Gesellschaft Österreichischer Chemiker
Arbeitsgruppe Erforschung und
Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes
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E I N L A D U N G

zum

V O R T R A G

von

Dr. Pieter Meyers

Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, USA

Analyses of Ancient Metal Artifacts: Provenance, Dating and Authenticity

Mittwoch, 11. Juni 2008, 16:00 Uhr

Universität für angewandte Kunst
A-1010 Wien, Salzgries 14/1
(Seminarraum)

akademie der bildenden künste wien
Institut für Naturwissenschaften und Technologie in der Kunst

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
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Abt. Chemie - Science Visualization, Abt. Archäometrie

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Education:
University of Amsterdam, September 1958 - June 1965
Ph. D Thesis: June 1968: Drs. degree in Radiochemistry and Nuclear Physics

Professional Affiliations:
Fellow, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works;
Council Member 1990-1996
Fellow, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works;
Vice-President AIC 1981/82; President AIC 1982-1984
Member, American Association of Museums; Council Member, 1982-1984
Member, International Council of Museums
Member, Standing Committee: "International Symposium on Archaeometry", 1992-present
Associate Editor: Archaeometry, 1992-1997

Professional Employment:

3/00-present	independent scholar
3/00-present	(contract) Senior Research Chemist, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
1/99-3/00	Senior Research Chemist, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
6/85-1/99	Head of Conservation, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
7/81-6/85	Senior Research Chemist, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
1/81-7/81	Adjunct Professor, Columbia University, Art History Dept.
7/76-7/81	Senior Research Chemist, in charge of Research Laboratory, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
2/70-7/76	Research Chemist, in charge of Research Laboratory, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
2/70-6/85	Research Collaborator, Brookhaven National Laboratory
9/69-2/70	Visiting Professor, The American University in Cairo, Egypt
9/68-9/69	Research Associate, Brookhaven National Laboratory
9/65-9/68	Research Associate, Institute for Nuclear Physics Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Current Activities:
Research on Southeast Asian stone and metal objects
Authentication of antiquities (gold, silver, bronze, stone)

Abstract

This lecture will discuss several applications of “Archaeometry” in an art museum environment. The application of science in the technical study of art and archaeological materials has shown to be very useful in a general art museum. The applications of Carbon-14 dating and thermoluminescence testing are widely known, but there are many other subjects where a physical scientist can provide interesting and useful knowledge about individual artifacts. Successful research projects my supply information about ancient societies, such as trade, economical situations and technology.

This lecture will present several case histories where archaeometric data has provided significant information on ancient technologies and economical situations. Technical examinations of ancient Chinese bronzes have provided a unique perspective about Chinese foundry practices, much different from its western counterpart. Systematic studies of Sasanian silver objects (Iran, 3rd -7th centuries AD) and of contemporary Byzantine silver objects has shown two very different, but tightly controlled silver production and distribution systems.

Comprehensive research studies like these have also revealed numerous unique characteristics, on alloy composition, on methods of manufacture or on aging properties (corrosion) that have allowed the identification of many art forgeries that exist on the art market, in private collections and in art museums. Several examples will be presented.