



AIA *News from the* NEW YORK SOCIETY

PANDEMIC/PLAGUE—NEW INSIGHTS

Plague...Again! Lucius Aelius, ancient Roman legionnaire, had mixed emotions when he left his posting in Londinium, the barbarian north, to return to Rome—to the warmth of family but also perhaps to lingering plague. To his joy, the plague was gone. And now it was back, more virulent than before! Would it never end? What should he do for protection?

As previous President's Letters noted, Lucius Aelius is a fictional person but his fears and his questions were no doubt real in the Roman empire of his time. Today we know this plague as the Antonine Plague that first struck the east in 165 CE and then rolled across the empire until 180 CE. But it was not gone. It reappeared in 189 CE with a virulence that decimated the empire and the army. How would Lucius have dealt with this scourge? How are we dealing with the current and recurring pandemic? What can archaeologists learn?

In my last President's Letter I noted that my generation may be the first to grow up without fear of a pandemic. And yet, now we have one. Our responses continue to unfold. I also commented that archaeologists interweave various strands of evidence with their personal experiences in order to understand past societies, to understand people like Lucius Aelius.

Like us, Lucius would no doubt ask: What can I do to protect myself and my family? A similarity but with a difference. Lucius might have sought help by making proper sacrifices to the gods of Rome, to Mithras who was popular in the Roman army, to Isis the Egyptian goddess, or to others. He proba-

bly would have had recourse to some mythical cult. What do we do?

By and large the world awaits a vaccine, implicitly recognizing the foundation of natural science. And what about archaeologists in their work? In the late 1940's the development of carbon-14 dating gave archaeologists an exciting new method to date objects and sites. It remains a key tool. Now there are more. New technologies in botany, genetics, astronomy, chemistry, physics, etc. are opening insights into the lives of past humanity. They are changing how archaeologists do fieldwork and understand past societies. They are of immeasurable value. And yet we should not forget that archaeology is a humanistic endeavor requiring capability in languages, deep analysis of social thought and artistic sensitivity, crucial perspectives to reach across the ages. We should not adopt a mythical world view but nevertheless take it seriously in order to permit us to enter into the lives of people like Lucius Aelius. Interweaving diverse perspectives is crucial for archaeological understanding.

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This interweaving of perspectives occurs in the NY Society's forthcoming webinars, details of which are below. Of course you can always check the NY Society's website <http://aia-nysociety.org>.

The Newsletter also contains other articles of interest. Here we announce this year's awardees in the NY Society Scholars Program which supports the archaeological studies of students here in New York City. Crucial financial support for this Program comes from the generosity of the Friends of the NY Society. If you are interested to explore

joining please contact Mrs. Heidi James-Fisher at hjames@studiolxiv.com. Also we continue profiling organizations whose founding was connected to the AIA, this time featuring CAARI, the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute.

Stay well and thanks for your membership in the AIA-NY Society.

- Jeffrey Lamia
President, AIA New York Society



AIA NEW YORK SOCIETY SPRING 2021 LECTURE SERIES

Climate Change and Migrating Farmers: The Spread of Agriculture to Southern Europe

Dr. Andrew M. T. Moore

Past-President AIA and Emeritus at Rochester Institute of Technology

Farming spread from its center of origin in western Asia to southern Europe at the beginning of the Holocene. This phenomenon has prompted many questions. Why did farming spread when it did? Who brought it to southern Europe, and by what means?

Migrant farmers from western Asia reached the Aegean before 9,000 cal BP (c. 7,000 BC). Then there was a pause that lasted a millennium. The onward spread of farming took this new economy rapidly inland to the Danube Basin, and westward to the Adriatic and beyond. The westward dispersal took place along the coasts; the only reasonable explanation is that it was carried forward by migrating farmers looking for new lands to settle, an hypothesis supported by the latest ADNA evidence. The question then is, why did they leave the Aegean for the Adriatic and beyond so suddenly? Results from the "Early Farming in Dalmatia Project" are providing answers to these questions.

Recent research has focused on the impact of a sudden reversal of climate, the "8,200 cal BP event". During this episode the climate of the early Holocene became cold and dry. This phase lasted about 300 years, or 10 human generations, enough to disrupt the existing farming economy in the Aegean and over a much wider area. It caused some of these farmers to leave their homeland in search of fresh lands to colonize. It was these migrants who brought farming to the Adriatic and beyond.



