

Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea
Congressus internationales Smyrnenses XVIII

Online conference on
Worked Shells
in the ancient world.
Material, use, typology, chronology and contexts
in honour of Jean-Paul Descœudres,
University of Sydney



Organizers (in alphabetical order):
Professor Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey), Dr Orsolya Láng (Aquincumi Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary),
Dr David S. Reese (Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT, USA)
and Dr St. John Simpson (The British Museum, London, UK).

20th of May 2026 / Izmir, Turkey

Program

Last update: 18th of May 2026.
Number of words: 1,096.

**Program of the international e-conference on worked shells
on 20th of May 2026
/ *Programme de la e-conférence internationale sur les
coquillages travaillés du 20 mai 2026***

Last update / dernière mise à jour : 18/05/2026.

Please note that appointed times given on the timetable of the conference program are arranged according to the Istanbul-Athens-Izmir time zone which is one hour ahead of Central European Time (CET).

Veuillez noter que les heures indiquées correspondent au fuseau horaire Istanbul-Athènes-Izmir, + 1 heure par rapport au fuseau (CET).

Web link to join to the live meeting on Zoom
/ *Le liens Web pour rejoindre la réunion en direct sur Zoom :*

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/YFJvSTDkQkG_brl-a9RpVA

Meeting ID / ID de conférence : 850 1064 9677

Password / Mot de passe : 1111

09 h 35 – 10 h 35: Session 1: Opening session / Séance 1 : Séance d'ouverture – Chairwoman / Présidente : Zoe Tsiami
(Orthodox Academy of Crete, Heraklion, Greece).

09 h 45 Acquaintance of participants / *Prise de connaissance des participants.*

10 h 10 **Opening lecture / Conférence d'ouverture – Keynote speakers 1 / Conférenciers principaux 1 :** Maurizio Buora
(Società friulana di archeologia, Udine, Italy)

Biographie et publications du professeur Jean-Paul Descœudres / *Biography and publications of Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres* (in French, it will be summarized in English by E. Laffi / *en français, sera résumé en anglais par E. Laffi*).

10 h 30 Discussion.

10 h 35 – 10 h 45: Break / Pause.

10 h 45 – 12 h 00: Session 2: Finds from the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East / Séance 2 : Découvertes de la Méditerranée orientale et du Proche Orient– Chairwoman / Présidente : Angeliki Liveri (Athens, Greece).

10 h 45 Parisa Naseri (Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamadan, Iran)
Worked marine shells from Susa, Iran.

11 h 00 Rachael Mayoh (The University of Manchester, UK)
The utilisation and modification of bivalve shells in ancient Egypt and the southern Levant.

11 h 15 Alexander Wasse (Yeditepe University, Istanbul), David S. Reese (Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT, USA) and Joanne Clark (University of East Anglia, Norfolk, UK)
Reflections on the possible use of triton-shell trumpets in the Ceramic Neolithic souterrains of Kalavassos Kokkinoyia, Cyprus.

11 h 30 Esteban Álvarez-Fernández (Universidad de Salamanca, Spain)
The emergence of long-distance contacts in Iberian prehistory: Marine shells as archaeological evidence.

11 h 45 Discussion.

12 h 00 – 13 h 00: Lunch break / Pause déjeuner.

13 h 00 – 14 h 15: Session 3: Prehistoric finds from the Mediterranean / Séance 3 : Découvertes préhistoriques de la Méditerranée – Chairwoman / Présidente : Rachael Mayoh (The University of Manchester, UK).

13 h 00 Lilian Karali-Giannakopoulou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece) and Daisuke Yamaguchi (Siountri School, Athens, Greece)
Archaeomalacological studies at Neolithic Halae, Greece: Identification, classification and artefacts' manufacture.

13 h 15 Filip Hájek (Masarykova univerzita, Brno, Czech Republic) and David S. Reese (Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT, USA)
Data quality vs data quantity: spatiotemporal machine learning of worked shell records from prehistoric Cyprus.

