



Επιστημονικό Σωματείο,
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Κάνιγγος 27, 106 82 Αθήνα
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Πληροφοριακό Δελτίο της Ελληνικής Αρχαιομετρικής Εταιρείας

- Απρίλιος 2010 -

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life;
love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it".

Martin Luther King

Newsletter of the Hellenic Society of Archaeometry

- April 2010 -

Nr. 109

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ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY
AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, 26-28
APRIL 2010, UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS,
NICOSIA

The **Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus** and the **Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC) of the Cyprus Institute** are organising an international conference entitled “Infrastructures for Science and Technology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean”. It will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus, from the 26th - 28th of April 2010.

This conference is the concluding meeting of the project “Science and Technology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean” (STACHEM:), which is funded by the FP7 European Framework program and is coordinated by the Cyprus Institute’s Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC) (website: <http://starc.cyi.ac.cy>).

The main aim of this project is the development of a regional strategic plan for research infrastructures devoted to archaeological sciences, digital heritage and underwater archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean (for more information on the project and its partners please see attached leaflet or visit the following website <http://starc.cyi.ac.cy/stachem/stachem>).

Presentations and round table discussions will focus on existing infrastructures and practices, identifying capacities and needs, problems and perspectives for the future development of archaeological research in the Eastern Mediterranean and future synergies. Another objective is to foster the exchange of ideas, interaction and coordination of plans among the conference participants and the STACHEM partners.

The conference is open to the public and no registration is required. Attached you will find the program. For more information please go the conference website:
<http://www.ucy.ac.cy/data/archreun/Conferences/STACHEM/STACHEM.pdf>

We look forward to welcoming you to Cyprus,

On behalf of the organising
committee,

Lina Kassianidou

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PROGRAM

26th of April 2010

17.30-18.00

Welcome addresses:

- Prof. Demetrios Michaelides,

Director of the Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus

- Prof. Constantinos Christophides,

Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs, University of Cyprus

- Prof. Franco Niccolucci,

Chair of the IGB, Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center,
The Cyprus Institute

- Dr Maria Hadjicosti,

Director of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

18.00-18.15

Maria Theofilatou,

Project and Research Officer, European Commission

“FP7 Community actions - Research infrastructures of social sciences and humanities”

18.15-18.30

Kirsi O. Lorentz, “The STACHEM project”

18.30-18.45

Michel Menu and Sophia Lahlil, “Overview of the WP2 on material and natural sciences in archaeology within the STACHEM project”

18.45-19.00

Justin Leidwanger, James P. Delgado and Kelby Rose, "Coordinating infrastructures for underwater archaeology and technology: First results of the STACHEM project's work package in underwater archaeology"

19.00-19.15

Maria Teresa Natale, “STACHEM and digital heritage (WP4): work done and future perspective”

19.30-20.30

Public lecture – followed by reception

CHRISTIANE NAFFAH, Head of the Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF) "**Strategy and results: science applied to french museum heritage**"

27th of April 2010

Session chair: Demetrios Michaelides

9.00-9.25

Mark Pollard, "Research strategies and infrastructural requirements for archaeological science"

9.25-9.50

Michel Menu, "The Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF) and its activities"

9.50-10.15

Georgios Papavassiliou, "Cultural materials characterization in Eastern Mediterranean: current status and future perspectives"

10.15-10.40

Venice K. Gouda, "Non-destructive techniques for the investigation of metallic artefacts"

10.40-11.10 Coffee break

Session chair: Nota Kourou

11.10-11.35

Vasiliki Kassianidou, "Archaeological sciences and Cypriot archaeology"

11.35-12.00

Franco Niccolucci, "Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center, The Cyprus Institute"

12.00-12.25

Eleni Loizides, "The conservation of cultural heritage in Cyprus"

12.25-12.50

Fatma Marii, "Infrastructures for archaeological conservation in Jordan"

12.50-15.00 Lunch Break

Session chair: Robert L. Hohlfelder

15.00-15.25

Stella Demesticha, "Underwater archaeology in Cyprus: a start-up venture"

15.25-15.50

Aggeliki Simosi, "Infrastructures of underwater archaeology (Greece)"

15.50-16.15

Asaf M. Oron and Justin Leidwanger, "The Institute of Nautical Archaeology's Bodrum research center: Infrastructures and logistics from survey and excavation to conservation and research"

16.15-16.40 Coffee break

Session chair: Tom Davis

16.40-17.05

Maria Teresa Natale, "The ATHENA project and LIDO: new perspectives for aggregating museum digital content"

17.05-17.30

Despo Pilides and Chrysanthi Kounnou, "Digitization programmes of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus"

17.30-17.55

Susan Hazan, "Synergies of cooperation: The Cyprus Institute (CyI) and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IMJ) develop digital heritage projects together"

17.55-18.20 Coffee break

18.20-19.10 Round Table Discussion – Session chair: Michel Menu

19.30-20.30

Public lecture – followed by reception

ROBERT L. HOHLFELDER, Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA **"Building an Imperial Maritime Infrastructure in the Eastern Mediterranean: Understanding the Role of Roman Hydraulic Concrete"**

28th of April 2010

Session chair: Vasiliki Kassianidou

9.00-9.25

Nota Kourou, "Ceramics and provenance studies in Eastern Mediterranean. Recent developments"

9.25-9.50

Despoina Tsiafaki, Nestor Tsirliganis, Christodoulos Chamzas, "Modern approaches in the study of ancient Greek ceramics in C.E.T.I".

9.50-10.15

Jacob Sharvit, "Detection and accurate mapping of ferro-metallic objects buried below the seabed in shallow waters, using a precise magnetic gradiometer and navigation subsystem"

10.15-10.40

Pierre Drap, "Underwater photogrammetry for archaeology: methods for seabed and artefact survey"

10.40 -11.10 Coffee break

Session chair: Maria Teresa Natale

11.10-11.35

Børre Ludvigsen, "Sustainable infrastructures for digitizing cultural heritage"

11.35-12.00

Mohamed Farouk Badawi, "Cultnat's Technology"

12.00-12.25

Roberto Scopigno, "Sampled 3D models in archaeology: technical issues and open source solutions"

12.25-12.50

Yiorgos Chrysanthou, "Virtual environments with applications to cultural heritage"

12.50- 15.00 Lunch Break

Session chair: Kirsi O. Lorentz

15.00-15.25

Numan Tuna, "A proposal of capacity development for research infrastructures in archaeological heritage within the network of Eastern Mediterranean research centers"

15.25-15.50

Nabil Kallala, "Sciences appliquées à la recherche archéologique en Tunisie : Le cas d'Althiburos"

15.50-16.15

Elisabetta Boaretto, "Transition in archaeology: the radiocarbon view"

16.15-16.45 Coffee break

16.45-17.30 Discussion and closing remarks – Session chair: Franco Niccolucci

17.30-18.30 STACHEM Partners Business Meeting (Only STACHEM Members)

17.30-18.30 Guided Walking Tour of the Old town of Nicosia (optional)

20.00 Conference dinner

List of speakers in alphabetical order

Mohamed Farouk Badawi, Deputy Director for IT, Center for Documentation for Cultural and Natural Heritage, Egypt

Elisabetta Boaretto, Research Associate and Director of the radiocarbon dating laboratory, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

Christodoulos Chamzas, Professor, Democritus University of Thrace and Director of Cultural and Educational Technology Institute (CETI), Greece

Yiorgos Chrysanthou, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

James Delgado, President of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA)

Stella Demesticha, Visiting Special Researcher, Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Tom Davis, Director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), Cyprus

Pierre Drap, Director of Research, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France

Venice K. Gouda, Professor, Former Minister of Scientific Research, National Research Centre, Cairo, Egypt

Maria Hadjicosti, Director of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

Susan Hazan, Curator of New Media and Head of the Internet Office, the Israel Museum, Israel

Robert L. Hohlfelder, Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

Nabil Kallala, Professor, Directeur de l'inventaire général et de la recherche, Institut National du Patrimoine, Tunisia

Vasiliki Kassianidou, Associate Professor, Archaeological Research Unit, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Chrysanthi Kounnou, Archaeological officer, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

Nota Kourou, Professor, Department of Archaeology, University of Athens, Greece

Sophia Lahlil, STACHEM Postdoctoral fellow, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), France

Justin Leidwanger, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA)

Eleni Loizides, Conservator, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

Kirsi O. Lorentz, Research Coordinator, Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC), the Cyprus Institute, Cyprus

Børre Ludvigsen, Professor, Digital Documentation Center, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Fatma Marii, Head of Conservation Unit, the Jordan Museum, Jordan

Michel Menu, Head of the Research Department, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), France

Demetrios Michaelides, Professor and Director of Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Christiane Naffah, Head of the Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France (C2RMF), France

Maria Teresa Natale, Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali, Italy

Franco Niccolucci, Professor and Chair of the IGB, Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC), the Cyprus Institute, Cyprus

Asaf M. Oron, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA)

Georgios Papavassiliou, Director of Institute of Materials Science, National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos" (NCSR Demokritos), Greece

Despo Pilides, Senior Archaeological Officer, Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

Mark Pollard, Professor and Director of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Kelby Rose, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA)

Roberto Scopigno, Research Director, Institute of Information Science and Technologies (ISTI) of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy

Jacob Sharvit, Head of Marine Archaeology Unit, Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel

Aggeliki Simosi, Head of the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, Greece

Maria Theofilatou, Project and Research Officer, Directorate B-European Research Area: Research Programmes and Capacity B3-Research Infrastructures, European Commission, Belgium

Despoina Tsiafaki, Head of the Cultural Heritage Unit, Cultural & Educational Technology Institute (CETI), Greece

Nestor Tsirliganis, Head of the Archaeometry Laboratory, Cultural & Educational Technology Institute (CETI), Greece

Numan Tuna, Professor, Middle East Technical University, Centre for Research and Assessment of the Historic Environment, Turkey

This conference is part of the STACHEM project, funded by the European Commission under the Community's Seventh Framework Programme (Project Number 228130).

However, the content of this conference program reflects only the author's views and the Community is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ
ΤΟΥΡΙΣΜΟΥ, ΙΓ' ΕΦΟΡΕΙΑ
ΠΡΟΪΣΤΟΡΙΚΩΝ & ΚΛΑΣΙΚΩΝ
ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΩΝ, ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ
ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗΣ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗΣ
ΈΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΣΤΗ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΙΑ, ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 17
ΜΑΪΟΥ 2010, ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ
ΒΟΛΟΥ, ΑΙΘΟΥΣΑ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΕΩΝ

1^η Εγκύκλιος

Η ΙΓ' Εφορεία Προϊστορικών και Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων, στο πλαίσιο του εορτασμού της Διεθνούς Ημέρας Μουσείων (17-18 Μαΐου 2010) και των εκδηλώσεων για τη συμπλήρωση 100 χρόνων από την ίδρυση της Αρχαιολογικής Υπηρεσίας της Θεσσαλίας (1906), καθώς και των Αρχαιολογικών Μουσείων Βόλου (1909) και Αλμυρού (1910), διοργανώνει Ημερίδα με θέμα την Ιστορία της Αρχαιολογικής Υπηρεσίας και της Αρχαιολογικής Έρευνας στη Θεσσαλία και σας προσκαλεί να συμμετάσχετε σε αυτήν με προφορική ανακοίνωσή σας ή με αναρτώμενη ανακοίνωση (poster).

Η Ημερίδα θα πραγματοποιηθεί τη Δευτέρα, 17 Μαΐου 2010, στην Αίθουσα Εκδηλώσεων του Αρχαιολογικού Μουσείου Βόλου.

Τα θέματα, στα οποία θα πρέπει να προσανατολιστούν οι ανακοινώσεις σας, είναι τα εξής:

1. Ιστορία της Αρχαιολογικής Υπηρεσίας στη Θεσσαλία, από την ίδρυσή της μέχρι σήμερα, συμπεριλαμβανομένων όλων των Εφορειών Προϊστορικών-Κλασικών και Βυζαντινών Αρχαιοτήτων, της Υπηρεσίας Νεωτέρων Μνημείων και των Ειδικών Περιφερειακών Υπηρεσιών του σημερινού Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Τουρισμού.
2. Ιστορία της ίδρυσης και λειτουργίας των Αρχαιολογικών Μουσείων στη Θεσσαλία.
3. Ιστορία της έρευνας σε σημαντικούς αρχαιολογικούς χώρους της Θεσσαλίας.
4. Ιστορία της έρευνας συγκεκριμένων χρονολογικών περιόδων και επιστημονικών πεδίων.
5. Ιστορία της προστασίας και ανάδειξης Αρχαιολογικών Χώρων και Μνημείων.
6. Παρουσία και δραστηριότητα Πανεπιστημιακών Ιδρυμάτων, Ξένων Αρχαιολογικών Αποστολών και Επιστημονικών Εταιρειών στη Θεσσαλία.
7. Προσωπικότητες στο χώρο της αρχαιολογικής έρευνας στη Θεσσαλία.

Διευκρινίζεται ότι τα θέματα των ανακοινώσεων θα πρέπει να αναφέρονται στην περιοχή της Θεσσαλίας με τα σημερινά γεωγραφικά της όρια και θα αφορούν κυρίως την καταγραφή της δραστηριότητας προσώπων, υπηρεσιών και φορέων, που υπηρέτησαν στον τομέα της Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς της Θεσσαλίας, και δευτερευόντως την κατάθεση επιστημονικών πορισμάτων.

Όσοι ενδιαφέρονται να συμμετάσχουν στην Ημερίδα με προφορική ανακοίνωση ή με αναρτώμενη ανακοίνωση (poster), θα πρέπει να δηλώσουν συμμετοχή έως τις 10 Απριλίου του 2010 στην ταχυδρομική διεύθυνση ή στο ηλεκτρονικό ταχυδρομείο της ΙΓ' ΕΠΚΑ.

Περισσότερες πληροφορίες που αφορούν στη διάρκεια των ομιλιών ή σε άλλα οργανωτικά θέματα θα σταλούν με τη 2^η Εγκύκλιο, στα μέσα Απριλίου 2010.

