

AIA

New York Society News



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lectures, galas, Archaeology Day, and an exciting year to come....

Greetings and welcome back after our summer hiatus. I hope everyone has passed the last few months well and is ready to start up their various pursuits as the fall gears up. Here at the AIA-New York Society we have been planning for a year of interesting lectures and initiatives, and we hope you will enjoy them. The summer, as usual, has been fairly busy, and several society members and board members were once again participating on archaeological projects. If you are curious about the projects that people work on, come and ask board members (identified by their colorful AIA buttons), or other society members to talk about their adventures at our after lecture receptions.

The Winter/Spring lectures of our 2012-13 season covered an interesting range of topics, and the April AIA Gala in New York was held at a new venue this past year, The Tribeca Rooftop. Its theme was *Gods, Greeks, and Heroes*. The Bandolier Award for public service went to Malcolm Hewitt Wiener. Once again The Friends of the AIA, under the leadership of Jeff Lamia, organized a series of well attended events. We thank all the friends for their generosity, which is vital to our programming. If you are interested in joining the Friends and participating in the smaller and more intimate events that are organized by the Friends Committee, please contact the Friends at NYfriends@aia-nysociety.org.

As I write this, we are working to firm up venues for our 2013-14 lecture program. Our opening lecture is on September 24, and our speaker will be Alex Bauer of Queens College. Dr Bauer will be talking about the fascinating work being done on the Sinop Peninsula on the Black Sea, in Turkey. The 24th is also the date of our Annual Meeting. Come out and support the society, we have a number of things to

vote on (new board members and a proposed change to the by-laws), and thus we look forward to having a full house.

Over the course of the year we will have lectures that focus on different aspects of archaeological inquiry, highlighting the very wide range of topics that archaeologists and their colleagues pursue in their quest to better understand how people lived in the past. Our lectures investigate Mughal caravansaries, Central European weaving in the Iron Age, the spread of Aztec and Inca plants, a little known Near Eastern kingdom, and even New York City's relationship to water. The schedule is still evolving, so please check our website

<http://AIA-NYSociety.org/events> for updates.

Remember, all lectures are free and do not require a RSVP. If you ever forget when or where an event is to be held, just check the website. Once again, the AIA's International Archaeology Day will be in October. This year we hope to have an exciting program developed by local area students. More information will be on our website as soon as we have the details.

As always, the AIA-New York Society would love to have more people actively engaged in our activities. If you are an enterprising and energetic member who wants to volunteer with us, contact a board member at one of the lectures or email us at info@aia.org. Graduate students: this might be a great opportunity for you to get involved with the AIA! Wishing everyone a good start to the fall season, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

- Paula Kay Lazrus

President of the Archaeological Institute of America
New York Society

AIA New York Society lecture series for Fall 2013

September 24, 6:30 (AIA-NYS ANNUAL MEETING at 6:00-6:25; reception to follow lecture)
“Landscapes and Seascapes of the Ancient Black Sea: The First and Next 15 Years of the Sinope Regional Archaeological Project”

Alexander A. Bauer, Queens College, CUNY

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (Br26 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street

Since 1997, the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project (SRAP) has been conducting systematic archaeological investigations in the Black Sea coastal province of Sinop, Turkey. This work has greatly expanded our knowledge of both this region and the Black Sea as a whole: it has given us new insight into the dynamics of Greek colonization during the Archaic period, how the economy and landscape shifted in the subsequent Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods, and has effectively pushed back the age of Black Sea connectivity to the Early Bronze Age, at least two millennia before the Greek colonial period. This presentation will first discuss some of the highlights of this work and the picture that is now emerging about Black Sea history and will then introduce the exciting next stage of SRAP's research: a planned 15-year excavation of Sinop *kale*, which we believe to be the site of the never-excavated colony of Sinope.

October 8, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“The Forgotten Kingdom of Tuwana in Central Anatolia”

Lorenzo D'Alfonzo, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

15 East 84th St., First Floor, ISAW. (co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World)

The interconnections between Mediterranean and Near Eastern societies are often discussed in terms of ‘the East’ and ‘the West,’ especially in the context of the Persian Wars, but the reality is much more complex and nuanced. Recent archaeological research shows that after the collapse of the palatial system (c. 1200 BCE), Anatolia and the Levant experienced a fully new, regionally variegated situation. This lecture will focus on archaeological work undertaken on the small and rich kingdom of Tuwana (Cappadocia, Turkey) and highlight the vital position of this kingdom as a cross-road between Assyria, Phrygia, the Levant, and the East-Greek world during the 9th – 7th century BCE.

