

aia

New York Society News



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The future of the past!

Welcome to a new season of exciting events for the New York Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. I am still here as Interim President, and I will work with the Board to broaden our membership among young scholars and graduate students and to find a candidate for President of the New York Society who will be able to devote at least one full three year term to the office.

Archaeology is not only about discovery. We have a duty to preserve the past for future generations. To that end the Archaeological Institute of America has established the Site Preservation Grant Program, which will support the conservation of ancient monuments and assist with management plans for long-term maintenance of the cultural and physical landscape of endangered sites. The first project has already begun, at the Temple of Athena in Assos, Turkey. The program has received a \$250,000 challenge grant and must reach this goal by December 31, 2008. I urge all of you to give what you can to this innovative and important project. For further information you can check the AIA web site, archaeological.org.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology has also launched a new Cultural Heritage Center. As our first speaker of the year we are privileged to have Dr. Richard Hodges, Director of the Penn Museum, so we can look forward to hearing more about this

effort to preserve our archaeological heritage for future generations.

Thanks to our wonderful Program Committee Co-Chairs, Michelle Hobart and Rachel Kousser, we have an excellent and varied schedule of lectures for this year, listed in this Newsletter. I look forward to greeting many of you at our lecture programs.

Our members and their guests have another special event to look forward to this year – the second New York Society Film Festival will be held in the spring, date and place to be announced (*see the newsletter's back flap!*). Thanks to Jim Sibal and his committee for putting this program together.

The New York Society is the largest and most active of all the AIA local Societies. Before 9/11, however, we had almost 800 members. Thereafter, as with many organizations, our membership plummeted. So I ask every one of you to bring your friends to our lectures and urge them to join.

We extend our sincere thanks for all their hard work to Board member Joanna Smith, who will leave us for the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton, and to Clemente Marconi, who has served two terms on the Board.

-Lucille A. Roussin
Interim President, AIA New York Society

aia New York Society lecture series for Fall 2008

September 25, 7:00 (reception at 6:30)

“The Unesco World Heritage Site of Butrint”

Richard Hodges, University of Pennsylvania

National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South (cosponsored with the archaeology committee of the National Arts Club)

The site of Butrint – ancient Buthrotum – lies in south-west Albania on the Straits of Corfu. The lecture describes 15 years of excavations encompassing the Bronze Age, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman periods and how today a successful archaeological park has been created here. The lecture, illustrated with many slides, aims to show how modern excavation methods offer many new interpretations of familiar histories from the Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods.

October 16, 6:30 (ALA-NYS BOARD MEETING AT 6:00; reception to follow lecture)

“Classical Destruction and Desecration of Images of Classical Archaeology”

John Pollini, University of Southern California

Juwor Hall, NYU, Washington Square North and Waverly Place (co-sponsored by the NYU Center for Ancient Studies)

In popular culture, Christianity is remembered for the art, architecture, customs, rituals, and myths that it preserved from the classical past. It is rarely acknowledged, however, that Christianity also destroyed a great deal in its conversion of the Roman Empire. The material evidence for Christian destruction has often been overlooked or gone unrecognized even by archaeologists. Professor Pollini’s talk examines various forms of Christian destruction and desecration of images of classical antiquity during the fourth to seventh centuries, as well as some of the attendant problems in detecting and making sense of this phenomenon.

November 13, 6:30 (reception to follow)

“Shipwrecks in the Deep Mediterranean”

Brendan Foley, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and MIT

Onassis Center, 645 Fifth Avenue, entrance on 52nd Street (Cosponsored with the Onassis Center)

Working with colleagues in Greece, Italy, Egypt, and Algeria, Dr. Brendan Foley leads an interdisciplinary research team to study ancient civilizations through deep water Mediterranean shipwrecks. New robotic technologies rapidly document wrecks regardless of water depth, and the team’s method of extracting ancient DNA from ceramic objects allows unprecedented views of agriculture and early economies. Combined, these advanced techniques provide new understanding of critical moments in human history.

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

www.library.csi.cuny.edu/roccos/nyaia/nyaia.html

aia New York Society lecture series for Fall 2008 *continued...*

December (date and place To Be Announced)

“Constructing Pasts: Community Voices and Early New York at Joseph Lloyd Manor”

Jenna Coplin, Field Director of the Hofstra University Archaeological Field School

Built in 1767 by a family of merchant/planters who actively participated in the larger Atlantic World over several generations, Joseph Lloyd Manor was home to enslaved peoples of African descent who were used to meet labor needs on the Long Island property. One of those enslaved by the Lloyd family was Jupiter Hammon, an early, accomplished poet and writer of prose whose work addressed slavery’s injustice. However, the community of captive Africans descendants living at Lloyd Manor had many voices. Excavations at the site delve into what has been identified as the domestic residence of some of the enslaved peoples owned by the Lloyd family and seek knowledge of the local past through information uniquely accessible through archaeology.

