

Colloque Symmaque 2024

Power, Religion and Aesthetics in Late Antiquity

(organized by Andreas Abele, Seraina Ruprecht and John Weisweiler)

The Roman empire of the fourth century CE was a crucial turning point in world history. The Roman ruling class converted to Christianity; migrant groups from central Europe began to play an important role in Mediterranean politics; and novel aesthetic forms emerged that have shaped European literature and art ever since. Quintus Aurelius Symmachus (d. 402) was a key protagonist in these transformations. Not only was he one of the most influential politicians of this period. Symmachus' extant literary works serving as vital source for understanding the social, religious, and economic history of Late Antiquity.

The *Colloque Symmaque 2024* examines the Roman empire of the fourth century through the lens of Symmachus' work. Drawing drawing on new theoretical approaches in literary studies and history, and bringing together researchers from classical philology, ancient history and art history, it seeks to reevaluate the nature of religious, literary and social transformations in this key period of world historical change. At the same time, we seek to reconsider Symmachus' oeuvre in light of recent developments in late antique scholarship. The conference will take place at the Fondation Hardt near Geneva, where forty years ago a groundbreaking previous conference on this major author took place.