

AIA

New York Society News



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Babylonians, pyramid ports, & neandertals... Hints of fall.

The busy fall season is upon us, though I hope that the summer provided a good change of pace for one and all. We have posted our 2014-15 lecture schedule to our website. Refreshments are served either before or after our lectures, and this is a great time to meet other society members and to talk archaeology. If you have questions that you would like to address to board members, come and find us at these events. We are identifiable by our colorful AIA buttons.

The second half of last year's lecture program provided us with a wide range of interesting topics, and once again The Friends of the AIA, under the leadership of Jeff Lamia, were treated to a series of well-attended events. This was a particularly good year for the Friends, and we are grateful for their generous support and for the enthusiasm they have for our special activities. 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.

Our opening lecture for the 2014-15 season will be on September 29th. Michael Seymour, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be speaking about the earliest excavations at Babylon. It should be a wonderful talk. Prior to the lecture we will hold our annual meeting. Please come out and support the society as we will be voting for two new board members and saying goodbye to two members who have served us: Ellen Morris and Marina Papa Sokal. I will also take this opportunity to thank all the organizations that partner with us, providing venues that are so vital to our lecture program. Without the generosity of these organizations—Barnard College, Columbia University,

Hunter College, The Institute for Study of the Ancient World, and St. John's University—we might not be able to bring you the programs that we do. The annual meeting will take place from 6-6:25 with refreshments, and it will be followed by the lecture.

This year's upcoming lecture program covers a wide range of topics, from the Paleolithic to the Colonial period. We will explore new mapping techniques at Giza and the birds of Pueblo Bonito. In fact, the former will be our contribution to the AIA's 3rd International Archaeology Day. At this event, Mark Lehner will share with us his latest work in the environs of the Great Pyramid. For our final fall lecture, NYU professor Shara Bailey will discuss her recent findings on Neandertals. Some aspects of the 2014-15 season are still in flux, so please regularly consult our website <http://AIA-NYSociety.org/events>

for updates/changes. Remember that all of our lectures are free and do not require an RSVP. If you ever forget when or where an event is to be held, just check the website.

Finally, as always, the AIA-New York Society would love to have more people who are 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. Graduate students, this might be a great opportunity for you to get involved with the AIA! Please contact us at info@aia.org if you are interested in volunteering.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

- Paula Kay Lazrus
President, AIA New York Society

AIA New York Society lecture series for Fall 2014

September 29, 6:30 (AIA-NYS ANNUAL MEETING at 6:00-6:25; reception to precede lecture)

“The Earliest Excavations at Babylon”

Michael Seymour, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (B126 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street
(co-sponsored with the Hunter College Archaeology Club)

The city of Babylon's lasting fame has rested on its portrayal in the biblical and classical traditions. While images such as the Tower of Babel became major themes in the art and literature of later periods, however, the site itself was all but forgotten. Large-scale excavation at Babylon would have to wait until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but there is a longer history of travelers' accounts, informal surveys and even small soundings. This lecture will explore some of these first attempts to understand ancient Babylon through its physical remains, and the development of 'archaeological' approaches to a city whose identity was already strongly defined in other scholarly and cultural traditions.

October 20, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“On the Waterfront at Giza: Worker's Town and Pyramid Port—Latest Discoveries”

Mark Lehner, Director of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project

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

Mark Lehner will discuss the newest work of the Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA) on the Giza Plateau, which demonstrates that the worker's village, erected in the shadow of the Giza pyramids, was located directly adjacent to a major Nile harbor. This port connected the worksite with raw materials imported from as far north as Byblos (on the coast of Lebanon) and as far south as Aswan. Drill corings, ceramic analysis, and other investigative work that has led to this conclusion will be discussed, as will the theory that the long galleries that the site is known for housed members of expeditionary troops and nautical crews rather than common workers, as previously thought.

November 12, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

“Making Sense of Neandertals: What We Have Learned from Bones, Teeth and Genes”

Shara Bailey, New York University

New York University Department of Anthropology, 25 Waverley Place (NW corner of Waverley Place & Greene Street), Kriser Room

Recent studies have shown that 1-4% of our DNA comes from Neandertals. What does that mean? In this lecture Dr. Bailey will review the latest finds regarding Neandertal paleobiology, their behavior and extinction.



