

The
**CYRUS
CYLINDER**
and **Ancient Persia**

A New Beginning

RELATED EVENTS

The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning

October 2–December 2, 2013

At the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Villa

All events are free, unless otherwise noted. Tickets are required. For tickets and information, visit www.getty.edu or call (310) 440-7300.

SYMPOSIUM

Cyrus the Great and the Persian Empire: Perspectives from Antiquity to Today

Since its discovery in 1879, the Cyrus Cylinder has prompted wide-ranging discussion about the benevolent nature of Cyrus's rule. At this one-day symposium, experts address a range of perspectives from which the Cylinder—and the Achaemenid Empire generally—have been understood. Speakers consider Babylonian precursors, the Persian and Jewish traditions, the ancient Greek view, and the representation of Cyrus in modern Iran. Generous support for this program was provided by the J. Paul Getty Museum's Villa Council. Symposium fee \$15.

Sunday, October 27, 2013; 10:15 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

Auditorium, Getty Villa

LECTURES

The Cyrus Cylinder: The Discovery and Creation of an Icon

John Curtis, Keeper of Special Middle Eastern Projects at the British Museum, speaks about the Cyrus Cylinder, an ancient clay cylinder inscribed by the Persian king Cyrus the Great after he conquered Babylon (in present-day Iraq) in 539 B.C. Curtis explores the reasons for the Cylinder's historical significance and the importance it has acquired since its discovery in 1879. Free; a ticket is required.

Wednesday, October 2, 2013; 7:30 p.m.

Auditorium, Getty Villa

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Authority and Autonomy in the Achaemenid Persian Empire

The Achaemenid Persian Empire (about 550–330 B.C.) was enormous and incorporated many different cultures. Before rapid transit or instant communication, how were affairs of governance conducted in a sociopolitical entity of this size? Archaeologist Elspeth Dusinberre examines government archives, food, alcohol, gender relations, and even the original Pony Express to illuminate how the empire founded by Cyrus the Great functioned. Co-presented with the Archaeological Institute of America. Free; a ticket is required. Tickets available beginning Thursday, October 10, 2013.



Gold plaque from the Oxus Treasure, 5th–4th century B.C. Achaemenid (Persian). Gold. Image courtesy of and © Trustees of the British Museum

Saturday, November 2, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Auditorium, Getty Villa

GALLERY COURSE

Cyrus to Alexander: Persians, Greeks, and the Invention of History

The Greeks feared, admired, and maligned the Persians from before Cyrus until after Alexander the Great. Explore the Greek view through tales and art with educator Shelby Brown, then compare the Persian perspective and try your hand at cuneiform. Course fee \$35 (includes refreshments). Complimentary parking.

Saturday, October 19, 2013; 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Repeats Sunday, October 20, 2013; 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Meeting Rooms, Getty Villa

STUDIO COURSES

Proclamations in Clay

Join artist Anna Mayer for a ceramic workshop pairing language and clay. Learn hand-building techniques to create ceramic cylinders and vessels inscribed with your own text dedications. Ceramics will be fired following the course for later pick-up. Course fee \$150 (includes materials and lunch). Complimentary parking.

Sunday, October 27, 2013; 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Repeats Sunday, November 17, 2013; 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Education Studio, Getty Villa

Culinary Workshop: Ancient Persia

Discover the flavors of the ancient Near East with chef and educator Maite Gomez-Rejón. Prepare and enjoy a meal showcasing the multiethnic cuisine of the Persian Empire. Course fee \$85. Complimentary parking. Tickets available beginning Tuesday, October 2.

Thursday, November 14, 2013; 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Repeats Friday, November 15, 2013; 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Meeting Rooms, Getty Villa

PERFORMANCE

Twinklings of Hope: Mahsa and Marjan Vahdat in Concert

The music of Mahsa and Marjan Vahdat reflects the evolution of Persian song. Part of a new generation of musicians who are university educated and devoted to their artistic cause, the Vahdats uphold a waning tradition in today's Iran. . Generous support for this program was provided by the J. Paul Getty Museum's Villa Council. Tickets \$25.

Saturday, October 19, 2013; 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 20, 2013; 3:00 p.m.

Auditorium, Getty Villa

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Scribes Wanted!

Drop by with your family to learn how scribes in ancient Persia created documents such as the Cyrus Cylinder. Try your hand at writing your own cuneiform (a type of old script) message! This is a free, drop-in program.

Saturdays, October 5–26, 2013; 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Outer Peristyle, Getty Villa