



AIA *News from the* NEW YORK SOCIETY

LIFE ON THE FRONTIER - PAST AND PRESENT

Excitement and challenge—these are some of the emotions of Lucius Aelius and his fellow Roman soldiers when ancient Rome posted their legion to Britannia—the northern frontier. What would life be like? From warm and sunny to cold and rainy?; From family and friends to strangers, indeed barbarians? and; From safe and secure to dangerous? Lucius Aelius is a fictional person but the mixed emotions of excitement and apprehensive challenge were probably real for actual historical persons posted to the frontier—not just for ancient Romans, whether on the northern, the southern or eastern frontier, but for Han Chinese soldiers to the far west of Asia, or an ancient Egyptian on the southern border with Kush, or an ancient Assyrian on its northern border. Frontiers are not simply of the past but with us in the present.

Like last year's Fall Newsletter, I write this year's President's Letter while in the deep woods of northern Vermont right on the Quebec border. It is not quite the frontier of ancient societies but it brings "frontiers" to mind. The lure of the frontier is deep in American history but I think it is a deep characteristic of common humanity. Crossing frontiers dazzle us daily—discoveries in outer space, in the inner workings of the atom and in biology. Nor is it only the natural sciences that face frontiers.

The social sciences too face numerous frontiers. In its search to understand our common humanity through the material record, archaeology, perhaps more than any other discipline, is collaborative—with geophysicists, chemists, linguists, historians, economists, and anthropologists, among others. What can the past tell us about how other societies

have lived? What can we learn about how humanity has adapted to change? Answering these questions is exciting and inevitably challenging as new facts and new understandings reflect back on what we think we know and believe.

Inside this Newsletter you will find an article about hundreds of new discoveries in southern Arabia and another detailing our Waldbaum Scholarship recipient's recent fieldwork. You will also find a listing of your society's fall 2018 lectures.

Yes, paraphrasing a Noble Prize winning astrophysicist, as we cross frontiers to new knowledge about outer space our advance takes away a bit of the mysterious fascination with the stars. And yet, I think from the view of frontiers, the fascination and challenge never ends, whether for outer space or for the wonderful variety that is our human condition. So, please join the exploration by attending the fall 2018 lectures that your society presents.

- *Jeffrey Lamia*

President, AIA New York Society

In This Issue:

- p.2 AIA New York Society Fall Lecture Series
- p.3 AIA New York Society Annual Meeting
- p.4 Feature: Mapping Magan
- p.5 Waldbaum Scholarship Report
- p.7 AIA Fellowships, Grants, and Scholarships

AIA NEW YORK SOCIETY FALL 2018 LECTURE SERIES

Troy and Gordion: The Historiography of Excavation at Two Legendary Sites in Anatolia

C. Brian Rose

James B. Pritchard Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania; Director, Gordion (Turkey) Excavations; President, American Research Institute in Turkey; Past President, Archaeological Institute of America

I have had the good fortune to direct or co-direct excavations at two legendary sites in Turkey—Troy and Gordion, and the fieldwork that I have conducted there over the course of the last 25 years has continually required me to assess the most effective strategies for presenting them to the public and the scholarly community. In this talk I attempt to place my own work at these sites in historiographic perspective—highlighting the positive and negative aspects of the projects, with a focus on the extent to which regional, national, and global developments have shaped our research agendas. I also reflect on the discipline of archaeology in Turkey and the Near East at the end of the talk.

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



September 20 at 6:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, 15 East 84th Street



RSVP is required to attend Dr. Rose's lecture. Register to attend this event via ISAW's website (<http://isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp>).

Collecting Magical Gems in the Early Modern Period

Liliana Leopardi

Assistant Professor of Art and Architecture, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

What happens to ancient artifacts after their discovery? How are they used and why? Such issues of cultural heritage are well known to archaeologists today. But what about past centuries? During the Italian Renaissance gems and intaglios were collected not only because of their historical importance but also because they were believed to be repositories of magical and occult virtues. Thus, individuals such as Lorenzo de' Medici used and collected such renown cameos as the Seal of Nero for their supposed apotropaic qualities. Dr. Leopardi will explore this phenomenon in her presentation.

