

aia

New York Society News



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Interesting and exiting, as always!

I have been searching for some new and exciting turn of phrase with which to begin this letter, but the statement with which so many of these Society Newsletters has begun over many years still rings true. *Welcome to a new season of interesting, educational and exciting programs.* Our Program Chairs, Rachel Kousser and Michelle Hobart have worked hard to make this season's lecture series more interesting and innovative than ever. For example, in November, you won't want to miss contemporary artist Mark Dion's talk about how archaeology influences his art.

Archaeology is always about the old and the new. The old invites our exploration as archaeologists. Not for "treasure hunts," but for the totality of how an excavation can help us explain our culture. And the new, for the AIA's Site Preservation Program preserves for us the knowledge gained from those excavations. The 2009 Site Preservation Project was Easter Island's Rapa Nui Maori statues. You might not recognize the "official" site name, but you surely know the image of the Easter Island colossal sculptures as emblematic of our shared history.

On a more local level, the Boston office is doing their best to improve relationships between that office and the local societies. In that context, we wish Liz Gilgan, our "guru"

for so many years, all the best in her new endeavors (including, but not limited to, new Mom).

I am most pleased to announce that Archaeology Magazine and Peter Young will be honored with the Gold Medal of the National Arts Club on October 14th. Archaeology Magazine has been a constant partner of the AIA, sparking the interest in "real archaeology" as opposed to TV archaeology, and bringing in new members to support our efforts. The AIA is the oldest archaeological institution in the U.S., founded in 1879 and chartered by Congress in 1906. The AIA is unique in encompassing both professional archaeologists and the general public. Much to the credit of the New York Society, many of the general members decide to participate in excavations and thus in experience, join the professionals.

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 6 P.M. before Sarah Nelson's lecture on the Silk Road at Columbia University on October 29. Please make every effort to be there. You are ALL members of the AIA New York Society and we seek to involve all of you.

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

aia New York Society lecture series for Fall 2009

September 10, 7:00 (reception at 6:30)

“The Mosaics of Sepphoris: Cross-currents of Culture”

Lucille A. Roussin, Interim President of NYS-AIA

National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South (cosponsored by the Archaeology Committee of the National Arts Club)

The grand public structure that has been excavated since 1987 by the University of South Florida Excavations at Sepphoris in the Galilee aptly demonstrates the city's importance during the third and fourth century C.E. The polychrome mosaic pavements exhibit a wide range of stylistic influences from major centers of mosaic production around the Mediterranean area, especially Tunisia, ancient Antioch, and Apamea in Syria.

October 29, 6:30 (AIA-NYS BOARD MEETING AT 6:00; reception to follow lecture)

THE HAUPT LECTURE: “Korea and the Silk Road”

Sarah Mildredge Nelson, University of Denver

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

The Korean peninsula was almost the Asian end of the "Silk Road", nevertheless exotic objects from the Mediterranean world are found in Korean burials beginning in the first century, B.C.E. In studying how these objects came to be deposited in Korean burials, it becomes clear that objects arrived in Korea by at least three different routes. The Steppe Route, north of the Altai Mountains, the Silk Road through Xinjinag, and a Sea Route are all discussed, along with objects that arrived in Korea from as far away as the Mediterranean world.

November 19, 6:30 (reception at 6:00)

“Adventures in Art and Archaeology”

Mark Dion, Artist and Guest Curator at numerous museums

Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, 41 Cooper Square (3rd Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets; co-Sponsored by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Cooper Union)

The creator of the exhibit “Rescue Archaeology” for the inauguration of the new Museum of Modern Art in 2005, Dion used the detritus found in his ‘dig’ – including rusty razor blades and fragments of limestone cornices – to evoke the old New York displaced by recent construction. He has also created an installation at the Tate Modern based on an archaeological survey of the Thames riverbank, and exhibitions highlighting, and interrogating, the achievements of nineteenth century American naturalists. He will speak about the use of archaeology in his artwork.