Εκ μέρους της Οργανωτικής Επιτροπής

Ταχυδρομική Διεύθυνση: Αθανασάκη 1, 38001-ΒΟΛΟΣ, Τηλ.: 24210-76278 & 76455
E-mail: igepka@culture.gr **FAX:** 24210-76496

NEW LIGHT ON OLD GLASS:
BYZANTINE GLASS AND MOSAICS, A
THREE DAY CONFERENCE ON
THURSDAY 27-SATURDAY 29 MAY 2010,
STEVENSON LECTURE THEATRE, THE
GREAT COURT, BRITISH MUSEUM

Provisional Programme

Thursday 27th May

- 9.00-9.45 Registration
- 10.00-10.30 Cristina Boschetti
Glass tesserae across the ages. The origin and development of glass and vitreous materials in the ancient mosaic
- 10.30-11.00 Marco Verità
Has scientific analysis made any difference in the study of mosaics? A work in progress
- 11.00-11.30 Ann Terry
Sixth-century mosaic artistry: a case study
- 11.30-12.00 Anastassios Antonaras
Production and uses of glass in Byzantine Thessaloniki
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 Hanna Witte
Studies in middle Byzantine glass mosaics from Amorium
- 14.30-15.00 Judith Mckenzie
The mosaics in the Great Mosque in Damascus: who made them?
- 15.00-15.30 Tea
- 15.30-16.00 Claudia Bolgia
The use of light in Cosmati mosaics: the case of the 'ara coeli'

- 16.00-16.30 Irina Andreescu-Treadgold
The Christ head at the Metropolitan Museum and other mosaic fakes in museums
- 16.30-17.00 Maria Vassilaki,
No glass please: the mosaics at Porta Panaghia in Thessaly
- 18.00–19.30 Reception

Friday 28th May

- 9.00-9.45 Registration
- 10.00-10.30 Fatima Marii
Glass tesserae from the Petra Church
- 10.30-11.00 Martine Newby
Glass cameos and cage cups
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-12.00 Rosemarie Lierke
The fragment of a figurative diatrete in Mainz, and other cage cups - technological observations
- 12.00-12.30 Jas Elsner
The Lycurgus Cup
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 Ian Freestone
The composition, production and trade of glass in Late Antiquity
- 14.30-15.00 Marianne Stern
Glass production in Byzantine texts
- 15.00-15.30 Tea
- 15.30-16.00 Yael Gorin-Rosen
Tba
- 16.00-16.30 Nadine Schibille
Byzantine and early Islamic glass finds from Pergamon

Saturday 29th May

- 10.00-10.30 Julian Henderson
Tba
- 10.30-11.00 Mark Wypyski
Glass from Nishapur
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee
- 11.30-12.00 Francesca dell'Aqua
*Borders of experimentalism: glass in the frame of the Genoa
Mandylion*
- 12.00-12.30 Daniel Keller
*vasa, quibus communicamur, sunt vitrea: Liturgical glass vessels in the
early Byzantine church*
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 Daniel Howells
Making Late Antique gold glass
- 14.30-15.00 Andrew Meek
*Gold glass in Late Antiquity: Scientific analysis of the British Museum
collection*
- 15.00-15.30 Tea
- 15.30-16.00 Gary Vikan
Those pesky glass medallions: East or West?
- 16.00-17.00 Lisa Pilosi and David Whitehouse
Early Islamic and Middle Byzantine Silver Stain:
(i) David Whitehouse, Early Islamic
(ii) Lisa Pilosi, Middle Byzantine

Registration for Conference: New Light on Old Glass □
Conference at the British Museum, 27-29 May 2010.
Stevenson Lecture Theatre, the Great Court.

Title and Name.....

Contact email or address, tel. no

.....

.....

RATES (includes tea, coffee and light lunch. If you are attending Thursday it also includes the reception).

Full rate

3 days - £90

2 days - £70

1 day - £40

Concessions (disabled, unwaged, student, OAP)

3 days - £60

2 days - £40

1 day - £20

I would like to attend New Light on Old Glass

☐ 27 May

☐ 28 May

☐ 29 May

☐ Please indicate if you are registered as disabled, unwaged, student, OAP.

Total £.....

PAYMENT:

☐ I have enclosed a cheque made out to UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX for £

☐ I have sent a postal order for UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX for £

☐ I have paid by Bank Transfer to UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX £.....

Sort Code 20-49-76

Account Number 40880914

The following reference MUST be sent with the bank transfer payment:

'Delegate name - Conference Name - 2B67 0940'

☐ I have enclosed a SAE for a receipt.

Please return this form via email (only if not accompanied by proof of payment) or by post to

Dr Bente Bjornholt
Network Facilitator
International Leverhulme Network of the Composition of Byzantine Glass Mosaic
Tesserae
Sussex Centre for Byzantine Cultural History
Art History
University of Sussex
Falmer BN1 9QQ
tel: +44 (0)1273 606755
Profile: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/arthistory/profile28613.html>

**SUBSISTENCE, ECONOMY AND
SOCIETY IN THE GREEK WORLD
IMPROVING THE INTEGRATION OF
ARCHAEOLOGY AND SCIENCE,
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
ATHENS, 22-23-24 MARCH 2010**

**ΔΙΑΤΡΟΦΗ, ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΚΑΙ
ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑ ΣΤΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΧΩΡΟ
ΠΡΟΣ ΜΙΑ ΚΑΛΥΤΕΡΗ ΣΥΖΕΥΞΗ
ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΜΕΤΡΙΑΣ,
ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ, ΑΘΗΝΑ, 22-23-24
ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 2010**

Organized by
The Netherlands Institute at Athens (NIA)
and the Hellenic Society of Archaeometry (EAE)

Διοργάνωση
Ολλανδικό Ινστιτούτο Αθηνών (NIA)
Ελληνική Αρχαιομετρική Εταιρεία (EAE)

**PROGRAMME
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ**

Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel
19-25 Parthenonos,
P.C 117-42 Athens
Meeting Room Aristoteles A

Ξενοδοχείο Divani Palace Acropolis

Παρθενώνας 19-25
 ΤΚ 117-42 Αθήνα
 Αίθουσα Αριστοτέλης Α

Monday 22 March 2010 / Δευτέρα 22 Μαρτίου 2020

9.00 – 9.30	Registration – Opening / Εγγραφή - Εναρξη	
	SESSION: QUESTIONS AND METHODS 1/ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: ΣΤΟΧΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΙ 1	
9.30 – 10.00	J. Bintliff	<i>Archaeological science, scientific archaeology and the Big Questions in the long-term development of Greek society from prehistory to Roman times</i>
10.00-10.30	A. Papathanasiou, T. Theodoropoulou and S. Valamoti	<i>The quest for prehistoric meals: integrating physical anthropology, archaeobotany and zooarchaeology towards an understanding of past diets in the Aegean</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break / Διάλειμμα	
	SESSION: QUESTIONS AND METHODS 2 / ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: ΣΤΟΧΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΘΟΔΟΙ 2	
11.00 – 11.30	S. El Zaatari, K. Harvati and J.J. Hublin	<i>Microwear texture analysis: the method and its application to Greek pre-historic humans</i>
11.30-12.00	L.Hapiot and C.Hastorf	<i>Investigating subsistence in Argos during prehistoric and historical periods: Dental pathology, microwear examination and stable isotopes analysis of human remains</i>
12.00- 12.30	O. Decavallas	<i>Plant oils from Neolithic Aegean pottery: chemical evidence confronted to archaeobotanical and ceramological data</i>
12.30-13.00	Discussion / Συζήτηση	
13.00-14.30	Lunch break / Μεσημεριανό Διάλειμμα	
	SESSION: THE NEOLITHIC / ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: Η ΝΕΟΛΙΘΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΣ	
14.30-15.00	C. Mee	<i>The subsistence economy of Neolithic Kouphovouno: towards an integration of scientific approaches</i>
15.00-15.30	M. Pappa, P. Halstead, K. Kotsakis, A. Bogaard, R. Fraser, V. Isaakidou, I. Mainland, D. Mylona, K. Skourtopoulou ,	<i>The Neolithic site of Makriyalos, northern Greece: reconstruction of social and economic structure of the settlement through comparative study of the finds</i>

	S. Triantaphyllou, Chr. Tsoraki, S.-M. Valamoti, R. Veropoulidou and D. Urem-Kotsou	
15.30-16.00	T. Popova and K. Leshtakov	<i>Landscape, land-use and society in the Neolithic settlement Yabalkovo</i>
16.00-16.30	<i>Coffee break / Διάλειμμα</i>	
	SESSION: THE EARLY BRONZE AGE / ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: Η ΠΡΩΙΜΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΛΚΟΥ	
16.30-17.00	A. Papanthimou, S.-M. Valamoti, E. Papadopoulou, E. Tsagaraki and E. Voulgari	<i>Η αποθήκευση των τροφίμων στα πλαίσια της οικιακής οικονομίας της Πρώιμης εποχής του Χαλκού: τα νέα δεδομένα από το Αρχοντικό Γιαννιτσών</i>
17.00-17.30	E. Papadopoulou and Y. Maniatis	<i>Ανασυνθέτοντας τις τεχνικές θερμικής επεξεργασίας της τροφής: η εφαρμογή της υπέρυθρης φασματοσκοπίας στην ανάλυση πύλινων θερμικών κατασκευών από το Αρχοντικό Γιαννιτσών</i>
17.30-18.00	M. Roumpou and D. Margomenou	<i>An interdisciplinary study of storage practices in northern Greece: Typology, distribution and organic residue analysis</i>
18.0-18.30	Discussion / Συζήτηση	

Tuesday 23 March 2010 / Τρίτη 23 Μαρτίου 2010

	SESSION: THE MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE 1 ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: Η ΜΕΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΥΣΤΕΡΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΛΚΟΥ 1	
9.30 – 10.00	V. Lenuzza	<i>Scientific analysis: a 'magnifying glass' for the archaeological evidence on water management in Bronze Age Crete</i>
10.00-10.30	T. Brogan, C. Sofianou, J. Morrison, D. Mylona, E. Margaritis, R. Beeston	<i>Living off the fruits of the sea: new evidence for dining at Papadiokambos, Crete</i>
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break / Διάλειμμα</i>	
	SESSION: THE MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE 2 ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: Η ΜΕΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΥΣΤΕΡΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΛΚΟΥ 2	
11.00 – 11.30	A. Ingvarsson-Sundström, S. Voutsaki and E. Milka	<i>People, animals and social diversity in Middle Helladic Asine: a bioarchaeological view</i>
11.30-12.00	S. Voutsaki, S. Triantaphyllou,	<i>Middle Helladic Lerna: subsistence, economy, society</i>

	E. Milka, C. Zerner	
12.00- 12.30	F. Kanz and K. Großschmidt	<i>Early infants death and heavy metal pollution in EH to LH Aegina Kolonna</i>
12.30-13.00	Discussion / Συζήτηση	
13.00-14.30	Lunch break / Μεσημεριανό Διάλειμμα	
	SESSION: THE MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE 3 ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: Η ΜΕΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΥΣΤΕΡΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΧΑΛΚΟΥ 3	
14.30-15.00	M. Roumpou, N. Müller, N. Kalogeropoulos and V. Kilikoglou	<i>An interdisciplinary approach to the study of cooking vessels from Bronze Age Akrotiri, Thera</i>
15.00-15.30	S. Andreou, G. Jones, C. Heron, V. Kiriati, K. Psaraki, M. Roumpou and S.-M. Valamoti	<i>Smelly barbarians or perfumed natives? An investigation of oil and ointment use in Late Bronze Age northern Greece</i>
15.30-16.00	S. Vitale, B. Lis and A. Koh	<i>Wining and dining at Mitrou, East Lokris. Diet, Consumption, and Socio-Economic Changes in a "Peripheral" Site of the Mycenaean Mainland, circa 1375 to 1190 B.C.</i>
16.00-16.30	Coffee break / Διάλειμμα	
	SESSION: THE HISTORICAL PERIODS ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ: ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΕΣ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟΙ	
16.30-17.00	L. Karali and F. Megaloudi	<i>Food offerings in a classical necropolis of Thasos island</i>
17.00-17.30	D. Mylona, G. Iliopoulos, P. Liberakis, M. Ntinou, A. Pentinnen, D. Serjeantson, G. Syrides and T. Theodoropoulou	<i>Integrating archaeology and science in a Greek sanctuary. Issues of practice and interpretation in the study of the bioarchaeological remains from the sanctuary of Poseidon at Kalaureia</i>
17.30-18.00	C. Bourbou	<i>Are we what we eat? Reconstructing dietary patterns of Greek Byzantine Populations (7th-13th centuries AD) through a multi-disciplinary approach</i>
18.00-18.30	Discussion / Συζήτηση	
18.30-19.00	Final Discussion / Καταληκτική Συζήτηση	

Wednesday March 2010

	POSTERS SESSION
9.30 – 10.30	Discussion of posters

10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
11.00 – 13.30	Round Table Discussion on the institutional framework of archaeometric research in Greece



BANEA 2011 - FIRST CALL

For more details on BANEA go to: <http://www.banea.org/>

The British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology (BANEA) would like to announce the 2011 Annual Conference, to be held in the School of World Art Studies at the University of East Anglia from Thursday 6th January 2011 to Saturday 8th January 2011.

The main theme of the conference will be:

Artistry, Artisanry and Divisions of Labour in the Ancient Near East.

The Conference organisers welcome proposals for themed sessions, workshops and papers broadly related to the ideas of artistry, artisanry and divisions of labour in the Ancient Near East. Themed sessions that could lead to publication through the BANEA Publication Series are particularly welcome. As in previous years there will also be a session dedicated to recent fieldwork and a general session.

Joanne Clarke

Email: Joanne.Clarke@uea.ac.uk

EUROMED2010 - CALL FOR PAPERS, DEDICATED TO DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIGITAL LIBRARIES, NOVEMBER 8 - 13TH, 2010, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

<http://www.euromed2010.eu>

Invitation:

You are kindly invited to submit a paper to the EUROMED2010 joint conference which will provide an opportunity to exchange research results, opinions, experiences and proposals on the best practice and hi-tech tools from Information and Communications Technology to document, archive, preserve, manage and communicate Cultural Heritage (CH). The main goal of the event is not only to illustrate the programs underway but also excellent work wherever it is located and however it is supported, in order to promote a common approach to the tasks of e-documentation of World Cultural Heritage. Furthermore, regional capacities in the area of Cultural Heritage and IT will be facilitated in advancing their know-how through the exchange of information and generation of new ideas and cooperation's, where the world meets the finger prints of several ancient civilizations on earth.

To reach this ambitious goal the topics covered will include experiences in the use of innovative recording technologies & methods and how to take best advantage to integrate the results obtained to build up new tools and/or experiences as well as improved methodologies for documenting, managing and communicating CH.

The EuroMed2010 joint event will focus on interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research concerning both cutting edge Cultural Heritage Informatics and use of technology for the representation, documentation, preservation, archiving and communication of CH knowledge. The scope includes standards, metadata and every phase of CH information technology: initial data capture/digitization, information/data processing, reconstruction, visualization and documentation as well as dissemination of results to the scientific and cultural heritage communities and to the general public (Multilingua, Multimedia Digital Library). We are also interested in aspects of the wider legal, IPR and ethical responsibilities of Cultural Heritage Informatics. Research subjects parallel the interests of CIPA, ISPRS and EuroMed including culturally significant monuments, artefacts and sites as well as the activities of museums, libraries, archives, and organizations involved with their care.