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

January: “When the Bronze-Age State Acts: Archaeological Discovery of Documentary-Administrative Inscriptions in the Wei River Valley.” Feng Li, Columbia University.

February: “The Stonehenge Riverside Project.” Mike Pearson, U. of Sheffield (Co-sponsored with the Columbia Center for Archaeology)

March: “The Archaeology of Chocolate.” Rosemary Joyce, University of California Berkeley (Co-Sponsored with the Archaeology Committee of the National Arts Club)

April: “The Reunion of Body and Soul: Sexuality and Resurrection in the Netherworld.” Lanny Bell, Brown University. (Co-Sponsored with the Archaeology Committee of the National Arts Club)

May: “Excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt.” Kathryn Bard, Boston University.

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 (em129@nyu.edu)

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

ALSO, CONSIDER BECOMING AN ESPECIALLY GOOD FRIEND OF AIA-NYS

The Friends are a small group of archaeology enthusiasts and professionals who go the extra mile to provide the New York Society with the ability to bring you the most extensive lecture program(s) in the AIA. In the past year there were ten lectures. To show our appreciation, we hold two or three private tours for the Friends along with our annual “Living Room Seminar.” Contact the co-chairs for information:

Lynn Quigley (lquigley@plaxall.com) and Jeff Lamia (jlamia@nyc.rr.com)

Spotlight on. . .

The Anthropology Division of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)

With roughly four million visitors in the last year, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) is one of the most visited museums in the world. While public education through exhibits, lectures, and interactive series is well-documented, many do not know the extent of research and outreach activities taking place “behind-the-scenes” at the museum.

Within the Anthropology Division of the museum, “behind-the-scenes” archaeological research and outreach is fulfilled through carrying out fieldwork, hosting visiting researchers, and publication.

Ongoing archaeological fieldwork at AMNH is focused on two areas – Oaxaca (Mexico) and coastal Georgia (USA). Curator of Meso-American Archaeology, Charles Spencer, has centered his recent work in Oaxaca on investigating the development of standardized temples at San Martín Tilcajete during the Late Monte Alban I phase (300-100 BC). Dr. Spencer has also continued his work in Barinas, Venezuela where his research has focused on exploring the emergence of early chiefdom societies.

David Hurst Thomas, Curator of North American Archaeology, has worked extensively on St. Catherines Island, a small barrier island off the coast of Georgia. While his past programs have concentrated on pre-contact burial mounds and the Spanish Mission on the island, current work is being conducted on Late Archaic (3000-1000 BC) shell rings and Late Prehistoric (1200-1500 AD) village sites. Dr. Thomas’ work on both time periods has taken advantage of recent advances in remote sensing technologies, mapping software, and aerial imagery to provide a view of the archaeological landscape with minimal destruction of the sites.

The Anthropology Division of AMNH houses one of the largest collections in the world. These materials are made available to the archaeological community through both in-person visits as well as utilizing web-based access practices. In the last year over four hundred researchers visited the museum, primarily to study the collections in Physical Anthropology along with material from North America.

Currently, archaeologists, and members of the interested public, can access photos and descriptions of more than 175,000 artifacts on the museum’s web page http://anthro.amnh.org/javascript/pub_coll.htm. Along with these artifacts, detailed histories, original photographs, and other valuable information from four long term museum projects are available on-line. These include: a Virtual Tour of the Mexican and Central American Hall, a detailed inventory and description of the museum’s collection of textiles, a collection of more than 1000 images of the Buddha from throughout Asia, and a complete collection of medical paintings from Tibet.

In terms of publication, this year the American Museum of Natural History is celebrating 100 years of publishing *Anthropological Papers*. In 1908 the museum decided to expand upon its record of publishing various biological and zoological reports to include the works of various anthropologists working in the institution. From the first volume, edited by Clark Wissler, through other luminaries such as A.L. Kroeber, Nels Nelson, Margret Mead, James Ford and Richard Gould, to the more recent publications from Stan Freed and Charles Spencer, the *Anthropological Papers* has upheld the highest scientific standards in research and publication. The *Anthropology Papers* are proud to announce two new volumes for its centennial year – Peter Whiteley’s *The Orayvi Split: A Hopi Transformation* and David Hurst Thomas’ *Native American Landscape of St. Catherines Island, Georgia*. All of the museum’s publications can be downloaded for free from <http://digitallibrary.amnh.org>.

