



*HONESTIORES OG HUMILIORES*  
KUNST OG SOCIAL IDENTITET I SENANTIKKEN

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**Patrons and Viewers in Late Antiquity**

Seminar at  
The Department of Classical Archaeology, the University of Aarhus

23-24 October 2008

Late Antiquity was a multicultural and multireligious world. Meetings and interactions between cultures in East and West, and the consequently widespread exchange of ideas had an enormous impact on cultural practices and the creation of identities. These cultural diversities are reflected by both the archaeological material and the written sources. Patrons of luxurious buildings, elaborate grave monuments, and churches used architecture and images to demonstrate political, social and religious power. These buildings and their embellishment with sculpture, mosaics and paintings were strong factors in communicating identity and attitudes both in the public and private spheres. The continuous production of mythological sculpture and mosaics coexisted, sometimes peacefully other times with violent consequences, with an increasing influence from new philosophical mind sets originating in the East, such as Christianity. In this period of rapid social and religious change new patrons appeared such as bishops, responsible for the construction of churches commemorating the Christian triumph. The seminar focuses on the way patrons, pagan as well as Christian conveyed messages through material culture and the responses of the viewers.

## Programme

### Thursday 23 October

9.30-10.00 Registration – coffee/tea

10.00-10.10 *Welcome and introduction / Stine Birk Toft & Birte Poulsen*

Chair: Birte Poulsen

10.10-10.40 Lea Stirling: *Statuary and Viewers in Late Antique Baths*

10.40-11.10 Niels Hannestad: *Sculpture in 'stately homes', the choice of motif*

11.10-11.30 Coffee/tea

11.30-12.00 Sarah Scott: *Art and Society in fourth-century Britain*

12.00-13.30 Lunch

Chair: Siri Sande

13.30-14.00 Katharina Meinecke: *Invisible sarcophagi. Coffin and Viewer in the Late Imperial Age*

14.00-14.30 Inge Lyse Hansen: *Complicitious gazes and exemplary virtues: hunting couples on late Roman sarcophagi*

14.30-15.00 Stine Birk Toft: *Role Models – Commemoration on Late Roman sarcophagi*

15.00-15.30 Coffee/tea

Chair: Hendrik Dey

15.30-16.00 Gitte Lønstrup: *Bishop and Believer - Creating memory through space and ritual in Rome and Constantinople*

16.00-16.30 Arja Karivieri: *Patrons and Viewers in Late Antique Greece – from villas to Early Christian churches*

16.30-17.00 Discussion

18.30 Dinner

## Friday 24 October

Chair: Lea Stirling

09.30-10.00 Hendrik W. Dey: *City walls, adventus and the re-presentation of the imperial persona in the late-third century*

10.00-10.30 Siri Sande: *The Arch of Constantine: who saw what? Use and reuse in the Roman world*

10.30-11.00 Coffee/tea

11.00-11.30 Troels Myrup Kristensen: *Iconophobia in Late Antiquity: Early Christian Viewers and the Transformation of 'Pagan' Sculpture*

11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.00-13.30 Lunch

Chair: Sarah Scott

13.30-14.00 Veronika Scheibelreiter: *Can you read me? The function of inscriptions in the sphere of the Late-Roman house*

14.00-14.30 Birte Poulsen: *Patron and pavements – Reading mosaics*

14.30-15.00 Coffee/tea

15.00-15.30 Mette Low Sørensen: *Patrons and viewers of mosaic pavements in religious buildings - Jordan and Palestine*

15.30-16.00 Ulrich Gehn: *Title TBC*

16.00-16.30 Discussion

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