

AIA New York Society News



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A new cycle: wonderful beginnings and much mourned passings...

A new year has begun, and I hope that you all have enjoyed your holidays. The AIA-New York Society's fall lecture programs were very successful and well attended. We pick up again at the end of January with a talk by Alyssa Loorya, a young and energetic archaeologist and entrepreneur, and then we will continue through May, concluding with a talk by Pamela Crabtree. The fall saw us sharing fascinating lectures focusing on Turkey and India. We thank both Hunter College and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World for providing space for these lectures. Indeed, we are most grateful to all the organizations and individuals who make our lectures possible by providing space (as with the two institutions named above but also Columbia, Barnard, and NYU, who have hosted us in the past and will continue to do so this spring). Thanks also to three members of the Friends, two anonymous donors, and Louis Blumengarten for generously contributing to two of our lectures this spring.

At our annual meeting in October we acknowledged the work of Charles Jones who has left the board now that he is working at Penn State, and we voted in and welcomed two new board members: Robert Koehl of Hunter and Paul Zimmerman of the Dalton School. Additionally, both Whitney Keen and I were voted in for new terms of office. As many of you know there can always be slight changes of venue and schedule, so be sure to check out our website at <http://aia-nysociety.org/events> to be sure of times, dates, and locations. As always, all lectures are free, open to the public, and do not require an RSVP. Bring your friends along!

The Friends of the New York Society organization has been busy this fall as usual, and with its restructured financial format it is moving forward with great success. Jeff Lamia does a wonderful job as the chair of the Friends, and for this we are most appreciative, as we are for the generosity of each and every person who has chosen to join. Without that support we would be hampered in our efforts to offer six events beyond the three annual lectures we receive from the National office. A list of the current friends can be found on the third page of this newsletter. The Friends are crucial to helping us offer as wide a program as we can. Thank you all! If you enjoy our lectures but aren't yet a Friend, please consider joining to further assist us in our activities.

As you will see in the following pages, we have a great line up of lectures for the winter and spring. Enjoy interesting lectures, good discussions, and the company of your fellow society members.

--*-- *--* In Memoriam --*--*--*

Shortly after our annual meeting we were saddened to learn that Robert Costa, our friend, colleague, and fellow trustee, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, Sept 27th. He will be remembered by many in the community for his enthusiastic interest in all aspects of the study of the past and for his unwavering support for the AIA, the New York Society, and our mission. We will miss him.

- Paula Kay Lazrus
President, AIA New York Society

aia New York Society lecture series for Winter 2014

January 27, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“Rediscovering South Street Seaport — New York City’s Relationship with Water” *(This lecture is supported by a generous donation from Louis Blumengarten.)*

Alyssa Loorya, Chrysalis Archaeology

Barnard College, 304 Barnard Hall

Over the past few years several archaeological discoveries have been made throughout the historic South Street Seaport. The rebuilding of infrastructure in lower Manhattan is enabling archaeologists to rediscover the past of this historic district. Remains from the eighteenth to early twentieth centuries are shedding new light on the development of the seaport area.

February 3, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

THE BRUSH LECTURE: “Seven Aztec and Inca Plants that Changed the World: Maize, Tomato, Chocolate, Potato, Coca, Quinoa, Cinchona”

Patrick Hunt, Stanford University

Barnard College, 304 Barnard Hall

Although the Aztecs and Inca did not originate use of these New World plants (maize, tomato, cacao, potato, coca, and quinoa), their sophisticated botanical heritage and agricultural practices were well suited to develop these food and medicinal sources for their societies. When the Spanish conquistadores and their parochial scientists became familiar with these plants and their uses, living samples and seeds were taken back to Europe. The plants were eventually grown there, and many New World plants form the basis of European diets and modern medicine.

March 6, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

THE KRESS LECTURE: “Women in the Iron Age — Weavers of Destiny (Central Europe)”

Hrvoje Potrebica, University of Zagreb

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

This lecture explores the diversity of interpretative models for the role of women in the Iron Age communities of the Central European Hallstatt Cultural Complex. A major source of information related to Iron Age women comes from grave inventories, especially costume elements and grave goods. Using that data, we can try to answer basic questions related to the inclusion of women in different social and religious status categories, as well as how their gender related to that affiliation.

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

<http://aia-nysociety.org> and click on the “events” tab.