(Co-sponsored by the Department of Classical & Oriental Studies)



October 9 at 6:30 pm (Reception to follow)

Hemmerdinger Hall, Hunter College, Lexington & 68th Street

Skeletons, Skulls, and Bones in the Art of Chichen Itza

Virginia Miller

Associate Professor Emerita, Department of Art History, University of Illinois at Chicago

The Aztecs considered the bones of slain captives to be powerful, a belief probably shared by the earlier Maya: one Maya hieroglyph for “captive” translates as “bone,” for example. Nevertheless, during the Classic period (A.D. 300–900) at southern Maya sites like Tikal and Yaxchilán, war-related imagery focuses more on the capture and humiliation of enemies than on their sacrificial deaths or their post-mortem remains. In contrast, at northern Maya sites in Yucatán and at Chichén Itzá in particular, battle scenes, sacrifice, skulls, and bones are frequent themes in reliefs, murals, and other media such as jade and gold. The skull rack, a new architectural form decorated with sculpted impaled skulls and marching warriors bearing severed heads, was prominently placed right next to the massive ballcourt. Even when no human heads were on display, these reliefs may have served as a grim reminder of the potential power of Chichén’s rulers. Why this upsurge in graphic sacrificial and death imagery between about A.D. 800 and 1000? Were the Itzá militarily more successful than their predecessors? Why are both victors and defeated presented in groups and anonymously, in contrast to the southern Maya practice of naming individual captors and captives? Did the northern Maya practice human sacrifice on a more massive scale, foreshadowing later Aztec practices? These are just some of the questions to be addressed in the lecture.

(Brush National Lecture. Presented by the AIA New York Society and The Explorers Club)



November 5 at 6:30 pm (Refreshments to precede lecture at 6:00)
Explorers Club, 46 East 70th Street



RSVP is required to attend Dr. Miller’s lecture. Details of the RSVP will be posted on our website (<http://aia-nysociety.org/events>) and sent via email to AIA-New York Society members.

*As always, please check your email or consult our website
(<http://aia-nysociety.org/events>) for any last-minute changes in venue.*



AIA NEW YORK SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Society members and prospective members are invited to join the AIA New York Society Board for our annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be held on October 9th, immediately preceding Liliana Leopardi’s lecture. Agenda topics include:

- Financial Review
- Review of Activities
- Election of Society Trustees



October 9 at 6:30 pm (Reception to follow)
Hemmerdinger Hall, Hunter College, Lexington & 68th Street

Feature: Mapping Magan

Hundreds of Newly Discovered Tombs in Southeastern Arabia

Ancient cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia describe a land called Magan, rich in copper and valuable stone resources and an important trading partner in the early Bronze Age Middle East. Historians and archaeologists have since identified Magan with southeastern Arabia, including the modern countries of Oman and United Arab Emirates. Though these texts written by outsiders offer a glimpse at how ancient Magan was seen by its neighbors, comparatively little is known about the social landscape of the region from an internal perspective.

My dissertation research is working to fill in this knowledge gap by investigating how settlements within prehistoric southeastern Arabia interacted with each other. I recently led an archaeological survey in the interior of Oman, around the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bat. The site of Bat and its surrounding area forms one of the world's most complete collections of necropolises and settlements from the 3rd millennium BC and has been the focus of a long-running American research campaign. The ancient oasis settlement at Bat is anchored by several monumental stone towers and scores of Bronze Age tombs built on high ridgelines, overlooking habitation areas.