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

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

aia New York Society lecture series for Fall 2009 *continued...*

December 7, 6:30 (reception to follow)

**“Theme Parks, Treasure Hunters, and Tribal Icons: World Heritage in an Age of Globalization”
Neil Silberman, Journalist and Author**

Jurow Lecture Hall, 100 Washington Square East (enter at 32 Waverly Place). NYU (co-sponsored by the NYU Center for Ancient Studies and the College of Arts and Science Dean’s Office).

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

January 28: “The Unintended Consequences of a Religious Conversion in Ancient Costa Rica.” Payson Sheets, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado–Boulder. 612/614 Schermerhorn Hall at 6:30, reception to follow. (Co-sponsored by the Columbia Center for Archaeology).

February 17: “On Living Forever in Ancient Egypt.” Edward Bleiberg, Curator of the Egyptian Department, Brooklyn Museum. Location and time TBA.

March 25: “The Delphic Oracle: Modern Science Examines an Ancient Mystery.” John Hale, Director of Liberal Studies, University of Louisville. 14 East 84th Street, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. (Co-Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World)

April 17: “Africans in New Amsterdam.” Diana Wall, Department of Anthropology, City College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Brooklyn Museum at 2:30. (Co-Sponsored by the Metropolitan Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Society and the Brooklyn Museum)

May 5: “The Polynesian Quest: Charting the Ancient Mariners of the Pacific.” Robert Bollt, AIA-NYS. 15 Gramercy Park South, National Arts Club. Reception at 6:15, lecture at 6:45. (Co-Sponsored with the Archaeology Committee of the National Arts Club)

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 Metropolitan Museum's Joint Expedition to Malqata at the Palace City of Amenhotep III in Western Thebes, Egypt.

From December 4, 2008 to January 3, 2009, the Joint Expedition to Malqata, sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University, Atlanta, conducted a survey at the site of Malqata at the southern end of the Theban necropolis. The staff included members of the Egyptian Department at the Metropolitan Museum, the Carlos Museum, the Epigraphic Survey of the University of Chicago, and Palomar College, San Marcos, CA.

Malqata is the site of a vast palace and urban complex built in the middle of the 18th Dynasty by Amenhotep III for his 30-year jubilee. Parts of the site were redesigned over the next few years for two other celebrations, and the town was probably abandoned a generation or so later. Having been occupied for only a limited time, Malqata presents an unusual opportunity to study settlement at one of Egypt's principal urban centers. It is one of the few pharaonic town sites that have survived into the 21st century, the most famous of which was built by Amenhotep's son, Akhenaten, at Tell el-Amarna.

The site is immense, extending some seven km along the flood plain. At the northern end, Amenhotep built several palaces, an audience pavilion, elite villas, and a temple dedicated to Amun. Among the large structures are remains of residential areas that housed the workers, servants, farmers and others who serviced the palace city. Adjacent to this area is a gigantic harbor measuring approximately two km long and one km wide, known as the Birket Habu. About five times the size of the Karnak Temple complex across the river, the harbor is easily visible from more than 50 miles above the earth on GoogleEarth.

Since the late 19th century, sections of the site have been studied and excavated, but the site as a whole has never been studied. The various prior expeditions included one in the early 20th century sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum. The archival material from this expedition (maps, plans, photographs, etc.), and modern building activity around the site led to the organization of JEM.

Our first season was spent walking the site to locate, identify, and examine the archaeological remains. This was followed by extensive mapping. Our survey team of Joel and Robert Paulson had already digitized plans from the earlier Metropolitan Museum excavations and were able to tie these into the new map of the entire site. The maps they created will be an invaluable tool for our future work, and will aide the Supreme Council of antiquities in its on-going efforts to preserve the archaeological sites in Western Thebes.

- Catharine H. Roebig, Diana Craig Patch, Joel Paulson, Peter Lacovara

And there's more that the Met is up to!

