



# AIEMA

## SOFIA 2024

XVI<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association Internationale  
pour l'Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (AIEMA)

*Mosaics between East and West:  
Common traits, differences, exchanges*

14-20 October 2024 – Sofia

*First Circular*

**XVI<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association Internationale  
pour l'Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (AIEMA)**

**MOSAICS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST:  
Common traits, differences, exchanges**

**First Circular**

**Dates of the conference**

14-20 October 2024, Sofia.

**Venue**

Great Hall of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

**In collaboration with and under the auspices of:**

- Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology 'Prof. Alexander Fol', BAS
- National Archaeological Institute with museum, BAS
- Regional Museum of History – Sofia (to be confirmed)
- Municipal Institute 'Ancient Plovdiv'
- Municipality of Plovdiv
- Regional Archaeological Museum – Plovdiv (to be confirmed)
- Archaeological Museum – Sandanski (to be confirmed)
- Regional Museum of History – Stara Zagora (to be confirmed)

**Honorary Committee**

- Svetla Ivanova (Chairman Bulgarian National Committee of ICOM - Bulgaria)
- Vanja Popova (Institute of Art Studies, BAS - Bulgaria)

**Organising Committee**

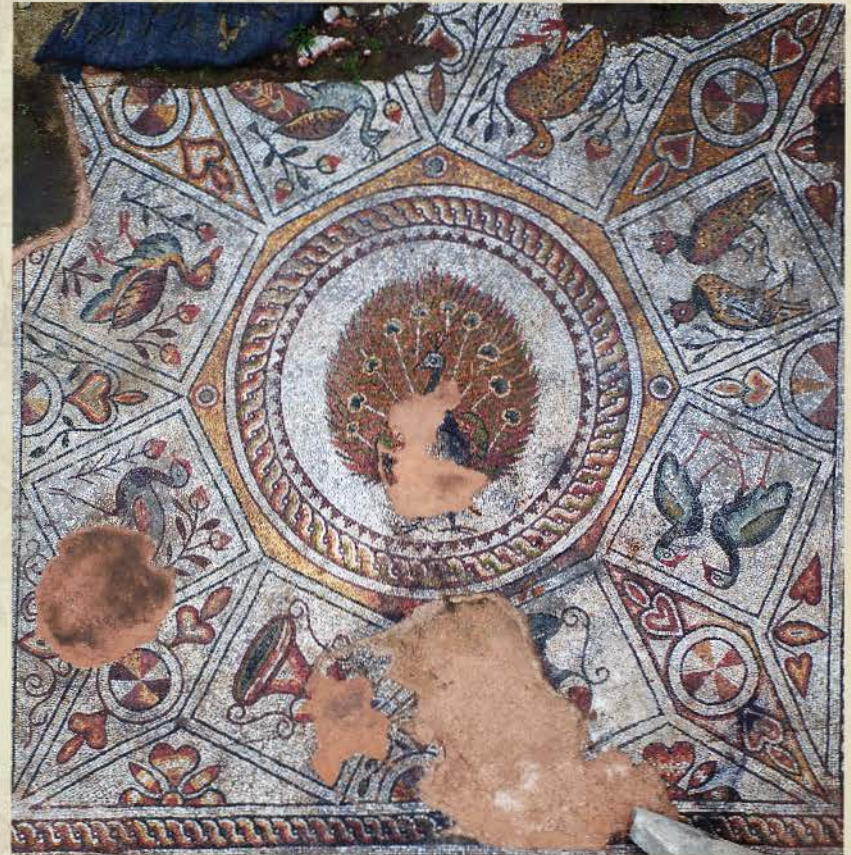
- Roumiana Preshlenova (Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology 'Prof. Alexander Fol', BAS - Bulgaria)
- Ivo Topalilov (Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology 'Prof. Alexander Fol', BAS - Bulgaria)
- Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets (ArScAn, UMR 7041, CNRS/Université Paris Nanterre - France)
- Amina-Aïcha Malek (AOroC, UMR 8546 CNRS/ENS/EPHE/PSL - France - Algeria)

**Scientific Committee**

The members of the Board of the AIEMA:

- Sophie Bärtschi Delbarre (Site et musée romain d'Avenches - Switzerland)
- Véronique Blanc-Bijon (CCJ, UMR 7299, CNRS/AMU - France)
- Marija Buzov (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb - Croatia)