November 14, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

THE HAUPT LECTURE: “Mughal Caravanserais: Anchoring Landscapes of Identity, Exchange, and Power in Northern South Asia”

Jennifer Campbell, SUNY, Potsdam

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (Br26 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street

The Caravanserai Networks Project investigates Mughal Caravanserais (1500-1800 AD) in Northern South Asia, examining the importance of these structures in facilitating trade and travel across the Northern Subcontinent. Caravanserais served as vital nodes that echoed imperial power and control and that contributed, and continue to contribute, to regional and personal notions of identity - both for users and administrators.

See the Winter Newsletter**for abstracts and detailed information about the following upcoming talks:**

January (date & time TBA): **“Re-discovering South Street Seaport - New York City’s Relationship with Water.”** Alyssa Loorya, Chrysalis Archaeology. Location TBA.

February 3, 6:30 (reception to follow): THE BRUSH LECTURE: **“Seven Aztec and Inca Plants That Changed the World: Maize, Tomato, Chocolate, Potato, Coca, Quinoa, Cinchona.”** Patrick Hunt, Stanford University. Location TBA.

March 6, 6:30 (reception to follow): THE KRESS LECTURE: **“Women in the Iron Age - Weavers of Destiny (Central Europe).”** Hrvoje Potrebica, University of Zagreb. 15 East 84th St., First Floor, ISAW. (co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World)

April 3, 6:30 (reception to follow): **“Preserving Memory from Oblivion: The Archaeology of Death and Burial in Post-Medieval Britain.”** Zoe Crossland, Columbia University. Lecture co-sponsored by the Columbia Center for Archaeology (Location TBA).

May (date & time TBA): **“State Formation in Anglo-Saxon England.”** Pamela Crabtree, New York University.



*To view updated information about lectures and other AIA-NYS matters online,
check out our website:*

<http://aia-nysociety.org/events/>



Interested in joining the *Friends of the New York Society*? Your additional contribution will not only help us maintain our stimulating lecture schedule, but it will also give you the opportunity to join fellow enthusiasts for private exhibition tours and intimate discussions, often held in a board member’s home. Looking to have a more concrete involvement in the society? We are looking for **volunteers** to help us on lecture days. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, check out the new website (<http://aia-nysociety.org>) and click on the appropriate links provided. We look forward to seeing you online and in person.

- *Paula Kay Lazrus*, President of the AIA-NYS

Also... PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Please feel free to contribute articles or to send notice of exhibits, conferences, symposiums or other NYC based events that AIA-NYS members might deem of interest to Ellen Morris (emorris@barnard.edu)

snail mail: c/o New York Society News, 217 Manhattan Avenue #7A, New York, NY 10025

CUTTING EDGE DOCTORAL RESEARCH FROM GOTHAM'S FINEST

**Irene Soto
examines the ceramics & coins of
Roman Egypt**



I was inexplicably enthralled by ceramics the first time I started working with them during my undergraduate semester abroad at Amheida, in the Dakhleh Oasis of Egypt. It took a few more years and analyzing thousands of sherds before I realized that I was drawn to these

seemingly commonplace archaeological finds because of the economic implications behind large ceramic production. I have continued my interest in commerce and trade through my work on ceramics as a PhD student at ISAW, where I focus on the economic history of Late Antiquity.

The quantification methods we employ at Amheida for counting our pottery made me realize the relatively low ratio of imported amphorae from the Nile Valley and from the rest of the Mediterranean to the quantity of local pottery in the 4th-century layers. It is true that Amheida is located in an oasis, requiring a seven to ten day journey to reach the Nile Valley, and one would thus expect a ceramic assemblage mostly of local pottery. However, excavations in nearby towns reveal a greater quantity of imports in the preceding centuries of Roman occupation. Wondering whether Amheida's situation was unique or not, I set about studying other 4th century assemblages and production centers in Egypt; some of my preliminary results indicate to me that there was a change occurring in the Egyptian production landscape.

But economic history needs more than potsherds, so I decided to add numismatics to my toolkit by taking part in the 2013 Eric P. Newman Graduate Seminar in Numismatics at the American Numismatic Society.