The Egyptian Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art also sponsors an **expedition to the pyramid complex of Senwosret III at Dahshur**. The main objective of this year's work was to examine the upper end of the causeway that linked Senwosret III's south temple to the valley temple presumed to lie under cultivated fields. The interior of the causeway's central lane was decorated with delicately carved and painted relief. Thousands of fragments were recovered, providing information about the main themes of the decorative program. Most interesting were those pieces depicting animals, plants, fish and birds in landscape settings, including meandering canals. There was also a scene of men on papyrus skiffs taking part in a joust with sticks. References were made to the Egyptian seasons and to foreign lands

- information provided by Adela Oppenheim

LOOK OUT FOR THESE UPCOMING NYC LECTURES & VOLUMES BY AIA-NYS MEMBERS**The AIA and PromPeru invite you to...****Caral, The Oldest Civilization in the Americas**
by Ruth Shady Solis, President of ICOMOS-Peru

Thursday, September 24, 6:30-9:30 pm
The Penn Club; 30 West 44th Street at 5th Ave
(tickets are \$25 for AIA members; \$40 for non-members;
fee includes lecture plus cocktail and Peruvian specialties
at the reception following the lecture.

For more info or to buy tickets see:
<http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10505>

Which city in the Western Hemisphere is contemporaneous with the pyramids of Egypt and the ziggurats of Mesopotamia? The site of Caral, in northern Peru, is 4,700 years old and is revolutionizing what we know about the origins of civilization in South America. This year, UNESCO recognized the significance of Caral by adding it to its list of World Heritage sites. On September 24, you will have a rare opportunity to hear about the amazing discoveries that have taken place at Caral directly from Ruth Shady Solis, the archaeologist responsible for the excavations.

You're invited to attend a colloquium in honor of long-time AIA-NYS board member Larissa Bonfante

**LEGITIMATING VIOLENCE: EXECUTION,
HUMAN SACRIFICE, ASSASSINATION**

September 24-25
Hemmerdinger Hall, Room 102,
Silver Center; 32 Waverly Place

The conference will feature talks on violence in the classical world by such scholars as Michele Lowrie, Henk Versnel, Andrew Riggsby, Clifford Ando, Peter Meinek, and Jack Sasson. There will be a wine reception after the evening session on Thursday, September 24. Come help celebrate Larissa's accomplishments and learn all about pain and performance in the ancient world!

For more information about the colloquium,
please see details below, visit

<http://ancientstudies.fas.nyu.edu/page/events>,
or contact the College Dean's Office at
212.998.8100; kenkidd@nyu.edu

*A new book from AIA-NYS member Karen Rubinson
(co-editor and contributing author)...*

**Ceramics in
Transitions.
Chalcolithic Through
Iron Age in the High-
lands of the Southern
Caucasus and Anatolia**

The papers in this volume, drawn from the international Workshop on Archaeological Ceramics in the Southern Caucasus and Adjacent Areas held at Barnard College, Columbia University, consider archaeological ceramics

excavated in Armenia, Azerbaijan (Nakhichevan and nearby areas), Georgia, Iran (western Azerbaijan) and eastern Turkey, areas which shared common cultures in the prehistoric past.

Former AIA-NYS board member Joanna Smith brings our attention to the return of Phlamoudhi archaeological material to Cyprus, to an associated exhibit now open in Cyprus

**Views from
Phlamoudhi,
Cyprus,**

and to the publication of an associated exhibit catalogue of the same name authored by Johanna Smith.



AIA-NYS welcomes you to the roundtable **MYTH IN ETRURIA: IMAGES AND INSCRIPTIONS**



If you're interested in the Etruscans, you're enthusiastically invited to attend a two-day interdisciplinary round table that will explore how

iconography and epigraphy help inform our limited understanding of the diffusion and use of mythology in Etruria.

The roundtable will focus on two key traits of Etruscan religious and cultural practice: seeing/interpreting and writing.

Speakers include Thomas Carpenter, Nancy T. de Grummond, Richard De Puma, Maurizio Harari, Adriano Maggiani, Dominique Briquel, Enrico Benelli, and Francesco de Angelis. Come hear the latest thoughts on Etruscan myth!

November 20-21, 2009

**Italian Academy at
Columbia University**

**Amsterdam at West 117th
Street**

Sponsored in part by the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean at Columbia University and the AIA-NYS

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