

CALL FOR APPLICATION

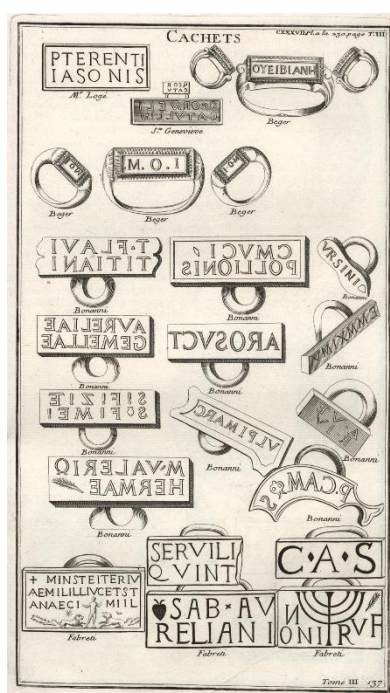
MSCA SIGN-IT – Doctoral and Postdoctoral Sphragistic Workshop

Introduction to Sphragistic Sources between Antiquity and the Middle Ages: Sources, Methods, and Tools

Rome, 3–6 June 2026



Roman *bull*a PK 2919 = GDKE
© Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier
(EV 2015,210 Nr. 93A)
Ph.: Th. Zühmer



B. de Montfaucon, *L'Antiquité expliquée et représentée en figures*,
Paris 1719 (t. III, p. 137)



Seal of Isakios, patricius and eparch of Italy
V. Laurent, *Les sceaux byzantins du médaillier vati-*
can, Città del Vaticano 1962
© Vatican Apostolic Library

Coordinator: Lucia Maria Orlandi (MSCA SIGN-IT, École française de Rome)

Organisation: École française de Rome, with the collaboration of the Vatican Museums – Decorative Arts Section, and the Vatican Apostolic Library – Numismatic Department

This event is organised in the framework of the SIGN-IT – *Signacula in Roman and Post-Roman Italy: marking religious and cultural identity (2nd-11th c. CE)* project, funded by the European Union under the HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships scheme, Grant Agreement ID: 101146566

Deadlines:

Application Deadline: **15 January 2026, 12:00 noon (CET)**

Notification of results: **by 28 February 2026**

Dates of the workshop: **3-6 June 2026**

Venues:

- École française de Rome, Piazza Navona 62
- Vatican Museums, Vatican City
- Vatican Apostolic Library, Vatican City

Presentation

The workshop aims to introduce doctoral students and early career researchers to the study of sphragistic sources, through the analysis of two categories of materials that are not commonly associated with each other, representing respectively matrices and impressions. On the one hand, the *signacula*—or so-called “bread-stamps”—stamps in metal, wood, or stone used to make direct impression on soft materials or with pigments; and on the other hand, lead seals, used to mark goods and documents.

The objective of this programme is to provide participants with an initiation into these types of sphragistic sources, their informational potential, the problems and methodology used in their study. These materials are approached from an interdisciplinary and long-term perspective, bridging Antiquity and the Middle Ages, archaeology and archival studies, materiality and representation, classification and interpretation techniques, and the use of digital tools of recording and analysis.

Speakers

Silvia Braitto; Guilhem Dorandeu; Martina Filosa; Eleonora Giampiccolo; Robert Loscheider; Lucia Maria Orlandi; Luca Pesante; Vivien Prigent; Umberto Soldovieri; Alessio Sopracasa

Key Topics

- Classification and analysis of *signacula*/markers and lead seals
- Roman and Byzantine periods
- Materiality and contexts of use
- Social, economic and cultural history
- Collections and the antiquities market
- Data management and digital editions of sources

Organisation

The program runs from Wednesday afternoon to Saturday morning. It includes lectures, group discussions, and practical sessions. The latter will be conducted over the course of two guided excursions: a tour of the Vatican Museums' collection of markers and a guided visit to the Vatican Apostolic Library's collection of Byzantine seals. On Saturday, participants will be invited to discuss how they plan to integrate sphragistic sources into their current or future research projects.

Practical Information

- 1. Eligibility:** The workshop is open to doctoral and early-career researchers working in History, Archaeology, Classics and Art History, regardless of nationality. Previous training in Epigraphy and Sigillography is not required, but it is welcome. Working knowledge of Ancient Greek and Latin is required; applicants must have a good command of English and Italian (the working languages of the workshop)
- 2. Venues:** Rome, École française de Rome (Piazza Navona 62); Vatican City, Vatican Museums & Vatican Apostolic Library
- 3. Costs:** Registration, lunches and accommodation are free of charge. Participants are responsible for their own travel and dinner expenses
- 4. Languages:** English and Italian
- 5. Application Deadline: 15 January 2026, 12:00 noon (CET)**

Admitted participants will be accommodated at the Casa Santa Lucia Filippini, Largo Santa Lucia Filippini, 20, 00186 Rome (in shared or individual rooms), a 12-minute walk from the venue of the lectures, the École française de Rome, Piazza Navona 62. Lunches will be provided, while transportation to and from Rome and dinners will be covered by the participants or their respective home institutions.

For any practical inquiries, please contact: lucia.orlandi@efrome.it

Requirements

Applications must include the following documents (in English):

1. A Curriculum Vitae;
2. A one-page summary of the doctoral dissertation or postdoctoral project;
3. A two-pages motivation letter outlining the candidate's future projects and explaining their interest in the workshop.

Applications must be submitted as a **single PDF file by 15 January 2026 at 12:00 noon (CET)** at the following address: lucia.orlandi@efrome.it

The selection will be made by a joint committee composed by the members of the Medieval Section, École française de Rome and the invited speakers. Results of the selection process will be communicated by 28 February 2026.

In accordance with Article 13 of EU Regulation 679/2016, the École française de Rome processes data solely for administrative purposes, in line with European and Italian legislation on the protection of personal data. The full information notice, in accordance with Article 13 of EU Regulation 679/2016 (GDPR) and Legislative Decree 196/03, can be found on the École française de Rome website: www.efrome.it. By submitting your application, you authorise the processing of your personal data.