Interested in knowing more about current archaeological digs around the world?

Check out the Interactive Digs feature on the AIA's website (<http://www.interactivedigs.com/>) that showcases photos, blogs, video tours, and annual reports for numerous excavations from Belize to Pompeii

See the Winter Newsletter

for abstracts and detailed information about the following upcoming talks:

February 4, 6:30 (reception is at 6:00, before the lecture): THE BRUSH LECTURE: **“How Chocolate Came to Be.”** Kathryn Sampeck, Illinois State University. Chanin Language Center Screening Room (B126 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street (co-sponsored with the Hunter College Archaeology Club)

March (date and room TBA), 6:30 (reception to follow): **“The Dutch Across the River: The Fortified Village of Bergen, Jersey City.”** Ian Burrow, Vice President & Principal Archaeologist at Hunter Research Inc. St John’s Manhattan Campus. Room to be announced in the winter newsletter and on the website.

April 28, 6:30 (reception to follow): THE HAUPT LECTURE: **“Egypt as Metaphor: Decoration and the Afterlife in the Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria.”** Marjorie Venit, University of Maryland. 15 East 84th St., First Floor, ISAW. (co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World)

May (date & time TBA): **“Sacred Birds of Pueblo Bonito and the Mesoamerican Connection: Evidence for Ritual Uses of Birds and Long Distance Exchange at Chaco Canyon, New Mexico (AD 800-1200).”** Adam Watson, American Museum of Natural History



*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 679 Garcia Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Spotlight on...

APAHA Tibur 2014: A New Excavation Project at Hadrian's Villa

In June 2014 the Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art (APAHA) at Columbia University, led by Professors Francesco de Angelis and Marco Maiuro, launched a multi-year archaeological project at Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli. APAHA is a program created under the joint aegis of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America (Columbia University), and H2CU, the Honors Center for Italian Universities (La Sapienza University of Rome). It establishes archaeology and the study of material evidence as common ground for the fields of ancient history and the history of ancient art and architecture. The general aims of APAHA's project at Tivoli are to investigate the place and role of everyday life at the Villa vis-à-vis the grandeur of its architecture and decorative apparatus; to document the post-Hadrianic life of the site; and to study its boundaries and more generally its transitional and liminal spaces.

The 2014 season focused on two distinct sectors of the Villa. The first excavation area coincided with the so-called Lararium. This area, located off the Great Vestibule, is characterized by an extremely well preserved wall enclosure lined with niches and built in front of a small temple. It is a crucial node, whose exploration can shed light on the rituals governing access to the Villa. The area had been very partially excavated (and insufficiently documented) through a few small sondages in the 1930s. APAHA's investigation not only brought to light new structures, but revealed that the architectural history of the area is far more complex than previously thought: both the wall enclosure and the temple itself consist of several construction phases, some of which likely date to post-Hadrianic times.

The second excavation area was located in the so-called Macchiozzo, a previously unexplored sector placed roughly at the center of the Villa and hitherto

covered with thickets. The excavation, which was preceded by geomagnetic prospections, revealed the existence of a large compound of Hadrianic age combining elements of luxury architecture, such as marble-faced walls, with utilitarian structures. The great amount of kitchenware found during the dig—an unusual feature for Hadrian's Villa, which is better known for the finds of statues—resonates with E. Salza Prina Ricotti's hypothesis that the kitchens of the complex were located there. No less important was the identification of Late Antique and Medieval phases, attested by both architectural structures and copious findings; their analysis is currently under way and will contribute in a substantial way to filling the gap in our knowledge of the history of the Villa between 300 and 1300.

Twenty-four students at all levels, from both Columbia and other universities, participated in the project; the dig was complemented by workshops, onsite presentations, and fieldtrips. Program directors F. de Angelis and M. Maiuro were assisted by field director Daira Nocera (UPenn) and by trench supervisors Emily Cook (Columbia) and Joe Sheppard (Columbia. *See his piece opposite*), as well as by Anna Tartaro (La Sapienza).

