

# AIA

## NEW YORK SOCIETY NEWS



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Chocolate, changes to the Board, and a generous gift*

Greetings!

Once again we are at the start of a new year. I hope that the holiday season has been a good one for you, our members. This year we have been testing out a new distribution of lectures, with three presentations in the fall and four in the spring. Our fall events were very well attended and we trust that when we meet again in February to hear Kathryn Sampeck (our Brush lecturer) speak on chocolate, we will have a full house. The remaining lectures cover many interesting topics from local Metro area archaeology to the Southwest, with a stop in Egypt. Once again I'd like to thank Hunter College, the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and NYU for providing space for these lectures, and to St. John's University who will join them in hosting in the spring. Indeed we are most grateful to all the organizations and individuals who make our lectures possible through providing space, and to our Friends, and particularly Carolyn Howard Hyman for her sponsorship of Adam Watson's Pueblo Bonito lecture. As many of you know, there can always be slight changes of venue and schedule so be sure to check out our website at <http://aia-nysociety.org/events> to be sure of times, dates and locations. As always, all lectures are free and open to the public and *do not* require an RSVP. Bring your friends along.

At our annual meeting in September we acknowledged the work and dedication of our newsletter editor Ellen Morris who has stepped down from the board, as has Brian Boyd. We also welcomed two new members Constance Thatcher, and Joanne

Spurza who have joined our board. Additionally, our treasurer John Yarmick and one of our VPs Jeffrey Lamia were voted in for new terms of office.

The Friends of the New York Society have been busy this fall as usual, and for this we are most grateful to Jeff Lamia for the wonderful job he does as the chair of the Friends. Of course we are also grateful to all the members of the Friends for their generosity to the New York Society; Without their support we would be hampered in our efforts to offer the events that we do beyond the two lectures we receive from the National office. A list of the current friends can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. The Friends are crucial to helping us offer as wide a program as we can. Thank you all. Please consider joining the Friends to further assist us in our activities.

As many of you may know the New York Society also has an endowment that was initially started by Ira Haupt II when he was our treasurer. This year Ira has made an additional and very generous donation to that endowment. For more on that generous gift, please see page 3, below.

As you will see in the following pages, we have a great lineup of lectures for the winter and spring. Come, bring a friend and enjoy interesting lectures, good discussions and the company of your fellow New York Society members.

- Paula Kay Lazrus  
President, AIA New York Society

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## AIA New York Society lecture series for Winter/Spring 2015

February 4, 6:30 (BRUSH LECTURE; refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)

### **“How Chocolate Came to Be”**

**Kathryn Sampeck, Illinois State University**

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (B126 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street

These days, chocolate is a fairly unremarkable part of our daily lives. We have many ideas that we associate with it—what color it is, how it should taste, what kinds of foods it should be part of. All of these qualities seem natural, unremarkable. Little would you suspect that chocolate has a colonial past that involved some of the greatest horrors of colonialism in Spanish America, all because of very different ideas and uses in the past. This lecture will follow two lines of evidence: various kinds of documents including accounts, descriptions, and so on, and information from archaeology—the kinds of places laborers lived and what sorts of things they used in their daily life—which gives us a window into the conditions of their lives, while the implements for preparing and serving chocolate, and where and how they are a part of material culture, show how consumers made chocolate a part of their lives.

March 3, 6:30 (reception to follow lecture)

### **“The Dutch Across the River: The fortified village of Bergen, Jersey City”**

**Ian Burrow, Hunter Research Inc.**

St. John’s Manhattan Campus, 101 Astor Place, Room 105

Bergen village, still discernible today in the street pattern of metropolitan Jersey City, is a site of great significance in the history of New Netherland. Founded in 1660 by the government of New Amsterdam as a defended settlement supporting the re-colonization of the Bergen Ridge, its archaeology and material culture are important potential contributors to the history of Dutch colonization and acculturation in the 17th century. Archaeological Investigations at the Van Wagenen or “Apple Tree” House—the only surviving pre-Revolutionary War structure within the village limits—have identified a prolific 18th century cultural horizon on the house’s largely unmodified 17th century lot.

