



AIA *News from the* NEW YORK SOCIETY

FRONTIERS: LUCIUS AELIUS, SCOTLAND AND LAYERS OF TIME

The barbarian north! Lucius Aelius, posted to Britannia on ancient Rome's northern frontier, wondered what he would find far from family and urban Rome. Lucius Aelius is a fictional person but such apprehension was probably a real one for Roman legionnaires. In a previous President's Letter I mentioned Lucius Aelius in order to explore "frontiers" in archaeological work. This year's lectures continue to explore "frontiers"—physical, social and conceptual.

Posted to Britannia, Lucius Aelius might have found himself in the far north near the land of the Picts—Barbarians? Or a powerful unconquered kingdom? The Picts were a people named and known only via Rome...until now. In October, Dr. Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen in Scotland, will lecture on "The Picts - New Discoveries of the 'lost people of Europe'." See the NY Society's website (<http://aia-nysociety.org>) for details including links to Dr. Noble's work, including a National Geographic video. His lecture will be exciting.

Frontiers: we experience them all the time, e.g. finding layers of decorative wallpaper connects us to others before. We "re-collect" these markers to understand the life of past peoples. Today's concerns influence our perspective but build on past ones and even if different let us see new dimensions of past societies. In late September Dr. Antonis Kotsonas will open a new understanding of the interrelationship between Crete, Greek Orientalizing culture (7th century BCE), and the Near East (11th to 7th centuries BCE). It is a conceptual frontier.

In November Dr. Amy Gansell takes us to a different frontier: the ancient Assyrian empire of the 9th and 8th centuries. Known for its kings, now Dr. Gansell "breathes life and new illumination of the stunning regalia and imperial power of the queens."

New perspectives also convey the adventure of archaeological investigation. Early in September Dr. Laetitia LaFollette, currently First Vice President and future President of the AIA, will recount how she got "hooked" on archaeology and speak about some of her research.

So please join us for these exciting lectures, and bring your friends.

Also in this issue, we are pleased to announce that the AIA-NY Society is launching a new program, The AIA-NYS Scholars Program, to involve students in the AIA and in your Society. It is your membership in the AIA and the AIA-NYS which in part makes this possible. Many thanks.

- *Jeffrey Lamia*
President, AIA New York Society

In This Issue:

- p.2 AIA-NYS Fall 2019 Lecture Series
- p.4 Guardamar del Segura, Spain
- p.5 Profile of Larissa Bonfante
- p.7 New AIA-NYS Scholarships

AIA NEW YORK SOCIETY FALL 2019 LECTURE SERIES

Archaeological Adventures: From Athens to Rome to Copenhagen

Laetitia La Follette

First Vice President, The Archaeological Institute of America;
Department Chair, History of Art & Architecture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

After briefly touching on how she got “hooked” on archaeology in Athens, Laetitia will first share the Roman tale of a princess and a bath. She will then discuss her current work on an unusual group of ancient marble family portraits that were smuggled out of Rome and ended up in Copenhagen.



September 9 at 5:30 pm

Dentons US, LLP, 1221 Avenue of the Americas (between 48th & 49th Streets)



RSVP is required to attend Dr. La Follette’s lecture.

Register to attend this event through the AIA-NYS website (<http://aia-nysociety.org/category/events>).

Crete, the Aegean, and the Near East in the Early 1st Millennium BCE

Antonis Kotsonas

Assistant Professor of Mediterranean History and Archaeology, ISAW

The dense and complex networks of interaction connecting the prehistoric Aegean and the Near East were severely dismantled ca. 1200 BCE. In the course of the early 1st millennium BCE new and very different networks of interaction emerged through the agency of people from both regions, and by the 7th century BCE Greek culture was strongly Orientalizing. Crete was once taken to hold a key role in this process and to be the cradle of the Greek Orientalizing culture, as the intellectual tradition of Pan-Cretism had it. More recently, however, the island has been seen as a passive periphery and a cultural backwater in this period. My paper offers a corrective approach to these contrasting interpretations. I argue for the important role of Crete in connecting the Aegean and the Near East based on new and old discoveries, and a range of archaeological and art-historical evidence for increasingly closer links between the island and the Eastern Mediterranean from the 11th to the 7th century BCE. I also explain the ways in which this evidence is exceptional for broader Greek contacts with the Near East. Lastly, I investigate the manipulation of Oriental styles and imports by different Cretan communities and social groups, and I analyze the serious demise of such imports to Crete in the course of the 7th century BCE and the reorientation of the island’s culture to the Aegean.