January 26 at 6:00 pm
Webinar (*details forthcoming*)

Exchange in the Age of Lyric Poetry: The 6th-century BCE Shipwreck at Pabuç Burnu, Turkey

Dr. Elizabeth Greene

First VP of AIA and Associate Professor, Department of Classics, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

In the first half, probably the second quarter, of the sixth century B.C.E., a ship sank off the coast of Pabuç Burnu, Turkey, southeast of Bodrum or ancient Halikarnassos. Excavated by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, the vessel's preserved cargo and hull remains provide evidence for the development of production and exchange systems in the Archaic Period. The circulation of agricultural products in a moderate-sized merchant vessel—carrying a load of perhaps six tons—speaks for a practice of local transport designed to operate in a rather different framework from the exchange of luxury items catalogued by early Greek lyric poets or the markets of Classical Athens. The vessel itself, constructed from planks that were laced together with ligatures, speaks for a locally constructed merchantman in a technological world that stood separate from the triremes of classical navies. The cargo and construction of the shipwreck at Pabuç Burnu fit into a developing commercial environment of standardized production in the archaic eastern Mediterranean.



February 23 at 6:00 pm

Webinar (*details forthcoming*)

Life and Death at the Edge of Great Empires: Cultural Interaction at Hasanlu, Iran

Dr. Megan Cifarelli

Professor, Department of Visual Studies and Art History, Faculty Chair, School of Arts and Sciences, Manhattanville College and Consulting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology

The lecture will provide a general introduction to the site of Hasanlu, Iran, and the way archaeological evidence can be used to create a narrative about the site's last day and destruction. The last day and destruction includes the deaths of hundreds of residents and their attackers, and provides insight into the importance of emotion—for interpreters in the present and those experiencing the crisis in the past—as a lens for understanding this brutal context.



March 16 at 6:00 pm

Webinar (*details forthcoming*)

Burning Rings of Fire: Ancient Maya Resource Conservation Strategies

Dr. Kenneth Seligson

Assistant Professor, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Department of Anthropology

The Ancient Maya used burnt lime for everything. From the mortar that held their elaborate temple pyramids together to the processing of corn into a nutritious staple food, burnt lime was literally the glue that held the Maya world together. Yet until recently, archaeologists did not know how the Prehispanic Maya made their burnt lime. The amount of wood used in traditional aboveground kilns during the Colonial Period and more recently raised the possibility that burnt lime production may have led to rampant deforestation during the Classic Period. In this lecture, I discuss the many archaeological methods that I used to identify a fuel-efficient Prehispanic pit-kiln technology in the Northern Lowlands—a finding that questions the idea that Classic Maya civilization “collapsed.”

(AIA National Brush Lecture)



April 7 at 6:00 pm

Webinar *(details forthcoming)*

Webinar registration links will be sent via email. As always, please check your email or consult our website (<http://aia-nysociety.org/events>) for any last-minute program changes.

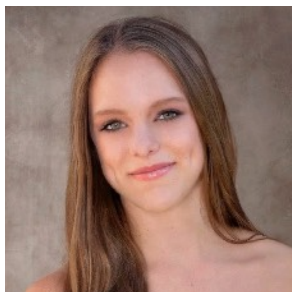


AIA-NY SOCIETY SCHOLARS, 2020–21 ANNOUNCED

The AIA-NY Society is pleased to announce the awardees of its annual program, the AIA-NY Society Scholars Program. The Program seeks to promote young scholars in their study of archaeology by engaging them in the AIA and the activities of the AIA-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 is wholly administered and overseen by the New York Society.



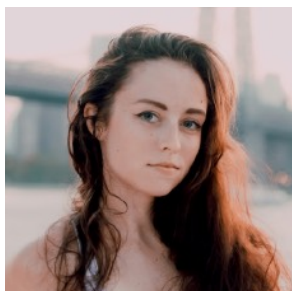
Hannah Calistri is Senior in Anthropology at NYU, graduating in the Spring of 2021. She started work as a Research Assistant at the new African Paleosciences Lab in the Fall of 2019. Led by Dr. Justin Pargeter, the lab is home to multiple archaeological experiments and research projects all focusing on lithic technology. Hannah also loves primatology and minors in Creative Writing.



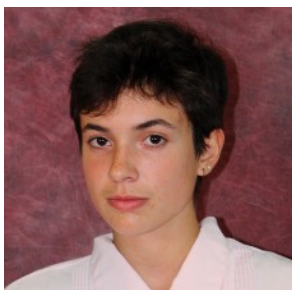
Isabel Murr is a junior at Barnard College from Los Angeles, CA. She is an Ancient Studies major, focusing on the ancient Mediterranean as a whole, with a particular interest in the archaeology of gender. To date, she has participated in archaeological fieldwork at Hadrian's Villa, Italy, but she hopes to partake in more archaeological expeditions in the future.