Topics:

Those researchers who wish to participate in this event are invited to submit papers on original and unpublished work addressing the following subjects:

- Digital Data Acquisition Technologies in CH
- 2D and 3D Data Capture Methodologies and Data Processing in CH
- On-site and remotely sensed data collection
- 2D and 3D GIS in Cultural Heritage
- Remote Sensing for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management & Monitoring
- CAD and FEM based Digital Reconstructions and 3D Modeling
- Reproduction Techniques and Rapid Prototyping in CH
- Visualisation Techniques (desktop, Virtual and Augmented Reality)
- Virtual Reality in Archaeology and Historical Research
- Multimedia, Multilingua, Data Management and Archiving
- Construction and indexing of large scale Multimedia/Multilingual
- Encyclopedias in Cultural Heritage
- Computer Animation for CH Applications and Virtual Heritage
- Game Technologies in Cultural Heritage
- Non-Photorealistic Rendering of CH Data
- Virtual Museum Applications (e-Museums and e-Exhibitions)
- Digital/Virtual Documentation of Archaeological Excavations
- Novel Internet-based Cultural Heritage Applications
- Portals and Digital Libraries of Culture
- Usability, Effectiveness and Interface Design for CH Applications
- Innovative Graphics Applications and Techniques
- Interactive Environments and Applications
- Digital Libraries and e-Archives in Cultural Heritage
- National Digital Libraries and Aggregators as cross-domain systems
- Long term availability of content and its long term accessibility
- Effective IC-Technologies for the creation, management and reuse of content and knowledge
- Storytelling and authoring tools
- e-Learning in Cultural Heritage
- Tools for Education, Documentation and Training in CH
- Archaeological Analysis and Interpretive Design
- Standards, Metadata, Ontologies and Semantic Processing in Cultural Heritage
- Authentication, Accreditation and Digital Rights Management
- Legal issues: Water-Marking, Orphan Works, Copyrights and IPR
- Professional and Ethical Guidelines
- The Economics of Cultural Informatics and Tourism
- Natural and Man initiated deconstruction of Cultural Heritage and prevention techniques.
- ICT assistance in monitoring and restoration

Submission of Papers:

Submissions for the joint event are completely electronic, and both the paper and all supplementary material must be submitted through the on-line submission website. The conference accepts only original, unpublished work written in English. We are soliciting three types of contributions:

- Full research papers presenting new innovative results. These papers will have a full-length oral presentation and will be published in a high-quality proceedings volume. Each submitted paper must not exceed 8 pages in total.
- Project papers focusing on the description of project organization, use of technology, and lesson learned. These papers will have a short oral presentation and will be included in a "Projects Papers" proceedings volume. Each submitted paper must not exceed 8 pages in total.
- Short papers presenting preliminary ideas and works-in-progress. These papers will have a short oral presentation and will be available as posters in conference breaks. They will be published in the "Short Papers" proceedings volume. Each submitted paper must not exceed 6 pages in total.

For information concerning style and format of all submissions, please refer to: <http://www.euromed2010.eu> and then choose Paper Submissions.

Important Dates:

- . Paper submission full papers June 1st, 2010
- . Paper submission project/short papers June 11th, 2010
- . Notification of Refereeing results July 15th, 2010
- . Camera ready FULL papers to printer August 9th, 2010
- . Camera ready PROJECT/SHORT papers to printer August 23rd, 2010
- . Proposals for showcases/ demo's June 28th, 2010

For more information about the joint conference please visit the webpage: <http://www.euromed2010.eu> or directly contact the chair of the event at: chairman@euromed2010.eu.

The event is in cooperation with a number of European Commission Projects in the area of Digital Libraries / e-preservation in CH and the EU Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation.

Regards,

Marinos Ioannides (CY) and Dieter Fellner (DE)

www.euromed2010.eu

Email: chairman@euromed2010.eu

VENICE POCA 2010, 28-30TH OCTOBER, **2010**

The Ca' Foscari University of Venice is proud to announce the 10th edition of Postgraduate Cypriote Archaeology (PoCA). This year meeting will be held from 28th to 30th of October 2010 at the conference hall of our university and the prestigious hall of the Ateneo Veneto where the keynote lecture will take place. Beyond the PoCA, in 2010 Venice will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the death of Caterina Cornaro, last queen of Cyprus and the twining with a Cypriote town, Larnaca.

The PoCA symposium offers an excellent opportunity to postgraduate students and new scholars, from various backgrounds and disciplines, who are currently carrying out research on Cypriot Culture, to present their work, exchange ideas and meet people who carry out research in the same field.

We welcome all papers regarding archaeological, historical, anthropological, or rather material culture and art history. There is no chronological limit. This 10th edition's aim is to extend the interest of the colloquium in the drop subjects of the material culture, art history and anthropology and in the chronological periods of the Middle Ages and the Modern Era.

There is no registration fee.

Please send your paper title and a short proposal of no more than 200 words, along with biographical details, to Mia-Gaia Trentin, trentinmia@libero.it or to Iosif Hadjikyriakos, iosifhadji@libero.it no later than June 30th, 2010. Papers should be 20 minutes long, as they will be followed by discussion. Please note that we intend to publish the proceedings. All submissions will be subject to editorial review, and therefore acceptance for presentation does not automatically guarantee inclusion in the final publication.

We look forward to see you all in Venice!

Anna Cannavo'

Email: anna.cannavo@mom.fr

SR2A - SYNCHROTRON RADIATION IN ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY, 7-10 NOVEMBER 2010, MUSEUM SQUARE IN AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Colleagues,

on behalf of the local organizing committee, we have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the 2010 edition of SR2A - Synchrotron Radiation in Art and Archaeology, to be held from 7-10 November 2010 at the Museum Square in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The conference will take place in the lecture theater of the van Gogh Museum and will include continuous access to the collection throughout the conference.

The proceedings papers of this meeting are scheduled to be published as a themed issue of Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry (JAAS).

For details on deadlines, registration modalities and the most recent version of the scientific programme, please visit: www.sr2a.ua.ac.be.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Amsterdam in November !

Koen Janssens - Robert van Langh - Joris Dik

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PALAEOCHRONOLOGY BUILDING WORKSHOP, 16 - 20 AUGUST 2010, SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO

<http://www.cimat.mx/~jac/BaconWorkShop.html>

The palaeochronology building workshop, with methodology comparisons and discussion of different dating techniques, statistical approaches, as well as hands-on use of specialized software such as Bacon, Bpeat, BChron, OxCal, etc., will be held in the beautiful colonial town of San Miguel de Allende in the centre of Mexico.

The final program is not yet decided upon and suggestions and contributed presentations from the attendees are indeed welcome!

It is planned as a residential workshop with in-house breakfast and lunch and free time after late afternoon. The proposed hotel is Cantesse: <http://www.cantesse.com> (changing name from Hotel Misión de los Ángeles).

San Miguel de Allende is located c. 350km NW of Mexico City:
<http://www.turismosanmiguel.com.mx>

The regional airport to use is Bajío/Leon, airport code BJX, and is a c. 90min drive from San Miguel. We will have support from CIMAT (Andres' workplace) to handle the web page, credit card payments etc. and possibly we will have some transport from/to BJX for the workshop participants. The airport has several daily flights from/to Mexico City, Dallas (American Airlines) and Houston (Continental). There are regular flights from/to Los Angeles and Oakland/San Francisco. It is also possible to fly in to Mexico City and take the 4 hours bus ride to San Miguel.

Cost: 600.00 USD. This covers 5 hotel nights, 5 buffet breakfasts, 4 buffet lunches, coffee breaks and workshop room. We are applying for funding from PAGES and INQUA to cover for part of the costs; more about this later. Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday 15 August.

The workshop will end on Friday 20 August before lunch.

Maximum amount of participants: 40.

For more information and to register your interest, please contact Andres Christen (jac@cimat.mx) and/or Maarten Blaauw (maarten.blaauw@qub.ac.uk).

Please forward this mail to potentially interested colleagues/students.

Best wishes,

Andres and Maarten

Dr. Maarten Blaauw
School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology Queen's University
Belfast, UK
<http://www.chrono.qub.ac.uk/blaauw>
tel +44 (0)28 9097 3895

**EC FP7 PROGRAMME “PEOPLE” –
MARIE CURIE ACTIONS IAPP, PROJECT
RADIO-PAST, RADIOGRAPHY OF THE
PAST, FIRST SPECIALIZATION
FORUM*, “INTEGRATED NON-
DESTRUCTIVE APPROACHES TO
UNDERSTAND AND VALORISE
COMPLEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES”,
AMMAIA (MARVÃO - PORTALEGRE,
PORTUGAL) 5TH – 11TH JULY 2010**

In the framework of the FP7 Marie Curie – People IAPP project RADIO-PAST*, a series of three High Formation Summer Schools (2010-2012) will be organized at the archeological site of Ammaia. The first “Specialization Forum” will focus on more traditional approaches to urban survey (ancient sources, archive data and historical cartography, GIS processing, surface artifacts collection...), on a wide range of remote sensing techniques, (vertical and oblique airborne photography, satellite imagery, multispectral remote sensing, LiDAR...), on topographical and microtopographical survey, and on geomatics and GIS integrated data processing.

The course will be based on theoretical topics and case studies and will imply field activities and applications with the aim to practice, collect, process and output data sets based on the use of different methods and techniques.

The teaching staff consists of academic and specialist lecturers from a wide range of excellent European research institutes.

The official language of the School is English.

Location

The formation week will be held at the infrastructures of the Museum of the archaeological site of Ammaia and of the Management Centre of the Parque Natural de Serra de São Mamede (São Salvador de Aramenha), in the municipality of Marvão, district of Portalegre in Portugal. Here the University of Evora pilots, in collaboration with the Fundação Cidade de Ammaia, an archaeo-topographical project named "Geo-archaeological research on Roman Landscapes in Alentejo", centred around this deserted Roman town. The availability of an almost "virgin" terrain, ideally suited for the programmed field activities, the existence of a on-site museum, the presence of new infrastructures for research (the laboratory of the project "Cidade de Ammaia") and logistics (the Management Centre of the Natural Park of the Serra de São Mamede), the

endless potentials of the buried monuments and of the natural beauty of the area and the fact that Ammaia is the principal “open lab” of the international partnership of the project RADIO-PAST, make this site an ideal location for a High Formation Training Course.

Participants

The Forum is open to 20 participants, holders of a master degree or doctoral students and specialists wanting to deepen their experience in these topics.

Participants will be selected on the basis of their CV. Their English proficiency must be very good.

The registration form (for admission request, available on line at www.radiopast.eu) must be submitted before April 30th, 2010, at the attention of: Cornelia Fischer by e-mail: cornelia.fischer@sapo.pt

Admitted participants will be informed in due time (before May 14th 2010) and they will be asked to pay the participation fee before June 4th.

A certification of participation will be issued by Universidade de Évora. The attendance must not be less than 90% of lesson's hours.

Costs

As the teaching staff is partially financed by the EC, registration fee will be limited to: EURO 300, including accommodation and meals (full board) at the Parque Natural de Serra de São Mamede Management Centre on the site of Ammaia and didactic materials.

Scientific Committee

- Prof. Dr. Cristina Corsi – University of Évora (Portugal); University of Cassino (Italy)
- Prof. Dr. Frank Vermeulen – University of Ghent (Belgium)
- Prof. Dr. Bozidar Slapsak, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Prof. Dr. Simon Keay, British School at Rome; University of Southampton (UK)
- Dr. Cornelius Meyer, Eastern Atlas GbR (Germany)
- Michael Klein, 7Reasons (Austria)
- Guenther Weinlinger, 7Reasons (Austria)
- Prof. Dr. Arjen Bosman, Past2Present (Netherlands)
- Sigrid Vanroode, Past2Present (Netherlands)

Summer School Secretariat

Valentina Castro (University of Évora, CIDEHUS)

Cornelia Fischer (University of Évora, Radio Past Project Management Office)

Information

WEB site - www.radiopast.eu

Official e-mail addresses for contact - info@radiopast.eu; cidehus@uevora.pt
www.radiopast.eu

*This initiative has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 230679, under the action Marie Curie – People IAPP, with the Project entitled “Radiography of the past.

Integrated non-destructive approaches to understand and valorise complex archaeological sites

ON DATING EGYPTIAN LITERARY TEXTS, INSTITUTE OF EGYPTOLOGY AND COPTIC STUDIES GÖTTINGEN, JUNE 9TH TO 12TH 2010

A central issue of Egyptological research is the question of dating the original composition of religious or literary texts. However, re-dating might amount to a downright re-writing of parts of the Egyptian cultural history. Very prominent is a lively debate about the date of composition of a number of literary texts, traditionally dated to the First Intermediate Period or the Early Middle Kingdom but known only from New Kingdom manuscripts. Over the last forty-five years, several attempts have been made to date the production of some of these texts much closer in time to their first physical appearance.

Using religious, cultural, linguistic, or textual arguments scholars have argued for a New Kingdom origin (Admonitions: van Seters 1964; Hymn to the Nile: van der Plas 1984; Merikare: Bickel 1994; Amenemhet:

Grimal 1995; Loyalist [Kaires]: Schipper 1998). More recently the discussion has heated up considerably with contributions that argue for a New Kingdom origin of Merikare, Neferti, Khakheperreseneb and Amenemhet with the reassessment based on conceptions of Egyptian cultural history (Gnirs 2006; eadem in press) or on linguistic analysis (Stauder, in press). On the other hand, there is an equally strong tendency to oppose any later datings which bases itself on the very same categories of arguments (for example Amenemhet: Burkard 1999; Merikare and Neferti: Burkard/Thissen 2007) and a general attitude to take the oldest linguistic layer of a text as a direct indication of its time of origin (von Lieven 2006). Most recently, Verhoeven (2009) was able to falsify Schipper's reconstruction of the redaction-history of Loyalist [Kaires] due to newly discovered and dated textual evidence from her epigraphic mission in Assyut.

Nevertheless, from a systematic point of view, the question must be considered as entirely open. It therefore seems time to re-enter the discussion in a more systematic manner with an attempt to develop methodical approaches towards the possibility of (re-)dating the entire group of texts in question (including also Kheti, Man for his Son, Djedefhor, Pleasures of Fishing and Fowling, Sporting King and others). This would include the re-evaluation of Egyptological notions of the Egyptian text and individual textual histories (in terms of the so-called New Philology) as well as a reconsideration of the cultural and religious contexts of particular texts and the analysis of their linguistics.

The conference is intended to be a first step in such an enterprise and tries to advance the discussion on this highly important topic without any preconceived preferences for either approach. It hopes to reassess the state of Egyptological research and discuss critically the methodological implications of all approaches.

We have been able to secure the participation of the majority of scholars who have substantially contributed to the issue. However, to re-open the discussion in a copious manner, each of them has been assigned the task to present their ideas in a self-conscious as well as in a self-critical manner. Furthermore, scholars from neighbouring disciplines which, at one point in their histories, were facing comparable methodological problems, will enrich and stimulate the Egyptological discussion. Their papers will serve as examples of what might be at stake and how to handle a task which in our case might amount to a downright re-writing of parts of the Egyptian cultural history. For this reason, a specialist in Medieval Literature will present the most up-to-date ways of dealing with openly transmitted texts in semi-oral manuscript cultures. Furthermore, a specialist in Old Testament Studies will present a field which had to re-date and subsequently reinterpret most of the Old Testament texts and their role in establishing Israelite identity.