Also... PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Send news of your own or your colleagues’ excavations, new books, awards, or any other items you 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

April 3, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“Preserving Memory from Oblivion: The Archaeology of Death and Burial in Post-medieval Britain” (*This lecture is supported by a generous donation from two members of the AIA-NY Society Friends*)

Zoe Crossland, Columbia University

Columbia University, Schermerhorn Hall 612/614 (co-sponsored by the Columbia Center for Archaeology)

Historic interments in Great Britain are fairly straightforward. The vast majority of the dead were buried according to Christian rites, without grave goods, and with the head oriented to the west—ready to face the east at the day of judgement. This presentation will review the varied burial landscapes of the United Kingdom and assess the surprising variation that is found, even within these narrow burial traditions. It will consider what historic churchyards and cemeteries can tell us about changing attitudes to the dead body during a period of radical challenges to traditional religious beliefs.

May 22, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“State Formation in Anglo-Saxon England”

Pamela Crabtree, New York University

NYU Department of Anthropology, 25 Waverly Place (NW corner of Waverly Place & Greene Street), Kriser Room

This lecture will trace the archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England from the end of Roman Britain to the emergence of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the 8th century. Special attention will be paid to changes in settlement patterns, burial practices, religion, and economy.

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.

And let us take a moment to thank the Friends we currently have!

Friends (\$175-\$249)

Myrna Coffino, Linda Getter, Ira Haupt II, Brian Heidtke, Elizabeth Macaulay Lewis & George Lewis, Dorinda Oliver, Marina Papa, Joan & George Schiele, Jessica Weber, + four anonymous donors

Supporter (\$250-\$400)

Elie Abemayor, Elizabeth Bartman, Robert Costa, Carol Howard Hyman, Peter Lincoln, Lynn Quigley, John Yarmick

Explorer (\$500-\$999)

Whitney and Fred Keen, Jeffrey A. Lamia, + one anonymous donor

Patron (\$1,000 up)

Louis Blumengarten + one anonymous donor

Spotlight on...

CUNY's Sinop Regional Archaeological Project

Since 1996, the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project (SRAP) has been conducting systematic archaeological investigations in the Black Sea coastal province of Sinop, Turkey. Queens College, CUNY, professor Alexander Bauer began working with SRAP as a first year graduate student and is now its Associate Director, taking both undergraduates and graduate students from CUNY into the field to learn techniques of archaeological research and about the history of Turkey (ancient Anatolia) from prehistory to the present.

SRAP's 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, and how the economy and landscape shifted in the subsequent Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. Most significantly, it has effectively pushed back the age of Black Sea connectivity to the Early Bronze Age, at least two millennia before the Greek colonial period, raising interesting questions about to what extent the Archaic colonists built upon social networks already well established among local Black Sea groups. As part of this project, CUNY graduate student Antonia Santangelo is investigating these questions through an innovative analysis of fish exploitation there (*see the most recent ALA-NY Society supplemental newsletter that focused on graduate student research*).

One of the most intriguing discoveries of the survey came out of an erosional scarp below the entrance to Sinop's historic city wall. An ancient cobblestone wall, likely dating to the Hellenistic period, overlay a series of pits containing handmade, polished pottery of a type resembling Late Bronze Age and Iron Age types from elsewhere in the Black Sea. Further research conducted in this area, including a Ground-Penetrating Radar survey undertaken in 2012,

suggests that what is probably an early fishing village is also the likely location of the earliest Black Sea colony, founded by Miletos in 630 BCE and never excavated.

The next project SRAP is planning is thus an exciting one: the excavation of ancient Sinope, the earliest colony on the southern Black Sea coast, and a hub of maritime activity in the region from the 7th century BCE until the sinking of the Ottoman Black Sea fleet in 1853, at the outset of the Crimean War. A team of archaeologists, geomorphologists, and conservators from universities and museums in the US, UK, Turkey, and Russia are developing a research project to investigate this important site, and are working collaboratively with the Sinop Museum and Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism to develop the best plan for conserving and presenting the site to the public. A broader goal of the Sinop excavation project is to serve as a model for integrating a cutting-edge research program with a heritage preservation plan that will permit sustainable culturally- and ecologically-driven tourism.