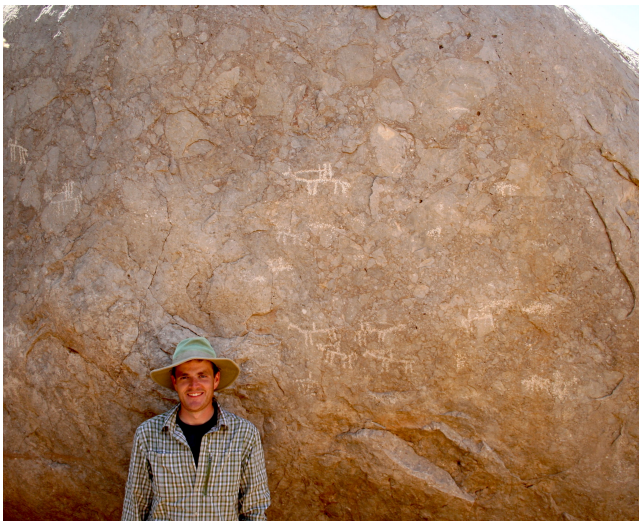
Surveying the high ridgelines outside of Bat, Oman

The survey covered a 130 km² area between Bat and a nearby smaller settlement, looking for archaeological remains. In order to cover such a large territory in a single season, we utilized several new geospatial technologies before setting foot in the field. A remote reconnaissance program of the survey completed with satellite imagery granted from the DigitalGlobe Foundation. This ultra-high-resolution imagery (where each pixel represents less than one-meter on the ground) made it possible to identify many Bronze Age features, especially tombs, remotely. Knowing these locations let us focus our limited time in the field on areas with high concentrations of archaeological remains.



*A well-preserved Bronze Age tomb
discovered in the survey area*

The survey results are exciting and offer a new, localized picture of prehistoric life in the region. In total, over 480 previously unrecorded archaeological sites were discovered and documented. Though the focus of our research program is on the Bronze Age, we recorded all archaeological features encountered, regardless of time period. Several of our most exciting finds in fact came from the Iron Age (c.1300–300 BC). These included a large conglomeration of Iron Age tombs and field systems. We also found hundreds of examples of rock art spread over several boulders that depict quadrupeds, riders on horses, and a variety of human and weapon forms. The proximity of this rock art to an Iron Age cemetery and the animals shown suggest an Iron Age date for their creation.



*The author standing next to
a boulder with petroglyphs*

Other significant finds from the season include over one hundred fifty Bronze Age tombs. Most of these large stone constructions held a few internments, though the largest of these mortuary monuments would have contained the remains of well over two hundred individuals. Of special interest was the discovery of a new Bronze Age settlement area. We recorded five houses organized around the edges of an above-ground water catchment area,

unlike any other known Bronze Age settlements in the region. We were able to document these structures with drone photography. The ongoing analysis of pottery collected from this site, and others identified in the survey, will help further elucidate its occupation and build a networked model of social interaction for the Bronze Age.

Modern Oman is experiencing a massive construction boom. New development projects threaten archaeological resources across central Oman. By collaborating with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, many of the sites recorded in this past season's survey area are now included in nationally-protected heritage zones, safeguarding them for the future.

This fieldwork was generously supported by the National Geographic Society, the Oman Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the British Foundation for the Study of Arabia, The DigitalGlobe Foundation, and the Center for the Study of Human Origins at NYU.

- Eli Dollarhide

Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology/Archaeology,
New York University



Waldbaum Scholarship Report:

*Excavations at Coriglia
and the Necropoli Crocifisso del Tufo,
Summer 2018*

For the past four summers, I have been very fortunate to take part in excavations with the Coriglia Excavation Project at three Etruscan sites in Orvieto. The Umbrian city of Orvieto, known for its white wine, sweeping views and extensive Etruscan remains, derived its name in the Middle Ages from the Latin *urbs vetus*, "old city." Since first working

on this project, I have developed a deep love for everything Etruscan.