- Francesco de Angelis and Marco Maiuro
Co-Directors, APAHA

APAHA at work in the Lararium of Hadrian's Villa.
Photo: Daira Nocera



CURRENT DOCTORAL RESEARCH AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITIES

Mass Spectacles in Roman Campania

Joe Sheppard grapples with how the culture of arenas and theaters impacted daily life

Photo from the website of the Classical Studies Program, Columbia University, © 2014 Jens Haas



As large, regular public gatherings attended by people from all social strata, Roman mass spectacles were embedded within the local politics, religious practice, and social relations, as well as the wider economy. In my dissertation I attempt to reconstruct from the bottom up the role that mass spectacles played around the Bay of Naples, especially beyond the spatial and temporal boundaries of the actual gladiatorial events and dramatic performances. This task is challenging because the field of ancient popular culture is still very young, and the archaeological evidence for human behaviors and social attitudes in the towns of Campania is overwhelmingly rich, and yet still far from ideal. So far I have conducted a survey of sociological approaches to popular culture; mined the documentary, literary, and archaeological corpora for source material; and visited theaters, amphitheaters, and the surrounding structures and spaces that developed in response to these entertainment events. I have more recently begun delving into the last two centuries' worth of records to follow this mass of evidence about specific places and objects back to the original source.

Currently I am working on two facets of this larger topic: 1) the way that public visual media at once reinforced existing social hierarchies and contributed to a depoliticized common culture; and 2) how neighboring towns exploited the markets, festivals, and social networks connecting this densely populated urban region to com-

pete for greater prestige or resources. For example, a disastrous riot at one show in Pompeii (*see the image below*) seems to have had its roots in a range of factors, including changing civic identities, inter-city rivalry, market access, illegal associations, and perhaps even territorial dispute.

My interest in popular culture and the Vesuvian region was piqued originally during excavations beneath the front of a shop in Pompeii's theater district and then in the service courtyard of the Villa San Marco in Stabia. Neither area boasts much in the way of refined decoration, and yet the ordinary people working there took pride in maintaining humble household shrines. This thread continues into my current work with the team excavating the so-called Machiozzo area at the Villa Adriana in Tivoli, where the new structures we only recently uncovered shed light for the first time on everyday life there during the Middle Ages. As we continue to explore and unearth the earlier spaces indicated by some newly uncovered Roman walls, we will search for further evidence of the extensive network of service corridors as well as material relating to the imperial court.

- *Joe Sheppard*
Ph.D. Candidate in Classical Studies,
Columbia University

*Rioting at Pompeii's amphitheater
Detail from a fresco in the National Archaeological
Museum of Naples (Photo: Joe Sheppard)*



Be sure to check out these two new exhibits this fall! Admission is free, and the themes are fascinating!

***Assyria to Iberia
at the Dawn of the Classical Age***

September 22 - January 4
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 5th Avenue (at 82nd Str.)

<http://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-museum/press-room/exhibitions/2014/assyria-to-iberia>

This exhibit examines the cultural and economic interactions between Near Eastern and Mediterranean cultures, laying particular stress on the Assyrians, the Phoenicians, and the mercantile relations that the latter forged with peoples inhabiting areas as far west as the strait of Gibraltar.



Neo-Assyrian Sphinx plaque, ca. 9th-8th century BCE. Ivory. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund 1964 (64.37.1)

***When the Greeks Ruled Egypt:
From Alexander the Great
to Cleopatra***

October 8 - January 4, 2012
Institute for Study of the Ancient World
at New York University
15 East 84th Street

<http://isaw.nyu.edu/exhibitions>

This exhibition focuses on the interactions between the Greek and Egyptian cultures during the nearly 300-year period when Egypt was under Greek rule. Cultural hybridity is witnessed in royal and private portraits, coinage, prestige objects, and funerary and religious art.



Silver Tetradrachm, Jugate Bust of Zeus Serapis and Isis. Alexandria, 221-205 BCE. ANS: 1944.100.77209. © Courtesy of the American Numismatic Society.

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