

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Fall 2014
The Arts of the Islamic World
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

September 12, 2014

Assimilation and Conquest: Byzantine Sources for Islamic Art

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Useful terms:

Western Empires:

Alexander the Great (356 – 323 BCE)

Roman Empire (27 BCE – 476 CE)

Capital - Rome, Italy

Dura-Europos, Syria (destroyed 256-7 CE)

Dionysios, God of Wine

Roman Empire (324 – 1453 CE)

Capital - New Rome, Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey)

Key Rulers

Justinian (c.482- 14 Nov 565))

Heraclius (c. 575 – 11 Feb. 641)

Jerusalem

Wailing Wall, Jewish

Holy Sepulcher, Christian

Dome of the Rock, Muslim

Egypt Alexandria

Monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, Orthodox

Red Monastery, Sohag, Coptic

Antioch

Church of the East, Miaphysite

Dioscorides, *De Materia Medica*

Iconoclasm (726-842 CE), St. John of Damascus (676-749 CE)

Eastern Empires:

Parthian (Arsacid) (247 BCE -224 CE)

Sasanian (224- 651 CE)

Ctesiphon, capital

Trade Routes for silks and spices:

Red Sea Route to India

Ethiopia

Sana'a, Yemen

Cosmas Indicopleustes (6th century)

Palmyra – terminus Syrian overland route from China

Silk Road – northern overland route to China

Rising Muslim Empires:

Muhammad, the Prophet (570 - d. 8 June, 632 C.E. / 11 A. H.)

Mecca, birthplace Muhammad, site Hajj

Medina, early center Islam, burial place Muhammad

Arabs, Ghassanids

Umayyad Caliphate (661 – 750 CE)

Damascus, capital

Abbasid Caliphate (750 CE - 1258 CE)

Baghdad, capital

Reading List:

Helen C. Evans with Brandie Ratliff, *Byzantium and Islam: Age of Transition (7th – 9th Century)*, Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition catalogue, 2012, entire catalogue, esp. pp. 4-11, 124-133, 200-208, and 244-257 (essays by Helen C. Evans, Thelma Thomas, Anna Ballian, and Barry Flood and read associated catalogue entries).

Helen C. Evans and William D. Wixom, *The Glory of Byzantium: Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era, A.D. 843-1261*,

Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition catalogue, 1997, pp. 402 – 433 (essay by Priscilla Soucek and catalogue entries).

Helen C. Evans, ed., *Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557)*, Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition catalogue, 2004, pp. 389-413 (essay by Scott Redford and catalogue entries).

Gulru Necipoglu, "The Life of an Imperial Monument: Hagia Sophia after Byzantium," in Mark, Robert and Cakmak, Ahmet S., ed. *Hagia Sophia from the Age of Justinian to the Present*, Cambridge, 1992, pp. 195-225.

The Umayyads: The Rise of Islamic Art, International Museum with No Frontiers Exhibition Cycles, Islamic Art in the Mediterranean, Arab Institute for Research and Publishing, 2000, browse entire book.