The Coriglia Excavation Project, directed by Dr. David George (St. Anselm College) and by Dr. Claudio Bizzarri (University of Arizona), focuses on the sites of Coriglia and Cavità 254. Coriglia sits on a slope surrounded by natural springs and olive tree groves overlooking the Umbrian countryside. Thirteen years of excavation have determined that the site has continuous settlements from Etruscan period, as early as the sixth century BCE, through the Middle Ages. The site has evidence of a Roman bath system, with several large water tanks or pools.

During my first season in the Coriglia Field School, I helped excavate a Roman vault system, much like a cellar. We initially cleared the staircase and entrance, as well as part of the vault itself. This year we determined the vault's back wall and floor, leaving a portion unexcavated where we think the top may still be intact. The structure is large (ca. 2×8 m) and runs parallel to a small room that has evidence of a raised-floor hypocaust system. A future goal will be to determine the relationship between these two structures. Excavating at Coriglia has taught me much about stratigraphy and how to identify structures within varying layers of occupation in general. My main interest, however, is in Etruscan archaeology, so I was particularly excited to excavate Cavità 254.



A portion of the vault system dug this year at Coriglia with artifacts such as a dolium lid in the stratigraphic layer directly on top of the floor

The Cavità is an underground cave or cavity structure located in the Orvieto plateau. The cave shows sign of usage before the fifth century BCE through the Etruscan period, first perhaps as a quarry for the volcanic tufa rock used in building, then later as a dump. This season I helped excavate a layer that is an Etruscan waste heap filled with sherds of bucchero, Attic-ware, and architectural terracottas. After the demise of the Etruscans in Orvieto, this cave went out of use until the Middle Ages, when it was subsequently re-utilized for pigeon harvesting, water collection, and trash disposal.

The same inhabitants who used the cave system in Orvieto also founded the necropolis that has been known since the seventeenth century as the “Crocifisso del Tufo.” This necropolis, located at the foot of the plateau, is part of Orvieto's larger cemetery system, and contains burials mostly from the sixth and fifth centuries BCE. In July, I participated in excavations focusing on one of the larger tombs there, Tomb 89. This single-chamber, tomb, measuring ca. 2×3 m, is in line with three other large-size, two-chamber tombs excavated in previous seasons.

First opened in the latter half of the nineteenth century by Riccardo Mancini, Tomb 89 was shown, typically, to have artifacts out of context, in disturbed strata. Fortunately, however, some original stratigraphy remained undisturbed, and we uncovered a few grave goods in situ. Most were examples of black and grey Etruscan bucchero pottery. We also found intact part of the original floor; usually such floors are so badly degraded that only an under-layer of beaten earth remains. In my experience at Crocifisso, one also finds an abundance of earlier Villanovan pottery from the tomb floors, and Tomb 89 was no different.

During the weekends, I had the opportunity to travel around Italy, visiting the Etruscan museums in Sarteano, Chianciano and Tarquinia as well as the National Archaeological Museum of Florence. I also saw other archaeological sites, such as Fiesole, Tarquinia and Ostia, which helped me put the sites that I dig into the perspective of the greater Etruscan and Mediterranean world.

My fieldwork this past summer made me think deeply about the continued reuse of ancient sites, what I think of as the crux of archaeology. How do humans think about and use space; to what extent does culture truly define these parameters? Furthermore, how do we, as archaeologists, project our own cultural ideas about space onto the ancient world? Every season I have participated in the Coriglia and Crocifisso del Tufo Excavation projects I have gained invaluable experience. This year has challenged me even more than previous

seasons in mind and body. I am thrilled to be able to continue my academic study and incorporate all I have learned this year in the field.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks for the Etruscan Foundation Fieldwork Fellowship and to the Institute for Mediterranean Archaeology for

providing support for my excavation work in Italy last summer.

