

Organisation

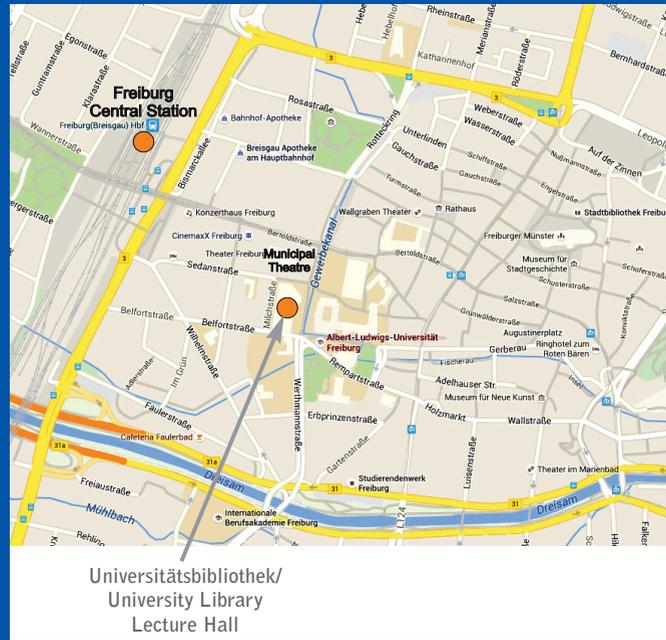
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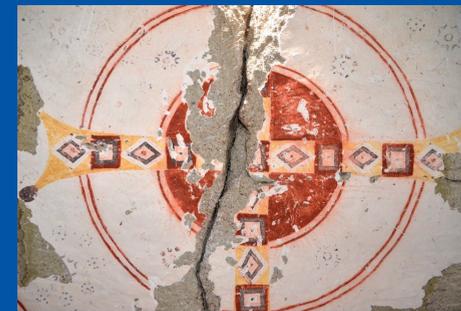
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International Conference

Cross discourses and cross practices of the 7th / 8th centuries in a European perspective



27th to 28th of October 2022

University Library,
Lecture Hall
Platz der Universität 2,
D-79098 Freiburg (Germany)

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg



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Program of the conference

Thursday, 27. 10. 2022

- 14:15 **Sebastian Brather** and **Rainer Warland** (Freiburg)
Introduction
- 14:30 **Rainer Warland** (Freiburg)
Parousia and jewellery. The cosmos in 7th c. art
- 15:15 **Tolga Uyar** (Nevşehir)
Monumental Art and the Cult of the Cross in Cappadocia
- 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:30 **Elisa Possenti** (Trento)
Decorations of foil crosses south of the Alps
- 17:15 **Caterina Giostra** (Milano)
The gold foil crosses South of the Alps in their archaeological contexts

Friday, 28. 10. 2022

- 9:15 **Sebastian Brather** (Freiburg)
The golden foil crosses of southern Germany
- 10:00 **Matthias Friedrich** (Wien)
From Meaning to Practice: Cross-Examining Early Medieval Disc Brooches
- 10:45 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 **Jane Hawkes** (York)
Pattern and glory. The Bejewelled Crosses of Early Christian Anglo-Saxon England
- 12:00 **Megan Henvey** (York)
The Form, Contexts, and Functions of the Irish High Crosses
- 12:45 *Lunch break*
- 14:15 **Dieter Quast** (Mainz)
Cross depictions on early medieval reliquaries
- 15:00 **Ute Verstegen** (Erlangen)
Concluding remarks

Golden foil crosses were part of elite burial furnishings north and south of the Alps from the late 6th to the early 8th century. Made ad hoc for burial, they are regarded as evidence of early Christianity. The fact that they also reveal pagan traditions in a „syncretic“ manner, for which ornamentation and burial context with extensive grave goods are cited, is currently rejected in favour of an intended social representation.

New research on Cappadocian funerary chapels by R. Warland has recently revealed the presumed underlying early Byzantine design concepts. Now, comparisons of Central European foil crosses and Asia Minor representations now make it clear that the form and use of the concentric small crosses can be understood in their cosmological and salvation-historical significance as parousia signs of God's return on the Last Day according to Mt 24,30–31.

The interdisciplinary conference of archaeologists from various disciplines and art historians wants to extend this comparison and undertake it within a European framework. Representations and objects comparable to the foil crosses can be found throughout Europe not only on architecture or in tombs, but also on reliquaries and clothing accessories. The discourses underlying the representations are examined together with the practices of using the crosses. The aim of the conference is to analyse this broad spectrum comparatively for the first time and thus to overcome previous professional and national divisions.