The prime objective of the conference is to bring forward a long overdue discussion on the topic without any preconceived preferences for either approach. For the long run, we hope that our meeting can eventually serve as a basis to develop, promote and eventually to institutionalize a research program aiming at a generalized catalogue of methods and criteria for dating texts.

We will be happy to receive your wish to participate until April 15th.

Please visit the site: <http://www.datingegyptiantexts.com/> [Go there for links to application and a "list of reading"]

2^Ο ΣΥΜΠΟΣΙΟ, ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΕΡΕΥΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΕΣ ΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ, ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑ, 21 – 23 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ, 2010

Το Συμπόσιο εστιάζει στην χρήση των *Νέων Τεχνολογιών* (Αρχαιομετρία, Υπολογιστικά Συστήματα, Συντήρηση και Αποκατάσταση) στην *Αρχαιολογική Έρευνα*, με έμφαση στην παρουσίαση ολοκληρωμένων διεπιστημονικών προσεγγίσεων, ειδικών εφαρμογών και πρωτότυπων μελετών σε αρχαιολογικά υλικά.

Καλωσορίζοντας την συμμετοχή σας!

Οργανωτική Επιτροπή

Ν. Ζαχαριάς (Πρόεδρος, Παν. Πελοποννήσου)

Παν. Πελοποννήσου: Ε. Γιαννούλη, Ε. Ζυμή, Α. Μπάνου, Μ. Ξανθοπούλου

Εθν. Επιτροπή: Λ. Καραλή (Ε.Κ.Π.Α.), Ι. Λυριτζής (Π. Αιγαίου), Ι. Τζαχίλη (Π. Κρήτης)

Επιστημονική Επιτροπή

Υπ. Παιδείας: Ν. Ευστρατίου (Α.Π.Θ.), Π. Θέμελης (Ε.Μ.Α.Σ.), Ε. Ιωακείμογλου (Τ.Ε.Ι. Αθήνας), Κ. Κωτσάκης (Α.Π.Θ.), Α. Μαζαράκης-Αινιάν (Παν/μιο Θεσσαλίας), Ι. Μπασιάκος (Ε.Κ.Ε.Φ.Ε. Δημόκριτος), Ν. Πούλου (Α.Π.Θ.), Α. Σαρρής (ΙΜΣ-ΙΤΕ), Γ. Τσόκας (Α.Π.Θ.), Μ. Φωτιάδης (Παν/μιο Ιωαννίνων)

Υπ. Πολιτισμού και Τουρισμού: Δ. Αθανασούλης, Ξ. Αραπογιάννη, Ζ. Ασλαμαντζίδου, Α. Βασιλογάμβρου, Κ. Κίσσας, Ν. Κυπαρίσση, Α. Μπανάκα, Α. Ντάρλας, Α. Παναγιωτοπούλου, Μ. Πετρόπουλος, Ε. Χαλκιά, Γ. Χατζή

Διαχείριση

Μ. Καπαρού, Μ. Κυλάφη, Μ. Παπαγεωργίου, Ν. Σούμας

Προκαταρκτικό Πρόγραμμα

Πέμπτη 21 Οκτωβρίου

14:00 - 16:00 Εγγραφή Συνέδρων

16:00 – 18:00 Τελετή Έναρξης, Συνεδρία Ι

18:00 - 20:00 Cocktail Υποδοχής Συνέδρων

Παρασκευή 22 Οκτωβρίου

9:00 – 11:00 Συνεδρία ΙΙ

11:00 – 11:30 καφέ

11:30 – 13:30 Συνεδρία ΙΙΙ

13:30 – 14:30 γεύμα

14:30 – 15:30 Συνεδρία Αφίσας

15:30 – 16:50 Συνεδρία ΙV

16:50 – 17:20 καφέ
17:20 – 18:20 Συνεδρία V
18:20 – 19:00 Κλείσιμο
20:00 Επίσημο Δείπνο Συμποσίου

Σάββατο 23 Οκτωβρίου

9:00 – 10:00 Ξενάγηση στο Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Καλαμάτας
11:00 – 13:00 Ξενάγηση στον Αρχαιολογικό χώρο της Α. Μεσσήνης

Κόστος συμμετοχής 150 ευρώ: περιλαμβάνει διανυκτέρευση (δυο νύχτες) σε ξενοδοχείο με πρωινό, φάκελο συνέδρου, διαλείμματα καφέ, γεύματα, επίσημο δείπνο, ξεναγήσεις, έκδοση πρακτικών.

Πληροφορίες: Όποιος επιθυμεί να παρουσιάσει εργασία, πρέπει να υποβάλλει ηλεκτρονικά περίληψη της εργασίας μέχρι τις **15 Ιουλίου**, χρησιμοποιώντας το αρχείο το οποίο υπάρχει αναρτημένο στην ιστοσελίδα <http://kalamata.uop.gr/~Archaeolab>. Όλες οι περιλήψεις θα κριθούν από την Οργανωτική και την Επιστημονική Επιτροπή. Κατόπιν της κρίσης και με βάση την ποιότητα και πρωτοτυπία των εργασιών, θα παρουσιαστούν είτε ως ανακοινώσεις είτε με τη μορφή αφίσας. Όλες οι εργασίες μπορούν να υποβληθούν για να συμπεριληφθούν, κατόπιν κρίσης, στην προγραμματισμένη Έκδοση των Πρακτικών.

2ND SYMPOSIUM, ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES, KALAMATA (GREECE), OCTOBER 21-23, 2010

The Symposium centred on the use of *New Technologies* (Archaeometry, Computing Technology, Conservation and Restoration) in the *Archaeological Research*, notably with the presentation of interdisciplinary approaches, special case studies and research of archaeological materials and assemblages.

Your participation and contribution are most welcome!

Organizing Committee

N. Zacharias (President, Univ. of the Peloponnese),

Univ. of the Peloponnese: E. Banou, E. Giannouli, M. Xanthopoulou, E. Zimi

Nat. Committee: L. Karali (N.K.U.A.), I. Liritzis (Aegean Univ.), I. Tzachili (Crete Univ.)

Scientific Committee

Ministry of Education: Y. Bassiakos (N.C.S.R. Demokritos), N. Efstratiou (A.U.TH.), E. Ioakimoglou (T.E.I.-Athens) K. Kotsakis (A.U.TH.), A. Mazarakis-Ainian (Thessaly Univ.), M. Photiades (Ioannina Univ.), N. Poulou (A.U.TH.), A. Sarris (F.O.R.T.H./I.M.S.), P. Themelis (S.M.A.S.), G. Tsokas (A.U.TH.)

Hellenic Ministry of Tourism and Culture: X. Arapogianni, Z. Aslamantzidou, D. Athanasoulis, A. Banaka, E. Chalkia, G. Chatzi, A. Darlas, K. Kissas, N. Kyparissi, A. Panagiotopoulou, M. Petropoulos, A. Vasilogamvrou

Management

M. Kaparou, M. Kylafi, M. Papageorgiou, N. Soumas

Preliminary Program

Thursday 21 October

14:00 - 16:00 Registration

16:00 – 18:00 Opening Ceremony, Session I

18:00 - 20:00 Welcome Reception

Friday 22 October

9:00 – 11:00 Session II

11:00 – 11:30 coffee

11:30 – 13:30 Session III

13:30 – 14:30 lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Poster Session

15:30 – 16:50 Session IV

16:50 – 17:20 coffee

17:20 – 18:20 Session V
18:20 – 19:00 Closing
20:00 Symposium Dinner

Saturday 23 October

9:00 – 10:00 Kalamata Archaeological Museum Guided Tour
11:00 – 13:00 Ancient Messene Guided Tour

Registration cost 150 euros: will include accommodation (two nights) with breakfast, participant bag, coffee and lunch breaks, symposium dinner, guided tours and proceedings publication.

Information: Abstracts must be submitted electronically by July 15 using the template given on the web page <http://kalamata.uop.gr/~Archaeolab>

All submissions will be reviewed by the Organising and Scientific Committee members. Presentations will be given either as oral communications or posters depending on the reviewers' decision based on quality and originality criteria.

All presentations will be eligible for publication in the Symposium's proceedings after having been peer-reviewed.

ICOM-CC SESSION AT THE ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE, SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 7-12, 2010, CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING WORLD

CALL FOR PAPERS

Theme

Museums in the 21st century are at the cross roads of major transformations in the global economy and environment. They are in a position to address the urgent need for safeguarding cultural diversity and bio-diversity as the common heritage of humanity. The preferred futures across the world are for environmental, cultural, economic and social sustainability. Museums have a role to play as mediators in these transformations in promoting social harmony.

ICOM-CC Session

Conservators as caretakers of the collections that form the backbone of collecting institutions have a very important role in this transformation of museums. The half-day ICOM-CC session will focus on this important aspect and will include presentations particularly focussing on access, intangible heritage, conservation training and application of conservation in a developing context.

Conservation professionals who are interested in presenting at this conference are requested to send a short abstract of less than 200 words to Vinod Daniel, Vice-chair, ICOM-Committee for Conservation at “Vinod.daniel@austmus.gov.au” by April 30, 2010.

A panel consisting of the Chair of ICOM-CC Marie-Claude Corbeil and Vice-chairs Vinod Daniel and Bent Eshøj will select 12 twenty-minute presentations that have to be delivered in person at the conference. Authors will be notified by May 15, 2010 and selected abstracts will be made available through the ICOM-CC website.

e-mail: secretariat@icom-cc.org

www: www.icom-cc.org

**THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON ACCELERATOR
MASS SPECTROMETRY WILL BE HELD
IN WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND AT
THE MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE
PAPA TONGAREWA, (TE PAPA) ON 20 –
25 MARCH 2011**

FIRST CIRCULAR

www.gns.cri.nz/ams12

Scientists from all over the world will come together to discuss recent technological progress, applications and future trends of accelerator based isotope techniques for studies in Archaeology, Nuclear Physics and Astrophysics, Cosmogenochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Environment, Geology, Hydrology, Ocean Sciences, and Nuclear Safeguards.

AMS-12 is hosted by the GNS ScienceNational Isotope Centre

The call for abstracts and registrations will open on 1 August 2010.

The conference website will be the official site for all updated conference information, sponsorship and exhibition opportunities, conference hotel information and bookings, and conference registration. Note the address and check it regularly for further updates.

Get a feel for Wellington, the range of accommodation, the harbour, transportation and entertainment available here: www.wellingtonnz.com/

For further information including sponsorship and exhibition opportunities contact: ams12@gns.cri.nz

Albert Zondervan
AMS-12 Convener
National Isotope Centre
T: +64-4-570 4617
a.zondervan@gns.cri.nz

ΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ/ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ –
JOB VACANCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

SENIOR SCIENTIST IN THE
APPLICATION OF AMS DATING AND
ISOTOPE RESEARCH WITHIN THE
FIELD OF ARCHAEOLOGY, THE
CENTRE FOR BALTIC AND
SCANDINAVIAN ARCHAEOLOGY, CALL
FOR APPLICATIONS

The Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie, ZBSA) within the Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloß Gottorf, collaborates with the Leibniz-Laboratory for Radiometric Dating and Stable Isotope Research at the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel (CAU) to invite applications for the appointment of a **Senior scientist in the application of AMS dating and isotope research within the field of Archaeology**

We are seeking an energetic and highly motivated senior researcher to coordinate and to conduct cutting edge research within the field of AMS dating and isotope research in Archaeology.

Deadline for applications: April 20th, 2010

Job description:

The successful candidate is expected to act as a liaison between the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) and the Leibniz-Laboratory. This entails responsibility for the coordination of research activities, as well as developing individual research projects within the framework of the overall research agenda of both institutes. Moreover, the successful candidate will be expected to generate external research funding through active application for research grants.

Requirements:

The successful candidate should have obtained an above average doctoral degree (PhD) in a discipline relevant to the field of research (Archaeology, (Bio)Chemistry, Physics, or related fields). Practical and theoretical expertise in the application of isotope research and/or AMS dating to archaeological questions is required. A general requirement for qualification is the ability to collaborate, paired with a good-humoured, flexible, and dedicated disposition. In the hiring process specific emphasis will be given to scientific expertise and research as demonstrated by publication in internationally peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Offer:

Kiel and Schleswig offer a unique research environment at the interface between Natural and Social Sciences, and Humanities with the newly established Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, the presence of a Graduate School in the field of "Human Development in Landscapes", and several projects focusing on "Early monumentality and social differentiation" (SPP 1400) which is coordinated in Kiel. A wide range of analytical techniques within the CAU have been grouped in a support platform for archaeological research, and, accordingly, offer unique opportunities for involvement with leading research institutions in the fields of archaeology, climate research, and oceanography.

The employment will start on June 1st or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary will be provisionally at the level of 13 TV-L (former BAT IIa). The position is offered initially for 3 years with the possibility of permanency afterwards. The work will mainly be performed at the Leibniz-Laboratory in Kiel.

The Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloß Gottorf and the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel strongly encourages women with appropriate qualifications, competence and expertise to apply for the position. To increase the number of women in research positions, female applicants can expect preferential consideration, all other aspects being equal. The Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloß Gottorf and the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel supports the employment of disabled persons. Persons with disabilities will, with appropriate qualifications and aptitudes, be employed preferentially.

Application:

The application should be submitted in two copies. It may be written in English or German. It should include a covering letter stating current and future research, detailed curriculum vitae, copies of diploma, and a list of publications, and should be sent before 20th April 2010 to:

**Herrn Prof. Dr. Claus v. Carnap-Bornheim,
Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloß Gottorf/ ZBSA,
Schloßinsel 1, D-24837 Schleswig**

Further information about the position can be obtained from:

Dr. Berit Valentin Eriksen,
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Tel: (+49) (0)4621 813-482
E-Mail: Berit.Eriksen@schloss-gottorf.de,
Web: www.zbsa.eu

Dr. Marie-Josée Nadeau,
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Leibniz-Laboratory for Radiometric Dating
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Prof. Dr. Ralph Schneider,
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Web: www.uni-kiel.de/leibniz

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST,
LECTURER IN CHRONOLOGY REF:
10/101280, SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY,
ARCHAEOLOGY AND
PALAEOECOLOGY

This post is available to undertake research in any aspect of Quaternary Chronology which will complement or enhance research activities in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology

Anticipated interview date: Friday 7 May 2010.

Salary scale: £32,620 - £38,951 per annum (including contribution points).

Closing date: 4.00pm, Friday 16 April 2010.

Please visit our website for further information and to apply online - www.qub.ac.uk/jobs

or alternatively contact the Personnel Department,

Queen's University Belfast, BT7 1NN.

Telephone +44 (0)28 90973044

FAX: +44 (0) 28 90971040 or e-mail on personnel@qub.ac.uk

Departmental contact: Prof. Paula Reimer email: p.j.reimer@qub.ac.uk

The University is committed to equality of opportunity and to selection on merit. It therefore welcomes applications from all sections of society and particularly welcomes applications from people with a disability.

