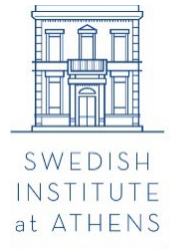


Bridges

Swedish Institutes at Athens and Rome Joint Lecture Series



Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 19h Athens time, 18h Rome
Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon 9

Dr. Ulf R. Hansson, University of Texas at Austin

Adolf Furtwängler and the Great Systematisation of Antiquity:
Die antiken Gemmen Project 1885-1900

ABSTRACT

When published in 1900, Adolf Furtwängler's monumental and lavish three-volume *Die antiken Gemmen. Geschichte der Steinschneidekunst im klassischen Altertum* was unanimously hailed as his magnum opus, a model work of reference for the new century, and an achievement that made German Wissenschaft proud. The book was widely understood as more than just a study of engraved gems: it was seen as an ambitious cultural history of the ancient Mediterranean civilizations, based on source material that Furtwängler's nineteenth-century predecessors had deemed unreliable and problematic, but which he was now making available, in a completely restructured form, to the scholarly community as a solid basis for further research. This lecture takes a closer look at Furtwängler's ambitious project, which took a decade and a half to complete, its prehistory, its achievements and initial reception, as well as its long-term impact.

The seminar will take place in a hybrid format, with live presence at the Swedish Institute at Athens, Mitseon 9, and via zoom link.

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