

16.11.2016 Wednesday / Çarşamba

Richard Piran McClary, The University of Edinburgh

“Medieval Craftsmen and the birth of the Rūm Saljūq Aesthetic: The ‘Izz al-Dīn Kay Kāwūs Hospital in Sivas”

#### Abstract

As the pre-eminent surviving example of Rūm Saljūq architecture, the hospital and tomb complex in Sivas, built between 1217 and 1220, marks the pinnacle of the early, developmental, phase of Islamic architecture in Anatolia. A study of the key formal and decorative elements of the building allows for a deeper understanding of not only the working methods of the craftsmen, but also the wide range of sources which they employed, combined in a *tour de force* of architectural synthesis. The complex acts, in part, as a visual metaphor for the political and cultural syntheses which were underway in the early years of the thirteenth century in Anatolia. A well-known, but poorly understood building, this paper presents a number of the decorative and formal elements for the first time. The combination of brick and stone, along with the presence of both Arabic and Persian epigraphy, highlights the newly emerging identity of the Rūm Saljūq dynasty. The complex includes examples of almost all of the major architectural elements that came to define the architecture of the Rūm Saljūqs, yet retains much of the flavour of its various antecedent structures, located across the wider Iranian world.

**Dr Richard Piran McClary**

**Employed:** Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow, School of the History of Art, The University of Edinburgh

**PhD:** The University of Edinburgh, *The Rūm Saljūq Architecture of Anatolia 1170 - 1220*, 2015

**MA:** The School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, *The Origins, Development and Morphology of 13<sup>th</sup> century Central Anatolian Portals*, 2011

#### **Publications:**

McClary, R., *Rum Seljuq Architecture 1170-1220: The Patronage of Sultans*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (2016)

McClary, R., “From Nakhchivan to Kemah: The Western Extent of Brick Persianate Funerary Architecture in the Sixth/Twelfth century,” *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies*, Vol. LIII (2015), pp.119-142

McClary, R., “The Re-use of Byzantine Spolia in Rūm Saljūq Architecture,” *Copy - Paste. The Reuse of Material and Visual Culture in Architecture*, *Bfo-Journal*, No.1 (2015), pp.14-22