Prof. Paula J. Reimer

Director, Centre for Climate, the Environment & Chronology (14CHRONO)

Director of Research Environmental Change cluster

School of Geography,

Archaeology and Palaeoecology Queen's University Belfast

e-mail: p.j.reimer@qub.ac.uk

Phone: 028 9097 3980

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International callers:

Phone: +44 28 9097 3980

FAX: +44 28-9097-3897

Websites:

www.chrono.qub.ac.uk

www.calib.org

Mailing/Shipping address:

Archaeology & Palaeoecology Building
Queen's University Belfast
42 Fitzwilliam Street
Belfast BT9 6AX
U.K.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR OPPORTUNITIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Fulbright Scholar Program and Fulbright Humphrey Fellowship Program are administered by the Institute of International Education's Department of Scholar and Professional Programs, which includes the Council for International Exchange of Scholars and Humphrey divisions.

For more information, contact us at scholars@iie.org or 202-686-4000 or visit www.iie.org/cies
<file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/kmatheson/Application%20Data/Microsoft/Sigatures/www.iie.org/cies>

Fulbright Scholar Program for US Faculty and Professionals for 2011-2012 is open

The Fulbright Scholar Program offers **17 awards in teaching, research or combined teaching/research in archaeology, including a Fulbright Distinguished Chair**. Even better, faculty and professionals in archaeology also can apply for one of the **175 “All Discipline”** awards open to all fields.

What does Fulbright offer in archaeology? Here are a few of the awards for 2011-2012:

South and Central Asia: Applications in archaeology are welcome in many of these countries, including India and Pakistan. Distinguished chair awards also available.

Venezuela: Social Studies & Humanities opportunities available.

The application deadline is August 2, 2010. U.S. citizenship is required. For more information, visit our website at www.iie.org/cies or contact us at scholars@iie.org.

Faculty and professionals are also encouraged to participate in one of our weekly webinars, including a special March 25th session featuring Adam Grotzky, Executive Director of the United States-India Educational Foundation, on the expanding Fulbright opportunities in India. For more information, visit our website at www.iie.org/cies/webinar.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION AT **THE UNIVERSITY OF EVORA** **(PORTUGAL)**

The purpose of this project (acronym “Radio-Past”), funded by the EC via its Marie Curie Academia Industry program (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/mariecurieactions/iapp_en.html), is to develop methods for the non-destructive survey of complex archaeological sites (www.radiopast.eu). This will be partly achieved by way of an intensive case study aimed at investigating the topography of the Roman city site of Ammaia in Portugal. The postholder will apply different approaches of geophysics for archaeology to map and evaluate the microtopography and relevant archaeological structures of this site. He/she needs to be able to digitally integrate all results obtained from different field techniques, analyse them within a GIS environment and propose an archaeological interpretation.

Candidates are requested to hold a PhD in archaeology, remote sensing or geophysics applied to archaeology (or 4 years equivalent experience) and have extensive experience in geophysical survey of Mediterranean landscapes. Requested are especially good understanding of geophysical data caption and processing, integration with remote sensing, and having excellent IT and topography skills. The post is tenable immediately for a period of 15 months.

As the recruitment is inserted in the Marie Curie Actions Mobility scheme, candidates can be all nationals but Portuguese.

REQUESTED ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Working in a team based international environment, supporting your team in achieving the highest quality standards. Excellent inter-personal skills and a good team player. Problem solving and troubleshooting skills to resolution. Ability to work on own initiative and to adapt to change. Ability to meet strict deadlines and targets. Ability to work confidently without supervision.

CONTRACT TYPE : temporary ; 15 months starting June 1st 2010.

SALARY: according to Experienced Researcher’s yearly allowance (53,000 euro per Portugal’s Country Correction factor (= 91,4%; taxes to be deducted); travel expenses, mobility allowance and career exploratory allowance are also provided. Relationships between Uevora and the Researcher will be ruled according to Annex III of the Grant Agreement of IAAP People Actions (Specific Provisions, downloadable at: [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/fp7-mga-annex3iapp_en.pdf](http://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/fp7-mga-annex3iapp_en.pdf)).

HOLIDAYS - 30 days.

RELOCATION Part of the work will be executed Ammaia, in the region Portalegre, the rest at the University of Evora. A suitable relocation scheme is provided.

APPLICATION: applicants to email CV to Prof. Cristina Corsi at the CIDEHUS centre of the University of Evora (cricorsi@uevora.pt) before April 30th, 2010.

ΔΥΟ ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΠΤΥΧΙΑΚΕΣ ΣΠΟΥΔΕΣ ΕΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΟΥ & ΕΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΤΕΚΤΟΝΑ ΜΗΧΑΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ YORK ΤΗΣ ΑΓΓΛΙΑΣ ΤΟ 2010-11

Η ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ Περιβάλλοντος & Πολιτισμού με χορηγία του «The John S Fafalios Foundation» προκηρύσσει διαγωνισμό για δύο (2) υποτροφίες, μία για αρχαιολόγο και μία για αρχιτέκτονα μηχανικό, για μεταπτυχιακές σπουδές διάρκειας ενός (1) έτους για το ακαδημαϊκό έτος 2010-2011 στο Centre for Conservation Studies του Πανεπιστημίου York (Αγγλία) σε θέματα αναστήλωσης, αποκατάστασης και διαχείρισης μνημείων.

Οι υποτροφίες καλύπτουν το κόστος σπουδών και μέρος του κόστους διαβίωσης.

Οι θέσεις προκηρύσσονται καταρχήν για Έλληνες, Ελληνοκυπρίους και ελληνικής καταγωγής αρχιτέκτονες μηχανικούς και αρχαιολόγους. Οι υποψήφιοι πρέπει να έχουν άριστη γνώση της αγγλικής γλώσσας και, στην περίπτωση που είναι υπάλληλοι (Δημοσίου, Οργανισμών Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης, ΝΠΔΔ ή ιδιωτικοί), να μπορούν να εξασφαλίσουν άδεια απουσίας ή εκπαιδευτική άδεια ενός πλήρους έτους, η οποία να αρχίζει την 1.9.2010. Επίσης, μέχρι την ημερομηνία των εξετάσεων θα πρέπει να έχουν λάβει το βασικό πτυχίο τους (αρχαιολόγου ή αρχιτέκτονα μηχανικού).

Οι ενδιαφερόμενοι πρέπει να υποβάλουν αίτηση στην ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ, όπου θα αναγράφονται τα πλήρη στοιχεία του αιτούντος (διεύθυνση, τηλέφωνο κ.λπ.). Η αίτηση θα συνοδεύεται από συνοπτικό αλλά πλήρες βιογραφικό σημείωμα (σπουδές, ομιλούμενες γλώσσες, ενδεχόμενη προγενέστερη πείρα σε θέματα αναστήλωσης, αποκατάστασης, διαχείρισης, δημοσιεύματα κ.λπ. με όλα τα σχετικά αποδεικτικά).

Οι υποψήφιοι πρέπει να δηλώσουν απαραίτητως στην αίτησή τους κατά πόσον έχουν άλλη τυχόν υποτροφία για μεταπτυχιακές σπουδές στο Πανεπιστήμιο York της Αγγλίας για το έτος 2010-2011. Εάν τυχόν έχει χορηγηθεί άλλη υποτροφία στον υποψήφιο, τούτο δεν αποκλείει τη συμμετοχή του στον παρόντα διαγωνισμό. Εάν όμως ο υποψήφιος επιλεγεί για τη χορήγηση της παρούσας υποτροφίας, προϋπόθεση της χορήγησής της είναι η παραίτηση από οποιαδήποτε άλλη παράλληλη υποτροφία.

Οι αιτήσεις μπορούν να υποβληθούν ιδιοχείρως στο γραφείο της ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑΣ, Τριπόδων 28, 10558 Αθήνα (Πλάκα), καθημερινά, 10.00-17.00, εκτός Σαββάτου και Κυριακής, τηλ. 2103225245, 2103226693, να σταλούν με fax (2103225240) ή να σταλούν ταχυδρομικώς (στην ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ), το αργότερο μέχρι την Πέμπτη 22 Απριλίου 2010 (Πληροφορίες: 210-3225245 εσ. 3, sak@ellinikietairia.gr, www.ellet.gr)

Οι υποψήφιοι θα πρέπει, έπειτα, να περάσουν γραπτή και προφορική εξέταση στην αγγλική γλώσσα την Πέμπτη 6 Μαΐου 2010, στις 15:00 στα γραφεία της ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ Εταιρείας. Οι επιτυχόντες θα έχουν προσωπική συνέντευξη με την Εξεταστική Επιτροπή ειδικών καθηγητών και επιστημόνων, τη Δευτέρα 10 Μαΐου 2010, 15:00-17:00. Τα αποτελέσματα θα ανακοινωθούν την Δευτέρα 17 Μαΐου 2010 στα γραφεία της ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑΣ, ώρες 12:00-17:00.

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ANNOUNCEMENTS

SITE PRESERVATION AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The AIA's Best Practices in Site Preservation Awards are presented to groups or projects recognized by their peers for doing exemplary work.

Nomination: Please nominate deserving projects on the AIA's website <http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10559>.

Submission: Nominations for this award should be submitted to AIA's Site Preservation Program Coordinator, Meredith Anderson, at manderson@aia.bu.edu or by mail to Site Preservation Award Program, C/O Meredith Anderson, Archaeological Institute of America, 656 Beacon Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02215 (electronic submission is preferred).

Deadline: No nominations will be accepted after September 30, 2010. Early submissions encouraged.

Identification of Best Practices: Winners will be selected by a committee of professional archaeologists, conservators, and heritage specialists before the AIA's Annual Meeting in January 2011.

The Award: A \$5000 grant will be awarded to the winners to further their best practices in site preservation. Winners will also benefit from publicity for their projects through the AIA.

Please forward to appropriate colleagues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,

Meredith Anderson

Site Preservation Program Coordinator
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of AMERICA
656 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215
617.358.6098
manderson@aia.bu.edu
www.archaeological.org/

INTERNET SITES

MINOAN PEAK SANCTUARIES, LABORATORY OF GEOPHYSICAL- SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING & ARCHAEO-ENVIRONMENT (corrected)

The project, funded by Instap, is part of a larger research framework titled “A Topography of Power. Towns, Sanctuaries and Territories on Bronze Age Crete”. The aim of the project is to identify a historical topography of power by assessing archaeological data that reflect hierarchical relationships on the island of Crete during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages (2000-1200 B.C.). The Minoan Peak sanctuaries project is based on a collaboration of the Institute of Mediterranean Studies-FORTH (Dr. A. Sarris) and the Universiti Catholique de Louvain (Prof. J. Driessen).

The main goal of the project is to investigate the place, role and evolution of Minoan peak sanctuaries in their broader cultural and natural landscape. The particular project employs a suite of advanced mapping techniques (sub-cm GPS), satellite remote sensing, statistical analysis and Geographical Information Systems for studying the spatial and temporal relations of the Minoan peak sanctuaries of Crete with respect to their environmental context, the landscape topography and the existing cultural domain. These techniques offer us a unique possibility to present concepts such as, space, time, people, and the cultural and natural variables, in an integrated unity. Among other techniques, viewshed analysis, statistical analysis of the topographic characteristics, image classification techniques, cost surface analysis, and locational modelling are employed to address questions related to the relation of the Minoan peak sanctuaries with respect to their environmental, social and economic settings.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.ims.forth.gr/project.php?c=46&l=e&s=&pid=38&d=7>

INTERACTIVE SITE ON THE ULU BURUN SHIPWRECK

At <http://sara.theellisschool.org/~shipwreck/ulusplash.html> is a fine interactive site on the Ulu Burun shipwreck.

This site is a collaborative project developed at The Ellis School, in Pittsburgh, PA, by Ellen Dailey Bedell and Elizabeth Perry. It was designed for use in a ninth grade world history course. A stand-alone curriculum unit is under development, and further information will be posted when it is available.

A list of artifacts (with pix) is at: <http://sara.theellisschool.org/~shipwreck/artifacts.html>

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ΝΕΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ – NEW PUBLICATIONS

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ ΣΤΗ ΓΕΩΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑ, ΠΑΝΑΓΙΩΤΗΣ ΚΑΡΚΑΝΑΣ

Σειρά: Επιστήμες / Αρχαιολογία ISBN: 978-960-211-949-5 Μάρτιος 2010 • Σελ.: 296 •
Τιμή: € 23,50

Μιας και η αρχαιολογία βρίσκει όλα τα βασικά δεδομένα της με την ανασκαφή, κάθε αρχαιολογικό πρόβλημα ξεκινά ως πρόβλημα της γεωαρχαιολογίας.

Η ρήση αυτή του διάσημου αρχαιολόγου C. Renfrew φανερώνει τη σημασία ενός επιστημονικού κλάδου που ξεκίνησε μεν τυπικά πριν από τριάντα πέντε χρόνια περίπου, αλλά παραμένει ακόμη νεωτερισμός για πολλές αρχαιολογικές ανασκαφές. Η γεωαρχαιολογία ως η ανάλυση του πραγματικού συνδετικού υλικού των αρχαιολογικών ευρημάτων, δηλαδή, των ιζημάτων και εδαφών (του κοινού χώματος), αλλά και του περιβαλλοντικού πλαισίου που εντάσσεται μια θέση, δηλαδή, του φυσικού τοπίου, δεν μπορεί παρά να αποτελεί θεμελιώδες κείμενο πάνω στο οποίο θα πρέπει να στηρίζεται οποιαδήποτε αρχαιολογική ερμηνεία.

Σήμερα, έχει γίνει πια κατανοητό ότι χωρίς τη γνώση των αποθέσεων και της στρωματογραφίας μιας θέσης, είναι αδύνατον να διαπιστωθεί η πραγματική συνάφεια και διάταξη των αρχαιολογικών ευρημάτων. Από την άλλη η γεωαρχαιολογία, που σχετίζεται με την ανασύσταση του φυσικού περιβάλλοντος γύρω από μια αρχαιολογική θέση, δίνει σημαντικές πληροφορίες για την αλληλεπίδραση ανθρώπου και περιβάλλοντος στην εξέλιξη του χρόνου, τις αλλαγές στην κατοίκηση και τις επιλογές στη χρήση και την οικονομία του χώρου.

Το παρόν βιβλίο αποτελεί μια πρώτη προσπάθεια να εισαχθούν οι έννοιες της γεωαρχαιολογίας στο ελληνικό κοινό σε ολοκληρωμένη μορφή. Απευθύνεται στους φοιτητές, προπτυχιακούς και μεταπτυχιακούς, αλλά και στους επαγγελματίες και τους ανθρώπους της ακαδημαϊκής κοινότητας γενικότερα, είτε αυτοί σχετίζονται με τις επιστήμες της γης (γεωλογία, φυσική γεωγραφία) είτε με την αρχαιολογία. Ένα ευρύτερο κοινό θα βρει ενδιαφέρον σε κεφάλαια όπως αυτό της παλαιοκλιματολογίας, των μεθόδων χρονολόγησης και της σχέσης του ανθρώπου με το περιβάλλον κατά την αρχαιότητα.

