



Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie
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Press release

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International conference on the history of glass opens in Mainz

Mainz. The 23rd International Congress of the Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre (AIHV) is due to commence today at the Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA) in Mainz. Until 12 September, around 120 scientists from more than 30 countries will be presenting their latest research findings on the history of glass. The congress convenes a variety of disciplines, including archaeology, art history, glass science and major glass collections.

The production and utilisation of glass dates back more than 3,000 years, making it a material with a rich historical legacy. Consequently, research is focused on the development of technology, trade, and cultural history that can be ascertained from glass finds. This year's AIHV congress adopts a global perspective showcasing a diverse array of artefacts, ranging from glass finds in Zanzibar to those found in Sweden, as well as Korean gold glass beads to Turkish bead ornaments. The chronological range extends from the earliest examples of ancient glass production to contemporary materials. The programme places emphasis on contemporary scientific methods of analysis and interpretation. Participants – scientists, collection curators and professionals – can expect a comprehensive programme of 70 scholarly papers, an AIHV general assembly, and a unique platform on which to discuss research results, analytical methods and new ideas.

Katja Broschat, head of the Conservation/Restoration of archaeological glass objects at LEIZA, reports that the objective of this year's congress is to establish a forum for a vigorous exchange that positions pioneering new initiatives, cutting-edge research and practice-oriented discourse at its core. In collaboration with Dr. Jörg Drauschke, Chief Conservator and Head of the "Collections" division at LEIZA, and other AIHV members, she has been a key organiser of the Mainz congress. Notably, the event has convened a significant number of participants working across international and interdisciplinary boundaries: "The experts participating in

this event hail from 33 countries and represent a wide range of disciplines, including archaeology and art history, natural sciences or major glass museums and collections. Consequently, we look forward to an intensive and captivating programme of lectures," says Broschat. In addition to the academic programme, guests will have the opportunity to explore LEIZA's renowned restoration laboratories, including a high-performance computed tomography scanner, as well as Mainz's historic old town.

About the AIHV

The Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre (AIHV) was founded in 1956 by Dr. Joseph Philippe, then Director of the Musée Curtius in Liège. Two years later, the association held its first meeting - then still under the name Journées Internationales du Verre - and laid the groundwork for an international forum for the study of glass through the ages. Today, AIHV brings together a worldwide community of archaeologists, art historians, artists, collectors, museum curators, scientists and researchers from more than 30 countries who share a collective passion for glass in its many dimensions - historical, archaeological, technical, artistic, scientific and interdisciplinary. The professionals come together every three years. In 2025, the 23rd International Congress, originally planned for 2024 in Jerusalem, is taking place in Mainz. The conference papers will be published as part of a conference volume.

Further information

- Information about the congress: <https://www.leiza.de/forschung/forschungsfelder/zusammenleben-in-komplexer-werdenden-sozialen-gefuegen/aihv23/congress>
- Information about the AIHV: <https://aihv.org/about/>
- Contributions from previous AIHV conferences: <https://aihv.org/publications/#Annales>

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Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA)

As a Leibniz Research Institute and Museum for Archaeology, LEIZA studies humans and their development based on material remains that span three million years across time and space. The fundamental insights we gain improve our understanding of human behaviour, actions and the development of societies. In this way, LEIZA enriches our knowledge of humans from an archaeological perspective and creates essential foundations for reflecting on the present and shaping the future. With archaeology, LEIZA views human beings in context and shares the knowledge gained in international dialogue. LEIZA is active worldwide and has successfully and comprehensively conducted research in various regions of Africa, Asia and Europe. The unique concentration of archaeological, scientific, restoration and information technology expertise, combined with important workshops, laboratories and archives, makes it possible to conduct object-oriented research into the archaeology of the ancient world (Asia, Africa, Europe) from the beginnings of human history to modern times. As one of eight research museums in the Leibniz Association, LEIZA combines excellent science with exhibitions and, with its educational mission, is also a place for dialogue with the public.

Until its renaming on 1 January 2023, LEIZA was known internationally as the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (RGZM), which was founded in Mainz in 1852 by resolution of the German Historical and Antiquities Societies. Since 2024, LEIZA is represented at four locations in Germany: Mainz, Neuwied, Mayen, and Schleswig. www.leiza.de

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