



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PHAISTOS DISK

31 October – 1 November 2008

At the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly

Organised and sponsored by *Minerva*,
the International Review of Ancient Art & Archaeology

CALL FOR PAPERS

Please send abstracts of 200-250 words to:

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Both oral and poster papers are invited. Only original papers on the Phaistos Disk will be accepted, not to exceed 20 minutes, allowing for an additional 10 minute response following each paper. Only 12 oral papers will be accepted in addition to the keynote address.

15 September: Closing date for submission of abstracts to be submitted by e-mail or fax.

Poster presentations are to be limited to 1m x 1m.

30 September: Final acceptance of papers.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PHAISTOS DISK

The world-famous Phaistos Disk is one of the great treasures in the Archaeological Museum in Herakleion, Crete. It is also one of the most famous unsolved mysteries in the field of archaeology. Innumerable attempts have been made to decipher the 16cm disk and its 45 different symbols, including scholarly discussions of its relationship to other ancient scripts such as Greek, Anatolian, Semitic, and even Indian, Chinese, and Polynesian. Attributions have linked it to deities in Greek mythology, the Hittites and Philistines, and Osiris and Isis in Egypt. It has been interpreted as an adventure narrative, a poetic verse, a magical curse, a board game, and even musical notes for a stringed instrument. Pseudo-archaeologists have claimed that it is a message from extraterrestrials and even a portal or 'stargate' with which a wormhole can be created to enable one to achieve teleportation to cosmic distances. However, the authenticity of this enigmatic object is now in doubt as new light is cast upon its origin, 'discovery', and symbols. At the conference those proponents of its authenticity will have the opportunity to present their latest findings and to challenge the claims of its being just a clever forgery created specifically to boost the reputation of its discoverer.

Keynote speaker: Professor Louis Godart

Professor of Mycenaean Philology, University of Naples; Director, Archaeological Mission in Crete, University of Naples; author, *The Phaistos Disc – the enigma of an Aegean script*; Cultural Advisor to the President of the Italian Republic.

Organising Committee: Jerome M. Eisenberg, Ph.D., Chairman; Peter Clayton, F.S.A., Mark Merrony, D.Phil., Nicholas Reed, M.A., M.Phil.

Registration:

For registration forms please apply by e-mail or fax.

15 October - Final date for Registration and payment of registration fees. Registration is limited to 100 attendees so an early submission is suggested.

Registration fees for the two days, including coffee and tea breaks and a wine reception on 31 October: £35; Society of Antiquaries Fellows, *Minerva* subscribers, and seniors, £25; students, £20. A dinner followed by an open discussion, open to all registrants, will be held on 31 October (charges to be set at a later date).

Conference website: www.minervamagazine.com

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