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



September 24 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. Kotsonas’s lecture.

Register to attend this event on ISAW’s website (<http://isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp>).

The Picts – New Discoveries of the ‘Lost People of Europe’

Gordon Noble

Reader, Department of Archaeology University of Aberdeen, Scotland

The Picts are a ‘lost people of Europe’ and a past society of enduring public fascination. First mentioned in late Roman writings as a collection of troublesome social groupings north of the Roman frontier, the Picts went on to dominate northern and eastern Scotland until late first millennium AD. The emergence of the Pictish kingdoms was part of broader change in northern Europe that laid the foundations for the modern nation states of Europe. The major legacies of the Picts include some of the most spectacular archaeological sites and artistic achievements of Early Medieval European society. However, all trace of the Picts disappeared from the written records in the 9th century AD, and only limited and contentious documentary sources survive. Northern Picts is a project that aims to uncover the archaeological traces of Pictish society in northern Scotland. The project to date has had some spectacular successes. We have begun to uncover a major and undocumented Pictish royal centre at Rhynie and discovered a significant portion of a major Pictish silver hoard at Gaulcross. We have scaled sea cliffs to discover forgotten Pictish forts and centres of power.

(Co-sponsored by the Anthropology Section, CUNY Graduate Center)



October 16 at 6:50 pm (immediately following the AIA-NYS Annual Meeting)
Room C197, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue

The Beauty and Power of Ancient Assyrian Queens at Nimrud (Iraq)

Amy Gansell

Associate Professor, Fine Arts, St. Johns University

Nimrud, an ancient Mesopotamian site in northern Iraq, is best known for its Assyrian kings, their monuments, and (in modern times) the 2015 terrorist obliteration of its excavated Northwest Palace. This talk, however, breathes new life and perspectives into the palace to illuminate and interpret the stunning regalia and imperial power of the queens who lived and were buried there during the ninth and eighth centuries BCE.

(Co-sponsored by the Department of Classics and Oriental Studies, Hunter College)



November 13 at 6:30 pm
Hemmerdinger Screening Room, Hunter College, Lexington & 68th Street

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



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 16th, immediately preceding Gordon Noble's lecture. Agenda topics include:

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



October 16 at 6:30 pm
Room C197, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue



Spotlight on...

Investigating Guardamar del Segura, Spain with UC Berkeley

This past June 2019, I assisted teaching a group of students from the University of California's Berkeley College of Environmental Design. The Berkeley summer studio program takes place in a beautiful coastal area in southeastern Spain at Guardamar del Segura, Alicante. A collaboration since 2010 of architects and archaeologists the program focuses on complex issues facing historical sites because of climate change, dune erosion and other restoration concerns. In addition to these concerns, the overriding theme of "When Old Meets New" fully engages students in the study of the vast architectural culture of Spain.

The program—part of an architecture program designed by Alejandro Salazar, Architect and Berkeley Professor, University of Alicante, and others—intends, in part, to educate a younger generation in the care maintenance and reinvention of local cultural heritage. The Berkeley students helped excavate, learned techniques of restoration and developed an understanding of the complexities among the relationships of archaeology, architecture, and cultural heritage. Exploring new paradigms, the students applied cultural heritage issues to rethink

how contemporary architectural structures impact site preservation, conservation, and the affect of the *musealización* of an archaeological site. There is a plan to include the sites (La Fonteta and The Rabita) into an archaeological park, ideally one of scholarship and community. The sites are now within Guardamar's Parque Alfonso XIII, along the southeast coast.

This coast has seen numerous past cultures settle and trade in the area, among which were native Iberians and conquerors from Phoenicia, Rome and the Islamic Caliphate. Indeed there are ongoing archaeological excavations throughout the small town of Guardamar del Segura, including The Castle of Guardamar, (14th c.), the old Phoenician town, a Phoenician settlement (La Fonteta) and an Islamic Rabita (Arabic Ribât, La Rábita Califal, 944–11th c. AD). All these human settlements have affected the natural coastal dune system of the Alboran Sea, and specifically the Balearic Sea.

