

In the Footsteps of the Masters

Footprints, Feet and Shoes as Objects of Veneration in the Arts of Asia

This three-day international conference focuses on the creation and veneration of footprints and representations of feet as objects of ritual use. While some of the depictions are negative imprints in low relief, others are high relief depictions of the soles of the feet or delineations of entire feet.

The speakers are all specialists in their respective fields presenting material from across South and Central Asia (India, Nepal, Tibet), Southeast Asia (Thailand) and the wider Islamic world (Egypt, Turkey, Arabia, Pakistan and India). The foot images are associated with Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, a number of Hindu divinities, Christ and the Prophet Muhammad as well as a number of Christian and Muslim saints. Lingayats and Muslims also venerate the shoes of important religious teachers.

The particular appeal of venerating depictions of feet lies in the inherent contradiction that feet are considered impure. Those of a saintly or enlightened teacher or of a divine being, however, are believed to be so much purer than mortal beings that they are touched with reverence by acknowledging one's own spiritual impurity.

The question is how these depictions should be viewed and understood. Are they evidence of the final contact with the earthly ground of an enlightened and now departed soul and as such signs of an absence? Are they symbols of standing in meditation or of walking mendicants, which play important roles as concepts, for instance, in Buddhism and Jainism. Or do they represent the feet of the saintly teacher and are as such figural? A recurrent approach is to consider foot imprints and shoes as relics.



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Timetable

Thursday 19th April 2018

Senatssaal, Main University Building/Hauptgebäude

From 16:00 Tea

17:00-18:30 Welcome
Prof. Dr. Julia A. B. Hegewald, Bonn

Keynote address
Prof. Dr. Susan L. Huntington, Columbus
Footprints in the Early Buddhist Art of India:
An Examination of Art Historical Methodology

Friday 20th April 2018

Akademisches Kunstmuseum,
lecture theatre

10:00-11:00 Prof. Dr. Gudrun Bühnemann,
Wisconsin-Madison
The Feet of Mañjuśrī

Dr. Elisabeth Haderer, Hamburg and Bonn
Enlightened Presence—On the Representation
of Footprints in Tibetan Buddhist
Painted Scrolls

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Prof. Dr. Nalini Balbir, Paris
Religious Issues Regarding the *Pādukās* of
Jain Teachers

Prof. Dr. Julia A. B. Hegewald, Bonn
Foot Images (*Pādukās*) as Multivariate
Symbols in Jaina Religious Practices in India

12:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Dr. Jutta Jain-Neubauer,
New Delhi and Berlin
Feet and Footmarks in Indian Culture and
their Visual Representation

Nick Barnard, London
Footprints of Hindu Deities in Indian Jewellery

Prof. Dr. Tiziana Lorenzetti, Rome
The Cult of Footwear in the Liṅgāyat Tradition:
Peculiarities and Symbolologies

16:00-16:30 Tea break

16:30-17:30 Dr. Sarah Shaw, Oxford
The Buddha's Footprint and the Southeast
Asian Imaginaire

Dr. Claudia Wenzel, Heidelberg
The Buddha's Footprints in China

Saturday 21st April 2018

Akademisches Kunstmuseum,
lecture theatre

10:00-11:00 Prof. Dr. Lorenz Korn, Bamberg
Footprints as Relics and as Symbols of Veneration
in Islamic Art

Dr. des. Deniz Erduman-Calis,
Munich and Berlin
Kadem-i Saadet—Foot Imprints of the
Prophet Muhammad in the Collection of the
Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Iman R. Abdulfattah, New York and Bonn
Footprints of the Prophet as Modes of Dissemination
and Modes of Control

Waheeda Bano Baloch,
Jamshoro and Bonn
The Holy Footprints Across Sindh (Pakistan)

Karin Adrian von Roques, Bonn
Footprints in Art of Contemporary Muslim
Artists

Concluding thoughts
Prof. Dr. Julia A. B. Hegewald, Bonn

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Veneration in the Arts of Asia

International Conference

19. - 21 April 2018

The University of Bonn

Venues:

Senatssaal
Main University Building (Hauptgebäude), first floor
Am Hof 1, 53113 Bonn

Akademisches Kunstmuseum
Am Hofgarten 21, 53113 Bonn

Department of Asian and Islamic Art History
Adenauerallee 10, 53113 Bonn

There is no conference fee and no registration.
All are welcome to attend.

Organisation:

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UNIVERSITÄT BONN

