



MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE
PATRIMONIO CULTURAL
Y BELLAS ARTES

SUBDIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE
MUSEOS ESTATALES

CALL FOR PAPERS

23rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ANCIENT BRONZES– (IConAB)

Congress Title

23rd International Congress on Ancient Bronzes

Motto

‘Recovery, conservation and exhibition of bronzes’

Dates

25–28 November 2026

Venue and location

National Museum of Roman Art (MNAR). Mérida, Spain

Organiser

National Museum of Roman Art / Ministry of Culture

Congress Presentation

The **23rd International Congress on Ancient Bronzes (IConAB)** will be held at the National Museum of Roman Art in Mérida in an exceptional context, coinciding with the **museum's 40th anniversary**, as well as its **expansion and remodelling**, which will provide the institution with new and modern facilities, including a new temporary exhibition hall and an auditorium specially designed for hosting major scientific events.

This congress, focused on the **recovery, study, interpretation, and analysis of ancient bronzes**, will bring together leading international specialists to discuss the study, preservation and museum display of these valuable objects. It will also coincide with the opening of the major exhibition ‘**In the Shadow of Vulcan. Roman Bronze in Hispania**’, reinforcing the dialogue between scientific, archaeologists, conservators, and curators.

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Objectives and target audience

The **main objectives** of the 23rd IConAB are: - To analyse recent advances in the study of ancient bronzes from archaeological, historical and archaeometric perspectives. - To discuss current challenges in the conservation and restoration of bronze. - To illustrate the histories and multiple meanings of ancient bronzes in museums. - To promote scientific exchange and the creation of international research networks.

The conference is primarily aimed at **specialists in the study, conservation and exhibition of ancient bronzes**, including researchers, archaeologists, conservators, restorers and exhibition curators. However, it is also open to other professionals, academics, students and those interested in the broad field of ancient bronzes.

Congress Sessions

The 23rd International Congress on Ancient Bronzes will be structured around a series of **thematic sessions** addressing different aspects of the study, conservation and exhibition of bronzes in Antiquity:

1. Greek and Hellenistic bronze
 2. Pre-Roman bronze
 3. Major discoveries
 4. Roman Bronze Statues
 5. Bronze vessels. Domestic furniture
 6. Bronze Statuettes
 7. Bronze votive objects
 8. Conservation, Problems and Intervention
 9. From excavation to storage to display
 10. Looting
 11. Forgeries
 12. *Varia*
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Forms of participation

Proposals are invited in the following formats:

- Oral presentation / - Poster

Submission of proposals:

The **deadline for receipt of proposals is 30 April 2026**.

Proposals must be **submitted using the official form**, which can be downloaded from the conference website. This form must be sent to the **Conference Secretariat** congressbronzes2026.mnar@gmail.com , before **30 April 2026**.

Each proposal must include: - Name and institutional affiliation of all signatories. - Title of the proposal. - Session in which the proposal is to be included. - Express indication of whether the proposal is for an **oral presentation** or a **poster**. - Abstract in English, with a maximum length of **2.500 characters (including spaces) / 400 words**.

Proposal evaluation

All proposals will be **reviewed by a Scientific Committee**.

Once the submission deadline has passed, authors will be notified of the **acceptance** or **rejection** of their proposal well in advance of the conference.

Notification of **acceptance or rejection** of proposals will be sent to authors before **July 1st**.

Requirements for accepted proposals

For proposals accepted into the programme, the following requirements must be met: - Be registered for the conference. - Have paid the corresponding registration fee. - Attend the conference **in person**.

In the case of proposals with multiple authors, **at least one of the signatories** must be registered and attend the conference in person.



Official languages of the Congress

The official languages of the Congress will be: - English - French - German - Italian - Spanish.

These languages will be accepted for **oral presentations and posters**.

Presentation materials (PowerPoint or other visual aids) must be written **in English**, or in **the chosen official language and English**.

In the case of **posters**, texts must be presented **exclusively in English**.

Publication

In accordance with standard practice in the organisation of International Congresses on Ancient Bronzes, the proceedings of the 23rd International Congress on Ancient Bronzes: *Recovery, Conservation and Exhibition of Bronzes* are scheduled to be edited and published once the scientific meeting has concluded.

The National Museum of Roman Art will be responsible for this publication, with the aim of ensuring high-quality dissemination and international visibility.

Information regarding the characteristics, format and schedule of the edition will be communicated in due course through future official communications.

Registration

Types

Standard registration: 120€

Reduced registration: 80€

Reduced registration is intended for **students** and attendees who are **not participating in the scientific programme** with oral presentations or posters.

Students must send valid proof of student status for 2026 together with the registration form to the Conference Secretariat.



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The **registration fee includes**: Access to all scientific sessions; Access to the National Museum of Roman Art; Conference programme; Pre-proceedings; Conference documentation and materials (notebook, pen and bag); Coffee breaks and receptions organised by the conference.

Excursions and visits organised outside the scientific programme **are not included** in the registration fee and will be arranged independently.

Payment method and deadline

Payment must be made **before the conference begins**, by bank transfer or online payment via a secure platform, details of which will be provided.

The deadline for registration is 31st July 2026.

Organising Institution

National Museum of Roman Art / Ministry of Culture (Spain)

Organising Committee

National Museum of Roman Art (MNAR)

Trinidad Nogales Basarrate, Director

Research Department:

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Information and contact details

Secretariat of the 23rd IConAB

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Standing Committee

Carol C. Mattusch, George Mason University (VA, USA). (President)

Alessandra Giumlí-Mair, AGM Archeoanalisi (Merano, Italia). (Vice President)

Dávid Bartus, Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (ELTE) (Budapest, Magyarország, Hungría).

Sophie Descamps-Lequime, Musée du Louvre (Paris, France).

Norbert Franken, Independent Researcher (Berlin, Deutschland).

Nadezhda Gulyaeva, The State Hermitage Museum (Saint Petersburg, Russia).

Valeria Meirano, Università degli Studi di Torino (Torino, Italia).

Benoit Mille, Centre de recherche et de restauration des musées de France (C2RMF) (Paris, France)

Uwe Peltz, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Antikensammlung (Berlín, Deutschland)

John Pollini, University of Southern California (USC) (Los Ángeles, EE. UU.)

This call for papers may be subject to updates, which will be communicated in a timely manner through the official channels of the conference.

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