

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2022

THE MATERIAL CULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE OF MOORISH SPAIN

Presented by Ian Cockburn

Ian Cockburn

Ian is an art historian with a BA in art history from Birkbeck College and an MA in medieval Spanish art history from the Courtauld Institute of Art. A specialist in the nearly 800 years of Moorish occupation and Christian reconquest of medieval Iberia he is a Director of Art & Culture Travel Limited.

Lecture 1: The Material Culture of al-Andalus

We cover the Moorish invasion and the Christian reconquest of the Iberian peninsula by an introduction to the surviving architecture and the material culture such as silk textiles, carved ivory caskets, bronze sculptures and refined ceramics. The invasion in 711AD by the Umayyad Caliphate quickly overthrew the Christian Visigothic kingdom and began the nearly 800 year occupation ending only in 1492AD when Catholic monarchs Ferdinand and Isabel completed the reconquest of the Kingdom of Granada. The same year they sent Christopher Columbus to discover the New World. In the intervening centuries the mixture of Islamic, Christian and Jewish influences produced a unique hybrid culture.

Lecture 2: Moorish Architecture - the Legacy of a Vanished Kingdom

The Alhambra of Granada, the Great Mosque of Cordoba and the Alcazar of Seville are the three most impressive monuments to the architectural creativity of the Moors in Spain, but there are many other examples too. The classical origins that influenced the Moorish style are less well known, as is the Moors' unique interior decorative style which gives their architecture its beauty and exotic appeal - so strong that the Christians sometimes copied it, even as they slowly reconquered the territory from its Islamic rulers.

Lecture 3: Political Intrigue, Sex and Murder at the Court of the Cordoba Caliphate

Ivory workshops licensed by the Caliphal court in 10th century Cordoba were renowned for the exquisite beauty of the carved

ivory caskets and pyxides, created as gifts given between members of the court and visiting ambassadors. The carving of iconographic programmes is a fascinating study in itself, but the al-Mughira pyxis in the Louvre, can be interpreted according to the familiar iconography, or re- interpreted to expose a complex story of intrigue, sex and murder during a succession crisis in Cordoba, that almost beggars belief!

Programme

To be held at Brushford Parish Hall, the programme is:

From 10.15 am	Coffee served
10.45 – 11.45	Material Culture
12.00 – 1.00	Moorish Architecture
1.00 – 2.00	Time for your picnic lunch
2.00 – 3.15 'ish	Political Intrigue

Cost: £25.00 per person

To reserve a place, we would really appreciate if payments are made online. Please use your surname plus 'SID.0322' as the payment reference. Bank details - The Arts Society. Account no: 38034441. Sort code: 52-30-42. In addition, please email David Hannah with the following: Your name, the number of people you are booking for, your daytime tel number, and the total amount you have paid online. Email this to: exmoor@theartsociety.org We will email you a confirmation of your booking.

Alternatively, please fill in the form below, and return it with a S.A.E for confirmation. (We will confirm your booking by email if you have included an email address). Please include your cheque made out to 'The Arts Society Exmoor' and post to: David Hannah, Nicholls Farm, Brompton Regis, Dulverton TA22 9NN.

For any queries please contact David on 01398 371204 or email: exmoor@theartsociety.org

BOOKING FORM (for postal bookings): Special Interest Day: Tuesday 29 March 2022

Name	
Number of persons	Email address
Tel	I enclose a cheque for £

Please pay online (details noted above) - £25.00 per person. Alternatively, pay by cheque made out to:

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