

SYMPOSIUM

Unwrapping Gifts of the Sultan

JUNE 10–12, 2011 | LACMA, LEO S. BING THEATER

This symposium is presented in conjunction with the pan-Islamic exhibition *Gifts of the Sultan: The Art of Giving at the Islamic Courts*. The exhibition spans the eighth through nineteenth centuries and includes over 200 works of art representing a rich variety of media from three continents. It will introduce an American audience to Islamic art and culture with objects of undisputed quality and appeal viewed through the universal lens of gift giving. On view from June 5 to September 5, 2011, we expect this to be a transformative exhibition, one that coincides with a new American initiative in global relations emphasizing a shared humanity rather than our singular histories.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 8 PM

Medieval Islamic Gift-giving: From the Perfect Present to the White Elephant
Keynote Speaker: Robert Hillenbrand, Honorary Professorial Fellow,
University of Edinburgh

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 9:30 AM–1 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks, Linda Komaroff, LACMA

Moderator: Sheila Blair, Boston College

Gifts Associated with the Hajj
Venetia Porter, The British Museum, London

The Wrapped Coin – The Ritual of Coin Giving in the Early and Middle Islamic Period
Stefan Heidemann, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Boon and Bane: Reuse in South Asia
Alka Patel, University of California, Irvine

Setting the Tone for Safavid-Mughal Gift Exchanges:
The Magnanimity of Mohammad Khan Sharaf-odin Oghlu Takallu
Abolala Soudavar, Independent Scholar, Houston

Gift-exchange Between the Mughal and Deccani Courts
Keelan Overton, University of California, Los Angeles

Lunch Break 1–2:15 PM

Gifts of the Sultan: The Art of Giving at the Islamic Courts on view in the Resnick Pavilion.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2:30–5:30 PM

Moderator: Linda Komaroff, LACMA

Prosopopeia: The Gift of Tongues, The Tongues of Gifts
Olga Bush, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York

Tiraz on East Christian Rulers
Helen Evans, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

*The Papal Gift Horse to the Yuan Court in 1342:
How Did the Chinese Painter Picture It and Why?*
Eugene Wang, Harvard University, Cambridge

The Empire in Miniature: Maps as Gifts in the Mediterranean World
Sean Roberts, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

The Robe of Honor Given to an Envoy of the Prussian King Frederick II in 1762
Gisela Helmecke, Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin

*A Monumental Gift of the Sultan:
The Mshatta Facade and the Biography of a Present of the German-Ottoman Friendship*
Stefan Weber, Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 9:30 AM–1 PM

Moderator: Jonathan Bloom, Boston College

Mamluk Waqfiyyas: The Gifts that Keep on Giving
Abdallah Kahil, Lebanese American University, Beirut

Commercial Manuscripts as Royal Gifts
Lale Uluç, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul

A Peace for a Prince: The Reception of a Safavid Child Hostage at the Ottoman Court
Sinem Arcak, CASVA, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

An Ottoman Embassy to Nadir Shah of Iran
J. Michael Rogers, Nasser D. Khalili Collection, London

Gift-exchange Under the Reign of Fath 'Ali Shah
Francesca Leoni, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

This symposium is free of charge; reservations are not required. For further information please contact Sabrina Lovett at 323 857- 6011 or slovett@lacma.org.

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