The Umayyad Caliphate's Rabita, equivalent to a monastery or pilgrim site, is of particular interest. Its discovery was one of the first examples of this type of religious building in the Iberian Peninsula. As mentioned in Arabic chronicles the original site was abruptly abandoned possibly because of an earthquake in the 11th c. AD. Archaeological finds of everyday ceramics, religious objects, oil lamps, cooking kettles, and rosary beads made from clay or fish bones suggest sudden abandonment rather

than gradual depopulation. There are remarkable surviving small prayer cells and a mosque both with similar structure, although each served a different purpose.



Prayer Cells – with the intact exposed Mibrab (small vaulted area)

The Rabita was rediscovered in the early 20th c. by a forestry engineer, Francisco Mira Botella, seeking a solution for the severe erosion of sand and dune imbalances and to stop the sands from covering the entire village of Guardamar del Segura. This project, named “The Dunes Reforestation Project” succeeded in creating a dune forest by irrigating the dunes and replanting trees and vegetation. Now, 120 years later, the pine forest has reached its lifespan and is dying. As a result the town of Guardamar and the central archaeological sites of La Fonteta and The Rabita, are again at risk because of erosion. Ironically these places were once

protected from destruction by the very same sands that covered the Rabita during the reconquest of Spain. The resolution of a new architectural structure that protects, allows visitors, and engages scholars is an essential issue for Guardamar and for those who care about the archaeology of Spain.

The Fonteta and the Rabita are deeply hidden in this dune complex and require a 25 minute forest walk to find. The site is not always open to the public. While walking within this dune forest, one is overwhelmed by the arid scent of cedar, pine, juniper, and salt wafting in the sea breeze. The smell of the sky is one of a parched perfume because of the proximity to the sea. One would never know the pine forest is wholly artificial and was a method used to save a part of history. It is crucial to protect and develop archaeological sites in a manner to help the local community, as well as inspire the global archaeological community.

- Heidi James-Fisher

The Ethica Foundation, Studio LXIV, Ltd.

Credit:

Program: University of California Berkeley's College of Environmental Design

Mr. Alejandro Salazar, Architect and Berkeley Professor, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain Further reading: L'établissement Protohistorique de La Fonteta, Pierre Rouillard, Éric Gailledrat et Feliciano Sala Sellés

A Life in Archaeology

Dr. Larissa Bonfante:

Etruscans on Morningside Heights

In memoriam: Sadly, Dr. Bonfante passed away on August 23rd, as this newsletter was being prepared for publication. The profile below was based on interviews the authors had with her earlier this year.

Dr. Larissa Bonfante, Professor Emerita of Classics at New York University, taught Latin poetry, Classics in translation, myth and iconography at NYU for over 40 years. She retired in 2007 from active teaching, but continues to be involved in the profession, lecturing for the AIA and elsewhere on her specialty, Etruscan culture and civilization. That year, 2007, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) recognized her outstanding career by awarding her the AIA's Gold Medal, its most prestigious

award for lifetime achievement. Dr. Bonfante has a long involvement with the AIA, having served as a Trustee on the AIA's national board, and for many years on the board of the AIA-New York Society.

She continues her scholarship, attending conferences, writing articles and books. An edited volume about the Barbarians of Western Europe, with contributions on Thracians, Scythians, Celts, and Germans, and Etruscans, appeared in 2011, and she will edit a volume on classical nudity as a costume in the classical Mediterranean. Next year will see the publication of the Jerome Lectures, *Images and Translations. The Etruscan in the World*, a social history of a people for whom we have no literature, but a great deal of art and archaeological evidence. She has a theory that the Etruscans were not absent from Homer's *Odyssey*, but that they are the Phaeacians, the wealthy, sophisticated people whose princess, Nausicaa, saved the shipwrecked Odysseus.

She recently paused to reflect for us on her life and career in archaeology.

