XVth Conference of the Association Internationale pour l’Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (AIEMA)

Mosaic in context

18-22 October 2021 - Lyon and Saint-Romain-en-Gal, France
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First Circular
XVth Conference of the Association Internationale pour l’Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (AIEMA)

Dates of the conference

Venue
Grand amphithéâtre of the Université Lumière Lyon 2
Museum Auditorium Saint-Romain-en-Gal

In collaboration with and under the auspices of:
ArAr, UMR 5138, CNRS / Université de Lyon / MOM
ArOr, UMR 8546, CNRS / ENS / EPHE / PSL
LA3M, UMR 7298, CNRS / Aix-Marseille-Université (AMU)
Arkaia, CNRS / Aix-Marseille-Université (AMU)
Université Lumière Lyon 2 / Université de Lyon
Musée et sites de Saint-Romain-en-Gal
Musée de Lugdunum (to be confirmed)
Service archéologique de la ville de Lyon (to be confirmed)
Association Francophone pour l’Étude de la Mosaïque Antique (AFEMA)
Association GAROM

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Communication
Caroline Develay (MOM)
Theme of the conference: Mosaic in Context

Fifty years after the Vienne symposium in 1971, AIEMA is back in the Rhone Valley for its fifteenth session which will be held in Lyon from 18 to 22 October 2021. This year’s theme is «Mosaic in Context»

In his conclusion to the colloquium Décor et architecture en Gaule, in 2008 (published in 2011) J.-P. Darmon drew attention to discrepancies between the old interpretations of pavements now preserved in museums or on site and more recent assessments based their architectural and archaeological context. The consideration of the latter has become essential for the establishment of typologies and chronologies.

It is probably too early to say that this gap has been bridged. What is certain, however, is that in situ mosaic discoveries made in recent years abroad and in France, both in the framework of preventive archaeology and programmed archaeology, have generated a wide range of data lacking until now.

From a general point of view, the study of mosaics in context can take into account different parameters by considering them geographically and chronologically, from a spatial, formal and structural point of view. The mosaic shapes space and determines its function. The textures, colors, patterns, motifs and their arrangement nourish the mosaic’s pictorial language and its meaning. Structurally, the implementation and the resulting chain of operations are part of the constructive logic of the architectural and ornamental layout into which it is inserted, the ensemble being part of a specific cultural horizon. This pluralistic approach has proven its worth and is constantly being developed thanks to the discovery of new pavements. The ancient city of Vienne has recently been the scene of exceptional and well-contextualized discoveries, which we will have the pleasure of visiting during the symposium.

The coming colloquium will focus on presentations of in situ discoveries, preferably recent ones, excavated stratigraphically and studied according to current scientific standards. As far as possible, the emphasis should be placed on field data where the contexts - soil, fill, use and destruction that precede or cover the mosaics - have been preserved and documented, so as to establish the chronology of the pavements and their relationship with the architectural phasing and materials (marble and glass sectilia, painted plaster, stucco, decorative stone veneer, etc.), whether in place or not. Taking into account the associated artifacts (ceramics, coins, furnishings, sculpture, etc.) will make it possible to take advantage of all the available clues, however tenuous they may be.

The quality of the context and its documentation should take precedence over the pictorial and technical quality of the mosaic, which is why monographic presentations at the scale of an excavation or site will be preferred, without ruling out regional or provincial synthesis presentations, as long as they are based on a selection of discoveries that meet the above-mentioned criteria.

The enhanced dialogue between archaeologists in the field and mosaic specialists under the prism of this contextualized viewpoint makes it possible to highlight methodological advances and to refine the reference systems resulting from even the most modest in situ discoveries. Ultimately, this approach will refresh the discourse and enrich the antiquarian and early archaeological interpretations in the field and, by extension, at the scale of regions, provinces and the Empire.
Papers and posters

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

Theme 1 Mosaic in Context. Papers will present excavation- or site-scale monographs, or regional or provincial syntheses.

Theme 2 New 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

German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese

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 2021.

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 full names of the authors, their affiliation and contact information (postal and e-mail addresses, telephone number). 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, 2020 to the following address: aiema.lyon.2021@gmail.com

The scientific committee will select the proposals that will be presented during the conference and notify the authors by December 15, 2020.

Registration fees and Deadlines

150 € - early registration by March 30, 2021
180 € - late registration by September 1st, 2021
50 € - Student
80 € - Accompanying guest

Methods of payment

By check, bank transfer or Paypal,
contact Jean Lassus (GAROM): garom@orange.fr

Visits during the conference

Lyon
Guided tours in collaboration with the institutions concerned: Lugdunum Museum and its Archaeological Park, Amphitheater.

Saint-Romain-en-Gal et Vienne
Guided tours in collaboration with the institutions concerned: Museum, Sites & Mosaic Restoration Workshop of Saint-Romain-en-Gal.
Visites libres : musée et monuments romains de Vienne.

Optional excursion after the conference

Saturday, October 23: Orange, Nîmes (Musée de la Romanité)
Sunday, October 24: Nîmes, Arles

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