DIGITAL SIGILLOGRAPHY: NEW APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF BYZANTINE SEALS

Date: Wednesday, 25 September 2019
Time: 1230 - 1400
Location: ADM Conference Room, #03-25

Byzantine lead seals contain various kinds of information: images, as well as inscriptions, which give the name, title and office of the respective owner of the seal. Lead seals bring to our attention a large number of individuals not attested in other sources, but they also pass down revealing details of their social, cultural and political background. The frequently quoted number of 80,000 surviving seals is not likely to be exaggerated.

One of the biggest challenges related to sigillography is to make the above features readily available for historians who use seals. The “SigiDoc” project, carried out by Alessio Sopracasa (Sorbonne University) and a research team at the University of Cologne (Claudia Sode, Martina Filosa, Maria Catalano), building upon an almost ten-year discussion of an international network of Digital Humanists and Byzantinists aims at adapting the subset of TEI-XML markup known as EpiDoc (developed initially for inscriptions, coins and papyri) for seals as „SigiDoc” which allows for search, indexing, links both within and between external databases, etc. This project will create a digital corpus of Byzantine seals, intended to serve as a pilot, and provide tools and standards that can be used by others. The paper will discuss the use that can be made of digital tools in Sigillography and present practical examples of a SigiDoc-based digital publication of seals.

Bring your own mugs for hot drinks!
Please note that photographs and videos of you might be taken during the event for publicity purposes.