“The Reemergence of Seals and Their Influence on Coins: A Technological and Iconographic Approach to the Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, and Archaic Periods of Greece”

A Graduate Colloquium

by

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Friday, April 24

12:15 p.m. (LSB 246)

Is there a relationship between seals and coins? There seems to be an intuitive connection: seals imprint an image on a material, while dies imprint an image on coins. Scholarship has not fully traced the evolution of this relationship. I propose to establish a link between seals and coins by examining Bronze Age Aegean seals, Early Iron Age (EIA) and Archaic seals, and Archaic Greek coins. All of these objects have been examined individually, with EIA and Archaic seals having received the least attention. Exploring these connections requires an assumption of the possibility of technological and iconographic reemergence, or possibly even continuity, across the so-called “Dark Ages” of Greek history. This paper addresses how seals and coins are connected, and how this relationship can be traced across several centuries. Seals and coins have been handled as distinct categories of artifacts by separate specialists throughout the history of archaeology as a discipline, and it is time that they were examined together in a new way.