

# aia

## New York Society News



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*A new year, a new society president, and all new archaeological lectures!*

Greetings to one and all! I hope that everyone ended the year well, the AIA-New York Society certainly did. At the fall annual meeting we said thank you to Lucille Roussin for many years of service to the society, not least as the most recent president of the society. Of course, she continues to work with us and to assist our very active program committee. At that same meeting I was elected president, and I hope I can do as well as our previous leaders in continuing to help the New York Society flourish.

We are a very large and varied local society reflecting the city we live in, and we even won two monthly AIA golden trowel awards this year for attracting new members. This is terrific and we welcome all those new folks. The fall season started with three interesting and well attended lectures as well as one event for the Friends of the New York Society, and we are looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming lectures this spring. There are five lectures that cover a range of topics and time periods so there should be something for everyone. The schedule and descriptions of the lecture topics can be found in this issue of our newsletter. Should you ever misplace your newsletter or miss a mailing (electronic or otherwise), information about lectures, exhibits in New York of potential interest to members and information about projects our members work on can be found on our website at <http://aia-nysociety.org>. You can also keep up with our activities on facebook. Just search "AIA-NYsociety," and you'll find us!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to encourage members who work in the field, or participate in

field projects to share their experiences with us. Send us a paragraph or two about your projects, and a link to its website if you have it, and we will put the info up on our website – this includes graduate students. We want to know what you are up to. We are also in the process of setting up a list of members who have expertise in archaeology and who would be interested in perhaps reaching out to local schools on occasion. Every now and then we receive letters from the national office with inquiries regarding the availability of professionals to visit a class here in the New York area. If you would be interested in being on such a list, please email us at [info@aia-nysociety.org](mailto:info@aia-nysociety.org).

As our society is so large, we are also interested in hearing what your needs are and to that end I hope to develop and send out a survey during the spring that will help all of us on the board better serve you all in terms of the kinds of lectures/ topics that you want to hear about, or other activities that you might be interested in participating in and so forth. When this arrives, please take a moment and fill it out.

This year the National organization's Annual Meeting was held from Jan 7-9 in San Antonio Texas. I was pleased to see so many of our members there. It's a pleasure to represent such an active and vibrant society. I wish one and all a wonderful start to the New Year, and I look forward to hearing from you at lectures, via our website email.

*Paula Lazrus*  
President, AIA New York Society

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## aia New York Society lecture series for Winter 2011

January 24, 6:30 (reception to follow)

**“Social Logistics Under Empire: Southern Caucasia and the Topography of Persian Power, ca. 600-300 BC”**

**Lori Khatchadourian, Cornell University**

612 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University (cosponsored with the Columbia Center for Archaeology)  
 What role do conquered communities of empire play in the maintenance of imperial hegemony? This paper details an archaeology of empire that identifies the sources of imperial reproduction in the spatial and material practices of subjects, rather than solely the strategic designs and coercive capabilities of imperial authorities. This look at “empires in the everyday” will explore transformations in social logics during the first millennium BC in southern Caucasia, a region once incorporated as a province, or satrapy, of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. These investigations draw on ongoing fieldwork at the site of Tsaghkahovit in central Armenia.

February 2, 6:30 (reception at 6:00)

**“Kamikaze: Discovering Kublai Khan’s Lost Fleet”**

**James Delgado, Institute for Nautical Archaeology, Texas A & M**

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

Since the 1970s, Japanese archaeologists have searched the waters off Japan’s southeast coast for remains of the fleets sent by Mongol emperor Kublai Khan to conquer Japan in 1274 and 1281. Lost both in battle and to a violent storm that wrecked the fleet in 1281, which Japanese legend insists was a heaven sent “divine wind,” known as the kamikaze in Japanese, the ships of the Khan were lost to history and largely forgotten until the events of World War II and the revival of the story of the kamikaze. The discovery of relics from the ships in the 1970s made world headlines, but the actual wreck of one of the Khan’s ships eluded discovery. In 2000, Japanese archaeologists finally located the broken wreck of one of the Khan’s fleet. In 2001, archaeologist James Delgado became the first western archaeologist to join the Japanese team as they excavated and recovered the remains of the wreck, which included armor, weapons, personal items and evidence of massive, sophisticated ships with catapults that fired explosive bombs. In this illustrated lecture, Delgado shares the story of the Mongol invasion, the legend of the kamikaze, and the amazing discoveries from the waters of Japan’s Imari Bay.

