



INSTYTUT HISTORII

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Conference in Ancient History: „Violence in Ancient World: Sources, Structure and Interpretation” Lublin 2015

The Ancient History Commission of the Polish Historical Society and the Department of Ancient History, the University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin, Poland, are honoured to invite for a conference in ancient history titled „Violence in Ancient World: Sources, Structure and Interpretation”. A planned, initial date of the conference is early autumn 2015 (late September/early October¹).

The theme of the conference is by no means invoked by the current international situation for the primary aim of the symposium is not a comparative study since war has never been the only aspect of violence. Bridging the gaps can, however, turn out to be inspiring in the search for methodological paradigms, novel research perspectives, original context and a certain structural inquiries. For these reasons we do not try to define the phenomenon of violence in any way, opening for it every kind of space, in which it is possible to notice all sorts of forms of its expression and presence. It would be in vain to list them all, although it is worth remembering about the symbolic one, non-institutionalised, somewhat concealed and rhetorical, yet creating some of its patterns and attitudes towards them. It would be impossible to enumerate all its tools, but it is worth mentioning, for instance, rumours, invective, accusation and a literal staging of violence as part of public games. Each of these forms used specific media, starting from the chains for slaves, through the swords, and ending with philosophical reflections. It was associated with suffering, tyranny, enslavement and martyrdom. Its scale was being adjusted by laws, but the attitude towards it was also determined by ethics and morality. Its excess was terrifying (the Assyrians, Etruscans), but its absence and all kinds of antitheses (*clementia Caesaris*) was worrying and inspiring. The abundance of issues triggered by the violence subject matter (captured in the conference subtitle only for a relative order) seems to reveal its ubiquity. This, on the other hand, almost guarantees a relatively high interest in the conference amongst the representatives of all types of disciplines and sub-disciplines, which focus their attention on the ancient times. Although it might sound odd and contradictory, it is highly likely that the Polish and international community of scholars will integrate precisely due to... violence.

We kindly ask you to send the proposals of your papers, abstracts² (maximum 1000 characters) before the 18th of May 2015, either in Polish or in English³. This can be done either online, by emailing the abstracts to hkowsalski2@wp.pl or tresvir@gmail.com, or by post (address: Zakład Historii Starożytnej, Instytut Historii UMCS, Plac Marii Curie - Skłodowskiej 4A, 20-031 Lublin, Poland). This form of submitted application will become the basis for the final classification of the proposals for the conference programme and for undertaking a number of specific organisational actions, results of which (i.e. the exact conference date, duration and structure of the conference) will be immediately emailed to all the interested participants. All the information related to the symposium in Lublin will be also updated and published on the website of the Department of Ancient History UMCS (University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska): <http://antiquity.umcs.lublin.pl/> and also on <http://classica-mediaevalia.pl/>. The abstracts of the accepted papers will be posted on the first of the abovementioned websites.

The necessity of making the initial assessment of the submitted proposals is justified by one, yet particularly significant, reasoning- a wise intention to publish the conference materials in the traditional book form (in the recognised congress languages). The experiences of the past years convince us that such an initiative is likely to succeed only with reasonably estimated costs at the initial stage of its planning.

In accordance with other similar conferences, a substantial part of the financial side of the Lublin symposium must be based on the so-called conference fee (usually subjected to- as the travel and accommodation expenses- the reimbursement from funds provided by the participants' Universities). Information about the fee- calculated with extreme responsibility!- will be given when the final list of the participants is confirmed (preliminary estimate is approximately 250zł).

The proceedings of the conference, which include panels, will take place in the main building of the Faculty of Humanities at UMCS on pl. Marie Curie – Skłodowskiej 4A, Lublin (the so-called Nowy Humanik). Only the first day of the conference, in the form of a plenary session, is planned to take place in the Representative Hall of Lublin Scientific Society (the former Palace of the Czartoryski). Papers referring to the themes of violence in the area of the ancient Near East⁴ will be delivered in the building of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Al. Raławickie 14 (Collegium Norwidianum), Lublin, Poland.

With kind regards,

Associate Prof. Dariusz Słapek, the President of the Ancient History Commission at the Polish Historical Society Main Board

Dr Henryk Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission

Dr Paweł Madejski, Secretary of the Commission

¹ The exact conference date will be given after the 18th of May 2015.

² We kindly ask you to state the nature of your presentation: papers (15 minutes) or notifications (10 minutes).

³ Please provide your contact information in the application.

⁴ The coordinator of this part of the conference will be Ass. Professor Maciej Münnich (munnich@kul.pl), Director of the History Institute at the Catholic University of Lublin.



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