



AIA NEW YORK SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES FOR FALL 2016

September 27, 6:30 (Annual meeting to precede lecture at 6:00; reception to follow)

Archaeology as Ethnology (and Vice Versa): Puebloan Variations

Peter Whiteley, Curator, Division of Anthropology American Museum of Natural History;
Professor, Richard Gilder Graduate School
American Museum of Natural History, Linder Theater (enter through West 77th Street
entrance).

Can archaeologists interested in precolonial Puebloan ruins learn anything from the Pueblo ethnographic record? Can ethnological explanation of the Pueblos benefit from the archaeological record? Notwithstanding recent doubts on both counts, I here argue that contemporary and recent Puebloan societies and cultural practices should be viewed as ethnological homologies (rather than “ethnographic analogies”), that descend “with modification” from Ancestral Pueblo systems. Mutual engagement among ethnography, ethnohistory, and archaeology should not be an ancillary project, but rather a precondition for adequate scientific explanation of Puebloan sociocultural systems over the longue durée.

October 6, 6:30 (Reception to follow lecture)

***Columbia University’s Excavation Project at the Sanctuary of Poseidon
at Onchestos, Boeotia***

Ioannis Mylonopolos, Associate Professor Ancient Greek Art, Architecture, and
Archaeology,
Columbia University Department of Art History and Archaeology
(Co-sponsored by the Institute for Study of the Ancient World)
15 East 84th St., ISAW

In the summer of 2014, Columbia University’s Department of Art History and Archaeology initiated under the auspices of The Athens Archaeological Society the excavation of the sanctuary of Poseidon at Onchestos, the seat of the Boeotian Confederacy and one of the few Greek sacred places mentioned in the Iliad. The excavation has focused on two large areas (Site A: 0.6 ha; Site B: 1.03 ha) and this excavation has already yielded a rich array of finds: vases and vase-fragments (several bearing graffiti), countless bronze objects (including several strigils), bronze and silver coins, weapons (among them a fully preserved sword), objects associated with horse- and chariot races, and many architectural elements (including several architectural terracottas bearing floral and abstract decoration in black, white, and red color on a beige background; fragments of Ionic columns; two Ionic corner capitals). After only three years of excavation, the questions are still far more numerous than the answers, but we can securely state that the site was one of the major sanctuaries of Central Greece. This lecture will examine the work done through this summer.

November 14, 6:30 (Refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)

Saving the Past to Protect the Future; Heritage and Conflict

Laurie Rush, Cultural Resources Manager and Army Archaeologist stationed at Fort Drum, NY

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (B126 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 68th Street

The events of unspeakable destruction emerging from the Middle East are reminding us of the global importance of our shared humanity and heritage. Preservation of cultural property provides opportunities for cross cultural and trans-national dialogue, and archaeologists, museum professionals, and military officers are working together at the national and international level to develop teaching materials and planning resources specifically designed to help members of military forces identify and respect cultural property and the heritage of citizens of host nations. Like it or not, members of fighting forces are often the very people humanity must rely on to save sacred places, historic structures, collections of cultural property such as museums and libraries, and even archaeological sites from the ravages of disaster both natural and man-made. From heritage mapping, to archaeology awareness playing cards, to video games and lectures, this lecture describes teaching methods, preservation accomplishments in conflict and disaster areas, plans for future effort and international cooperation, and the potential implications of these efforts for peace keeping and peace-making.



AIA-NEW YORK SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES FOR SPRING 2017

February 7, 6:30 (Refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)

How human history has been shaped by climate – the link between African climate change and human culture

Peter B. de Menocal, Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Earth Institute, Columbia University

Goldman Library, The Dalton School, 108 East 89th Street (between Park Ave. and Lexington Ave.)

Between 10,000–5,000 years ago, the vast Sahara desert was lush, green, well-watered landscape that supported abundant wildlife and widespread human hunter-gatherer populations. Drying of North Africa after 5000 years ago led to a climate-driven human migration from the interior to the Nile River basin where urban, stratified, proto-Pharaonic cultures emerged.

March 20, 6:30 (Lecture at 6:30 pm in the Skylight Room. Reception to follow in Room 4108)

HAUPT LECTURE: Richard III, The King Under the Car Park: the story of the search for the burial place of England's last Plantagenet king

Richard Buckley, Co-Director of University of Leicester Archaeological Services

(Co-sponsored by the MA in Liberal Studies and the PhD Certificate Program in Medieval Studies)

CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue (at 34th Street)

In August and September 2012, a team of archaeologists from the University of Leicester set out to search for the final resting place of Richard III in a car park in central Leicester. Against all odds, the project proved to be successful in locating a potential candidate to be the king, and his identity was subsequently confirmed beyond reasonable doubt after an extensive programme of scientific analysis, including a DNA match with modern-day relatives, generating press interest from all around the globe.

April 26, 6:30 (Refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)

BRUSH LECTURE: The End of Teotihuacan: Perspectives on Urban Life, Collapse, and Regeneration from beyond the Ancient Metropolis

Sarah Clayton, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin

(Supported by Ms. Caroline Howard Hyman)

Goldman Library, The Dalton School, 108 East 89th Street (between Park Ave. and Lexington Ave.)

The first millennium CE witnessed the growth and decline of Teotihuacan, one of North America's earliest major cities and the capital of an unprecedentedly powerful state with far-reaching political influence. Teotihuacan flourished for several centuries before collapsing, by the CE 600s, for reasons that remain enigmatic. Although its monumental center has benefited from more than a century of archaeological research, investigations of daily life and social change in surrounding communities are rare by comparison. In this talk I discuss the archaeological reconstruction of household and community organization in the Basin of Mexico, beyond the margins of the capital city. I consider the process of urban decay and the ultimate political collapse of Teotihuacan from the vantage of its rural settlements, emphasizing the results of recent fieldwork at the site of Chicoloapan, 40km south of the capital. Chicoloapan evidently prospered in the generations following Teotihuacan's collapse; its population was augmented by the arrival of immigrants from other areas, perhaps including refugees from the capital. Archaeological research at Chicoloapan significantly advances our understanding of both the timing and nature of Teotihuacan's decline and the impact of these changes on members of its regional population.

May 4, 6:00 (Reception to follow lecture)

Hidden in Plain Sight: Three Attic Vases from the Century Association in New York

Jennifer Udell, Curator, Fordham Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art

(Co-sponsored by the Institute for Study of the Ancient World and supported by a generous donation from Caroline and Edward Hyman)

Institute for Study of the Ancient World, 15 East 84th St.

At the end of the 19th century Thomas B. Clarke donated four ancient Greek vases to the venerable Century Association, a private club founded by members of the Hudson River School. This talk serves as a public debut for three of the vases—one black-figure and two red-figure—which have been all but lost to the scholarly and academic community since they entered the club's collection in 1891. I address briefly the phenomenon of private New York social clubs and their impressive art collections before turning to the iconography and the style of the vases themselves.