Until Diocletian's reform around 296, Egypt had remained a closed monetary system, where the only currency officially circulating in the

province was coins minted at Alexandria and made of billon in small denominations. Thus, anyone entering Egypt was required to exchange their normal imperial coins for billon coins. After the reform, Egypt joined the rest of the Empire in the new currency system. The pattern of circulation of coinage after Diocletian can thus potentially show to some extent how coins from 4th-century mints in the Eastern Mediterranean circulated in Egypt. I'm looking at the composition of 4th-century hoards and single-coin finds in Egypt in order to see the ratio of Alexandrian-minted coins to coins from mints in the rest of the Mediterranean.

The study of commerce links my interests in ceramics and monetary systems. Amphorae carry products, and I wish next to focus on production, transport, and sale of agricultural goods in Egypt, particularly olive oil. For this, I will be relying mostly on textual evidence. I started my training in papyrology at ISAW last fall during a seminar taught by Professor Bagnall, and so far I have continued to put my Greek and my eyes to the test by working on my own edition of a papyrus from the NYU collection.

I will return to Amheida this winter for the next season of excavations, where along with my fellow ceramicists, I am working on a publication of the pottery from the site. After two years at ISAW, my research interests are still developing, but for now I wish to analyze the ancient economy through coins, papyri and ceramics.

- Irene Soto

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World
PhD Candidate



*Roman period
unexcavated
kiln at Amheida,
Dakhleh Oasis,
Egypt.*

Spotlight on...

Excavations at Amheida

Since I've spent much of my career on the economic history of Egypt, and particularly Egypt of the fourth century, how could I fail to be happy to have a graduate student interested in the subject? It is rejuvenating to be brought back in particular to the Roman money of that period found in Egypt, which I studied three decades ago in trying to understand the price rises ("inflation") and monetary debasement of those difficult times. Pottery, on the other hand, is something I never knew much about and had not studied since my undergraduate days. But this is where the intellectual community formed by an excavation team comes in to save the ignorant adviser, because the Amheida family includes plenty of helpers: for example, a young Polish archaeologist-papyrologist, Dorota Dzierzbicka, who wrote her dissertation on the production of wine in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt and is now studying wine distribution; and it has, as Irene says, a whole group of ceramists, who share her interests in Amheida's small store of amphora fragments. Indeed, just last winter we found that the north wind had kindly unveiled a whole quarter of the site hidden under sand until then, which dated to earlier Roman times, and there a wider variety of amphora fragments turned up than we get in the fourth century parts of the site. So Irene may well be on to something in thinking that bigger changes in patterns of production, importation, and distribution were afoot.

So what is Amheida, you might be asking. It's an urban site in Egypt's western desert, which was occupied at least from the Old Kingdom in the third millennium BCE to the fourth century CE, after which it was abandoned and never reoc-

cupied. A couple of miles away, in late antiquity, was a fort housing a Roman army unit—horse-mounted archers to patrol the desert roads, on which depended the Dakhleh Oasis's ability to export high-value crops like olive oil and cotton to the Nile valley. Like many excavations, it constantly produces surprises; having too fixed an agenda is not a good idea. But it has in our first decade of work been remarkably rich not only on evidence for economic issues but also for visual and literary culture, both Egyptian and Greek. Pharaonic temple decoration, Greek poetry, Roman paintings, baths, bodies, coins, and ostraca have given insights into the social, cultural, and economic subjects I was hoping to pursue, and many other areas I did not anticipate. Its urban layout is better known than that of any other Greco-Roman site in Egypt. It has already supported one completed dissertation project before Irene's, and the site should support another century or two of study. Our annual reports, links to articles, and the first volume of our excavation reports are available online at www.amheida.org. Our database is also now online at www.amheida.com.

- Roger Bagnall

Director, NYU Excavations at Amheida
Leon Levy Director of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World



Potsberds littering the surface at Amheida

ARCHAEOLOGY ABOUT TOWN: A ROUND UP BY AMANDA SUTPHIN

Archaeology has been conducted in all five boroughs of New York City. It generally occurs through the environmental review process, which mandates that government agencies consider the impact of discretionary actions on a range of resources including archaeological sites. The archaeology completed through this process is conducted by professional archaeologists working for developers and is overseen by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's Department of Archaeology. For more information about the process please see:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/pubs/ayguide.pdf> and for access to the over 1,500 reports about this work please see:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/forms/archaeology_reports.shtml

These are a few recent projects that have uncovered significant archaeological resources in New York City:

Old Place Neck Site:

Spectra Energy is expanding its existing Texas Eastern Transmission and Algonquin Gas Transmission pipeline system into Staten Island and Manhattan. As part of the environmental review process required for this project, a significant archaeological site was discovered and documented in Staten Island near Old Place last fall by the Public Archaeology Laboratory. The analysis is still underway, but preliminary findings indicate that the site includes periods of occupation from



