Dumbarton Oaks Seals workshop: Tuesday December 7 to Thursday December 9, 2010
In the Coins and Seals Conference Room, Dumbarton Oaks
The Second Sigidoc International Workshop

CATALOGUING AND PUBLISHING BYZANTINE SEALS IN A DIGITAL AGE

Tuesday 2.30: Welcomes: Jan Ziolkowski, Gudrun Buehl, Margaret Mullett
Introductions

SESSION 1. DEVELOPING A FONT: ATHENA RUBY
2.45: Introduction: Joel Kalvesmaki
3.00: Introduction to the design of the font: Joel Kalvesmaki and John Hudson
4.00: Tea in the Study
4.30: How the font will work: John Hudson and Ross Mills
7.00: Drinks in the Refectory Salon
7.30: Dinner in the Refectory

Wednesday

SESSION 2. DEVELOPING A DATABASE
9.00: Introduction: Eric McGeer and Cecile Morrisson: What do we need?
9.15: The possibilities: Charlotte Roueche on XML mark-up; Michael Jeffreys on databases
10.30: Coffee in the Study

I, REPORTS FROM THE COLLECTIONS: CONSTRAINTS AND CONCERNS
11.00: The experience of Vienna: Werner Seibt
11.30: The experience of Köln: Claudia Sode
12.00: The experience of Paris: Vivien Prigent
12.30: Lunch in the Refectory

SESSION 4. DEVELOPING A DATABASE
II, PROCESS AND PROBLEMS IN SYMPHONY
2.00: The Symphony database: Michael Jeffreys and Vivien Prigent
2.15: Problem 1: seal or matrix? (material precirculated)
2.45: Problem 2: how to record a monogram? (material precirculated)
3.15: Tea in the Study
3.45: Problem 3: inscribing ‘the event’? (material precirculated)
4.15: Problem 4: with a clear seal v. professional with a poor seal (material precirculated)

SESSION 3. DEVELOPING A PROSOPOGRAPHY
5.00: The new edition of the PBW: Michael Jefferys (in the Founders’ Room)
6.30: Discussion, drinks and dinner in the Oaks

Thursday  SESSION 5. DEVELOPING THE TECHNOLOGY
9.00: Introduction: Kathy Sparkes, Online publication and the tyranny of the book (and ANO)
9.15: International standards for text: the experience of epigraphy, numismatics and papyrology: Charlotte Roueché
10.45: Coffee in the Study
11.15: International standards for images: Alicia Walker and John Cotsonis with Lioba Theis
12.45: Lunch at the Refectory
2.00: International standards for geography: Sebastian Heath on Pleiades
3.30: Tea in the Study
4.00: The way forward for DO: Jonathan Shea: i) font: Joel
    ii) sigillography: Eric
    iii) database/markup/standards: ANO
5.00: Prosecco in the Byzantine Courtyard


Cataloguing and publishing Byzantine seals in a digital age

This workshop will address the problems of publishing Byzantine seals in an age where opportunities but also expectations are constantly growing. The 17,000 seals in the Dumbarton Oaks collection are a case in point. Building on the work of Nikos Oikonomides and John Nesbitt, which sought to support the international sigillographic community while publishing our own seals, as well as on the institution’s commitment to electronic publishing, we are now looking for a new way forward in a new digital age. We wish to make our own collection available in print and on-line, while offering users the opportunity to exploit all such collections world-wide. We shall hear about the development of the new font Athena Ruby, learn from the experiences of other seal-collections in Vienna, Köln and Paris, and discuss how sigillography can adopt or replace international standards recently devised for epigraphy, numismatics and papyrology, and in other digital projects. We shall also celebrate the second edition of the Prosopography of the Byzantine World. Our aim is to develop a means of bringing our
own seals—and coins—most efficiently and effectively before the scholarly public, but also to proceed in step with the sigillographic and numismatic communities—and a wider digital world.