April 28, 6:30 (HAUPT LECTURE; reception to follow lecture)

### **“Egypt as Metaphor: Decoration and the Afterlife in the Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria”**

**Marjorie Venit, University of Maryland**

(co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World)

15 East 84th St., First Floor, ISAW

Egyptian Alexandria was founded as a Greek city yet, from their inception, its monumental tombs incorporated Egyptian architectural elements into their hellenically based fabric. This talk explores the intersection of Egyptian and Greek (or Roman) decorative elements and motifs in Alexandrian monumental tombs and the eschatological climate that permitted and encouraged the convergence. It argues that Greeks adopted and adapted Egyptian modes of expression in order to fill a void in their own visual repertoire at a time when visualizing the road to the afterlife became more acutely essential.

May 14, 6:30 (refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)

**“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**

Chanin Language Center Screening Room (B126 HW), Hunter College, Lexington & 69th Street

Birds are key actors in Pueblo narratives of emergence and symbolize religious sodalities and societal divisions; bird feathers are powerful offerings to the supernatural, carrying prayers to the gods who in turn use them for adornment. Simply put, birds are central to modern Pueblo cosmology and social and religious life. Similarly, iconographic representations and the ritual treatment of avian species such as the Scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*) and Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), evident in the archaeological record of Chaco Canyon, reflect the ceremonial importance of birds to Ancestral Pueblo peoples. This new research investigates the changing uses of birds in Chacoan society and its implications for our understanding of the development of long distance trade networks and the rise of social and religious elites.



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

*The AIA-New York Society Receives \$15,000 from Member and Past Treasurer Ira Haupt II.*

This fall the AIA-New York Society has been the very grateful recipient of \$15,000 for our endowment fund, which will now be named for our generous benefactor Ira Haupt II.

The endowment itself was Ira’s idea when he became treasurer of the NY Society and, together with then local Society president Elizabeth Bartman, he set in motion the process to establish a fund that would help the society in funding the lectures that it offers beyond those provided by the National office. While the Friends of the New York Society, already established in that period, helped to underwrite normal operations for the Society, contributions could fluctuate from year to year and Ira thought that having an endowment would provide a foundation and buffer for the Society. The board and our Society members were very enthusiastic about this idea and \$30,000 was raised to establish the endowment. This new contribution will guarantee that that New York Society will continue to have the resources to continue its lecture and outreach programs into the foreseeable future.

Ira has been a staunch supporter of our local Society, giving his time to the board as a member and officer and as a frequent participant in our events. He became interested in archaeology as a teenager, particularly Mesoamerican and Roman archaeology and history. You can imagine his teachers’ delight when he returned from summer break having read Gibbon’s

*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. They encouraged him in his studies of Latin and Spanish, so that when he went off on his first archaeological adventure in 1951 with a schoolmate from El Salvador he was ready to soak up the full experience of visiting Copan. At Williams College he continued his studies of Spanish Literature combining his interest in archaeology with a senior thesis on Bernal Diaz del Castillo’s *The Conquest of Mexico*. While working in finance in his professional life, he never lost that adventuring spirit including a trip to follow Catherwood and Stevens’ travels in Yucatan, which led to his induction in the Explorer’s club.

It was a natural outgrowth of these interests that led Ira to become an active member of the AIA at both the national and local level. He served on the board of directors and on the finance committee of the National organization and is a recipient of its Martha and Artemis Joukowsky Distinguished Service Award. We are lucky that Ira has given so much time to us here at the New York Society and his wise council during his time on the board was much appreciated by all those who served with him. The Ira Haupt II Endowment, as it will now be known, is a fitting tribute to a man whose interests and actions have so enriched us all here at the New York Society.

Thank you Ira!

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.

