Dear Colleagues,

Together with the creation of five series dedicated to the archaeology and history of a region spanning from the Southern Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, via the Near and Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and the Caucasus, to Central Asia, Pakistan, and Xinjiang, with the aims of cutting not just across geographical and chronological borders, but also those between disciplines, and encouraging new collaborations between different scholarly communities,

the Editors of The East Collection — ARATTA, ARAXES, LEMA, OXUS, SUBARTU — Henri-Paul Francfort (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, Paris), Hermann Genz (American University Beirut), Marc Lebeau (European Centre for Upper Mesopotamian Studies, Brussels), Holly Pittman (University of Pennsylvania) & Elena Rova (Ca' Foscari University, Venice),

the Organizing Committee: Jean Bourgeois, Nicolas Cauwe, Eric Gubel, Marc Lebeau, Marcel Otte & Bruno Overlaet,

the Royal Museums of Art & History, Brussels,

and Brepols Publishers,

are pleased to invite you to a 3-day International Congress **'ICE 1 – The East'**, in Brussels, Royal Museums of Art & History, April 16-18, 2019.

This inaugural event, which will be held on a biennial basis in the future, will be devoted to the following theme:

Identity, Diversity & Contact, from the Southern Balkans to Xinjiang, from the Palaeolithic to Alexander

comprising several sub-topics:

— Evolution and Resilience,
— Movement, Mobility and Migration,
— Long-Distance Trade,
— Cultural and Economical Contacts,
— Infrastructure and Superstructure,
— Phenomena of Acculturation,
— Transfer and Exchange of Techniques and Technologies,
— The Notion of Territory,
— Long Distance & Longue Durée,
— The Self and the Other.

The conference will take place in one single audience hall, during three days: 3 key lectures, 35 papers and 30 posters.

A temporary exhibition will present some of the masterpieces of the Museum collections.

Registration is required and free of charge.

Lunch meals will be available in the Museum restaurant at reasonable prices.

A gala dinner at Grand' Place will close the event.

A few hotels, within close walking distance will be recommended in a second circular.

Please note that proposals of papers (20'+5' discussion) and posters should be sent, no later than September 15, 2018, to the following editors of the East collection, accompanied by a registration form, and by a 3500-character (incl. spaces) abstract.

ARATTA (Central and Lower Mesopotamia, Iran, Persian Gulf, Baluchistan, Indus Valley)
hpittman@sas.upenn.edu (cc : marclebeau@skynet.be)

ARAXES (Caucasus Range, from S. Russia to E. Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and NW. Iran)
erova@unive.it (cc : marclebeau@skynet.be)

LEMA (Southern Balkans, Greece, Aegean, W. And Central Anatolia, Cilicia, Levant, Egypt)
hg09@aub.edu.lb (cc : marclebeau@skynet.be)

OXUS (Central Asia, from the Caspian Sea to the Altai mountains, from NE. Iran to N. India)
henri-paul.francfort@cnrs.fr (cc : marclebeau@skynet.be)

SUBARTU (Upper Mesopotamia and its neighbours)
marclebeau@skynet.be

Due to the limited number of papers allowed in a 3-day event, and to the limited space for posters, the editors and the editorial boards of the series will select the most appropriate contributions and will confidentially announce their choices on December 15, 2018.

Since the attendance will be limited to 125/150 participants, the attendees who wish to attend the conference, but who do not want to present material, are urged to register as soon as possible, by emailing the following address:
marclebeau@skynet.be

Additional information on The East collection can be found at the following link:
http://www.brepols.net/Pages/Home.aspx

We wish you the best and look forward to meeting you in Brussels (when the Japanese cherry trees blossom).

The Editors of The East and the Organizing Committee.