

The Eastern Mediterranean between Christian Europe and the Muslim Near East (11th to 13th centuries), Istanbul, 17-20 May 2007

The Orient-Institut Beirut/Istanbul and the German Historical Institutes in London, Paris and Rome have the Honour to cordially invite you to contribute to their International Conference (Istanbul, May 17 - 20, 2007) on The Eastern Mediterranean between Christian Europe and the Muslim Near East (11th to 13th centuries). The conference, which will be jointly organized by the Orient-Institut Beirut/Istanbul, and with the German Historical Institutes of Rome, Paris and London, intends to make a contribution to the ongoing and sometimes controversial debate among historians of different specializations (European medievalists, byzantinists, scholars on Islam) on the role and the importance of the Crusades, i.e., the historical phenomenon which for about 200 years touched large parts of Latin Christian Europe, the Byzantine empire and the Muslim Near East, and which left far-reaching traces with regard to politics, economy, religion, culture and, more generally, society. In addition, in historical scholarship the term 'crusades' has gained more or less significant extensions of meaning and also, due to recent events and actual developments, a politically quite problematic dimension. But apart from this, the interest in the Crusades of the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries and the fascination of this topic still looms large, as it is clearly evident from the great and continuously growing number of scholarly (and semi-scholarly) events and publications. The conference under preparation will focus on a specific complex of questions and issues regarding the period of the Crusades: the history of this period from a cultural and social point of view - a topic which has been of less research interest in comparison to other topics, irrespective of its equal importance. Thus, not the political, military or economic developments on the part of the Christians or the Muslims will be the subject of this conference but the intercultural meeting, the transmission and exchange of knowledge and the repercussion of these processes on the participants or agents involved (persons, communities, and 'civilizations'). In other words, the main question is concerned with long-term or longer-term processes and structures, not with the performances and deficits of individuals and/or dynasties (for example, the Normans and the Staufens, or the Ayyubids and the Mamluks). However, it goes without saying that this focus cannot completely exclude the other, as social and cultural developments do not unfold in an 'anonymous space', namely, one without human beings. Questions relating to these issues should be discussed and, as far as possible, re-evaluated on the basis of recent research results.

In this context, the question of the critique of sources will be of great relevance - given the fact that many aspects of this question have not yet been dealt with in a satisfactory manner, for Oriental and/or Muslim sources, at least, much less so than for Western ones (Latin and Byzantine). It will be crucial to bring together the various approaches, methods and sources used by different historical disciplines. With regard to specific subjects, it is desirable or intended that both historians of Europe and the Near East will present their ideas in a complementary and comparative manner. It is only through interdisciplinary cooperation that this multi-dimensional and multi-cultural topic can be adequately dealt with. An opening paper to the conference may examine this problem, including the chances and limits of its realization, in a more profound manner and offer new ways for future common research. In order to get possible answers or even find solutions to these questions outlined above, it seems appropriate to set up different panels in which specific topics or sub-topics will be addressed. While the first two panels serve more or less as an introductory background to the following, the third panel is the core of the conference in terms of variety of themes, approaches and methods.

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Program

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| | Thursday, May 17, 2007, Teutonia, Galip Dede Cad. 65, Tünel Beyoğlu |
| 18:00 | M. Kropp: <i>Keynote</i> C. Hillenbrand: <i>Opening Lecture</i> |
| | Cocktail |
| | Friday, May 18, 2007, Teutonia, Galip Dede Cad. 65, Tünel Beyoğlu |
| Panel I | Chair: M. Kropp |
| 9:30-10:00 | G. Gresser: <i>Moabita, Mauri, Sarraceni, Turci - Wahrnehmung und Wertung der Muslime in päpstlichen Dokumenten des 11. und 12. Jahrhunderts</i> |
| 10:00-10:30 | A. M. Schilling: <i>Monotheisten oder Kannibalen? Bemerkungen zum Türkenexkurs Michaels des Syrers</i> |
| | Coffee Break |
| 11:00-11:30 | A. Haverkamp: <i>Simeon von Trier (gest. 1035): ein griechischer Heiliger zwischen Orient und Okzident</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | P. Bruns: <i>Bemerkungen zur Kirchenchronik des Barhebräus</i> |
| Panel II | Chair: W. Paravicini |
| 14:30-15:00 | D. Abulafia: <i>Monreale and the transformation of the Norman Kingdom of Sicily</i> |
| 15:00-15:30 | M. L. Favreau-Lilie: <i>Das Verhältnis der italienischen Seehandelsstädte zum muslimischen Hinterland der Kreuzfahrerstaaten</i> |
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee Break |
| 16:00-16:30 | P. Herde: <i>The papacy, Mongol and Islamic rulers in the later thirteenth century</i> |

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| | Saturday, May 19, 2007 |
| Panel III | Chair: M. Matheus |
| 9:30-10:00 | S. Heidemann: <i>The Zangids, Ayyubids and the Mamluks. Adjustments for the Jihad in a period of Mediterranean war and trade</i> |
| 10:00-10:30 | Y. Lev: <i>The Jihad of Sultan Nur al-Din of Syria: discourse and history.</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:30-12:00 | R. J. Lilie: <i>Consequences of the Crusader's invasion for the Byzantine self understanding, Society and governmental structure in this Period</i> |
| 12:00-12:30 | H. Houben: <i>The Staufien dynasty and the Teutonic knights in the Eastern Mediterranean</i> |
| Panel IV | Chair: A. Gestrich |
| 15:00-15:30 | S.N. Yıldız: <i>Controlling the frontier: Latin Crusaders, Seljuks and Cilician Armenians in conflict and alliance in the early thirteenth century</i> |
| 15:30-16:00 | R. Amitei: <i>Facing up to reality: early Mamluk military policy and the allocation of resources</i> |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break |
| 16:30-17:00 | Y. Frenkel: <i>Jihad in the Mediterranean Sea: financing the religious ideals</i> |
| | Sunday, May 20, 2007 |
| Panel V | Chair: K. Plöger |
| 9:30-10:00 | S. Leder: <i>Heroes, friends, enemies. The dynamics of Muslim identity in representations of Saladin and Frederic II</i> |
| 10:00-10:30 | M. Molinari: <i>Kreuzzugslieder und Kriegswerbung im Minnesang</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00-11:30 | J. Pahlitzsch: <i>Translations from Greek to Arabic by Orthodox Christians in the Orient</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | D. Lohrmann: <i>Bemerkungen zur Einführung der scientia Arabum in Westeuropa (11.-12. Jahrhundert)</i> |
| Panel VI | Chair: A. Havemann |
| 14:30-15:00 | L. Richter-Bernburg: <i>Plurireligious and plurilingual pursuits: medicine and science in the Eastern Mediterranean and adjacent regions</i> |
| 15:00-15:30 | Dankwart Leistikow: <i>Christian architecture ("Crusader art")</i> |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break |
| 16:00 | <i>Concluding Session. Evaluation and prospects.</i> Chair: S. Leder |