- *Alexander A. Bauer*
Queens College, CUNY



*Aerial view of the historic city walls
Photo courtesy of the Sinop Cultural Tourism Office*

CUTTING EDGE DOCTORAL RESEARCH FROM GOTHAM'S FINEST

Ethnicity in Ancient Alalakh*Kimberly Consroe sinks her teeth into the issue.*

Archaeologists often ask questions about the migration of, and contact between, ancient people. As in the present day, sometimes this contact is due to trade and economic affairs, and sometimes it is because of conflict among

ethnic groups and nations. How to determine which groups we are discovering in our archaeological research can be a major challenge, as we usually rely on pottery and other art, and sometimes texts preserved on codices and tablets. At the famous Middle Bronze Age site of Alalakh (modern Tell Atchana, Turkey), historical sources and artifacts found there tell us a great deal about the military and economic pursuits of its inhabitants, but determining the ethnicity and cultural identity of those living and dying there has been difficult to pin down.

Inhabited between c.2000 – c.1200 BC, ancient Alalakh was an administrative, trade, and production center along the Orontes River providing both an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea, a way south into western Syria, and an urban center along the eastward caravan route to the Euphrates River. Alalakh was a valuable and strategic site contested by the Middle Bronze Age superpowers that waxed and waned over the Second Millennium BC.: the Hittites, the Egyptians and the Mitanni (Hurrian) peoples of highland north Mesopotamia. As a result of its being in a border zone in the northern Levant, most archaeologists and historians assume that while the core population of Alalakh was likely Hurrian, it was a cosmopolitan city that also attracted diplomats and merchants, along with semi-nomadic peoples of the region. Such suppositions, while reasonable, have been difficult to support based on the textual and artifactual record alone.

Identifying the backgrounds of individuals living in a cosmopolitan city based on such evidence

is problematic, so my research includes another kind of material: human skeletal remains. My work focuses on the bioarchaeological record, and specifically dental remains found at the site, as a promising way to identify ethnic groups present at Alalakh. This work seeks to investigate and challenge the previous documentation of human variation at Alalakh based on artifacts and language, by analyzing the human remains excavated there. This site thus offers an important test case for evaluating how far artifacts, pottery, and language can take us in assessing human diversity.

With permission of the Turkish Government, I have collected dental and postcranial material from Tell Atchana since 2009 and brought it to New York City, where I have undertaken non-destructive analyses, including the identification of tooth wear, and pathological and cultural alterations, as well as assessed the morphological characteristics of the dentition using both metric techniques and the nonmetric Arizona State University Dental Anthropology System (ASUDAS). ASUDAS provides insight concerning the genetic variation among peoples whose phenotypic dental characteristics reveal genetic foundations. I am planning to build on this analysis with isotopic (which tells us about diet and geographical origin) and genetic testing of a subsample of the material. It is my hope that this multi-faceted exploration of the skeletal materials from ancient Alalakh can speak to not only the possibility of identifying cultural and ethnic diversity at that site, but also the importance of including this type of osteologically-derived evidence in research that addresses cultural and ethnic diversity in the ancient past.

- Kimberly Consroe
CUNY,
Ph.D. Candidate in
Archaeology



Cultural modification and incisal tooth wear on an adult female

Archaeology of the Contemporary Past: Keep an eye out for the 9/11 Memorial Museum opening

***Opening this spring:
The National September 11th
Memorial Museum.***

The 9/11 Memorial Museum is slated to open this spring, although the details are not yet finalized. The museum's mission is one of both commemoration and education. Thus many of the objects discovered during salvage operations at the site will be used to narrate the tragedy and to commemorate those who lost their lives that day. Not only are many of the items on exhibit thus intimately related to the archaeology of our contemporary past, but the designers also strove to preserve the character of an archaeological site by curating larger structural elements of the World Trade Center buildings as well as more personal recovered artifacts. As is only fitting, a tremendous amount of thought and consultation has gone into this project. It will be fascinating to journey within.

If you're impatient to investigate the museum's collections and related artifacts check out these three recent books

The Stories They Tell: Artifacts from the National September 11 Memorial Museum.
by Alice M. Greenwald

Memory Remains: 9/11 Artifacts at Hangar 17
by Francesc Torres

Aftermath: World Trade Center Archive
by Joel Meyerowitz

The first book tells the stories of many of the most evocative artifacts in the museum's collection. The second is a book of photography by a Spanish artist allowed access to Hangar 17, where the material was stored prior to the creation of the museum, and the third is a series of photographs of the process of recovering these artifacts.

M. Whitney Keen, Secretary
AIA New York Society
64 Oak Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321