- 13 h 30 Adrian-Daniel Irimia (Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța, Romania), Monica Mărgărit (Universitatea “Valahia” din Târgoviște, Romania) and Valentina Voinea (Muzeul de Istorie Națională și—Arheologie Constanța, Romania)
Symbolism and craftsmanship: Spondylus adornments of early farmers in prehistoric Dobrudja, Romania.
- 13 h 45 Angeliki Liveri (Athens, Greece)
Shell motifs in Minoan and Mycenaean arts.
- 14 h 00 Discussion.
- 14 h 15 – 14 h 30: **Break / Pause.**
- 14 h 30 – 16 h 15: **Session 4: Protohistoric finds from the Mediterranean / Séance 2: Découvertes protohistoriques de la Méditerranée – Chairwoman / Présidente:** Lilian Karali-Giannakopoulou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece).
- 14 h 30 Anna Paule (Linz, Austria)
Engraved Tridacna shells: prestigious items or bric-à-brac?
- 14 h 45 Mostafa Alskaf (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)
Attic shell-shaped vases: their typology, distribution, and ritual contexts in the Archaic period.
- 15 h 00 Ștefan Georgescu and Ana Hamat (both from the Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie, Constanța, Romania)
Shells, corals, mother-of-pearls and pearls in Roman funerary contexts of the necropolises of Tomis Moesia Inferior and Callatis, Scythia Minor.
- 15 h 15 Ana Hamat (Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie, Constanța, Romania)
Pearls and corals used as jewellery in Dacia Superior.
- 15 h 30 Slobodan Mitić (Narodni muzej Niš, Serbia), Gordana Jeremić and Selena Vitezović (both from the Arheološki institut, Belgrade, Serbia)
Cowrie shells in Medieval and Ottoman jewellery sets from Niš, Serbia.
- 15 h 45 Eliso Baghaturia-Kner (Shota Meskhia State Teaching University of Zugdidi, Georgia) and Kakhaber Pipia (Sukhumi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia)
Cowrie shells – desirable jewellery in historical Colchis.
- 16 h 00 Discussion.
- 16 h 15 – 16 h 30: **Break / Pause.**
- 16 h 30 – 17 h 10: **Session 5: Finds from Turkey / Séance 2: Découvertes de la Turquie – Chairwoman / Présidente:** Anna Paule (Linz, Austria).
- 16 h 30 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey) and Fatih Hakan Kaya (Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey)
Some shell finger-rings with bitumen inlay from Turkey.
- 16 h 35 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey) and Fatih Hakan Kaya (Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir, Turkey)
Two Tridacna squamosa shells carved with a human head from Lindos, Rhodes.
- 16 h 40 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey)
Unpublished worked shell objects from Izmir.
- 16 h 45 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey)
An Early Byzantine sealed container for eye-cosmetics from Turkey.
- 16 h 50 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey)
Miscellaneous shell objects from Turkish museums.
- 16 h 55 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey)
Two shells from a Roman necropolis site in Phrygia.
- 17 h 00 Ergün Laflı (Izmir, Turkey)
Unpublished post-Byzantine mother-of-pearl religious objects from Turkey.
- 17 h 05 Discussion.
- 17 h 10 – 17 h 15: **Break / Pause.**
- 17 h 15 – 17 h 40: **Closing section: Conclusions, announcing two forthcoming online meetings on May 22 and June 2–3, 2026 and valediction / Section de clôture : conclusion, annonces des deux prochaines réunions en ligne les 22 mai et 2–3 juin 2026 et conclusion – Chairman / Présidence:** David S. Reese (Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven, CT, USA).
- 17 h 30 Questions and discussion.

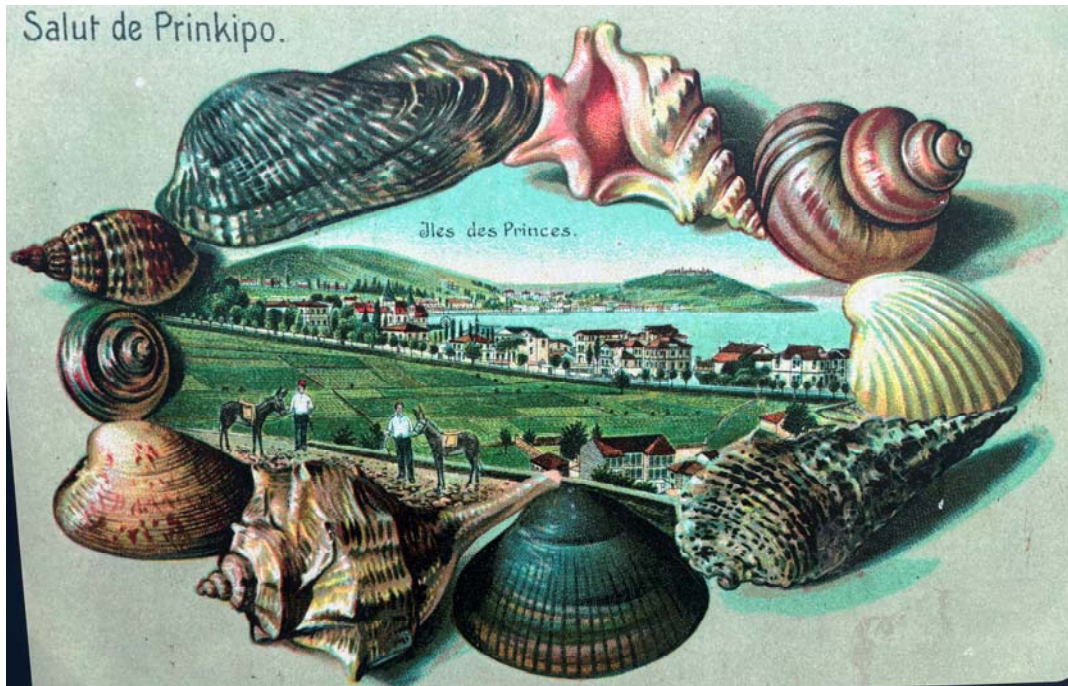


Fig. 1: A postcard from Büyükada / Prinkipo depicting various shells, early 20th cent./
Carte postale de Büyükkada / Prinkipo représentant divers coquillages, début du XXe siècle
(private collection / *collection privée*).