

Amber in ancient Europe and the Mediterranean zone

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Abstract:

The aim of the session is to review the current state of knowledge on the uses and exchange mechanisms of fossil resins in ancient Europe, particularly in regions where these minerals are not found or were unknown in the distant past. We intend to focus on the period from the beginnings of amber use (Palaeolithic) at the turn of the era when the Roman Empire commercialised amber trade, especially in the Mediterranean region. The session also aims to discuss the methodological aspects of amber research, in particular scientific methods for identifying different types of fossil resins. Papers on post-depositional processes affecting artefacts made of this material are also welcome.