Ο Παναγιώτης Καρκάνας σπούδασε στο Τμήμα Γεωλογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών όπου και έλαβε Διδακτορικό το 1994. Έκτοτε εργάζεται στην Εφορεία Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας-Σπηλαιολογίας του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και από το 2004 διδάσκει το μάθημα της γεωαρχαιολογίας στο Τμήμα Γεωγραφίας του Χαροκόπειου Πανεπιστημίου. Οι ερευνητικές του δραστηριότητες καλύπτουν ένα ευρύ φάσμα θεμάτων της γεωαρχαιολογίας με έμφαση στη μικρομορφολογία αρχαιολογικών ιζημάτων και εδαφών, στις συνθήκες σχηματισμού αρχαιολογικών αποθέσεων, στις χημικές μετα-αποθετικές διαδικασίες, στην αποκατάσταση παλαιοπεριβαλλόντων του Τεταρτογενούς και στην προέλευση αρχαιολογικών πρώτων υλών. Έχει εκπονήσει γεωαρχαιολογικές μελέτες σε πλήθος ανασκαφών όλων των πολιτισμικών περιόδων τόσο στην Ελλάδα όσο και στο εξωτερικό (Κίνα, Ν. Αφρική, Γαλλία, Ισραήλ, Ισπανία, Κύπρο). Είναι στη συντακτική επιτροπή (associate editor) του διεθνούς περιοδικού Geoarchaeology (εκδ. οίκος Wiley-Blackwell) και έχει δημοσιεύσει πάνω από 70

εργασίες σε βιβλία, πρακτικά συνεδρίων και στα πιο έγκυρα διεθνή επιστημονικά περιοδικά σχετικά με το ερευνητικό του πεδίο.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες και οπτικό υλικό υψηλής ανάλυσης παρακαλούμε επικοινωνήστε με την κ. Νικολέττα Παναγιώτου (210 3639962, 210 3612291).

RADIOCARBON DATING OF THE AMPHIPOLIS BRIDGE IN NORTHERN GREECE, MAINTAINED AND FUNCTIONED FOR 2500 YEARS

Y Maniatis • D Malamidou • H Koukouli-Chryssanthaki • Y Facorellis

RADIOCARBON, Vol 52, Nr 1, 2010, p 41–63 © 2010 by the Arizona Board of Regents
on behalf of the University of Arizona

ABSTRACT

The remains of a wooden construction, recovered in the 1970s at the northwest sector of the walls of the ancient city of Amphipolis (northern Greece), have been recognized as foundation remains of a wooden bridge described by Thucydides in his description of the events that took place at Amphipolis in 424–422 BC, during the Peloponnesian War. Frequent repairs in the Roman, Byzantine, and even Ottoman periods are very probable. In the last 10 yr, conservation has been done to enhance this unique monument. This work involves systematic investigation with radiocarbon dating of all the verified or suspected phases of this wooden bridge. The dating results reveal the beginning of construction most probably in the Archaic period and confirm beyond a doubt that the major construction phase took place in Classical times. Successive phases, related to repairs rather than to major reconstructions, have been detected during the Hellenistic, Roman, Early Christian, and Byzantine periods as well as the Ottoman era. The combined archaeometric and archaeological evidence leads to the remarkable conclusion that this bridge was functioning for about 2500 yr.

CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY, VOLUME **51, NUMBER 2, (APRIL 2010)**

is now available at:

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/ca/2010/51/2?ai=sj&ui=58sr&af=H>

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Current Anthropology April 2010, Vol. 51, No. 2: 159-160.

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Current Anthropology April 2010, Vol. 51, No. 2: 161.

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The Sometimes Evitable Route to Conservatism and Persuasiveness: A Reply to Xue and Costopoulos

Stefano Ghirlanda, Alberto Acerbi, Magnus Enquist, and Mayuko Nakamaru

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Luciano Prates, Francisco J. Prevosti, and Mónica Berón

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Danny Rosenberg, Nimrod Getzov, and Amnon Assaf

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Brooke A. Scelza

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Anabel Ford

Current Anthropology April 2010, Vol. 51, No. 2: 306-307.

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Timothy A. R. Clack

Current Anthropology April 2010, Vol. 51, No. 2: 308-309.

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The Conundrums of Comprehending Latin American Cultural Production (Benavides's Drugs, Thugs, and Divas: Telenovelas and Narco-Dramas in Latin America)

Carleen D. Sanchez

Current Anthropology April 2010, Vol. 51, No. 2: 309-311.

Citation | Full Text | PDF Version (87 KB)

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Citation | PDF Version (60 KB)

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TEXTILE PRODUCTION IN PRE-ROMAN ITALY. ANCIENT TEXTILES SERIES 4, MARGARITA GLEBA

Oxford/Oakville, CT: Oxbow Books, 2008.
Pp. xxv, 269. ISBN 9781842173305. \$70.00.

Reviewed by Anthony Tuck, University of Massachusetts Amherst
(atuck@classics.umass.edu)

Were one to construct a Venn Diagram of archaeologists interested in Pre-Roman Italy and scholars of ancient textiles, the resulting union would be, to say the least, rather intimate. The relative scarcity of scholarship on textiles and their production is curious since the evidence is abundant and the implications of that evidence are profound. Yet in spite of the relative inattention given to the materials associated with textile production in early Italy in the past, this volume manages to compile and synthesize a remarkable amount of data, frequently collected and preserved in publications and excavation storerooms, but often somewhat neglected in the interpretative framework of the sites from which that evidence comes.

Textile Production in Pre-Roman Italy, a maturation of a Bryn Mawr Ph.D. treatment of the same subject, is a foundational effort that fills an important void in our understanding of this ubiquitous industry of the ancient world.

Gleba's volume differs from works that have considered the region's textiles in the past, such as L. Bonfante's *Etruscan Dress* (Johns Hopkins 2003), in that her concern is not with costume and the functions of social identity it creates, but rather with the textiles themselves and their modes of manufacture. The volume shares much with more broadly conceived studies such as E. Barber's *Prehistoric Textiles* (Princeton 1992). However, Gleba's narrower focus allows for a considerably deeper and more nuanced consideration of the social and industrial circumstances of textile manufacture in Italy during this period and thus will prove to be essential for future consideration of the subject and others to which it is related throughout the region.

The volume consists of seven sections, the topical range of which reflects the challenge the author details in her introduction:

conceiving of a volume that satisfies the interest of scholars of textiles --unfamiliar with the archaeology and topography of early Italy-- and of those of early Italy -- unfamiliar with the technical processes of textile manufacture. As a result of this structural difficulty, a few elements of the book are necessarily somewhat simplistic for experts in Italian prehistory while others are rather perfunctory for people already versed in the language and mechanics of textiles. This minor reservation is quickly rendered irrelevant when one considers the scope of the enterprise and its role in filling a long neglected void in the scholarship of the region.

Part 1: Geographical and Chronological Context

This chapter is largely for the benefit of scholars interested in textiles as Gleba briefly breaks down the nomenclature associated with the various cultural phases of Italic development from the Bronze Age onward. The importance of this chapter becomes apparent throughout the subsequent sections of the volume, as the author presents data from a wide range of sites and across a broad chronological spectrum, causing some degree of potential confusion for scholars unfamiliar with the archaeology of the region. The chapter concludes with a critical note, pointing out that the roughly six centuries of evidence considered fall within the chronological spectrum of other profound sociopolitical shifts occurring in Italy. In so doing, the 'quick and necessarily uneven overview' pays the dividend of placing textile manufacturing squarely within the dynamic and rapidly evolving cultural framework of the peninsula, even as those cultural processes impact various regions differently.

Part 2: Sources

Given the implicit difficulty of a survey of an artifact type that only rarely survives in the archaeological record, this section reflects the resourcefulness and careful data collection of the author. Here, Gleba briefly surveys the scant references in the ancient literary record to the craft of weaving but cautions against an over-dependence on such sources given their chronological discrepancy with her subject and the frequent misunderstanding of the technologies involved on the part of the ancient authors themselves.

In expanding the available pool of data, Gleba appeals to sources such as representation of textiles and garments from the painted tombs of Etruscan Tarquinia or the depictions of looms on a range of other types of artifacts. She notes, however, that the most obvious and well preserved source of information concerning textile production is paradoxically only rarely explored: the physical equipment of textile manufacturing and the rare instances where textiles themselves are preserved.

In much the same way as Chapter 1 is largely for the benefit of textile scholars unfamiliar with Italic Archaeology, this section will likely benefit scholars of Early Italy who have yet fully to consider how such types of evidence can be utilized to better understand the nature and role of textile production in these early Italic communities.

Part 3: Fibres and Textiles

The complete textile is the sum of the technologies and activities of its making. In this section, Gleba provides a representative catalogue of examples of surviving textiles, mineral preserved organic pseudomorphs and textile impressions of this period of interest. Total numbers are impressive despite archaeological and climatic conditions that are usually unfavorable to the preservation of such materials.

The remainder of the chapter integrates this catalogue into historical and archaeological sources for fibers, dyes and uses of finished textiles. While some elements of this survey depend on logical inference rather than direct evidence, the total weight of the argument serves to remind us that the ubiquity of such cloth underscores the enormous economic and social significance of the industry and its practitioners throughout the period.

Part 4: Techniques and Tools

This section begins with a brief treatment concerning the processing of fibers that, like the preceding part, is based on plausible inference as much as on direct evidence. However, Gleba quickly moves into an arena where the abundantly surviving implements

associated with spinning and weaving have long been collected but rarely analyzed effectively. It is here that the thoroughness of her review truly begins to reward the reader. The dizzying array of whorl types, spool forms, weights, clasps and spacers reflects not the creativity in the manufacture of these artifacts, but rather the diversity and range of possible applications of them in the textile and garment industry. The wealth of surviving evidence associated with textile manufacturing is sufficient to conclude that the population of so many communities of pre-Roman Italy not only produced cloth in a variety of forms, but consented to committing an enormous amount of time and energy to the task.

Part 5: Contexts

This section rises above the details of specific evidence to consider the overall environment in which textiles are produced. As with the categories detailed above, textile-related materials, when given meaningful consideration in past publication, were treated in a manner that all too often lacks sufficient standardization. Even with the site of Poggio Civitate, which is sufficiently well preserved to allow Gleba to construct a case study of textile manufacture, important details such as relative weight of spindle whorls and loom weights are not readily available to scholars. In this case study, however, she notes that the remarkable volume of spools and spindle whorls stands in stark contrast to the relatively small number of loom weights, suggesting that one of the major commercial enterprises of the site involved not the production of textiles, but rather of thread. This observation, among many others throughout the volume, raises some provocative questions concerning the nature of the primitive economies in which these early settlements operated. The section then considers the funerary and votive contexts in which textile implements are also found. It also posits broader questions about the various kinds of textile production demonstrated by the evidence presented earlier and their relationship to the social status of the women engaged in them.

From the daily practice of textile manufacture, we see the emergence and expression of community structure, of social organization and the careful negotiations of gendered behaviors among the various actors of these communities.

Part 6: Technology: Production and Trade

Here, Gleba details the evolution of textile manufacture from a limited, subsistence based craft enterprise into one of significant economic importance to communities of the Late Iron Age and Archaic periods. However, it is also here that the direct evidence for precisely how technologically associated forms of textile production moved between communities becomes especially ephemeral. Trade and exchange in textiles as commodities in their own right are certainly likely, but the movement of materials and fashions may equally be an effect of small-scale population movement or intermarriage between communities that provokes changes in both the technology and the products of that technology within the communities that receive them.

It is here that we reach the limits of evidence, but certainly not the implications of what we do possess. One of the great virtues of a study such as this is the manner in which it compels us to consider the complexities not just of settlements in general but of their constituent households and the role of women within the economic dynamic of the domus.

Part 7: Coda: Textile Production in its Social Context

This brief but satisfying final section concludes by noting again the parallel trajectories of the development of technologies associated with textile manufacture and that of the urbanizing social systems in which they flourished. No form of manufacturing is more closely connected to the ancient household of Italy than spinning and weaving and it stands to reason that the physical and socio-political evolution of that domestic space would affect and direct the nature of textile manufacturing. Gleba however is also right to argue that, even though our evidence is sometimes difficult to comprehend fully, textile manufacturing likely played an important role in economic networks far greater than those of the domestic sphere and factored into ritual circumstances that marked social status and elite behaviors within these developing communities.

This is an essential book. It is every bit as illuminating in its small details as it is in its broad scope. Through a focused presentation of all available forms of evidence, the full stature and importance of textile manufacturing in ancient Italy are made abundantly clear. Gleba constructs a clear methodology for the organization and analysis of textiles and the equipment used in their production that will serve as a model for future scholarship on the subject. Moreover, she also lays the foundation for the future resolution of a number of critical questions associated with those data. But what is perhaps most exciting about this volume lies not merely in the revealing insights it presents, but in the challenge it poses to archaeologists of pre-Roman Italy to more effectively report and consider the nature of the evidence for this pivotal ancient industry. If this challenge is met, the broader academic community will soon rightly place textile manufacture among the most important industries of the ancient Mediterranean.

From <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2010/2010-03-43.html>

ΕΙΔΗΣΕΙΣ - NEWS RELEASE

ΝΕΑ ΕΥΡΗΜΑΤΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΒΕΡΓΙΝΑΣ, ΣΥΝΤΑΧΘΗΚΕ ΑΠΟ APOLLON nioanis@gmail.com

Ένα από τα πλέον αξιόλογα νεοαποκαλυφθέντα μνημεία της Μακεδονίας στη Βεργίνα έφερε στο φως η ερευνητική ομάδα του αναπληρωτή καθηγητή κλασικής αρχαιολογίας, Παναγιώτη Φάκλαρη, και της δρ. κλασικής αρχαιολογίας, Βασιλικής Σταματοπούλου, μετά από επίπονη εργασία που διήρκεσε επτά περίπου δίμηνες ανασκαφικές περιόδους.

Πρόκειται για το καλύτερα σωζόμενο τμήμα της οχύρωσης της αρχαίας πόλης, την οποία το Α.Π.Θ. ερευνά συστηματικά στη Βεργίνα. Εκτείνεται εξ ολοκλήρου στον αγρό ιδιοκτησίας Φιλώτα Μπέλα, γνωστό από τον παρακείμενο ταφικό τύμβο. Αποτελεί, δε, ένα από τα καλύτερα διατηρημένα τμήματα οχύρωσης που σώζονται στην κυρίως Μακεδονία.

