

FIRST CIRCULAR

1. VENUE AND DATES

The *Institut d'Estudis del Pròxim Orient Antic / Instituto de Estudios del Próximo Oriente Antiguo* (IPOA) of the University of Barcelona has the honour and pleasure of inviting you to participate in the *56th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale (RAI) / International Congress of Assyriology and Near Eastern Archaeology (ICANEA)*, that will take place from *Monday 26th July to Friday 30th July 2010*.

The 56th RAI / ICANEA will be held in the Faculty of Philology, located in the central building of the University of Barcelona, Gran Via 585 (Plaça Universitat), in the city centre.

The organizer of this 56th RAI is the Assyriological Section of the IPOA.

The IPOA is a university institution devoted to research in the fields of Languages and Cultures of the Ancient Near East (Assyriology, Egyptology, Ancient Indo-European Studies, and Comparative Semitics). It was founded in the eighties as an 'Instituto Propio' (distinct institute) of the University of Barcelona in the Faculty of Philology and has been acknowledged as a Consolidated Team of Excellence by the Spanish and Catalan authorities.

2. THEME AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The theme of the Congress is *Time and History in the Ancient Near East*. The Organising Committee welcomes interdisciplinary viewpoints on this theme; these could be approaches from the aspects of linguistics, philology, archaeology, history, chronology, anthropology, cognitive studies, etc.

On the opening day, following the welcoming session, the scheduled programme comprises a plenary session consisting of three consecutive presentations by keynote speakers.

Subsequent lectures will be held in several parallel sessions throughout the mornings and afternoons.

Abstracts for papers should be approximately 200 - 300 words in length, with keywords indicated. The registration form should also include

- (1) the title of the paper
- (2) the speaker's name
- (3) the affiliation of the speaker
- (4) a contact e-mail address.

All conference rooms are equipped with a computer (PC), a data projector and a screen. Please also let us know if you require any additional audio-visual equipment.

Papers should be no more than 20 minutes long, with a maximum of 10 minutes for questions.

The organisers would be grateful if any electronic documentation (PowerPoint, text documents, etc.) could be presented in (or compatible with) Office 2003, not Office 2007, to avoid issues of incompatibility.

See point 4, below.

3. WORKSHOPS and POSTERS

The 56th RAI would welcome the organization of *workshops* on specialised themes. The subject of these workshops remains the choice of the respective organisers. As a general rule, a workshop should last no longer than one day, either as a single session, preferably a morning session, or as a double session (both morning and afternoon). To facilitate attendance, workshops will be scheduled around the other events of the RAI.

The Organising Committee recommends that the subject of the workshops should have some relation to the general theme of Time and History.

Workshop proposals should be submitted to the Organising Committee by the respective organisers for approval. The Organising Committee of the 56th RAI will communicate approval of the workshops to the organisers and will proceed to post the workshop titles on the RAI online portal.

A display of *poster presentations* is also scheduled (see next paragraph).

4. DEADLINES

4.1. *Lectures*: The deadline for the submission of the *titles of lectures, along with abstracts and keywords*, is *30th April 2010*.

The Organising Committee cannot guarantee inclusion in the final programme of any lectures or abstracts received after *30th April*. See also: Registration fees.

4.2. *Workshops*: It would be appreciated if the *workshop organisers* could communicate sufficiently in advance (by *31st March*) the title of the workshop and the number and names of the anticipated participants.

4.3. *Posters*: The deadline for communicating the *topics for posters* to the Organising Committee is also *30th April 2010*.

5. REGISTRATION FEES

The organisers of the 56th RAI have made every effort to obtain financial support for the congress from Spanish public organisations and private institutions. Unfortunately, the world-wide economic crisis, which is particularly serious in Spain, has prevented our efforts from bearing fruit.

After communicating this to the IAA and after consultations between the IAA and the IPOA, the Organising Committee has been obliged to increase the fees by 20% compared with previous RAIs, with the single objective of guaranteeing optimum management of the Congress and offering a fitting level of service to delegates.

The attendance fee is €120 for members of the International Association for Assyriology, €140 for non-members, €70 for students and €60 for students members of the IAA and for each accompanying person.

Please note that for late registration and/or payments *after 30th April 2010*, these fees will increase by €10.

6. METHODS OF PAYMENT

The three methods of payment of conference fees are:

6.1. ONLINE, using a credit card (in a secure payment system)

6.2. BANK TRANSFER to the following bank account:

56 RAI
Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona
Current Account: 2100 3642 11 2200110855
IBAN no. ES37 2100 3642 1122 0011 0855
BIC / SWIFT code: CAIXESBBXXX

Bank transfers from European countries and the Euro zone are free of any additional charges and taxes in online banking.

6.3. CASH at registration

FOR PAYMENT IN CASH, THE FEES WILL BE INCREASED BY 10 EUROS.
Payment must be in Euros. We cannot accept credit cards.

Please use the link [REGISTRATION](#) on this website to subscribe online.

7. ACCOMMODATION / HOTELS

Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain and the capital of the Autonomous Region of Catalonia. It is very well equipped regarding such practical matters as connections by air, sea and rail, and ease of travel within the city by bus, taxi or metro. A wide range of accommodation is available within the city, from luxury hotels to hostels, guesthouses and youth hostels, many conveniently close to the University of Barcelona.

Barcelona is a city popular with international tourists and is a venue for numerous congresses and international meetings (*July 18th – 23th*: World Congress on Computational Intelligence; *July 19th – 24th 2010*: World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies; *July 26th – Aug 1st 2010*: 20th European Athletics Championships). With this in mind, we would like to advise the participants to plan their trip in plenty of time and to inquire about offers available in hotels by February or March.

In the website (link [MAP](#)) we suggest some links that may help with searches for hotels, short let apartments, halls of residence (résidences universitaires) and youth hostels (auberges de jeunesse).

8. VISAS

Any participants requiring a valid visa for Spain, and therefore for the European Union, may request a personal invitation letter individually from the Organising Committee of the 56th RAI by e-mail (rai2010bcn@ub.edu). E-mails should indicate:

- 1) The *full name* of the participant, and, if relevant, the full names of any accompanying family members.
- 2) The exact *postal address* to where the letter should be sent.

9. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND TOURS (TO BE indicated IN THE SECOND CIRCULAR).