***And let us take a moment to thank the Friends we currently have!***

***Friends (\$175-\$249)***

*Elizabeth Bartman, Myrna Coffino, Linda Getter, Ira Haupt II, Brian Heidtke, Dana Ivey,  
Elizabeth Macaulay Lewis & George Lewis, Robert & Joan Rothberg, Karen Rubinson, Joan & George Schiele,  
Anna & Robert Taggart, Constance Thatcher, Jessica Weber, + two anonymous donors*

***Supporter (\$250-\$400)***

*Elie Abemayor, Louis Blumengarten, Diane Carol Brandt, Linda Feinstone, Peter Lincoln,  
Dorinda Oliver, Lynn Quigley, John Yarmick, + one anonymous donor*

***Explorer (\$500-\$999)***

*Whitney & Fred Keen, Lorna & Ronald Greenberg, Jeffrey A. Lamia*

***Patron (\$1,000 up)***

*Caroline Howard Hyman*



## *Spotlight on...*

### *ISAW's Excavations at Kınık Höyük*

Following an extensive survey in Southern Cappadocia, Turkey, a joint project of the NYU's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and the University of Pavia, directed by Lorenzo d'Alfonso, began excavation in 2011 at the largest surveyed site, Kınık Höyük (Niğde). The team, composed of a senior component and graduate students of NYU, Pavia, Turin, Leiden, Erzurum and Kayseri Universities, chose Kınık Höyük, a terraced mound 20 meters high with an overall area of 24 hectares, as a site of great potential due to its perfect state of preservation and large collection of surface ceramics which pointed to a settlement that lasted from the Early Bronze Age to the Medieval Period. The majority of these fragments dated from the Late Bronze Age (1650-1200 BCE) to the Iron Age (ca. 1650-350 BCE), periods when this region was

in turn under the control of the Hittite Empire, the Neo-Hittite kingdom of Tuwana, and finally a center of the Achaemenid network in Anatolia. Furthermore, the location of Kınık Höyük at the foot of the Melendiz Dağları, in a strip of plain very rich of water, is related to a major route connecting the Central Anatolian plateau to Cilicia, through the Taurus passes, and far beyond to Syria and Mesopotamia. Five Iron Age landscape monuments depicting kings and local gods are also located on routes north and east of the site, indicating that Kınık Höyük served as an important center in the region and would have witnessed exchange and interaction between many groups vying for this strategically crucial territory.

Despite the richness of Southern Cappadocia in landscape monuments and its function of crossroads between Anatolia and the Levant, the region has been under-studied archaeologically. The last four years at Kınık Höyük have begun to bridge some of the gaps in the historical and environmental record. One main operation focuses on the ex-

cavation, study, and stabilization of the monumental stone citadel walls whose most recent construction phase has been dated to the Late Bronze Age. These imposing walls retained their defensive function for a thousand years before falling out of use in the Hellenistic period. Besides the walls, the team has exposed stone domestic structures dating to the Medieval and Hellenistic period on the citadel and in the lower town. The team is now paying particular attention to the Achaemenid period, which is also present both within the city walls and in the lower town. Large mudbrick buildings, fine wares and imports, and several food production facilities point to a thriving settlement that was included in the elite strata of the Achaemenid world. Of particular interest for the end of this period are several fragments of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic terracotta figurines found in ashy layers associated with sheep and goat bones. These are interpreted as trash deposits of feasting activities, and we are expanding our study in order to investigate the presence of cultic buildings.

Future projects include continuing our geoarchaeological research into the landscape surrounding Kınık Höyük in order to better understand how settlement patterns and socio-political developments in Southern Cappadocia relate to



*Walls and the exposure of two different levels of rampart, and the panel for visitors, at Kınık Höyük.*

environmental changes. The ceramic production and local building techniques of Kınık Höyük, as well as settlement patterns indicate remarkable continuity from the fall of the Hittite Empire into the Iron Age. By integrating our excavation data with the work of team members in fields such as paleobotany, zooarchaeology, and geology, we are aiming to better understand the local relationships between the people and environment of southern Cappadocia and the larger connections between southern Cappadocia and the rest of the Anatolia.

