:gul1988kaynakci@gmail.com)

We would be thankful, if you send us your abstract and required information only in word doc. For all your queries concerning the e-conference our phone number is: +90.539.511 74 08. The organizers seek to widen participation at this e-conference, and would like to encourage colleagues from all parts of the world to attend. The conference committee kindly requests that you alert any persons within your research community who would be interested in participating at this e-conference, either by forwarding our e-mail through Facebook or other similar social media, or by printing this circular or our poster and displaying it in your institution. We hope that you will be able to join us on Zoom, and look forward to seeing you in May!

*Cave coronam!*

## Website of the e-conference

<https://www.academia.edu/works/44526984>

### Required information for the participation to the e-conference

Type of Participation:

Lecturer:

Observer:

Lecturer through Skype:

Name:

Academic title:

Institution:

Complete professional address:

Cell phone:

E-mail:

Your Academia and/or Researchgate account's address:

Any special requests:

Title of your lecture:

Would you agree that your lecture will be recorded during the e-conference which will be displayed in Youtube later?:

**Your abstract:**

N.B.: An illustration can be included; it should be sent by e-mail to [terracottas@deu.edu.tr](mailto:terracottas@deu.edu.tr) or [gul1988kaynakci@gmail.com](mailto:gul1988kaynakci@gmail.com)

### Scientific committee of the e-conference

To be announced later.

### Executive committee (to be completed)

Ms Alev Çetingöz (Izmir),  
Ms Gül Kaynakçı (Gördes/Izmir),  
Mr Enver Melih Veziroğlu (Izmir).

### List of the previous

#### *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea, Congressus internationales Smyrnenses*

**I-** E. Laflı and A. Muller (organ.), "International conference: Terracotta figurines in the Greek and Roman eastern Mediterranean: Production, diffusion, iconography and function"; June 2–6, 2007, Izmir. Website: <[web.deu.edu.tr/terracottas](http://web.deu.edu.tr/terracottas)>.

**II-** E. Laflı and S. Fünfschilling (organ.), "International workshop: Late Roman glass in Anatolia (A.D. 4th to eighth centuries)"; October 26–28, 2009, Izmir.

**III-** E. Laflı, G. Cankardeş Şenol and A. K. Şenol (organ.), "International workshop on Hellenistic ceramics in Anatolia (4th to first cent. B.C.)"; October 12–14, 2010, Izmir.

**IV-** E. Laflı and S. Patacı (organ.), "An international workshop on the pottery finds between fourth century B.C. and eighth century A.D. from northern and central Anatolia"; May 10, 2011, Izmir.

**V-** E. Laflı (organ.), "XVIIth international congress of ancient bronzes. The archaeology of bronzes in Anatolia and the eastern Mediterranean from Protogeometric to early Byzantine periods (tenth century B.C. to seventh century A.D.)"; May 21–25, 2011, Izmir.

**VI-** E. Laflı (organ.), "Second international conference on the archaeology of Ionia – Landscapes of Ionia: Towns in transition"; May 30–June 2, 2011, Izmir.

**VII-** E. Laflı and G. Labarre (organs.), "Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to late antiquity (eighth century B.C.-sixth century A.D.)"; May 17-18, 2017, Izmir.

**VIII-** E. Laflı (organs.), "*Unguentarium*. A terracotta vessel form and other related vessels in the Hellenistic, Roman and early Byzantine Mediterranean. An international symposium"; May 17-18, 2018, Izmir.

**IX-** E. Laflı and L. Chrzanovski (organs.), “Ancient terracotta lamps from Anatolia and the eastern Mediterranean to Dacia, the Black Sea and beyond. Comparative lychnological studies in the eastern parts of the Roman Empire and peripheral areas. An international symposium”; May 16-17, 2018, Izmir.

**X-** E. Laflı (organs.), “Cappadocia and Cappadocians in the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Byzantine periods. An international symposium on the southeastern part of central Anatolia in classical antiquity”; May 14-15, 2020, on Zoom.us

**List of the previous *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea,*  
*Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae***

**Ia-** A. Muller and E. Laflı (eds.), *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 1: *Production, diffusion, iconographie et fonction*, École française d’Athènes, Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, Supplément 54 (Athens/Paris, De Boccard 2016).

**Ib-** A. Muller and E. Laflı (eds.), *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 2: *Iconographie et contextes*, Archaologia (Villeneuve d’Ascq, Presses Universitaires du Septentrion 2015).

**II-** E. Laflı (ed.), *Late antique/early Byzantine glass in the eastern Mediterranean*, *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea – Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae II/Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Division for Medieval Archaeology, Publication series, No. 1* (Izmir, Hürriyet Matbaası 2009) (ISBN 978-605-61525-0-4).

**III-** E. Laflı and S. Patacı (eds.), *Recent studies on the archaeology of Anatolia*, British Archaeological Reports, International Series 2750 (Oxford, Archaeopress 2015).

**IV-** E. Laflı and G. Labarre (eds.), *Archaeology and history of Lydia from the Early Lydian period to late antiquity* (Besançon, Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté 2021, in progress).