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

<http://aia-nysociety.org>

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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](mailto:em129@nyu.edu)) or c/o New York Society News, 217 Manhattan Avenue #7A, New York, NY 10025

aia New York Society lecture series for Winter 2011 *continued...*

March 10, 6:30 (reception to follow)

The Brush Lecture: **“Archaeology of Beer”**

**Christine Hastorf, University of California Berkeley**

Jurow Hall, NYU

Beer brewing and drinking are old traditions. Some archaeologists think that Near Eastern cereals were domesticated due to the desire to have the grain for beer, rather than the traditional bread. Even if this is not strictly true, we do have growing evidence of beer brewing in the archaeological record from around the world. Some of these examples, from Egypt and Peru, will be presented to illustrate how ubiquitous such a tradition has been.

April 11, 6:30 (reception to follow)

The Louis Blumengarten Lecture: **“Beneath these Mean Streets: Reconstruction of Buried Landscapes in the Vicinity of the Five Points Area in Lower Manhattan”**

**Joe Schulderein, Geoarchaeology Research Associates, NYC**

612 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University (cosponsored with the Columbia Center for Archaeology)

Our geoarchaeological model draws on the results of limited field work in the vicinity of the notorious Five Points area, recently popularized in the Scorsese film *Gangs of New York*. That neighborhood was initially centered on a relict drainage feature known as the Collect Pond. We document the local succession of ancient environments from glacial drainages through the engineering of agricultural fields in the Dutch period; utilization of the Collect Pond as tanneries by the British and early American colonists in the 18th and 19th centuries; and ultimately the infilling of the Collect as a baseline for the growth of Lower Manhattan as an industrial and administrative center.

May 7, 2:00

**“Dionysias, Egypt: A Fayum village through time (3rd BC -6th AD)”**

**Emanuele Papi**

Brooklyn Museum

Recent campaigns by the University of Siena in the northwestern part of the Fayum, particularly on the site of Qsar Qaron investigate the cultural landscape with global positioning satellite (GPS), magnetometry, architectural survey, and mapping of surface finds. This advances our understanding of the natural environment and natural resources; the agricultural potential and the irrigation system, the settlement pattern of regular blocks in neighborhoods and the suburban buildings; the necropoli; olive oil production, pottery kilns, quarries and mines, commercial connections with Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean. The temple complex dedicated to Sobek still stands, permitting an investigation of construction techniques used in public building.

## *Spotlight on...*

### *Excavations at Aphrodisias*

Aphrodisias in modern Turkey is one of the best preserved archaeological sites in the Mediterranean. The ancient city was well-known for its sculptors, who produced high-quality statues for Italian patrons. New York University's excavations began on the site in 1961, under the directorship of the late Kenan Erim. Currently, the excavations continue with NYU as the main sponsor, and are directed by R.R.R. Smith of Oxford University. Katherine E. Welch of the Institute of Fine Arts is the deputy director of the project. The present writer, who also works at the IFA, has been the field director of the excavations since July 2010, and supervised the excavation and fieldwork in the summer of 2010.

Fieldwork in 2010 focused on three main areas of the city: the Civil Basilica; the Hadrianic Baths; and the main North-South Street of the city. The excavations in the Civil basilica, a major civic building of the late first century AD, focused on understanding the history and function of an entrance-way in the long eastern wall of the building and on exposing the marble paving in its central hall. In addition, a deep sondage (c. 3.5 m) exposed the stone foundations for the central hall's western colonnade.

Excavations in the Hadrianic Baths were conducted in an area between the Tetrastyle Court of the baths and the North Agora. The Tetrastyle Court was still in use in Late Antiquity when it underwent major renovations, which included the installation of sculpture groups by its central pool. The excavation here scrutinized its junction with the North Agora, and revealed that a staircase descended from the Tetrastyle Court to the southern colonnade

of the Agora. The fieldwork here provided significant information about the pedestrian route through the ancient city and the development of its urban plan. A major conservation project (generously funded by the Kaplan Fund) was also pursued in the Baths.

The third area of excavation this year was the North-South Street. The street is the main thoroughfare of the city and runs between the Tetrastyle, the monumental gateway to the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, and the Theater. The Sebasteion and both the North and South Agoras open off it. The street excavations started in 2008 and this year exposed more of the street at its northern end. Part of the stoa flanking the street on its east side was also excavated, and here four late-antique pilaster capitals depicting various bucolic scenes in relief were uncovered. These excavations provide fascinating information about street life in and around one of the main thoroughfares of the city from the late antique into the post-antique period.

Next year excavations will continue on the street and in the Hadrianic Baths to investigate their connections with neighboring civic structures. Overall, such fieldwork remains a tremendously rewarding way of studying the urbanism, architecture, and history of Aphrodisias. We are, as always, most grateful to the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and to all the supporters and friends of the project, especially NYU, who make this project possible.

*Esen Ögüş*

Field Director

NYU's Excavations at Aphrodisias

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS &amp; LOCAL NEWS...