- Lorenzo d'Alfonso  
ISAW, New York University



## CURRENT DOCTORAL RESEARCH AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITIES

### *Examining Community Identity in the Middle Bronze Age*

The category of ethnicity is difficult to define in the archaeological record, especially for periods and sites in which multiple groups of people are constantly exchanging materials and ideas through trade, warfare, diplomatic ventures, and even intermarriage. This problem is particularly relevant for the Middle Bronze Age (c. 2000–1500 BCE) in the Ancient Middle East: a time when various city-states and kingdoms were frequently engaged with each other in both violent and peaceful contexts. Perhaps the best documented example of such interaction in the Old Assyrian Colony Period (2000–1700 BCE) when merchants from the northern Mesopotamian city of Ashur built a long

distance trade network in central Anatolia. This network consisted of Assyrian merchants traveling to, and settling in, various Anatolian sites—the chief among them being Kanesh (modern day Kültepe)—in order to profit from the exchange of commodities such as wool, tin, and precious metals.

The site of Kanesh consists of a citadel and an extensive lower town that served as the home for local Anatolians, Assyrian merchants, and other foreigners from northern Mesopotamia. Thus far the site has produced around 23,500 cuneiform clay tablets which reveal details about the economic



and personal affairs of the merchants and their local counterparts. However, recent archaeological studies have demonstrated that it is nearly impossible to distinguish Assyrians from Anatolians in the material record. In fact, the term “Old Assyrian Colony Period” is a misnomer, as it appears the Assyrians fully integrated themselves into Anatolian society and did not act the role of the colonial overlord.

Many of the cuneiform texts tell a similar story, but there are clear references to a sense of “Assyrianess.” My research juxtaposes the archaeological data against the textual data from the cuneiform archives of the Assyrians and Anatolians. The Assyrian merchants use titles and terms to designate “foreign” peoples as well as import their own forms of social and political organization. They worshipped their own city god despite living 600 miles from their mother city Ashur. There is little archaeological evidence from the city of Ashur itself for this period, but my dissertation aims to focus on the connections between Assyrians in Kanesh and Ashur in order to demonstrate that the merchants maintained a sense of an Assyrian community spread across distance whilst forging this new intercultural society in Anatolia. This identity, based on the concept of a mother city and its associated institutions, continued to thrive even as As-

syrian merchants and their Anatolian partners created a new hybridized community. Furthermore, through my fieldwork on the lower town of Kınık Höyük some 100 miles south of Kültepe, I hope to flesh out questions of individual and community identity in the long-standing interactions between Anatolia and its surrounding regions.

- Nancy Highcock

PhD Candidate in Ancient Near Eastern and Egyptian Studies, NYU



*Nancy Highcock cleaning a wall at Kınık Höyük*



## NEW YORK'S URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

### *The Forts Landscape Reconstruction Project: Central Park's Revolutionary War Forts*

When contemplating the history of Central Park, it is the visionary transformation of the mid-19th-century landscape by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux that most readily comes to mind. Today, we seldom give much thought to what was there before the park and perhaps not unreasonably assume that all physical expression of the park's earlier history would have been wiped clean from the earth's surface. Yet within the footprint of the park's 150 unbuilt city blocks there remain tantalizing traces of Manhattan's pre-park past.

Over the past two years, the Central Park Conservancy has been working in the area known as the Forts Landscape, implementing improvements to

the paths, drainage and lighting in the rugged terrain overlooking the Harlem Meer. Two promontories, with the tell-tale names of Fort Clinton and Nutter's Battery, were also redesigned to enhance their scenic value. Mindful of the history and archaeological possibilities of this section of the park, the Conservancy undertook archival research and archaeological investigations to ensure that the project took into account its effects on any buried remains, which in this instance proved to be some surprising survivals from the defense of the city during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

In the colonial period, early Dutch and English settlers established a patchwork of cultivated fields

and wood lots across this mid-section of Manhattan. A major regional route, known as the Kingsbridge Road and the Boston Post Road, headed north through the area, winding down through McGowan's Pass, a narrow cleft in the line of hills that overlooked Harlem Creek. The pass and the upland rim that stretched east and west across the island on either side were critical defensive positions in the landscape if New York City faced a land attack from the north.



