

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals for papers are invited for a forthcoming workshop entitled:

BEADS AND PERSONAL ORNAMENTS IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST: TECHNOLOGIES, STYLES, SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

12-17 April 2010, London (ICAANE Conference)

This workshop has been accepted as part of the London 7th ICAANE conference of 2010, which will be held at the British Museum and University College London.

Workshop Organizing Committee

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Since the publication of Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop's pioneering study of Ancient Western Asiatic Jewellery in 1971, there have been few syntheses of the emergence and development of beads and personal ornaments in the ancient Near East, although wider overviews of beads exist (eg, Lois Sherr Dubin's masterful *The History of Beads*, 1987). For the Near East itself, most studies have been conducted for specific sites, regions, periods, or problems. However, recent developments in archaeological thought suggest that personal ornamentation of the human body is a central means by which individuals are educated in their own cultures. Ornaments also serve as a crucial arena for negotiation of social identities (age, gender, status, group affiliation) and the establishment of social networks, via exchange.

Whilst early studies emphasized styles and typology in a culture-historical framework, recent research has made major advances in our understanding of the origins, development, technologies, exchange and social significance of personal ornaments in the Near East. The purpose of this workshop is to draw together this research and to explore the potential of personal ornaments for understanding technological change, social organization and the development of the Near Eastern complex societies. Examples of themes which we anticipate would be addressed would include:

- (1) The beginnings and development of bone and shell bead technologies and their evolutionary significance;
- (2) The early development of stone bead technologies, from prehistory

- to the Early Bronze Age, and questions of craft specialization;
- (3) The origins and development of metal jewellery;
 - (4) The emergence, use and exchange of ornaments of faience and glass;
 - (5) Diversity in ornament assemblages in later complex societies in the Near East: technologies, styles, exchange and social identities;
 - (6) Understanding contexts of manufacture (eg, workshops) and contexts of use (eg, burials) in exploring ancient ornaments;
 - (7) Symbolic aspects of ornaments and materials.

Papers from this workshop will be published as a separate volume. Please send paper titles and a short abstract (250 words), by 15 November, 2008 to:

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Yours sincerely,

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