Old Place Neck Site excavation, courtesy of NYC LPC

the Late Archaic to Late Woodland (c. 4000 BCE to 1550 CE), and one diagnostic artifact from the late PaleoIndian/early Archaic period (ca. 7000 BCE) suggests even earlier occupation. The preliminary interpretation is that the site was visited seasonally over thousands of years for hunting and processing waterfowl from the adjacent marsh. After the analysis is completed, the final report will be available on the website noted above, and the Staten Island Museum will have an exhibit about the findings. A report about the preliminary findings may be found here:

http://nytelecom.vo.llnwd.net/015/agencies/lpc/arch_reports/1493.pdf

Riverside Center:

A block bounded by West End Ave, West 59th Street, West 61st Street, and Riverside Boulevard in the Upper West Side of Manhattan is being developed. As part of the environmental review process required for this project, a significant archaeological site was discovered and documented last spring by Geoarchaeology Research Associates. The archaeology has provided the opportunity to trace the shoreline changes that have modified the landforms from the impact of Colonial farming to the construction of a late 19th century railroad line and stockyard. This work will allow a much more sophisticated understanding of the impact of historic land modification. After the analysis is complete,



Well from above, Riverside, courtesy of Geoarchaeology Research Associates, Inc

the final report will be available on the website noted above.

Bowne House:

The Bowne House, located at 37-01 Bowne Street, Flushing, was constructed in the late 17th century with later additions. John Bowne was arrested for permitting the Quakers to hold meetings at the site and was eventually acquitted by the Dutch government in Holland, an event often credited as establishing the right to freedom of worship. Recent archaeology associated with the renovation of the house uncovered a cistern that contained thousands of late 19th century artifacts including: eye glasses with lenses, a political campaign glass with President Grover Cleveland's face, and a range of medicine bottles such as Radway's Ready Relief, which claimed to cure almost everything ranging from indigestion to smallpox (as described in *New York Times*, December 4, 1865, <http://www.nytimes.com/1863/12/04/news/a-new-method-of-curing-certain-diseases-by-the-use-of-radway-s-ready-relief.html>). The archaeological analysis is now underway and is being completed by Chrysalis Archaeological Contractors. The final report will be available on the website noted above. The house is part of the Historic House Trust which is under the auspices of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.



Grover Cleveland's portrait in glass, Bowne House, courtesy of Chrysalis Archaeological Contractors

Fulton Street Reconstruction:

Archaeological Monitoring is being conducted as part of the Department of Design and Construction's project to replace water mains and other key infrastructure in the South Street Seaport area in Lower Manhattan. In this multi-year project that started in 2009, Chrysalis Archaeological Contractors have documented 18th and 19th century features in the midst of modern utilities, such as an early 18th century well and a later 18th century stone foundation within Fulton Street. They most recently found an 18th century level at the entrance to the South Street Seaport containing many artifacts including regiment buttons. The 45th Regiment of Foot from Nottingham fought in the Battle of Brooklyn and were known as the Sherwood Foresters. The 15th Regiment of Foot were from Yorkshire and fought in the Battle of Brooklyn and the Battle of Fort Washington. The 26th Regiment of Foot was a Scottish unit and was part of a prisoner exchange in December 1776. The final archaeological report will be available on the website noted above once the fieldwork and analysis are complete.

-Amanda Sutphin

Director of Archaeology

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission



Fulton Street excavation, courtesy of NYC LPC

Upcoming Exhibit: ***Silla: Korea's Golden Kingdom at the Metropolitan Museum of Art***



One special exhibit that AIA-members might be interested in this fall concerns the Silla kingdom, which dominated

Korea from c. 400-800 CE. Over time it grew from a small state to encompass the entire Korean peninsula. This Buddhist kingdom was in dialogue with Chinese and Japanese kingdoms and profited from the trade that extended along the eastern branch of the Silk Road. Its great wealth and military strength led to armed struggles among the highly stratified aristocracy and also to the development of a rich material culture. This exhibit, co-organized with the National Museums of Korea in Seoul and Gyeongju, draws from the holdings of these museums and features objects that highlight the international na-

ture of the Silla culture and the influence of Buddhism on the kingdom's material culture.

The exhibit is on view from

November 4-February 23.

Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 5th Avenue

Open seven days a week
from 10-5:30 weekdays & Sunday
from 10-9 on Friday & Saturday
No extra charge for admission.

For more info see:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2013/silla>

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