Born in Naples, Italy in 1931, she came to the US with her family as a refugee. Her parents were anti-fascists, and were compelled to leave Italy for Spain in 1933, where her father was invited to teach at the Istituto de Historia under the Republic. There followed the Spanish Civil War, flight to Geneva, Switzerland, school for Larissa and her brother Jordan for two years, and eventually an invitation to teach in Princeton, joining European friends and colleagues who were at the Institute for Advanced Study. She vividly recalled the trip to America: "We were among the last of the many who fled across the ocean to America as refugees and political exiles from the Nazis, the Fascists and the fast moving war in Europe...It was a dangerous time." Her father, a refugee scholar, took a lively part in in American academic life. They settled in Princeton, where he taught linguistics in the Italian Department for the next 15 years. After the war, enticed by post-war European intellectual life, her father returned to Italy to resume his university career. Her memories of him remain warm and fresh.

Larissa did not return to Italy with her parents, she remained in the US. Now married, she spent an

eventful year in Italy on her husband's Fulbright fellowship, before returning to the US and her studies. She graduated from Barnard in 1954 with a BA in Fine Arts and Classics. After the birth of her daughter Alexandra (Alexandra Bonfante-Warren, now an art historian and editor in New York), there followed an MA from the University of Cincinnati (where she studied with the legendary Carl Blegen, who excavated Nestor's Pylos), and eventually a Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University.

Throughout her career she followed her interest in classical antiquity by working on subjects that intrigued her: Greek, Etruscan and Roman dress and its symbolism, the forms and meanings of Greek nudity, the Etruscan origin of the Roman triumph celebrating successful military leaders, so important in Roman politics, the freedom and power of women in Etruscan aristocratic society. With her father, a linguist, she wrote a book on the Etruscan language. Most recently, as the daughter of an academic refugee, she has written on a current topic of interest, the contributions of the refugees who were forced to leave their homelands to live and teach in America. As a graduate student at Columbia, she studied with many of these scholars: Meyer Shapiro, Julius Held, Rudolf Wittkower, Margarete Bieber, Charles de Tolnay, Otto Brendel...

It was Otto Brendel, who was just then writing the definitive book on Etruscan art, who cemented her early interest for Etruscan art and culture, which had been fueled by her participation with Italian graduate students in the excavation at Cerveteri under the direction of Massimo Pallottino. He assigned her Etruscan dress as a dissertation topic, and introduced her to scholars also working on the relatively new topic of ancient dress, Emeline Richardson, and Margarete Bieber, a former professor at Barnard and Columbia. Bieber read the thesis chapter by chapter, they became good friends, and shared their discoveries of antiquities they had "excavated" in the basements and closets of museums. Years later, Larissa organized a famous Roman Fashion Show of ancient Roman costumes at the American Academy in Rome, in the context of an NEH Summer Seminar. It was at Columbia

that she met her future husband, Leo Ferrero Raditsa, who was then working on his dissertation on ancient history, and taught for many years at St. John's College, in Annapolis; their son, Sebastian, was born in 1983.

Her lifelong passion for the study of Etruscan civilization inspired her to found the American Section of the Italian Institute for Etruscan and Italic Studies, and its official Newsletter, Etruscan News, which has become the international journal, reporting on current developments in the world of Etruscan archaeology, Museums, and personalities.

Reflections on What's Coming

She has compared the impact of the émigré intellectuals who came to America after World War II to that of the Greek adventurers, craftsmen, poets and traders who brought a new ferment to Etruria in the seventh and sixth centuries BCE. Today the US is one of the most important centers for Etruscan studies in the world. In classical studies, and in the study of art history and archaeology, the German-influenced scientific "Kunstgeschichte" American Style (as Colin Eisler called it), has moved to a more personal style, oriented to the social sciences. Furthermore, students today are far more visually oriented than they were when Larissa started to teach. This situation makes the Etruscans more approachable, less of an "enigma,"

than they were in the past, and surely accounts for the fascination their art and their archaeological sites hold for both scholars and interested laymen.

- Edward Krowitz and Jeffrey Lamia
Trustees, AIA New York Society



*Dr. Bonfante in an Etruscan dress by Norma Goldman
at the Etruscan and Roman Fashion show*



AIA-NYS SCHOLARS PROGRAM/ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS AT NEW YORK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, 2019-20

This is a new outreach initiative intended to promote local young scholars in their study of archaeology, both by encouraging their engagement in activities of the Archaeological Institute of America-New York Society, and by supporting their participation in fieldwork projects. Designed specifically for the benefit of college students in New York City, the program will be wholly administered and overseen by the local AIA society.