The Anthropology Division of AMNH strives to act as a resource for archaeological researchers and members of the interested public by continuing to engage with the archaeological record through ongoing excavations, making collections from these and prior excavations accessible through in-person and on-line visitation, and through the publication of archaeological manuscripts and reports.

- Matthew C. Sanger
Columbia University and AMNH

RESOURCES OF INTEREST FOR KIDS, FOR NEW YORKERS, AND FOR CENTRAL ASIANISTS**Archaeology for kids online....**

A site which has many lesson plans and power-point presentations for teachers, as well as projects for children is the site of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse www.uwlax.edu/mvac, click on "Educators". It includes a section on mathematics activities related to archaeology. For older children it has FAQuestions and sections such as The Process of Archaeology.

A site with many activities for younger children is that of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. There is a really cool section on preparing a mummy for burial. You do need a fast computer connection for most of the sections to work –

www.oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/kids.html

Also for younger children is a site in Britain based at the Snaith Primary School www.snaithprimary.eril.net Once you click to enter, you see sections on Aztecs, Romans, Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece, among others. There are some ads on the site, but they don't get in the way.

The National Park Service has a site directed at children of all ages. It includes both hands-on projects like "trash can dig" and on-line activities like a dendrochronological timeline. The site is found at www.nps.gov/archeology/public/kids. (note the spelling of archeology)

For younger children there is www.digonsite.com the site of Dig, the children's magazine which the AIA helped start, and for older children there is the AIA's own Archaeology Magazine site www.archaeology.org where there are not only news feeds, but also on-line digs. For older children try www.flickr.com/photos/brooklyn_museum/collections. Click on "Mut Expedition" and learn a great deal about ancient Egypt (when you see squares and rectangles on an image, be sure to run your cursor over them).

For parents and teachers there is the National AIA website www.archaeological.org, click on "Education" where you will find information not only on the Kid's Fair at the annual meeting and teacher training workshops, but lesson plans as well. New to the AIA site are the "Mystery Cemetery Project," "Greek Black Figure/Red Figure Vase Painting Project," "Hosting an Interdisciplinary Graeco-Roman Feast," "Cargoes from Three Continents," and "Shoobox Dig" among other exciting activities. Enjoy!

- Karen S. Rubinson

Also from Karen Rubinson

(and with a contribution from another past AIA-NYS president, Rita Wright)...



"This edited volume of essays by leading scholars presents the archaeological evidence for the prehistoric social configurations of Eurasian steppe peoples. It is a timely and rigorously researched treatment of

ancient societies in which the domain of war was not always exclusively male."

—Bettina Arnold, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

AIA-NYS members will also be interested in the upcoming lecture series

***Uncovering the Past:
Experts Tell Us Where We've Been***

this fall and winter at the Jewish Community Center

The talks focus on subjects such as Egypt's relations with Israel in the Late New Kingdom, female figurines from Biblical Israel, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the interplay between Canaanite myth and Hebrew Epic.

For titles, times, and abstracts see www.jccmanhattan.org or call 646-505-5708

The AIA Archaeology and the Screen Media Film Program is back!

Now that Harrison Ford has been elected to the Board of Directors of the AIA, it's high time to host another film forum! So in late March, the AIA-NYC will sponsor "Archaeology and Hollywood." Harrison Ford will be there in spirit and on screen in a showing of **Indiana Jones, the Last Crusade**. We will also screen Cecil B. DeMille's **Ten Commandments**. The day is devoted not only to the enjoyment of the movies, but also to an analysis of them. To this end attendees will get to hear and enter into dialogue with speakers, such as **Dr. Rock Brynner** (Ph.D. Columbia, 1993)—son of

Ramesses (a.k.a. Yul). Discussions will focus on how perceptions of antiquity have been swayed by the commercial film industry and on the personal views and experiences of the speakers.

Please do come and bring film buffs and archaeology enthusiasts alike!

Also, if you are interested in volunteering, especially in the area of media and PR, we would be delighted to have your help...

Please contact Jim Sibal at

JHSibal@aol.com

More details will follow in this winter's AIA-NYC newsletter.



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

Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321