

***Crossing Boundaries, Creating Images:
In Search of the Prophet Muhammad
in Literary and Visual Traditions***

Is an interdisciplinary research project at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence, directed by Avinoam Shalem (Prof. of Islamic Art at Munich University and Max-Planck-Fellow at the KHI in Florence). It explores the multiple ways in which the Prophet Muhammad has been depicted in European traditions. Its principal goal consists in examining how literary descriptions and visual constructions of the Prophet Muhammad served multiple cultural, political, and religious purposes from the medieval era until the early modern period. It also attempts to elucidate Muhammad's image in the West vis-à-vis his image in Islam at particularly critical junctures in time.

For more information see our website:

www.khi.fi.it/forschung/projekte/projekte/projekt21/index.



Location

Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Max-Planck-Institut
Via G. Giusti 38 – 50121 Florence
Italy

Contact

The conference is open to the public and free of charge. Due to the limited availability of seating, we kindly request that visitors confirm their attendance with:

Michelina di Cesare
email: DiCesare@khi.fi.it

or

Alberto Saviello
email: Saviello@khi.fi.it

Cover: The Prophet Muhammad heads to battle the Banu Qaynuqa', London, Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art, ms. 727, fol. 67r (detail), Tabriz, ca. 1314, Rashid al-Din's *Jami' al-Tawarikh*.

Inside: Profile of the Prophet Muhammad, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, ms. lat. 3670, fol. 1r (detail), 1515, Robert of Ketton's Latin Translation of the Qur'an.

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**Interdisciplinary Conference
July 16-18, 2009**

**Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz
Max-Planck-Institut**

Thursday, 16 July 2009

9.00 Welcoming Remarks

Gerhard WOLF, Alessandro NOVA, and Avinoam SHALEM

The Prophet Recovered

Chairman: Avinoam SHALEM

9.15 Christiane GRUBER

“The Rose of the Prophet: Interstitial Images of Muhammad in Islamic Art”

9.45 Yorgos DEDES

“A Turkish *Requiem*? Süleyman Çelebi’s *Mevlid* and the Drawing of Muslim-Orthodox Christian Boundaries”

Coffee 10.15-10.45

10.45 Suleiman Ali MOURAD

“The Full Moon Rose in Our Midst: The Veneration of Muhammad in Medieval Islamic Literature”

11.15 Brannon WHEELER

“Collecting the Dead Body of the Prophet Muhammad: Hair, Nails, Sweat and Spit”

Encountered

Chairman: Gerhard WOLF

11.45 Barbara ROGGEMA

“The Syriac *Sira*?: Re-Evaluating Syriac Writings about Muhammad”

12.15 Kenneth Baxter WOLF

“Counterhistory in the Earliest Latin Lives of Muhammad”

Lunch 12.45-14.30

14.30 José MARTÍNEZ GÁZQUEZ

“La figura de Mahoma en el Corpus Islamolatinum”

15.00 Reuven FIRESTONE

“Meanings of Muhammad in Pre-Modern Jewish Literatures”

Coffee 15.30-16.00

Narrated

Chairman: Michele BACCI

16.00 Robert HILLENBRAND

“Muhammad as Warrior Prophet: Images from the *World History* of Rashid al-Din”

Thursday, 16 July 2009 (continued)

16.30 Maria Vittoria FONTANA

“Muhammad and an ‘Adoration of the Magi’ in the Gulbenkian Anthology of 813/1411”

Friday, 17 July 2009

Visualized

Chairman: Claus-Peter HAASE

9.15 Debra Higgs STRICKLAND

“Meanings of Muhammad in Later Medieval Art”

9.45 Inés MONTEIRA ARIAS

“Les musulmans idolâtres et l’adoration de Mahomet: Une iconographie contre l’Islam dans la sculpture Romane”

Coffee 10.15-10.45

10.45 Michelina DI CESARE

“Reading the Bible through Glass: The Image of Muhammad in Sainte-Chapelle”

11.15 Suzanne Conklin AKBARI

“Ambivalence and Assimilation: Muhammad in the *Divine Comedy*”

11.45 Thomas E. BURMAN

“A European Author Portrait of Muhammad and Medieval Latin Traditions of Qur’an Reading”

Lunch 12.15-14.00

14.00 Larry SILVER

“Mohammed, Maximilian and Mandeville: Constructing a Muslim Nemesis”

14.30 Ulrike ILG

“Writing versus Showing: Religious Polemics and Visual Realism in a late 16th-Century Biography of the Prophet Muhammad”

Saturday, 18 July 2009

Reformed and Revised

Chairman: Alessandro NOVA

9.15 Hartmut BOBZIN

“Mohammed als ‘falscher Prophet’ im Zeitalter der Reformation”

Saturday, 18 July 2009 (continued)

9.45 Matthew DIMMOCK

“Deceiving with Painted Words: ‘Mahomet’ in Reformation England”

10.15 John TOLAN

“Impostor or Lawgiver? Muhammad through European Eyes in the 17th and 18th Centuries”

Coffee 10.45-11.15

Appropriated, Applauded

Chairman: Angelika NEUWIRTH

11.15 Alberto SAVIELLO

“In the Desert Prepare the Way for the Lord’: The Depiction of Muhammad in an 1872 Illustrated Spanish Translation of the Qur’an”

11.45 Holly EDWARDS

“Yankee Mahomet”

12.15 David BJELAJAC

“Masonic Fraternalism and Muhammad Among the Lawgivers in Adolph Weinman’s Sculpture Frieze for the United States Supreme Court (1931-1935)”

Lunch 12.45-14.30

The Modern Predicament

Chairman: Christiane GRUBER

14.30 Maryam EKHTIAR

“Infused with Shi’ism: Representations of the Prophet in Qajar Art”

15.00 Pierre CENTLIVRES

“La représentation du Prophète dans l’imagerie populaire iranienne contemporaine”

15.30 Micheline CENTLIVRES-DEMONT

“La famille du Prophète dans l’imagerie populaire contemporaine”

Coffee 16.00-16.30

16.30 Closing Remarks

Renata HOLOD