[Check out "Unearth at the Whitney Museum!"](#)

Those readers who share an interest in Cahokia and in modern art should be extremely interested in **Karthik Pandian's** mixed media exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art. This exhibit, which runs from December 15 - March 13, employs 16 mm film and architectural constructions to explore the relationship between ancient Cahokia and modern Americans who seek to understand it.

[Watch out for the exhibit Gandhara—The Buddhist Heritage of Pakistan](#)

Among the upcoming exhibits planned at the Asia Society is one on the Buddhist heritage of Pakistan, which is currently scheduled to run from February 8 through May 8.

[At ISAW don't miss "Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa" opening on March 11, 2011](#)

Nubia, the lands along the Nile to the south of Egypt, was home to cultures that were contemporaries, trading partners, rivals, and enemies to Egypt for thousands of years. This exhibit focuses on the earlier Nubian kingdoms, from the "A-Group" (3200-3000 BC) to the kingdom of Kush, both in its first appearance (2000-1600 BC) and in its re-emergence (900-650 BC), when it rose to conquer Egypt and fight against the Assyrian empire. The galleries will display the remarkable and distinctive aesthetic of Nubian craft products, particularly ceramics and faience. These objects—as well as new ideas about symbols of royalty, ritual, and burial practices—raise questions about cultural identity among Nubian cultures and in their interactions with Egypt. The exhibit, Guest Curated by Dr. **Geoff Emberling**, is based on objects from the incomparable Nubian collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, which derive from excavations of George Reisner in 1915-1920 of the major centers and royal cemeteries of Nubia. The display is supplemented by pieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

[From AIA-NYS to ARISC, NY to Armenia...](#)

New York Society member and former president **Karen Rubinson** is at present President of the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC), an American overseas research center in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (see [www.arisc.org](http://www.arisc.org)). ARISC has just received a substantial grant from the foundation Project Discovery! to support joint American-Armenian projects that investigate and preserve Armenia's archaeological and cultural heritage. The first grants will be awarded in the coming year.

[Many thanks to this year's Friends of the AIA-NYS! We appreciate your support for our lecture series and for other special programming!](#)

*Dr. Elie M. Abemayor, Mr. Clyde Adams III, Dr. Elizabeth Bartman, Mr. Geoffrey Bennett, Mr. Louis Blumengarten, Ms. Diane Carol Brandt, Ms. Myrna Coffino, Mr. Robert M. Costa, Ms. Linda G. Feinstone, Ms. Linda Getter, Mr. Ira Haupt, II, Mr. Brian J. Heidtke, Dr. Michelle M. Hobart, Ms. Caroline H. Hyman, Ms. Deborah S. Israel, Ms. Dana Ivey, Ms. M. Whitney & Fred Keen, Mr. Jeffrey A. Lamia, Ms. Paula Kay Lazrus, Mr. Peter C. Lincoln, Mr. James H. Ottaway, Jr., Dr. Marina Papa-Sokal, Ms. Marie A. Parsons, Mrs. Lynn P. Quigley, Dr. Karen S. Rubinson, Mr. James H. Sibal, Ms. Susan F. Springer, Dr. Anna M. Taggart, Mr. Robert Taggart, Ms. Frances Vieta*

As many of you know, The Friends of the NY Society are a group of archaeological enthusiasts who enjoy special Friends-only events and the knowledge that their tax-deductible support aids the outreach mission of the AIA-NY Society. For more information please e-mail to: Jeff Lamia at [jlamia@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jlamia@nyc.rr.com).

[Interesting activities by AIA Members](#)

Board member **Ira Haupt II** has heard from **Teresa Keller**, the AIA's former Executive Director, who is traveling around the world with her family raising funds for humanitarian projects. You can follow their travels by googling "Round the World With Us" and reading their blog, connecting to their facebook group, or simply perusing the various media reports about them.

This year's AIA Gala will be in NYC, and you're invited!



The 2011 AIA Gala—celebrating the rich cultures and traditions of Ireland—returns to Capitale in New York on Tuesday, April 26th. Irish Cultural Ambassador and acclaimed actor, Gabriel Byrne,

will host an evening that spotlights both ancient and modern Ireland, including a contemporary Celtic feast, musical performances, and archaeologically-themed auction items and travel experiences.

The Bandelier Award for Service to Archaeology will be presented to George Bass for his efforts in founding and establishing the field of underwater archaeology and for his many notable achievements in that field over the last fifty years.

Proceeds raised from the Gala support AIA programs including fieldschool scholarships, site

preservation efforts, publications including the *American Journal of Archaeology*, and make it possible for us to bring leading archaeologists to discuss their fresh-from-the-field discoveries and insights to communities from coast to coast.

For more information about this event and to get involved, visit

[www.archaeological.org/gala](http://www.archaeological.org/gala) or call Jennifer Klahn at 617.353.8709.

*Hope to see you there!*

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