

## **The Academic Legacy of Berthold Laufer: A Commemorative Symposium**

All times are CDT

All lectures are in Ward Lecture Hall, West Entrance, unless otherwise noted

**Thursday, 18 June 2026**

**4:00 PM**

**Introductory remarks**

**Keynote presentation**

Nick Pearce, Richmond Chair of Fine Art, University of Glasgow, UK

**Disciplines in the Making: A Reassessment of Berthold Laufer's Contribution to Sinology, Anthropology, and Art History**

**Welcome reception, East Entrance**

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**Friday, 19 June 2026**

**8:30—9:30 AM**

**Coffee and light breakfast, Lecture Hall 2**

**9:30—10:10 AM**

Laurel M. Kendall, Curator, Asian Ethnology, Curator-in-Charge of African and Pacific Ethnology, American Museum of Natural History, NY; Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, NY

**An Early Foray into Ethnology: Laufer's AMNH Years**

**10:10—10:50 AM**

Yuchao Zhao, Assistant Curator of Asian Anthropology, Field Museum

**The Migration of Symbols Revisited: Berthold Laufer's Amur Ethnography and the Deep History of the Sino-Amur Frontier**

**10:50—11:10 AM**  
**Coffee, Lecture Hall 2**

**11:10—11:50 AM**  
Soren Edgren, former Editorial Director of the Chinese Rare Books Project, Princeton University

**The Laufer Book Collection in the American Museum of Natural History**

**11:50 AM—12:30 PM**  
Guolong Lai, Professor of Humanities, Westlake University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China

**Laufer's Blackstone and Marshall Field Expeditions: Logistics, Activities, and Legacies**

**12:30—1:30 PM**  
**Lunch, Lecture Hall 2**

**1:30—2:10 PM**  
Annette L. Juliano, Research Associate, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World,  
New York University; Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

***Mingqi in Context***

**2:10—2:50 PM**  
Fletcher Coleman, Assistant Professor of Art and Art History, The University of Texas at Arlington

**Understanding through Ink: Berthold Laufer and Early Scholarly Engagement with Ink  
Rubbings in the United States**

**2:50—3:30 PM**  
Zaixin Hong, Professor, Art and Art History, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

**Rubbings and Photographs: Berthold Laufer's Rediscovery of the Chinese Calligraphic  
Tradition in Perspective of Chinese and Western Epigraphic Studies  
at the Turn of the 20th Century**

**3:30—3:50 PM**

**Coffee, Lecture Hall 2**

**3:50—4:30 PM**

Fang Hui, Dean of the School of History and Culture, and Professor of the Institute of Cultural Heritage;  
Dean of the Cultural Heritage Research Institute, Shandong University, Jinan, China

**Laufer's Jade Collection and Its Academic Value: New Observations Based on Archaeological Discoveries**

**4:30—5:10 PM**

Mariana Castro, Expanding the Ancient World Program, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW), New York University

**From Myth to Mineralogy: Revisiting Berthold Laufer's Legacy in the Study of Turquoise**

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**Saturday, 20 June 2026**

**8:30—9:30 AM**

**Coffee and light breakfast, Lecture Hall 2**

**9:30—10:10 AM**

Jonathan Schlesinger, Associate Professor of History, Indiana University, Bloomington

**Laufer's Collections as Environmental Archive: The Ivories Behind *Ivory in China* (1925)**

**10:10—10:50 AM**

Lin Hang, Professor of History, Hangzhou Normal University, Zhejiang province, China

**Taste of Central Asia: Berthold Laufer's Contribution to the Study of Food Transmission to China**

**10:50—11:10 AM**

**Coffee, Lecture Hall 2**

**11:10—11:50 AM**

Milad Abedi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Ancient History and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, University of Innsbruck, Austria

***Sino-Iranica* a Century On: Laufer's Insights in Light of Modern Contact Linguistics and Loanword Studies (virtual presentation)**

**11:50 AM—12:30 PM**

Katherine Anne Paul, Stella Kramrisch Curator of Indian and Himalayan Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art

**From an Ocean of Objects to the Shore of Lake Michigan, Laufer's Recreating Tibet at the Field Museum**

**12:30—1:30 PM**

**Lunch, Lecture Hall 2**

**1:30—2:10 PM**

Kristina L. Anderson, Buddhism Public Scholar, Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation, Art Institute of Chicago

**Tibetan Thangkas of the Field Museum and Berthold Laufer's Blackstone Expedition**

**2:10—2:50 PM**

Catherine Stuer, Associate Professor and Chair of Art History and Visual Culture, Denison University, Granville, OH

**Hammered, Carved, Woven, and Painted: Berthold Laufer and the Hand-Made Object**

**2:50—3:30 PM**

Yuhang Li, Professor of Chinese Art, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Staging the Divine: Rethinking Chinese Material Religion Through the Berthold Laufer Theatrical Collection (virtual presentation)**

**3:30—3:50 PM**

**Coffee, Lecture Hall 2**

**3:50—4:10 PM**

Huang Shuhui, editor/publisher, Zhongxi Press, Shanghai

**Huang Shuhui will describe *The Collected Works of Berthold Laufer (2022)*—a multi-volume compilation including 235 of Laufer’s brief articles and major monographs, which the Press has generously donated to the Library of the Field Museum.**

**4:10—5:00 PM**

**Discussion session**

Gary Feinman, MacArthur Curator of Mesoamerican, Central American, and East Asian Anthropology, Field Museum

**Gary Feinman will chair a panel discussion regarding observations on the impact of Berthold Laufer on museums, on scholarship, and on communities ranging from public audiences to academics.**

**5:00 PM**

**Closing remarks, Field Museum**

**Concluding reception, Sue Ling Gin Garden**