GRADUATE GROUP SEMINAR 655
SPOLIA
Semester II, 2010

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Syllabus

JAN. 20 Introduction: Theorizing spolia
Reading:
Dale Kinney, “Spolia in se, spolia in re,” paper delivered at the College Art
Association annual meeting, 2005
Dale Kinney, “The Concept of Spolia,” in A Companion to Medieval Art:
Romanesque and Gothic in Northern Europe, ed. Conrad Rudolph (Oxford 2006)
233-252

JAN. 27 Spolia vs. recycling
Reading:
“Perspektiven der Spolienforschung – Perspectives of Research on Spolia,”
Topoi Haus Berlin-Mitte, November 2009
116-119, 123, 132, 136, 143, 149, 150-152 (notes)
Jenifer Neils, Ancient Greece (Ann Arbor 2008) 172-177

FEB.3 ASTRID LINDELAUF, Bryn Mawr College: Rebuilding Athens after 480 BC
Reading:
Treatment of debris in the Agora of Athens:
343-346 (online through Tripod)
Hesperia 62 (1993) 383-482 (online through Tripod)
Treatment of debris on the Acropolis of Athens:
Oath of Plataea (Greek Historical Inscriptions. 404-323 BC., ed. P.J. Rhodes
M. Korres, "On the North Acropolis Wall," in Excavating Classical Culture: Recent
Archaeological Discoveries in Greece, ed. M. Stamatoopoulos and M. Yeroulanou
(Oxford 2002) 179-186, esp. 184-186
G. Ferrari, "The Ancient Temple of the Acropolis at Athens," American Journal of
Construction Work Inventory (IG 15474) and the Dörpfeld Temple," American
Journal of Archaeology 110 [2006] 275-281 (both online through Tripod)
J.M. Hurwit, The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles (Cambridge and New York
2004), ch. 2, 49-86

Construction of spolia wall ('Themistoklean wall'):
Thucydidcs I.89-93 (available in the Loeb Classical Library)

FEB. 10 The Arch of Constantine
Reading:
Jaś Elsner, “From the culture of spolia to the cult of relics. The Arch of Constantine and the genesis of late antique forms”, in Papers of the British School of Rome 68 (2000) 149-184
Paolo Liverani, “Reading Spolia in Late Antiquity and Contemporary Perception” (2009)

FEB. 17
FINBARR BARRY FLOOD, New York University: Spolia in Islamic Monuments
Reading:
“The Medieval Trophy as an Art Historical Trope: Coptic and Byzantine 'Altars' in Islamic Contexts,” Muqarnas, 18 (2001), 41-72 (online through Tripod)

FEB. 24
ANNABEL WHARTON, Duke University: The Chicago Tribune Tower
Reading:
“The Tribune Tower: Spolia as Despoliation”

MAR. 3
Group reports:

MAR. 10
SPRING BREAK

MAR. 17
Group D: Relics
Suggested starting points:
Group E: Heirlooms
Suggested starting points:

MAR. 24  PETER DeSTAEBLER, New York University: Reuse at Aphrodisias

MAR. 31  My project: 3 students

APR. 7   My project: 3 students

APR. 14  My project: 3 students

APR. 21  My project: 4 students

APR. 28  Wrap-up

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Group reports: The reports consist of a written summary (in the nature of a book review for Groups A, B and C, and an overview of the topic for Groups D and E) and an in-class presentation. The written component should be posted on Blackboard by noon on the day before class so that everyone can read it ahead of time. The in-class portion should begin with questions and comments from the class on the posting, followed by individual accounts by each team member of what s/he takes away from the assignment.

2. Final project. The project can be a standard paper (ca. 2,000 words, with standard annotation and bibliography) or it can take another form, like a website. Projects will be previewed in brief class presentations on March 31 and April 7, 14, and 21.