

主催： 京都大学人文科学研究所・文学研究科附属ユーラシア文化研究センター
共催： 科学研究費補助金基盤研究「出土資料とくに貨幣資料に基づく古代アフガニスタン史の再検討」

特別講演会

Dirhams for Slaves, Furs and Amber

Islamic trade with Europe and the northern lands
in the 9th and 10th centuries

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日時： 3月18日水曜日午後5時より

会場： 京都大学人文科学研究所 1F セミナー室 1

聴講無料 使用言語：英語 (通訳無)



In the 9th and 10th centuries, the Abbasid empire lay at the pivot of two global trading systems that extended to opposite ends of the world – northwestwards into central Europe and the northern lands (Russia, the Baltic region and Scandinavia) and eastwards across the Indian Ocean towards China. This presentation will begin with a survey of both networks for the purposes of comparison and contextualisation, picking out contrasts (land and river-borne exchange in one, versus oceanic trade in the other: intensive use of precious metal coin in one, versus high-value barter in the other), suggesting similarities (a complex mixture of short- and long-distance trade in both networks) and examining the kinds of goods traded in each (animal products and human beings predominating in one, expensive manufactured goods, metalwork, ceramics and glassware in the other). In the second part, the focus will shift to the flow of dirhams which originated in eastern Iran in the 10th c. and travelled up the River Volga and across the Khazar state, into the northern lands, where hundreds of thousands of coins were buried in hoards. Many of these hoards have been uncovered and studied in the past two centuries, allowing scholars to track the circulation of coinage. The numismatic evidence suggests that these exceptionally vigorous exchange networks gave rise to significant social, political and economic consequences. What role did the steppe polities play in sustaining and nurturing this exchange? How important was the slave trade versus the trade in furs and other natural resources? Did the flow of Islamic precious metals trigger the process of state formation in the northern lands? These three questions will provide a framework within which the wider significance of this transnational commercial exchange will be examined.

Dr. LUKE TREADWELL is a historian and numismatist with interests in the history of pre-Mongol Islam. His doctoral thesis (1991), supervised by Professor Patricia Crone, was a political history of the Samanid state. He holds the post of Associate Professor in Islamic numismatics and curator of Islamic coins in the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum: he teaches in the Khalili Research Centre for Islamic material culture and is a Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford. He is the author of the series of the Sylloge of Islamic coins in the Ashmolean Museum. (<http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/dirhamsforslaves/index.php/en/>)

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