AIA-NYS Scholars Program

This program aims to foster participation in the activities of the AIA-New York Society by local college students, with a focus on undergraduates and first-year graduate students who have a serious, ongoing interest in pursuing archaeological studies and field research.

Eligibility

- Open to matriculated students at an accredited college or university within the five boroughs of New York City (but need not be residents of New York City): sophomore, junior, senior undergraduate students and first-year graduate students are eligible for consideration.
- Open to students from all academic disciplines, but those majoring in archaeology or related fields are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Process (online only)

- Faculty members from colleges and universities in the Five Boroughs may nominate up to two students apiece, with a **brief** letter of recommendation to the New York Society.
(see link online at <http://aia-nysociety.org/scholarship>)
- Nominated students will provide a **short personal statement** (200 words or less) outlining their interests, experience, and academic and career goals; plus an **official electronic transcript** from their institution's Registrar's Office
(see link online at <http://aia-nysociety.org/scholarship>)
- The application deadline is **30 September 2019**. The decision of the Scholarship Committee of the NYS will be announced by this year's NYS Annual meeting on **16 October 2019**.

Activities & Benefits

Up to a maximum of **six (6)** students will be named annually as "AIA-NYS Scholars," who will:

- Attend at least two (2) regular meetings of the AIA-New York Society (and will be introduced as this year's "AIA-NYS Scholars"), and be invited to have dinner with the speaker.
- Be invited to submit a short, illustrated report of any fieldwork experience they may have had, for publication in the spring issue AIA-NYS Newsletter (paper copies sent to members, then posted on our website). Having had fieldwork experience is not a requirement for consideration.
- Receive a one-year student membership to the Archaeological Institute of America, with a subscription to the American Journal of Archaeology, if desired.
- If attending the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, will receive partial financial support; A student registration fee and a ticket for the Opening Night Reception.
- Be eligible to apply for the annual AIA-NYS Archaeological Field Scholarship.

AIA-NYS Archaeological Fieldwork Scholarship

This scholarship provides one (1) annual grant of \$1500, awarded to one of the year's AIA-NYS Scholars, to help cover expenses for participation in a project of archaeological field work or a field school.

Eligibility

- Applications accepted from the annual group of AIA-NYS Scholars.
- Must be for an archaeological field project or field school, with a minimum stay of three weeks. There are no restrictions geographically or by time/cultural period for the proposed fieldwork activity.

Application Process (online only)

Applicants will complete an application form (not yet available) that includes the following:

- Information about the project or field school; relevant links and websites.
- A brief essay (300 words or less) summarizing the significance of the project and its relevance to the student's current program of study, as well as to their academic and future career goals.
- A budget statement, outlining anticipated expenses for participation in the project, along with other sources of funding, applied for or received.
- Names and contact information for two academic recommenders: professors or advisors familiar with the student's work, who can write on their behalf.
- The application deadline is **15 March 2020**. If a scholarship is awarded, the decision of the Scholarship Committee of the NYS will be announced by **20 April 2020** and also at the final Spring 2020 meeting/lecture of the New York Society.

Documentation; Follow-up Reports

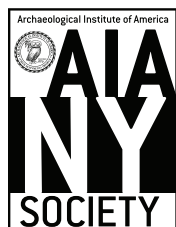
The recipient of the annual AIA-NYS Scholarship will be responsible for the following:

- To provide a letter from the archaeological field project or field school, confirming acceptance into the program.
- To present a brief (ca. 5–10 minute) report of their fieldwork report at the first Fall 2020 meeting of the New York Society.
- To submit a short, illustrated report of their fieldwork experience, for publication in the fall issue of the AIA-NYS Newsletter.

For further information, please direct any questions about the terms of the Scholars Program and/or the Fieldwork Scholarship to Prof. Joanne Spurza (jmspurza@hunter.cuny.edu) or Jeffrey Lamia (glamia@nyc.rr.com).



*Area of The Phoenician Settlement at Guardamar del Segura, Spain.
Read about Heidi James-Fisher's experience teaching UC Berkeley students there in this issue.*



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