- Maria de Jesus Duran Kremer (IHA-FCSH, Universidade Nova, Lisbonne - Portugal)
- Michel Fuchs (Université de Lausanne - Switzerland)
- Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets (ArScAn, UMR 7041, CNRS/ Université Paris Nanterre - France)
- Amina-Aïcha Malek (AOroC, UMR 8546, CNRS/ENS EPHE/PSL - France - Algeria)
- Demetrios Michaelides (University of Cyprus, Nicosia - Cyprus)
- Luz Neira (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid - Spain)
- Marek Titien Olszewski (University of Warsaw - Poland)
- David Parrish (Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana - United States)
- Miguel Pessoa (Museu de Conimbriga - Portugal)
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- Giordana Trovabene (Università Ca'Foscari, Venice - Italy)
- Véronique Vassal (Institut catholique de Paris, ArScAn, UMR 7041, CNRS/ Université Paris Nanterre - France)
- Ivo Topalilov (Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology 'Prof. Alexander Fol', BAS - Bulgaria)



### **Communication**

Irina Shopova (Institute of Balkan Studies and Centre of Thracology 'Prof. Alexander Fol', BAS - Bulgaria)  
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**The theme of the conference:** *Mosaics between East and West: Common traits, differences, exchanges*

Mosaic art in Ancient Thrace spans a period of more than six centuries. It developed during Roman times and subsequently during Late Antiquity, when Thrace was part of the hinterland of the new imperial capital, Constantinople.

Given the geographical location of Ancient Thrace, between East and West, close to Greece and Asia Minor, as well as the historical evolution of these regions, it is possible to identify several trends in the development of mosaic art there. From an iconographic and stylistic point of view, these are the result of the dissemination of the art from the Western (mainly Italy and North Africa) and Eastern (mainly Asia Minor and Syria) provinces, as well as from Greece. In Late Antiquity, Constantinople and Thessalonica, in particular, became the centres of diffusion. The borrowings, the similarities and the specific traits observed testify to Thrace's economic and political importance during this period.

Starting from this paradigm of Thrace, the colloquium will discuss the cultural interrelations

between different regions as these are reflected in the art of mosaic, both from a chronological point of view – from the Hellenistic period and up to the end of Late Antiquity – and from a thematic, iconographic, and technical point of view, emphasising common features and differences. In this way, issues related to the circulation of models, the processes and modalities of local appropriation of these models, and the centres of diffusion between East and West will be discussed.

#### **Papers and posters**

Proposals for papers and posters must fall under one of the two following themes:

**Theme 1.** *Mosaics between East and West: Common traits, differences, exchanges.* Papers will present excavation, site-scale monographs, or regional or provincial syntheses.

**Theme 2.** *Discoveries and new interpretations.* This theme will consist of short presentations on unpublished studies that do not fit within Theme 1.

The length of the papers, between 15 and 30 minutes, will be set by the committee, according to the requirements of the program.

## Languages

English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish

Papers and posters will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Authors of papers and posters must be members of AIEMA and be up to date with their membership fees in 2024.

The annual AIEMA membership fee (40 €; student rate 20 €) may be paid on: <http://www.archeo.ens.fr/Adhesion-a-l-AIEMA.html>

## Abstracts and submissions

Titles and abstracts must include the authors' full names, affiliation and contact information (postal and e-mail addresses, telephone numbers). It should also be specified whether it is a paper or a poster, in theme 1 or theme 2.

The abstracts (3000 characters in .doc format) can be submitted with any additional documents deemed useful.

Proposals must be sent by **October 15, 2023**, to the following address: **[aiema.sofia.2024@gmail.com](mailto:aiema.sofia.2024@gmail.com)**

The scientific committee will select the proposals that will be presented during the conference and notify the authors by December 15, 2023.

The deadline of the submission of the papers to be published in the proceedings is **January 30, 2025**.

## Registration fees and Deadlines

150 € - early registration by March 30, 2024

180 € - late registration by September 1, 2024

50 € - Student

80 € - Accompanying guest

## Methods of payment

By bank transfer, contact Galina Terziiska (IBCT-BAS): [fso@balkanstudies.bg](mailto:fso@balkanstudies.bg)

A website dedicated to the symposium will shortly be available.

## Visits during the conference

Sofia (*Serdica*)

Guided tours in collaboration with the institutions concerned:

- St Sophia Church with the necropolis
- Serdica metro station

- St George Rotunda

Self-guided tours: Archaeological Museum, National Museum of History, Alexander Nevski Cathedral.

Sandasnki (*Parthicopolis*)

Guided tours in collaboration with the institutions concerned:

- Episcopal complex
- Archaeological Museum
- Early Christian basilicas
- Heraklea Syntica

### Optional excursions after the conference

Saturday, October 19: Plovdiv (*Philippopolis*)

Episcopal Basilica, Small Basilica, *Domus Eirene*, Archaeological Museum – Plovdiv, Roman Stadium, Roman Theater

Sunday, October 20: Stara Zagora (*Augusta Traiana*)

The Post Office mosaic, Bul. Stoletov 51 mosaic, Regional Museum of History

Mandatory registration for both days. The rate and more complete information will be communicated in the second circular.



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