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English Version

SIGILLVM NEWSLETTER No 3 – JULY 2015

Dear Members,

Here is your next Newsletter, brought to you by SIGILLVM. We hope that this regular bulletin will help you to keep up not only with the advertised activities of our association but also with all other news relevant to the study of seals in the widest sense. Please don't hesitate to be an active player!

Tell us about anything that might interest our members (publications, conferences, exhibitions, visits, websites – anything), please use our contact form: <http://www.sigillvm.net/contact-us/>. The SIGILLVM Newsletter is produced for you – but also thanks to you! Once again, many thanks in advance for your input, which will spread news of what is happening in our field of interest to as many of us as possible.

BOARD MEETINGS 2014-15

15 October 2014, Archives Nationales, Paris

The Board of Directors met in Paris. John Cherry, Paul Harvey, Marc Libert, Marie-Adelaide Nielen, Agnes Prevost, John Rassweiler, Markus Spaeth; Jean-Luc Chassel were present. Points on the agenda were:

- Minutes of the 4 July 2014 in Edinburgh
- Matters arising
- Strategic Plan
- Finances
- New Board members
- Website
- Publication proposal
- Archivists Group
- Other business
- Future Meetings

SIGILLVM's development as an association was outlined in the Strategic Plan presented by John Rassweiler, which will provide a framework of objectives and milestones over the next three years. Among the developments discussed were setting up a specialist journal and forming a specialist archivist group within SIGILLVM, which will be taken forward by Paul Harvey.

29 May 2015, State Archives of Belgium, Brussels

The committee met again in Brussels, hosted by Marc Libert of the State Archives. Points on the agenda were:

- Minutes of 15 October 2014 in Paris
- Matters arising
- Finances
- Byelaws
- Website
- Bibliography project
- Journal
- Communications and Facebook

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- ICA activity
- Round table

Key matters discussed at the meeting focused on amendments to the byelaws in the governance of SIGILLVM and aligning these with the Strategic Plan. Progress on the new bibliography project was reported by Zsolt Hunyadi, which will provide a much greater database of sigillographic publications for those interested in seals. Research on potential publishers for a new journal was presented by Elizabeth New and John Cherry and further negotiations will continue. The Board also discussed revising and improving its communications with its members, and the new Facebook page was presented. A proposal for closer involvement with the International Council on Archives was also presented and approved by the Board. A call for a round table on seal conservation in spring 2016 was also made by Agnes Prevost, who welcomes suggestions for those who might like to participate next year.

PUBLICATIONS

- Die Siegel der lateinischen Könige von Jerusalem Hanns Eberhard Mayer and Claudia Sode (Monumenta Germaniae Historica Schriften 66.) Weisbaden: Harrassowitz, 2014. Pp. xxvi, 277; 44 black and white figures and 2 tables. ISBN: 9783447101561.
- Seals and their Context in the Middle Ages Philipp R. Schofield (ed.) Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2015. Pp. 208; black and white and colour illustrations. ISBN: 9781782978176.
- New catalogue from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France The Bibliothèque Nationale de France has published the catalogue Matrices des Sceaux du Moyen Âge, Département des Monnaies, Médailles et Antiques by Ambre Vilain. It includes 1021 matrices. This collection in the Bibliothèque Nationale is one of the largest collections of seal matrices in Europe. It contains matrices from all levels of society from the Queen Constance of Castile to the shoemaker, from the University of Paris to the Bishop of Squillace, (Italy), from the Chartreuse de Miraflores to the Lady Dauphine de Broc. Everyone interested in medieval seal matrices should read it. It is obtainable from the Service Commercial of the BnF, Quai François Mauriac, 75706 Paris, Cedex 13.

CONFERENCES – PAST AND FUTURE

- Le sceau dans les Pays-Bas méridionaux (Xe-XVIIe siècle) Entre contrainte sociale et affirmation de soi - This event ran from 27-28 November 2014 in Brussels at the Archives générales du Royaume, 10 rue de Ruysbroeck Namur, université de Namur, faculté de Philosophie et Lettres, 61 rue de Bruxelles, local L33. It marked the 150th anniversary of the seal cast collections of the Archives générales du Royaume (AGR). The proceedings of the conference will be published. [Read more](#)
- Leeds International Medieval Congress 2015 - SIGILLVM has organised a session at this Congress which will be held from Monday 6 July to Thursday 9 July, 2015 The session (no. 1303) on 8 July will be called Old Seals : New Visions, and it will be chaired by Professor P. D. A. Harvey and the three speakers will be Dr Matthew Sillence (University of East Anglia), Laura Evans (Aberystwyth University), and John Cherry (SIGILLVM). [Read more](#)
- Seals and Status 800-1700- The conference will be held at the British Museum from the 4 – 6 December 2015. This conference is organised for the British Museum and SIGILLVM by Lloyd de Beer (British Museum) with the help of John Cherry (SIGILLVM) and Jessica Berenbeim (Oxford University). Further information will be available over the summer.

VARIA

- 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta - 15 June marked the 800th anniversary of the agreement of King John of England called the Great Charter of Liberties, or Magna carta libertatum. Professor Paul Harvey discusses the commonly held belief that Magna Carta was signed by the king, tracing instead the practice of sealing for authentication, rather than the sign manual (signature). [Read more](#) (PDF, 149KB)
- The Service des Sceaux reopened at the Archives Nationales, Paris The department of sigillography at the Archives Nationales, Paris, is now installed at the CARAN (Centre d'accueil et de recherche des Archives nationales), rue des Quatre Fils, Paris. On 7 April 2015, Clément Blanc (département du Moyen Âge et de l'Ancien Régime) presented on the research and consultation possibilities for the sigillographic collections.
- Rassweiler Collection Online- The private collection of Dr John Rassweiler of medieval seal matrices is now available to view online. The pictures and available data are being presented to the public for use in educational and research projects; and to stimulate those with related medieval interests in art, history, religion and life styles, to consider using these very personal possessions of the common people of the medieval times. [Read more](#)

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