

International Conference
17th – 20th December 2014

EAST AND WEST IN THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

The Merovingian Kingdoms in Mediterranean Perspective



Solidus of King Theudebert (533-548)
emulating Byzantine models,
Deutsche Bundesbank Frankfurt a. M.



Letter from the church of Milan to Frankish envoys headed for Constantinople (ca. AD 551/552)
Epistula legataris, Codex Remensis, Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Ms. Phill. 1743, fol. 284^v

The conference aims to study the Merovingian Kingdoms in a broader Mediterranean context. In addition to being deeply rooted in the traditions and practices of the Western Roman Empire, Merovingian Gaul had complex and multi-layered economic, cultural, religious and political relations with the Byzantine and Islamic worlds. By analyzing Western and Eastern sources as well as archeological findings, the symposium seeks to offer a new perspective on the Merovingian period.

WEDNESDAY, 17.12., 14:15-18:30

Welcome and Introduction (*Stefan Esders*)

Opening Address (*Bonnie Effros*)

Shared Traditions and Forms of Exchange

(*Andreas Fischer, Jörg Drauschke, Jamie Kreiner, Yitzhak Hen*)

THURSDAY, 18.12., 9:15-17:30

Expanding Horizons – The Formation of the Merovingian Kingdoms

(*Christian Stadermann, Yaniv Fox*)

The Pope as a Mediterranean Player

(*Sebastian Scholz, Rosamond McKitterick, Charles Mériaux, Laury Sarti*)

Pippin the Younger looking East

(*Erik Goosmann, Wolfram Brandes*)

FRIDAY, 19.12., 9:15-17:00

Patterns of Intensification – The 580s

(*Philipp Wynn, Wolfram Drews, Benjamin Furlas, Helmut Reimitz*)

Religious Landscapes and Spiritual Connections

(*Galit Noga-Banai, Max Diesenberger, Ora Limor, Ann Christys*)

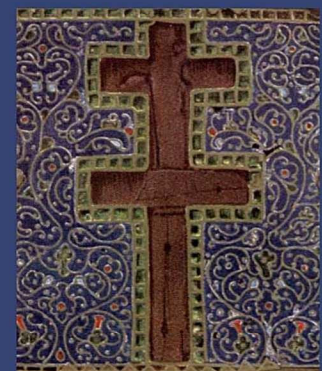
SATURDAY, 20.12., 9:15-12:45

Rethinking the Later Merovingians

(*David Ganz, Ian Wood, Lawrence Nees, Stefan Esders*)

Comments (*Philipp von Rummel, Mayke de Jong*)

Closing remarks (*Yitzhak Hen*)



Reliquary for a piece of the True Cross sent to queen
Radegund at Poitiers by the Byzantine imperial couple
Justin II. and Sophia (ca. AD 569)

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Minerva-Gentner Symposium

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, 17.12

Opening Session

14:15–15:30

Stefan ESDERS (Berlin): Welcome and Introduction
Bonnie EFFROS (Gainesville): Merovingians and the
Mediterranean – The Enduring Attraction of the
Pirenne Thesis

15:30–15:45 Break

Session I: Shared Traditions and Forms of Exchange

15:45–17:00

Andreas FISCHER (Vienna): Money for Nothing –
Franks, Byzantines and Lombards in the Sixth and
Seventh Century
Jörg DRAUSCHKE (Mainz): Communication and Trade
Between the Merovingians and the Eastern
Mediterranean – Archeological Perspectives

17:00–17:15 Break

17:15–18:30

Jamie KREINER (Athens/Ga.): A Generic Mediterranean
– Hagiography in the Early Middle Ages
Yitzhak HEN (Be'er Sheva): Defensor of Ligugé's *Liber
scintillarum* and the Migration of Knowledge

18:30 End of first day

Thursday, 18.12

Session II: Expanding Horizons – The Formation of the Merovingian Kingdoms

09:15–10:30

Christian STADERMANN (Tübingen): *Passio sancti
Vincentii Aginnensis* – A Different Interpretation of
the Franco-Visigothic War 507/508

Yaniv FOX (Ra'anana): Anxiously Looking East
– Burgundian Foreign Policy on the Eve of the
Reconquest

10:30–11:00 Break

Session III: The Pope as a Mediterranean Player

11:00–12:15

Sebastian SCHOLZ (Zürich): The Papacy and the Frankish
Bishops in the 6th Century

Rosamond MCKITTERICK (Cambridge): Perceptions of
Rome and the Papacy in Late Merovingian Francia
– The Cononian Recension of the *Liber pontificalis*

12:15–14:30 Lunch break

14:30–15:45

Charles MÉRIAUX (Lille): From East to West –
Constantinople, Rome and Northern Gaul in the
Seventh Century

Laury SARTI (Berlin): Knowledge Exchange and
Perception of the Eastern Empire in the Late
Merovingian West

15:45–16:15 Break

Session IV: Pippin the Younger looking East

16:15–17:30

Erik GOOSMANN (Utrecht): New Dynasty, New Frontiers?
Pippin's Politics and the Wider Mediterranean World
Wolfram BRANDES (Frankfurt/M): The Byzantine
Background to the So-Called "Donation of Pepin"

17:30 End of second day

Friday, 19.12

Session V: Patterns of Intensification – The 580s 09:15–10:30

Phillip WYNN (Be'er Sheva): Cultural Transmission
Caught in the Act – Gregory of Tours and the Relics
of St Sergius

Wolfram DREWS (Münster): Hermenegild's Rebellion
and Conversion – Merovingian and Byzantine
Connections

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–12:15

Benjamin FOURLAS (Mainz): Early Byzantine Church
Silver Offered for the Eternal Rest of Framarich and
Karilos – Evidence of "the Army of Heroic Men"
Raised by Tiberius II Constantine?

Helmut REIMITZ (Princeton): *Pax inter utramque
gentem* – The Re-Evaluation of Frankish Identity in
Merovingian Encounters with the Empire During the
Last Decades of the Sixth Century

12:15–14:00 Lunch break

Session VI: Religious Landscapes and Spiritual Connections

14:00–15:15

Galit NOGA-BANAI (Jerusalem): Relocation to the West –
The Relic of the True Cross in Poitiers

Maximilian DIESENBERGER (Vienna): Martyrs and
Apostles from the Mediterranean in Early Medieval
France

15:15–15:45 Break

15:45–17:00

Ora LIMOR (Ra'anana): Willibald in the Holy Places
Ann CHRISTYS (Leeds): 'Sons of Ishmael, Turn Back!'

17:00 End of third day

Saturday, 20.12

Session VII: Rethinking the Late Merovingians

09:15–10:30

David GANZ (Notre Dame): Getting to Know the Late Merovingians – What Bern 611 Reveals
Ian WOOD (Leeds): Contact with the Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Merovingian Period

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–12:15

Lawrence NEES (Newark): ‘Merovingian’ Illuminated Manuscripts and their Links with the Eastern Mediterranean World
Stefan ESDERS (Berlin): Unplugging the Merovingians from the Mediterranean – The Case of Ebroin

Conference Closing Session

12:15–12:45

Philipp VON RUMMEL (Berlin): Comment
Mayke DE JONG (Utrecht): Comment
Yitzhak HEN (Be'er Sheva): Closing Remarks

End of conference



Solidus of King Theudebert I (AD 533–548) emulating Byzantine models, Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main

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Freie Universität  Berlin

 Minerva-Gentner Symposium

 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Organizers: Stefan ESDERS, FU Berlin • Yitzhak HEN, BGU
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