

DIVINATION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Center for Ancient Studies Annual Symposium



November 10 – 12, 2016

Rainey Auditorium

Penn Museum

Plenary Talk

Philip Peek (Drew University)

“African Divination Systems: Twins,
Silence, and Ways of Knowing”

Thursday, Nov. 10

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Friday, Nov. 11

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Grant Frame and Annette Y.

Reed (University of Pennsylvania)

Welcome and Introduction

Jean Turfa (Penn Museum)

“Etruscan Divination: Not Just Sheep
Livers Anymore!”

Benjamin Anderson (Cornell
University)

“The Oracular Image: A Byzantine
Invention?”

10:50 am – 12:50 pm

Ulla Susanne Koch (University of
Copenhagen)

“Divine Writing - Extispicy and Astrology in
Mesopotamia”

Toke Knudsen (SUNY Oneonta)

“Signs Far and Near: Traditions of
Divination in India”

Edward Shaughnessy (University
of Chicago)

“Of Trees, a Son, and Kingship: Recovering
the First Chinese Dream”

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Robert Ritner (University of Chicago)

“Private Divination and Public Oracles in
Ancient Egypt”

Isabel Crazz (University of Pennsylvania)

“Biblical Discourse on Divination: Deuter-
onomy and the Holiness Code as Case Study”

AnneMarie Luijendijk (Princeton
University)

“Christian Lot Books and Oracle Tickets in
Greek and Coptic from Egypt”

4:20 pm – 6:00 pm

Rachel Parikh (Harvard Art Museums)

“There is No Sword Like Dhu’l Fiqar’: ‘Ali’s
Weapon in Talismanic and Divinatory Prac-
tices of Islamic Arms and Armor”

John Pohl (UCLA)

“Thinking Outside the Book: Divination
and Image Sorcery in Ancient Mexican
Manuscripts”

**Concluding Discussion and
Remarks**

Saturday, Nov. 12

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Peter Struck (University of
Pennsylvania)

“Divination and Intuition
in Greek Antiquity”

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Adam Smith (University of
Pennsylvania)

“Divination in Early China”

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Ann Guinan (Penn Museum,
Consulting Scholar)

“Omens of the Past: What
Modern Culture Can Tell Us
about Ancient Divination”

As part of its event, A Celebration of
Magic: Ancient and Modern, the Penn
Museum will have fortunetellers, tarot card
readers, and other diviners practicing their
crafts throughout the day.



Penn Museum

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For the complete schedule and speaker bios, visit:

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/ancient/symposia.html>