Οφείλει την εξαιρετικά καλή του διατήρηση, στο γεγονός της κατάχωσής του, κατά την όψιμη αρχαιότητα, από τεράστιους όγκους φερτών υλών, τους οποίους σώρεψε πάνω του ένας χείμαρρος, κατεβαίνοντας ορμητικός από τις βόρειες υπώρειες των Πιερίων.

Η εκτεταμένη φυσική καταστροφή εκείνης της εποχής διαφύλαξε και προστάτευσε το μνημείο από τη φυσική φθορά και τις ανθρώπινες επεμβάσεις μέσα στις χιλιετίες που ακολούθησαν.

Για την ανασκαφική ομάδα, ωστόσο, πέρα από το αρχικό επίτευγμα του εντοπισμού της πορείας του τείχους, σ' αυτή τη στερούμενη επιφανειακών ενδείξεων έκταση, απαιτήθηκε titάνιος αγώνας με τις επιχώσεις, μέχρι να κατορθώσει να ολοκληρώσει την αποκάλυψη του συγκεκριμένου τμήματος του περιβόλου.

Οι επιχώσεις του χειμάρρου, οι οποίες σε κάποια σημεία υπερβαίνουν τα 4,5 μ. βάθους, αποτελούσαν αρχαιολογικά στρώματα που ερευνήθηκαν σχολαστικά για την αποκάλυψη και μελέτη της ζωής του τείχους. Αναρίθμητα κυβικά άμμου, χαλικιών και χώματος ερευνήθηκαν, για να φτάσουν οι αρχαιολόγοι σε αυτό το αποτέλεσμα. Από το πλίνθινο αυτό τείχος, διατηρείται η λίθινη υποδομή του, με μέτωπα χτισμένα από αδρά δουλεμένους ασβεστόλιθους και πώρινους γωνιόλιθους με ποικίλο βαθμό επεξεργασίας κατά το ακανόνιστο σύστημα τοιχοδομίας. Το σωζόμενο ύψος του φτάνει το 1.90 μ. και το πάχος του τα 2.80 μ. Σε κανονικά διαστήματα ενισχύεται με ημικυκλικούς και ορθογώνιους πύργους.

Επίσης, στο τμήμα αυτό ανήκει και η κύρια, απ' ό,τι φαίνεται, πύλη της πόλης, της οποίας η έρευνα συνεχίζεται. Η πύλη αυτή αποτελεί από μόνη της ένα οχυρωματικό αρχιτεκτονικό συγκρότημα: δύο περιφερείς πύργοι υψώνονταν εκατέρωθεν της, για να την προστατεύουν, και δύο διαδοχικά θυρώματα έπρεπε να αντιμετωπίσει ο επίδοξος εκπορευόμενος της, βαλλόμενος ταυτοχρόνως από τους αμυνόμενους που μάχονταν από τους ειδικά διαμορφωμένους περιδρόμους που πλαισιώνουν τον διάδρομό της.

Το όλο συγκρότημα συμπλήρωναν τέσσερις κλίμακες ανόδου στους πύργους και τους περιδρόμους της πύλης. Πρόκειται για την καλύτερα σωζόμενη πύλη της κυρίως Μακεδονίας και φαίνεται ότι βρισκόταν πάνω στην οδό που συνέδεε την αρχαία πόλη και την Άνω Μακεδονία με τα πλησιέστερα λιμάνια, της Πύδνας και της Μεθώνης. Χρονολογείται, όπως και το σύνολο της οχύρωσης της Βεργίνας, στα χρόνια της βασιλείας του Κασσάνδρου, στις αρχές του 3ου αι. π.Χ.

Στην ερευνητική ομάδα που έχει εργαστεί στο τμήμα αυτό πολύτιμοι συνεργάτες υπήρξαν οι αρχαιολόγοι Ανναρέτα Τουλουμτζίδου, Γιάννης Μπέλας, Κατερίνα Τρίγκα, Γεωργία Τσανακτσίδου, Ιωάννα Ανδροβιτσανέα, Δόμνα Ισαακίδου και Τριάδα Κουτούκου.

Επίσης, ο δρ αρχιτεκτονικής Αθανάσιος Νακάσης, ο αρχιτέκτων Ε.Μ.Π. Άγγελος Νακάσης με την ομάδα τους και το τοπογραφικό επιτελείο του Γιάννη Γκάτζιου, αντιμετώπισαν τις προκλήσεις της σχεδιαστικής αποτύπωσης του μνημείου.

Στην ομάδα ασκούνται κάθε χρόνο φοιτητές αρχαιολογίας του Α.Π.Θ. Στο έργο πρόσφεραν τον ενθουσιασμό και τον χειρονακτικό κόπο τους οι κυριολεκτικώς σκαπανείς, κάτοικοι της Βεργίνας, αλλά και όλη η τοπική κοινότητα που περιβάλλει την ομάδα με ζωηρό ενδιαφέρον για κάθε νέα ανασκαφική εξέλιξη. Σε αυτούς πρωτίστως και σε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο ελπίζουμε ότι δεν θα αργήσει να αποδοθεί με την ολοκλήρωση της έρευνάς του, το μεγαλοπρεπές αυτό αρχαιολογικό σύνολο.

Παρακαλώ επισκεφθείτε το δικτυακό τόπο:

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ROMAN AND BYZANTINE **GRAVEYARDS UNEARTHED NEAR** **DAMASCUS**

DAMASCUS, (SANA)_Damascus Countryside Governorate announced Tuesday the unearthing of 5 archaeological graveyards in old Daryya City near Damascus, dating back to the 3rd and 4th Century AD.

The discovered graveyards, mostly dating back to the Roman and Byzantine era, contain tens of skulls, Mahmoud Hamoud, Damascus Countryside Archeology director said in a statement to SANA.

Hamoud disclosed that some other findings were also found as part of burial materials, including clay and glass tools, bracelets, rings, ring-bells, beads, eardrops, made of bronze, iron, glass, wood, and precious stones, as well as eardrops made of gold.

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Earlier, Damascus Countryside Archeology Directorate announced the finding of a basalt-built mass graveyard in 'Ashrafiat Sihnaya', dating back to same period, with several skulls and other burial materials, made of glass, wood, and metal.

Meanwhile, the number of visitors to Syrian archeological sites and museums has reached to /2321811/ persons, Syrians, Arabs and foreigners, in the year 2009, Dr. Bassam Jamous, Director General for Archeology Department and Museums stated to SANA.

Jamous said that such a number of visitors has increased annual revenues by 10.30 percent, with a total sum of / 1437766255/ million Syrian Pounds.

Damascus National Museum, al-Azm Palace, Aleppo Castle witnessed increasing flow of visitors, due to many performed artistic activities, media promotion campaigns, as well as participation in many foreign fairs worldwide, added the director.

Among the more frequented archeological sites in Syria are: Mari, Ebla, Ugarit, Apamea, Bousra, Bill temple and tombs, Castles of Aleppo, Krak des Chevaliers, Salah ed-Din, Seman, Ras Shamra, Khan As'ad Pasha, Palmyra Theater, as well as tens of museums, scattered all over the country.

Al-Ibrahim

Please visit the site: <http://www.sana.sy/eng/35/2010/03/09/277178.htm>

CZECH ARCHAEOLOGISTS FIND OLDEST SETTLEMENT IN ARBIL, NORTH IRAQ

Plzen, West Bohemia, March 5 (CTK) - An expedition of Czech archaeologists has found remains of an about 150,000-year-old prehistoric settlement in Arbil, north Iraq, which has been the so far oldest uncovered in this part of northern Mesopotamia, team head Karel Novacek told reporters Friday.

The archaeologists revealed a high number of items, mainly prehistoric stone tools, about nine metres under the ground in Arbil, capital of the Kurdish autonomous region, said archaeologist Novacek, from the University of West Bohemia in Plzen.

The eight-member expedition returned from Iraq at the end of last year. The team comprised experts from the University of West Bohemia, academic and university institutions in Prague and two companies.

Czech experts have succeeded in finding evidence of the oldest human settlement in the locality as all other finds of American expeditions working there 50 years ago are probably younger.

"We have been the first foreign expedition in this area since the second Gulf War in 2006," Novacek added.

The project, supported by the Czech Science Foundation (GACR), has been the first professional Czech expedition to Mesopotamia, a cradle of human civilisation.

"The expedition has mainly focused on the town of Arbil that used to be one of the royal residential centres of ancient Assyria. Its research is a real challenge for the modern 21st century archaeology,"
Novacek explained.

Unlike other more known ancient centres in this area, Arbil did not cease to exist and it has remained a lively town to date. It is one of the longest permanently populated sites in the world, Novacek added.

In spite of it, it has not attracted many archaeologists so far.

The beginning of this town dates back to the 3rd century BC.

The expedition's research was primarily based on geophysical exploration, historical buildings documentation and the assessment of aerial and satellite photos.

Novacek, in this respect, also praised cooperation with the Prague-based GemaArt Group heritage conservation company, that has worked in Iraq since 2004, without which the thorough research would not be possible.

Please visit the site: <http://praguemonitor.com/2010/03/08/czech-archaeologists-find-oldest-settlement-arbil-north-iraq>

OSTRICH EGG PATTERNS OLDEST FORM OF ART AND COMMUNICATION

Before the discovery it was thought cave paintings were the earliest forms of art.

The etchings, thought to be 60,000 years old, were used to mark the eggs which had been turned into water flasks by hunter gatherers in Africa. It was so early it was before humans – or homo sapiens – left Africa to populate the rest of the world.

The four different patterns and markings are repeated and believed to convey ownership or purpose and to differentiate the eggs from each other.

The researchers led by Pierre-Jean Texier, of the University of Bordeaux, said that before this discovery, the first signs of art, writing or 'culture' was thought to have been first shown in the late Stone Age between 35,000 and 10,000 years ago.

It included cave paintings dating back to 30,000 years BC, thought to be some of the earliest examples of decorative art or written communication.

But this latest discovery, which is much older, showed "collective identities and individual expressions" that were the beginning of modern civilised behaviour, they said.

Researchers, who published their work in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, examined 270 inch long egg fragments, found in the Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Western Cape, South Africa.

They identify four different patterns including cross hatching and parallel lines, etched onto the side of the eggs.

"Engraved abstract patterns are widely accepted as evidence for the presence of symbolic thought," said the researchers.

"This unique collection demonstrates not merely the engraving of a single geometric pattern but the development of a graphic tradition and the complex use of symbols to mediate social interactions."

They said there were rules that seemed to apply to the use of the patterns suggesting that they symbolised the use or ownership of the egg.

"These objects were used daily, were curated, and were elements of a collective and complex social life," they said.

"For these reasons, ostrich eggshell provided an ideal surface for informative marking, such as self or group identification.

"The standardised production of repetitive patterns, including a hatched band motif, suggests a system of symbolic representation in which collective identities and individual

expressions are clearly communicated, suggesting social, cultural, and cognitive underpinnings that overlap with those of modern people."

In other words it was thought that cave paintings were some of the oldest forms of human expression.

Before the discovery it was thought cave paintings were the earliest forms of art.

Hundreds of caves have been discovered across Europe with elaborate prehistoric paintings and carvings on their walls.

It is thought the designs, which often depict scenes of animals, like bison, grazing or hunting expeditions, were created up to 40,000 years ago – sometime after humans began moving from southern Europe into northern Europe during the last ice age.

Please visit the site: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/7346017/Ostrich-egg-patterns-oldest-form-of-art-and-communication.html>

HOW NATURE INSPIRED THE ALPHABET, BY STEPHEN MESSENGER, PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

32,000 years ago, ancient humans gathered in a cave in Lascaux, France, where, by firelight, they created the first hand-drawn forms--scenes depicting man's relationship with the natural world. The favorite subject in those first drawings was the ancient ox, so impressive in stature and strength, that it was deified by our earliest ancestors. This reverence for nature remained as civilizations formed, and with it, written language. It is no wonder then that subtly hidden within our alphabet today lie the remnants of these ancient forms--many of which reflect the earliest relationships between man and nature. To find them, you just have to look a little closer.

The precursor to many of the characters in our modern script are found in the pictogram hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt. The symbol for the letter 'A', in its earliest representation, depicted the image of the deified ox--which came to represent 'the great one' or 'the creator' in subsequent cultures. So it remained, as the symbol became adopted by the Greeks and Romans in a more rudimentary form, called 'Alpha'--still signifying a supreme position today.

Not all the letters that make up our current alphabet are thought to trace back to forms from nature, however. The letter 'B', for example, is traced back to a pictogram of a house--its dimpled center once representing a doorway. Likewise, the early symbol for 'C' resembles a sling, though some speculate it might depict the hump of a camel.

The letter 'D' in its Proto-Semitic was often represented by the pictogram of a fish, though as the symbol was adopted by the Phoenician, it seems that only the triangle-shaped tail was preserved. That triangle would become more precise as the Greek letter 'Delta', until the Romans rotated the shape slightly and rounded one of the pointed sides.

Some believe the letter 'E' originated from a pictogram representing 'the wind'--marked with three horizontal strokes. Others contend that it can be traced back to the image of a human with their arms raised in prayer--seen more clearly if the letter be rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise.

The symbol 'F' can be traced back to a pictogram representing a club or hook, while 'G' was introduced later in Classic Latin. The form for the letter 'H' has changed dramatically over the centuries, thought to have originated as a fence in Egyptian hieroglyph. The best guess as to what the pictogram of the letter 'I', presented horizontally, is that of a penis or outstretched arm. 'J' would come latter--first used in Roman numerals.

'K', in Egyptian hieroglyphs, was represented by an open hand. As the symbol passed to the Phoenicians, who tended not to enjoy carving curved shapes, the 'hand' became more crudely depicted. Greeks are responsible for the design of the symbol we use today.

The hieroglyph for the letter 'L' looked a bit like a cane--a straight line with a bent top. As the shape was adopted by the Phoenicians, it was flipped.

Comparing the shape of the letter 'M' with the Egyptian pictogram for 'water', and the relationship is obvious. The hieroglyph's 'waves' were simplified by the Phoenicians later and even more so by the Greeks.

The earliest symbol for the letter 'N' was that of a snake or serpent in its distinctive crawl. Semitic people in Egypt are responsible for the shape in later alphabets. Their word for 'snake' began with the letter.

Not so surprisingly, the symbol for 'O' was adapted from a complex Egyptian hieroglyph pictogram of a human eye. Fortunately for the less artistically talented writers, all that remains from that symbol is the 'iris' we draw today. The shape of the letter 'P' was developed later in Classical Latin.

While the ancient ancestor of the letter 'Q' is thought to depict a 'cord of wool', the origin of the next letter in the alphabet is a bit more interesting. With just a bit of imagination, it's easy to see the long, goatee on the chin of a pharaoh when looking at the letter 'R'.

The symbol for the letter 'S' was adapted from the Proto-Semitic and Phoenician alphabets, where the pictogram, looking a bit like a backwards '3', represented a woman's breasts. 'T' originally looked more like the addition symbol we use today, and was the symbol made when something was 'marked'.