- *Tina Bekkali-Poio*

Anthropology and Classical Archaeology Major,
Hunter College



AIA FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The AIA is pleased to offer fellowships for travel and study to deserving scholars and a number of scholarships and grants for students and for publications. AIA scholarships, fellowships, and grants are open to members of the Archaeological Institute of America. If you have any questions, contact the Fellowship Coordinator at 857-305-9360 or fellowships@archaeological.org. The AIA website (www.archaeological.org) has information on application requirements, guidelines and forms.

Fellowships

Anna C. & Oliver C. Colburn Fellowships

To support study at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Deadline: January 15, 2020

Harriet and Leon Pomerance Fellowship

To support a project relating to Aegean Bronze Age archaeology.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Helen M. Woodruff Fellowship of the AIA and the American Academy in Rome

To support a Rome Prize Fellowship for the study of archaeology or classical studies every other year.

Deadline: November 1, 2019

John R. Coleman Traveling Fellowship

To support travel and study in Italy, the western Mediterranean, or North Africa.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Olivia James Traveling Fellowship

For travel and study in Greece, Cyprus, the Aegean Islands, Sicily, southern Italy, Asia Minor, and Mesopotamia.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

The Archaeology of Portugal Fellowship

To support projects relating to the archaeology of Portugal.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

C. Brian Rose AIA/DAI Exchange Fellowships

The Archaeological Institute of America and the German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) offer reciprocal study fellowships. The program encourages and supports scholarship on various aspects of archaeology and promotes contact between North American and German archaeologists.

AIA Fellowship for Study in the U.S.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

DAI Fellowship for Study in Berlin

Deadline: November 30, 2018

Grants

Julie Herzig Desnick Endowment Fund for Archaeological Field Surveys *(new)*

The Herzig Desnick Fund will provide grants specifically dedicated to exploratory archaeological field surveys, especially for early stage work.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Richard C. MacDonald Iliad Endowment for Archaeological Research *(new)*

Awarded to projects that support research in regions that supply context to the study of Troy and generally help elucidate the Trojan War and its impact on ancient Mediterranean civilization. This can include but is not limited to Anatolia (modern Turkey), southeastern Europe, the Aegean and Crete during the third to first millennia B.C.E.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Site Preservation Grant

The Site Preservation Program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to support innovative projects that aid in the preservation of threatened archaeological sites.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

The Ellen and Charles Steinmetz Endowment Fund for Archaeology *(new)*

The Steinmetz Fund will support innovative uses of technology in archaeological research.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

The Kathleen and David Boochever Endowment Fund for Fieldwork and Scientific Analyses *(new)*

The Boochever Fund will support field and laboratory research.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Publication Grants

Samuel H. Kress Grants for Research and Publication in Classical Art and Architecture

These grants fund publication preparation, or research leading to publication, undertaken by professional members of the AIA.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

The AIA Publication Subvention Program

Offers subventions from the AIA's von Bothmer Publication Fund in support of new book-length publications in the field of Greek, Roman, and Etruscan archaeology and art history.

Deadline: November 1, 2018

Scholarships & Travel Grants

Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship

A scholarship established in honor of AIA Past President Jane C. Waldbaum to assist students with the expenses associated with participation in archaeological field schools.

Deadline: March 1, 2019

Special Note: The New York Society has a Waldbaum Field School Scholarship only for students who are matriculated in a New York City college or university. Please see the AIA national website or the AIA-NYS website for details.

Elizabeth Bartman Museum Internship

A scholarship established in honor of AIA Past President Elizabeth Bartman to assist graduate students or those who have recently completed a master's degree with the expenses associated with participating in a museum internship either in the United States or abroad.

Deadline: April 1, 2019

Graduate Student Travel Award

These grants are to assist graduate students presenting papers at the AIA Annual Meeting with their travel expenses.

Deadline: November 1, 2018



AIA New York Society Waldbaum Scholarship recipient Tina Bakkali-Poio holding the neck of a large bucchero hydria found in situ in the doorway of a tomb at Crocifisso del Tufo. Read about Tina's excavation experience in this issue.



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