*Watercolor produced by John Joseph Holland in the fall of 1814 showing the McGowan's Pass defenses. Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society.*

During the Revolutionary War, McGowan's Pass and the surrounding hills were stoutly defended by British regulars and Hessian mercenaries. In mid-September of 1776 when British and Hessian forces swept Washington's Continental Army before them, northward across Manhattan, they quickly occupied and fortified the line of bluffs to the south of Harlem Creek. Redoubts were constructed on the knolls guarding McGowan's Pass. McGowan's house and tavern, situated on the high ground on the east side of the road, became a major focus of this defensive system, apparently serving as a headquarters for British and Hessian officers.

As the Revolutionary War wore on and the British occupation of New York continued, the defenses at McGowan's Pass became more permanent, although they never saw military action. The defenses were strengthened in late 1781 following the American victory at Yorktown, causing a barracks to be built and troop levels to be increased to around 1,000. Almost a year later, in late 1782, anticipating the possibility of an American advance on Manhattan, as many as 10,000 troops were encamped in the McGowan's Pass area. Following the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally con-

cluded the Revolutionary War, British and Hessian troops finally withdrew in November 1783.

A generation later, in the summer of 1814, as the British burned the White House and ransacked Washington, the fledgling United States were now faced with the prospect of a British attack on Manhattan. New Yorkers rushed to defend their city. With the memory of the Revolution no doubt still fresh, the state militia rebuilt and expanded the old fortifications in the McGowan's Pass area, linking them to a large new redoubt known as Fort Fish and a new gatehouse in the pass itself. It was at this time that the promontories supporting the former British batteries took on their modern names of Fort Clinton and Nutter's Battery. The war soon wound down as the British and Americans began to work toward a lasting peace. McGowan's Pass again saw no military action.

By the early 20th century, with Central Park well established as Manhattan's premier patch of green space, the historical importance of McGowan's Pass was largely forgotten and most physical evidence of past military activity had eroded from the landscape. In recent years, in seeking to manage and maintain the park in a manner that respects all phases of its history, the Conservancy has routinely considered the effects of any ground-disturbing actions on potential archaeological resources. Within this context, the Forts Landscape Reconstruction Project undertook a program of archaeological field survey to evaluate possible impacts on buried remains. This work involved extensive extrapolation of historic maps onto modern aerial photographs and topographic cartography, a detailed and systematic inspection of the ground surface and some carefully targeted subsurface testing.

Remarkably, there are still visible traces of the military history of the McGowan's Pass area within Central Park. These are not obvious to the untrained eye, but they are unmistakable nevertheless; even more significant, the subsurface testing has shown that there are some locations within the park where substantial buried remains still survive. At Fort Clinton, for example, the masonry base of the redoubt is evident. On either side of the fort, extending east to the Meer and west to the pass, and also along the defensive alignment connecting the pass, Nutter's Battery and Fort Fish, the faint

outlines of the War of 1812 ramparts are discernible at the ground surface.

At the pass, the bedrock outcrops display the drill scars from quarrying stone for the War of 1812 gatehouse and ramparts and perhaps, too, the locations of iron rods used to anchor the defenses to the underlying rock. On the west side of the pass, parts of the masonry base of the flanking redoubt can be seen. At the heart of the pass, limited excavation and monitoring of trenches dug for drainage improvements revealed the footings of the gatehouse—massive, deliberately laid blocks of schist placed on either side of the gate opening. On the west side of the pass, the remains of the Kingsbridge Road were observed—a hard-packed surface of cobbles, gravel and earth extending along the road course as well as beneath the gatehouse foundations, thus demonstrating how the road's lineage extends back into the colonial period. In every instance, the newly revealed remains were preserved

in place and the landscaping improvements were redesigned to avoid affecting the archaeological features.

The historical and archaeological research carried out for the Forts Landscape Reconstruction Project has been sharply focused, driven by the needs of a park restoration campaign. What this work has demonstrated is that, even in the most unlikely of urban settings, significant buried evidence of earlier land use may yet lurk at and just beneath the surface. The Conservancy, true to its mission to “restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public,” is actively working to expand its programming and signage to include interpretation of the cultural landscapes that preceded the creation of Manhattan's premier patch of green space.

- *Richard W. Hunter*  
President/Principal Archaeologist,  
Hunter Research, Inc.

*Further information on this historical and archaeological research can be found in the technical reports available at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission website:*

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/publications/archaeology.shtml>

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