



Second Circular

International Conference, Athens

Apotropaia and Phylakteria Confronting Evil in Ancient Greece

Organising Committee: Maria Chidirolou, Maria Spathi, Jenny Wallensten

The belief in the existence of evil forces was part of ancient everyday life and a phenomenon deeply embedded in popular thought of the Greek world. Fear of such malevolent powers generated the need for protection and we find clear traces of these concerns in both textual and archaeological sources. From the beginnings of literature, there is mention of ghosts and other daemonic beings that needed appeasement, and of ways of repulsing evil, such as the use of *baskania* and *antibaskania* (*apotropaia*). Repeatedly, we meet rituals of an apotropaic or prophylactic character conducted as part of everyday and family life, as for example on the occasion of a birth, marriage or death in the *oikos* (the cleansing of the house and household, libations and sacrifices in honour of *oikos* ancestors), and other practices that focused on the protection of the community as a whole, i.e. the Pharmakos ritual. Archaeology reveals an abundance of material objects thought to have the power to attract benevolent, and avert evil, forces. Traces of ritual practices necessary to ensure prosperity and avert personal disaster are manifest today in the form of amulets, certain semi-precious stones believed to protect women and children, eye-beads found in large numbers in many archaeological assemblages, possibly various types of terracotta figurines, such as nude female grotesques and various ithyphallic characters, to name a few. In addition, symbols and certain iconographic motifs, such as the phallus, the open hand, the Gorgoneion, images of triple Hekate, and Hermes, have been subject to a number of differing interpretations relative to apotropaic power.

In order to further our knowledge on this topic, the goals of the conference are:

- a) To explore the role(s) apotropaic, and prophylactic material and relevant rituals could have played in everyday Greek life, as supported by archaeological, iconographic, epigraphic, and literary sources.
- b) To explore the various interpretations of archaeological finds of an apotropaic and/or prophylactic character, with information gained by recent studies.

This conference will be divided into the following topics or thematic units:

1. Myth as the basis for apotropaic and prophylactic activity. Ancient beliefs and story-telling. Literary sources on apotropaic and prophylactic themes.
2. Apotropaic and prophylactic devices and practices: baskania, antibaskania, amulets, all types of apotropaic finds and possible reconstructions of corresponding apotropaic and prophylactic practices.
3. Representations of daemonic beings in art.
4. Archaeological finds or iconographic documentation that illustrate ancient ritual practices of an apotropaic or prophylactic character.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and following careful consideration the Conference is postponed till June 2021 and between the 23th and the 25th.

We wish you all a fruitful and healthy festive season and all the best for a successful and prosperous New Year.

Participants List

Christopher Faraone *Keynote speaker*

Annan Bilal, Guarding tombs, leading souls. Apotropaic and divine figures in the necropoleis of the Hellenistic and Roman Near East

Avramidou Amalia, Tracing the apotropaic qualities of Parthenos in ancient Neapolis (Kavala)

Barcat Dominique, The iconography of “magical gems”: How Egyptian tradition meets Greek mythology on Roman glyptic

Bernier-Farella H  l  ne, Apotropaic and prophylactic functions of funerary stelae at the end of Antiquity

Bossolino Isabella, Small finds and talismanic practice in the archaic cemeteries of Kamiros (Rhodes)

Chacheva Mila, Confronting evil on the West Pontic Coast: Evidence from the Classical and Hellenistic necropoleis

Chidiroglou Maria, Terracotta figurines of apotropaic character in the National Archaeological Museum, Athens

Garaffa Valentina, Sacred transitions. On the protection of city gates in Sicily and Magna Graecia

Γιακουμάκη Χαριστούλα, Λιόλιου Αθηνά και Μιχαηλίδου Μαρία, Σφραγίς Σολομώντος. Ενεπίγραφο αποτροπαϊκό φυλακτό από ανασκαφή πρωτοβυζαντινού οικισμού στη Μεγάλη Γη Γενναδίου Ρόδου

Γιαννοπούλου Μαρία, Αποτροπαϊκές και φυλακτήριες πρακτικές στα Μέθανα και στην Τροιζήνα

Grigoropoulos Dimitris, Things jingling from beyond: Bells and bell-shaped amulets in Roman Greece

Καλλιντζή Κωνσταντίνα και **Χατζηπροκοπίου Κυριακή**, Αποτροπαϊκές και φυλακτήριες πρακτικές στα Άβδηρα

Klinger Sonia, Terracotta and bronze finds from the Demeter and Kore sanctuary at ancient Corinth: some evidence for amulets

Κουμπούρα Ειρήνη, Οι μάσκες από τον «βόθρο» της Τίρυνθας υπό το πρίσμα των νέων παρατηρήσεων και η σύνδεσή τους με το αποτρόπαιο

Kousoulini Vasia, Female Tragic Choral Apotropaic Songs in the Context of Domestic and Civic Disharmony.

Κουτελλάς Μιχαήλ, Ο σταυρός ως φυλακτήριο και μέσον αποτροπής του κακού στην Κάλυμνο της Ύστερης Αρχαιότητας.

Κωλέττη Δάφνη, Graffiti μαγικού χαρακτήρα σε κεραμική από τον Πειραιά

Λαμπροπούλου Εύη, Αποτροπαϊκά ανάγλυφα από την αρχαία Μεσσήνη

Maravela Anastasia, A gem to counter the Empusa?

Παπαδογιαννάκη Ελένη, Ο ρόλος του φαρμακού στις αρχαϊκές κοινωνίες

Patera Maria, Averting Fears: Vague Terms vs. Medical Realities

Pavlidis Evangelos and **Giovanopoulou Anastasia**, Fearing the evil eye in Greco-Roman Religion and magic. Remarks on an apotropaic bas-relief from Actia Nicopolis.

Πέππα Παπαιωάννου Ειρήνη, Ο αποτροπαϊκός χαρακτήρας της δυσμορφίας στην κοροπλαστική των ελληνιστικών χρόνων. Όψεις και απόψεις

Philippa-Touchais Anna, Αρχαϊκά ειδώλια αποτροπαϊκού χαρακτήρα από την Αργολίδα

Roberts Barbara, Apotropaic inscribed stones with Greek inscriptions from late antique Sicily

Rózsa Anett, A child deity on the so-called uterus gems

Sever Deniz, Material in Apotropaic Objects: The Case of Lead in Late Antique Amulets

Spathi G. Maria, Clay gorgoneion-roundels. Evidence for a new defined group of votive offerings

Spence Charlotte, Curse tablets as an 'everyday' ancient means of confronting evil

Takács Barbara, Phylactery in the Graeco-Egyptian ritual practice

Τριαντάφυλλος Διαμαντής, Βραχογραφίες, χαράγματα, γλυπτά και ανάγλυφα με αποτροπαϊκό ή φυλακτήριο χαρακτήρα από την αρχαία Θράκη

Τσάτσου Ελένη, Ο Χνούβης, ο Γλύκων και η παράξενη ιστορία των βάλτων της κεντρικής Μακεδονίας

Vitellozzi Paolo, "Against a Daemon and Fear." A Phylactery in the Archaeological Museum of Perugia

Χατζηδάκης Παναγιώτης, Παραστάσεις φαλλών στη Δήλο

Zografaki Vasiliki and Farnoux Alexandre, Τα «γοργόνεια» της Δρήρου