Textual Amulets of the Mediterranean World: 1000 BCE – 1000 CE

May 9–10, 2024
Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society
The University of Chicago

May 20, 2024
Via Zoom only
**Thursday, May 9**

*Join via Zoom>*

1:15 p.m.  **Welcome and Introduction**  
Christopher Faraone (University of Chicago)

**Session I**  
Chair: Carolina López-Ruiz (University of Chicago)

1:30 p.m.  **Anke Ilona Blöbaum** (Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig)  
“The Oracular Amuletic Decrees: Divine Protection and Prevention as Life Insurance”

2:10 p.m.  **Madadh Richey** (Brandeis University)  
“The Dramatis Personae of a Phoenician Amulet from Arslan Tash”

2:50 p.m.  **Coffee Break**

**Session II**  
Chair: Sofia Torallas Tovar (University of Chicago)

3:10 p.m.  **Megan Nutzman** (Old Dominion University)  
“What Makes an Amulet Textual? Samaritan Rings and Pendants as a Case Study”

3:50 p.m.  **Árpád Nagy** (University of Pécs, Hungary)  
“Magical Gems with Inscriptions: How Do Medium and Text Shape One Another?”
Friday, May 10

Session III
Chair: Anthony Kaldellis (University of Chicago)

9:00 a.m. Rivka Elitzur-Leiman (Fordham University) “Angels, Books, and Magic: Back to ‘The Book of Mysteries’”

9:40 a.m. Erin Walsh (University of Chicago) “Syriac Amulets as Reflected in Literary Texts”

10:20 a.m. Coffee Break

10:40 a.m. Panagiota Sarischouli (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) “Pre-Classical, Classical, and Hellenistic Textual Amulets vs. Textual Amulets of the Roman Empire”

11:30 a.m. Lunch Break

Session IV
Chair: Margaret Mitchell (University of Chicago)

1:00 p.m. Joe Sanzo (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice) “Critical Reflections on the Category ‘Scripture’ for the Study of Late Antique Amulets”

1:40 p.m. Korshi Dosoo (University of Würzburg) “‘No Unclean Spirit Will Be Able to Approach’: The History of an Apotropaic Phrase in Early Christian Amulets”

2:20 p.m. Michael Zellmann-Rohrer (Macquarie University/Freie Universität Berlin) “Prescription and Performance: Inscription and Accompanying Ritual in Byzantine Textual Amulets”

3:00 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. Roundtable Discussion
Moderator: Clifford Ando (University of Chicago)
Monday, May 20
*Join via Zoom>*

**Session 5**

9:00 a.m.  **Anastasia Maravela** (University of Oslo)
“The Poetics of Late Antique Phylacteries and the Poetics of Christian Prayer: Comparative Perspectives”

9:40 a.m.  **Paolo Vitellozzi** (Liceo “Jacopone da Todi,” Italy)
“Words Set in Stone: Text and Image on Magical Gemstone Amulets of the Imperial Period”

10:20 a.m.  **Coffee Break**

10:30 a.m.  **Raquel Martín Hernández** (Complutense University, Madrid)
“Gems That Please the Gods. The Use of Stones as Amulets in Greco-Roman Sacrifice”

11:10 a.m.  **Attilio Mastrocinque** (University of Verona, Emeritus)
“Jewish Divine Names on Pagan Magical Gems”