Jasmine Smith is currently a first year MA student in the History of Art and Archaeology at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU. She is specializing in ancient Egyptian art, and planning to focus on ancient Egyptian tomb painting in a doctoral program



Rebecca Tauscher is a current senior at Hunter College majoring in Classical Studies and Classical Archaeology; she will receive her BA in spring 2021. Her undergraduate thesis focuses on Seven Against Thebes iconography in Etruscan material culture during the 5th-2nd centuries BCE. Her interests are in representation of myth in art across cultures, and she hopes to study Archaeology and Art History in graduate school as well as attend her first excavation this summer.



Elliot Zayas is a third year student at Columbia University studying Art History and Archaeology, interested both in and out of the classroom studies in Italy and the eastern Mediterranean. He excavated with Columbia at Hadrian's Villa in 2019 and hopes to return next summer.



FRIENDS OF THE NEW YORK SOCIETY

During 2020, the Friends group enjoyed several online, virtual events about interesting archaeological projects both near and far. The 2020–21 season of Friends of AIA-NY Society began in mid-September with a presentation by Dr. Terence N. D’Altroy, the Loubat Professor of American Archaeology at Columbia University, on the World Heritage Site of Machu Picchu. Another private event was a presentation by Swiss archaeologist Dr.

Gino Caspari on Royal Scythian Tombs. Looking ahead, Dr. Edward González-Tennant will give a virtual tour of a project entitled *The Rosewood Massacre*, an incredible history of an African American town in Rosewood, Florida. Our group will continue online lectures through 2021. We plan in late Spring 2021 a special in-person tour of the Persian garden in the Untermyer Garden Conservancy with the Conservancy President, Mr. Stephen Byrns.

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*In addition to the above, the Society from time to time receives contributions from
members and friends to support our activities or underwrite specific programs.*

*To inquire about joining the Friends please email
Heidi James-Fisher (hjames@studiolxiv.com) or call 917-270-2786.*



Spotlight on...

Archaeology in 2020 at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI)

2020 was a tough year and many of us experienced our worlds shrinking from the usual round of conferences, museum study and fieldwork to not much going on beyond our computer screens. In a regular year at CAARI, we see a constant stream of visitors—from autumn and winter researchers studying material in apothekes and museums, to our spring and summer field teams, bringing with them undergraduate students coming to Cyprus for the first time to fall in love with the island. All come to spend some of their time in CAARI's library, to enjoy our exceptional collection of volumes and resources relating to all aspects of the past and environment of Cyprus, and many stay on to enjoy the relative luxury of the residence (certainly luxurious in comparison to a dig house, as you can see in the photograph below).



Despite the continuing restrictions on travel, we have certainly been very fortunate to have had a great group of long-term resident grad students and our Cypriot researchers in at CAARI for the duration of the pandemic, alleviating a little of the financial strain that the year has brought. We've been privileged to have a core group for support and some archaeological companions to explore together their research questions. As lockdowns and restrictions have permitted, we could even have some lovely barbecues in the residence with staff and researchers.



Museums and sites were only closed for a short period in the summer so those of us with research to do were able to spend time in the museum stores, thanks to the generosity of Department of Antiquities of Cyprus staff. I spent some of my summer studying previously unpublished pottery from the important cemetery of Philia-Vasiliko, excavated in the 1940s by Porphyrios Dikaïos, that I will be publishing shortly with Rafael Laoutari, a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge.

As all excavations were cancelled this summer, CAARI could not hold what would have been the 39th Annual Summer Archaeological Workshop and many of us very much missed having our time in the field. A few projects did manage to excavate in the autumn with small teams and no students. A

treat was a recent socially-distanced site visit to the Bronze Age settlement of Hala Sultan Tekke, guided by the Director of the excavations, Professor Peter Fisher, seen here in the centre of the photograph below.

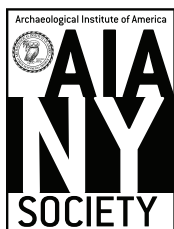


As many other institutes and organisations have also found, the one silver lining in this difficult year has been the move to increased online sharing of research content and CAARI has been able to cater to a much wider audience than would normally attend our events in Nicosia. We now have a [YouTube channel](#), [CAARI Cyprus](#), and we've uploaded talks from some of our wonderful CAARI scholars sharing their exciting new research as well as the

first instalment of a conference held in collaboration with the British Museum, *Empire and Excavation: Critical Perspectives on archaeology in British-period Cyprus, 1878–1960*. This conference aims to explore some of the early archaeological work done on Cyprus, with an impressive array of international contributors exploring these themes through archives, sites and objects. The conference should have taken place live in Nicosia in November and we still plan to achieve this in November 2021 when we hope that we will be once again welcoming international researchers to CAARI. In the meanwhile, there will be a second online instalment in late January 2021.

We'd love to welcome more AIA members to our online lectures and conferences in the future. If you would like to receive lecture notifications and CAARI's newsletter, please email librarian@caari.org.cy and you will be added to our mailing list.

- *Lindy Crewe*
CAARI Director



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