



**When Coffins Speak:  
at the Crossroads of Research and Practice**

*in loving memory of Sandrine Pagès-Camagna*

Vatican City, 21 April 2026

Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends,

the Egyptian Department of the Musei Vaticani, in collaboration with the *Vatican Coffin Project* team, is pleased to announce the *Third Vatican Coffin Conference*, entitled *When Coffins Speak: at the Crossroads of Research and Practice*, to be held in the Musei Vaticani from 24 February to 27 February 2027.

Over recent years, the *Vatican Coffin Project* has explored 'yellow coffins' through dialogue between Egyptological research, conservation science, and diagnostics, deepening our knowledge of their materials, technical practices, and workshop traditions.

*When Coffins Speak* encourages contributors to extend that dialogue beyond established chronological and typological boundaries, embracing new approaches, datasets, and interpretative frameworks.

The aim is to study coffins within contexts encompassing tombs, papyri, cartonnage mummy cases, and other funerary artefacts, from the New Kingdom to the Late Period.

### Scientific Committee (*Vatican Coffin Project* team)

Alessia Amenta, Musei Vaticani, Vatican City

Fabio Morresi, Musei Vaticani, Vatican City

Giovanna Prestipino, *Vatican Coffin Project*

Jaume Vilaró Fabregat, *Vatican Coffin Project*

Christian Greco, Museo Egizio, Turin

Enrico Ferraris, Museo Egizio, Turin

Hélène Guichard, Musée du Louvre, Paris

Caroline Thomas, Musée du Louvre, Paris

Patricia Rigault-Déon, Musée du Louvre, Paris

Julien Siesse, Musée du Louvre, Paris

Daniel Soliman, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden

Helbertijn Krudop, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden

Lucile Brunel-Duverger, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), Paris

Noëlle Timbart, C2RMF, Paris

Yannick Vandenberghe, C2RMF, Paris

Victoria Asensi Amorós, Xylodata, Paris

Paola Buscaglia, Centro Conservazione e Restauro 'La Venaria Reale' (CCR), Turin

Tiziana Cavaleri, CCR, Turin

Stefania Mainieri, Università degli Studi di Napoli 'L'Orientale', Naples

Rogério Sousa, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon

Francesca Gambino, Università degli Studi di Torino and CCR, Turin

### Themes

**1. Coffins in their funerary context.** Coffins do not exist in isolation: they are nodes in a broader funerary system. This theme encourages contributions that read coffins relationally — in dialogue with other objects, spaces, and texts that together constitute the funerary environment.

#### SUBTHEMES:

1.a. The decoration process of coffins, tombs, papyri, cartonnage mummy cases, and other funerary equipment: distinctive features and interconnections.

1.b. The iconography, texts, palaeography, and visual grammar of coffins and associated funerary materials: continuation, variation, regionality, and innovation.

1.c. Coffins and texts in dialogue with funerary literature: continuity, transformation, and intertextuality.

1.d. Artistic networks and workshop organisation.

1.e. The social and administrative dimensions of coffins as part of funerary production.

**2. Materiality and technical investigation.** The materiality of coffins and associated objects is a primary source in its own right. This theme welcomes contributions that bring scientific analysis to bear on what these objects are made of, how they were made.

#### SUBTHEMES:

2.a. Multi-technique and multimodal methodology.

2.b. New insights on materials identification and manufacturing techniques.

2.c. Comparative studies across time and regionality.

**3. Conservation practices and their contribution to coffin studies.** Conservation is not only a practical discipline but an analytical one. This theme explores how conservation

work generates knowledge, and how its results can be mobilised beyond the laboratory or the archaeological site.

SUBTHEMES:

3.a. Preventive conservation, storage environments, and treatment methodologies: new insights.

3.b. Conservation results as a resource for Egyptological and technical research.

4. **The archaeological context of Third Intermediate Period coffins.** The *Vatican Coffin Project* was built on the study of the so-called 'yellow coffins' of the Third Intermediate Period. This theme returns to this chronological focus, asking what can still be recovered — from archival documentation, rejoining dispersed assemblages, and reconstructing collection histories — about the contexts from which these objects came.

SUBTHEMES:

4.a. Histories of excavation, collection, and trade.

4.b. Reconstruction of tomb assemblages and their social aspects.

4.c. Archival documentation and its analytical potential.

### Scientific Secretary

Agnese Iob, *Vatican Coffin Project*  
*coffinconference.musei@scv.va*

### Organisation

Musei Vaticani, Events Department

### Webpage

<https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/eventi-e-novita/iniziativa/Eventi/2026/third-vatican-coffin-conference.html>

### Registration

The Registration form can be found in the following link:

[https://www.museivaticani.va/content/dam/museivaticani/pdf/eventi\\_novita/iniziativa/eventi/2026/175\\_registration\\_form.pdf](https://www.museivaticani.va/content/dam/museivaticani/pdf/eventi_novita/iniziativa/eventi/2026/175_registration_form.pdf)

Those who wish to contribute with a paper or poster, must submit the Registration form to the Scientific Secretary (*coffinconference.musei@scv.va*) no later than **16 October 2026**.

Those who only wish to attend must send the Registration form alongside the payment receipt of the Conference fee.

### Conference Fee

**EURO 80,00**

Attendance includes conference materials, morning coffee and buffet-lunch on the days of the conference, gala dinner, and participation in all the events related to the conference.

Conference attendance is free for contributors presenting a paper or poster.

For those not presenting a paper or poster, please make the payment by bank transfer, specifying your Name / Surname / Registration 3VCC as purpose of payment, at:

BANK TRANSFER INFORMATION	
Bank	UNICREDIT SpA - Roma (IT)
Recipient	Governatorato Stato della Città del Vaticano
IBAN	IT84X0200805008000103184313
SWIFT	UNCRITM1B88

### Paper and Poster Presentations

Presentations may take the form of 15 minute papers, or posters, presented in English.

To propose a paper or poster presentation, please submit an abstract (maximum 500 words) in .doc format to the Scientific Secretary ([coffinconference.musei@scv.va](mailto:coffinconference.musei@scv.va)) no later than 16 October 2026, together with the Registration form.

Each abstract must include the title, name, affiliation, and e-mail address of the author/s.

Proposal evaluations will be communicated before **6 November 2026**.

### Conference Bursary

The scientific committee will award one Conference bursary of EURO 1.500,00.

The bursary is offered for the best paper presented by a graduate student / early carrier researcher.

Those wishing to apply for the Conference bursary must indicate this on the Registration form and include their CV.

The winner will be announced at the closing of the conference.

### Practical Information and Accommodation

The organizers will provide suggestions for accommodation in the vicinity of the Musei Vaticani at a later stage.

All other relevant information can be found on the conference webpage (<https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/eventi-e-novita/iniziative/Eventi/2026/third-vatican-coffin-conference.html>), which will be updated progressively.

All further communications and circulars will be sent by e-mail.

Questions should be sent to [coffinconference.musei@scv.va](mailto:coffinconference.musei@scv.va)

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 3VCC!!!

Best wishes,

Alessia Amenta  
Curator Egyptian Dept., Musei Vaticani

Jaume Vilaró Fabregat  
*Vatican Coffin Project*



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