The rest of the character in the alphabet would be developed in later years and are not directly related to specific pictographs--though some may share a common origin with a symbol discussed above.

From our ancient ancestor's simple designs on the flame-lit walls of a cave in France, to the pixelated letters of which this article is composed, the relationship between human beings and the natural world is more ingrained than one might imagine. In a way, it could be said, both the loftiest prose of some revered classic and the misspelled sentiments of a graffiti-artists are little more than a collection of rivers, snakes, oxen, and the like. So be careful, it's a jungle out there--and in this sentence too.

Please visit the site: <http://ow.ly/16NWIP> [Go there for illustrations]

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS: HELLENISTIC COINS DISCOVERED IN NORTHERN SYRIA, BY H. SABBAGH

A collection of Hellenistic coins dating back to the era of Alexander the Great were found near Najm Castle in the Manbej area in Aleppo governorate (northern Syria).

The coins were found by a local man as he was preparing his land for construction, uncovering a bronze box that contained around 250 coins. He promptly delivered the coins to the authorities who in turn delivered them to Aleppo Department of Archaeology and Museum.

Director of archaeological excavations at Aleppo Department of Archaeology and Museum Yousef Kanjo said the box contained two groups of silver Hellenistic coins: 137 tetra drachma (four drachmas) coins and 115 drachma coins.

One side of the tetra drachma coins depicts Alexander the Great, while the other side depicts the Greek god Zeus sitting on a throne with an eagle on his outstretched right arm. 34 of these coins bear the inscription "King Alexander" in Greek, while 81 coins bear the inscription "Alexander" and 22 coins bear "King Phillip."

The drachma coins bear the same images as the tetra drachma, with "Alexander" inscribed on 100 of them and "Philip" on 15 of them.

Global Arab Network

Please visit the site:

<http://www.english.globalarabnetwork.com/201003025027/Travel/archaeological-findings-hellenistic-coins-discovered-in-northern-syria.html>

ANCIENT QUEEN'S BURIAL CHAMBER DISCOVERED AT SAQQARA

A French archaeological team digging at Saqqara has discovered the burial chamber of 6th Dynasty Queen Behenu, wife of either Pepi I or Pepi II. The burial chamber was revealed while the team was cleaning the sand from Behenu's pyramid in the area of el-Shawaf in South Saqqara, west of the pyramid of King Pepi I.

The burial chamber uncovered by the French mission is badly damaged, apart from two inner walls which contain engraved Pyramid Texts. Those texts were widely used in royal tombs – carved on walls as well as sarcophagi - during the 5th and 6th Dynasties (circa 2465-2150BC).

Pyramid Texts are religious texts composed of spells primarily concerned with protecting the king's remains, reanimating his body after death, and helping him ascend to the heavens. The spells delineate all of the ways the king could travel through the afterlife, including ramps, stairs, ladders, and most importantly, flight. The spells could also be used to call on the gods for help, even threatening them if they did not comply. Unlike the Book of the Dead, these Old Kingdom texts were not illustrated.

Dr. Philippe Collombert, who heads the mission, said that further excavation inside the burial chamber led the team to the queen's sarcophagus. He adds that although the sarcophagus is in good condition, it still stays unclear if this queen was the wife of Pepi I or Pepi II: "It is a well-preserved granite sarcophagus engraved with the queen's different titles, but says nothing about the identity of her husband".

The French mission has been working within the necropolis of Pepi I at Saqqara, where they discovered the 25 meter long pyramid of Behenu and Pyramid Text fragments, since 2007. They have located a total of seven 'queen pyramids' dating to the reigns of Pepi I and Pepi II – rulers of the 6th Dynasty - since the beginning of their project in 1989. The pyramids have been attributed to Queens Inenek, Nubunet, Meretites II, Ankhespepy III, Miha, and a yet unidentified queen.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/news/ancient-queens-burial-chamber-discovered-at-saqqara-1915233.html> [Go there for pix; the news is reported online widely, with different pix].

DYNASTY OF PRIESTESSES, BY ETI **BONN-MULLER**

Evidence of a powerful female bloodline emerges from the Iron Age necropolis of Orthi Petra at Eleutherna on Crete.

For a quarter century, Greek excavation director Nicholas Stampolidis and his dedicated team have been unearthing the untold stories of the people buried some 2,800 years ago in the necropolis of Orthi Petra at Eleutherna on Crete. Until now, the site has perhaps been best known for the tomb its excavators dubbed "A1K1," an assemblage of 141 cremated individuals, all but two of whom were aristocratic men who likely fell in battle in foreign lands. Excavated between 1992 and 1996, this elaborate rock-cut tomb was brimming with fantastic burial goods that date from the ninth to the seventh century B.C., including bronze vessels, gold and silver jewelry, and military regalia, as literally befits the burial of Homeric war heroes.

Now, two unprecedented discoveries since 2007--three lavish jar burials that contained the remains of a dozen related female individuals and a monumental funerary building where a high priestess and her protégés, also all related, were laid to rest--are adding to our knowledge of Eleutherna's women, and forcing the scholarly community to reevaluate their importance and role in the so-called "Dark Ages" of Greece (see "Top 10 Discoveries of 2009").

History and Excavations

The site of Eleutherna includes an acropolis, a polis, and a necropolis. Excavations in each area by various teams over the years have shown that the people who lived here--descendants of the Bronze Age civilizations of both the Minoans and the Mycenaeans, as well as the Dorians, warriors from the Greek mainland who settled on Crete between 1100 and 900 B.C.--controlled a vast territory, beginning around the ninth century B.C. The surrounding landscape, rich in stone, lumber, honey, and plant resources, may have played a large part in Eleutherna's economic success. The site is also strategically located, nestled in the olive-tree-dotted foothills of the sacred Mount Ida, some six miles from the sea and 10 miles from the so-called "cave of Zeus," where the head of the Greek pantheon was raised.

The Dorians wove Minoan culture into the tapestry of this cosmopolitan city. They expanded Minoan trade routes and communications with far-flung corners of the Mediterranean world, such as Asia Minor, the Middle East, North Africa, and Sicily. As the economy boomed, the landowning aristocracy grew even more powerful through taxes, its success driven yet further by the proliferation of imported luxury goods and exotic raw materials, including gold, silver, ivory, glass, and semiprecious stones, as reflected in spectacular finds from the necropolis. (See Sacred Adornments for more on the most recent discoveries.)

Stampolidis's team has unearthed three types of Iron Age burials at Orthi Petra--or "Standing Stone" (see "Introduction to Orthi Petra" video for more on the site's name)--dating from the ninth to the seventh century B.C.: pithos (large ceramic jar) burials,

cremations, and basic inhumations. Over the years, stunning finds have come to light, ranging from exquisite bronze vessels to the fragile skeleton of a dog that accompanied its master to the other side. The team has also discovered funerary buildings and activity areas for cremations, including pyres straight out of verses from the Iliad.

Despite the excavation's extraordinary success, Professor Stampolidis is greatly humbled. "If you are going to do this work, you are becoming a philosopher," he says, "and you try, at least, to understand that you are just a small part of a speck of dust in oblivion."

Eti Bonn-Muller is the AIA online senior editor.

Please visit the site: <http://www.archaeology.org/online/features/eleutherna/> [Go there for pix]

WOODEN COVERS RUIN STAIRWAYS **OF PERSEPOLIS TEHRAN TIMES** **CULTURE DESK**

TEHRAN -- Wooden covers, which have been made to protect the stone stairways of Persepolis, have caused damage to the great Achaemenid site in southern Iran.

Humidity and lack of planning for removal of garbage dumped by visitors at the site have created ideal conditions for growth of various types of fungus, lichen, and plants under the wooden covers, the Persian service of the Mehr News Agency reported on Sunday.

These elements ruin the stones used in construction of the stairways at the palaces of Sad-Sotun and Apadana in Persepolis.

The wooden covers were made by the Parsa and Pasargadae Research Center (PPRC) in 2006 to protect the stones of the stairs from erosion caused by visitors at the palaces.

Please visit the site: http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=215138 [Go there for photo]

SYRIA'S STONEHENGE: NEOLITHIC STONE CIRCLES, ALIGNMENTS AND POSSIBLE TOMBS DISCOVERED

For Dr. Robert Mason, an archaeologist with the Royal Ontario Museum, it all began with a walk last summer. Mason conducts work at the Deir Mar Musa al-Habashi monastery, out in the Syrian Desert. Finds from the monastery, which is still in use today by monks, date mainly to the medieval period and include some beautiful frescoes.

Dr. Mason explains that he “went for a walk” into the eastern perimeter of the site - an area that hasn’t been explored by archaeologists. What he discovered is an ancient landscape of stone circles, stone alignments and what appear to be corbelled roof tombs. From stone tools found at the site, it’s likely that the features date to some point in the Middle East’s Neolithic Period – a broad stretch of time between roughly 8500 BC – 4300 BC.

It is thought that in Western Europe megalithic construction involving the use of stone only dates back as far as ca. 4500 BC. This means that the Syrian site could well be older than anything seen in Europe.

At a recent colloquium in Toronto, Canada, Mason described his shock at discovering the apparent tombs, stone circles and stone alignments: “I was standing up there thinking, oh dear me, I’ve wandered onto Salisbury Plain,”

At the southern end of the landscape there are three apparent tombs. They are about eight metres in diameter and each of them “actually has a chamber in the middle”. The roof is corbelled which suggests that beneath them is “something you would want to seal in.” Each of these corbelled structures had a stone circle beside it, which is about two meters in diameter.

Dr. Mason cautioned that the team did not have the chance to do more than survey the area, so it’s still possible that these corbelled structures could have a purpose other than burial. More work also needs to be done to get a precise date of construction.

Dr. Mason set out to look for more stone circles and chambered structures. This time he brought a monk with him, from the monastery:

“Lurking around in the hills above a Syrian military base with a digital camera in one hand and a GPS unit in the other is the sort of thing that makes you want to have a monk in your presence,” he explained.

The two of them went to a rock outcrop – a place that would have been a good source of flint in ancient times – where he found the remains of several corbelled structures. In the valley below they found another corbelled structure with a stone circle right beside it.

The monk who travelled with him sensed that this high outcrop would have been of great importance to the people who lived here. “This is a high place” he told Mason.

As Mason gazed at the landscape, from the height of the outcrop, he saw stone lines, also known as alignments, going off in different directions. Dr. Mason has a strong background in geology, and knew immediately that these could not be natural features.

“I know what rocks look like, where they belong - these rocks don’t belong in that.”

One of stone lines was “very bizarre,” snaking its way up a hill. Mason followed the line and found that it led to the “biggest complex of tombs of all.”

This particular stone structure has three chambers and was probably the burial place for “the most important person.” In the front of the tomb are the remains of a stone circle. Dr. Mason can’t confirm for sure that this was used as a tomb, until further archaeological work takes place.

The lithics the team found in the landscape are also quite unusual – they don’t seem to be made from local material. Mason explained that local flint is white or dark red, but the material they found is “very good quality brown chert.”

The Neolithic period is a time period when people in the Middle East were beginning to grow crops and adopt farming. They didn’t live in settlements larger than a village. There were no cities in the Middle East or anywhere else in the world.

Professor Edward Banning is a University of Toronto anthropology professor and Neolithic period expert, and has done extensive fieldwork in the Middle East, including Jordan. He said that we need to be careful about drawing conclusions before more fieldwork is done.

“Virtually all the burials that archaeologists have ever discovered from Neolithic sites in that part of the world come from inside settlements – in fact even below floors and houses,” he said. If the corbelled structures are confirmed as burial structures, then this site will represent something new.

“It’s possible that this landscape that Dr. Mason has identified could be an example of off-site burial practices in the Neolithic which would be very interesting.”

This would help settle a mystery that archaeologists have long faced. Banning said that while burials have been found in Neolithic settlements, “Those burials are not high enough in number to account for the number of people who must have died in those settlements. So a number of us for many years have assumed that there must have been off-site mortuary practices of some kind.”

Dr. Mason goes a step further. He says that this site “sounds like Western Europe” and he wonders if this could be an early example of the stone landscapes seen at places like Stonehenge.

Dr. Julian Siggers of the Royal Ontario Museum, another Neolithic specialist, pointed out that it has been argued that agriculture spread from the Near East to Europe. This find creates a question - could these stone landscapes have travelled with them?

“It’s such an important hypothesis if it’s right that it’s worth telling people about now,” said Mason. “We’ve found something that’s never been found in the Middle East before.”

Professor Banning is sceptical about this idea. He said that stone structures are found throughout the world, pointing to the dolmens found in East Asia. He claims that people in Western Europe could have developed the techniques independently of the people who built the landscape near the Deir Mar Musa al-Habashi monastery.

Prof. Banning also said that Mason’s site may not be entirely unique in the Near and Middle East. He said that archaeologists have detected, via satellite photos, what appear to be cairns and stone circles in other areas, including the deserts of Jordan and Israel. However, he admits that most of these things have not received a lot of archaeological investigation.

That situation is about to change. Dr. Mason plans to return to the Deir Mar Musa al-Habashi site this summer with a team of Neolithic experts. The results of their investigations may well put Britain’s Stonehenge in the shade.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/news/syrias-stonehenge-neolithic-stone-circles-alignments-and-possible-tombs-discovered-1914047.html>

THE UNKNOWN GOD OF PALMYRA

A new altar, freshly dug up (left), was dedicated in the Palmyrene language "to the One Whose Name Is Blessed Forever". An offering to an unnamed god who was -- and remains -- unknown.

It doesn't look like much as it comes out of the ground but, flip it around 180°, and you have the upper part of an inscribed altar (compare the complete altar, below left, also dedicated to the so-called Anonymous God, now in the Istanbul Museum).

These altars are half-columns with a very small bowl, only large enough for burning incense, while altars dedicated to other gods have space for the sacrifice of bigger and different kinds of offerings (even a garlanded bullock, as pictured at bottom left).

You can see just such an incense offering in the famous fresco from the Temple of the Palmyran Gods in Dura Europos (below, dated ca. 230 C.E.): An officer named Julius Terentius leads the soldiers of the XXth Palmyrenes, a cohort of mounted archers stationed on the Euphrates, in a ritual of bloodless sacrifice. He burns incense in honour of the three cult statues of gods dressed in military costume (Yarhibol, Aglibol, and Arsu), ranged on their pedestals on the upper left side of the fresco. Beside Terentius is the standard bearer of the cohort with the troop colours and, next to him, a seated goddess who wears the mural (city) crown: an inscription identifies her as the gad (Tyche/Good Fortune) of Palmyra.*

So, this is a picture of an incense sacrifice offered to known and individually depicted divinities that took place within the official sanctuary of the Palmyran gods.

All clear and above board.

Whose name is blessed forever, the merciful and good

Worship of the 'Anonymous God' is entirely different. First of all -- and no small matter in a polytheistic religion -- the "one whose name is blessed forever" is never pictured (at least, no image is ever shown attached to this formula). His altars are small incense burners like the one just found by the Italian archaeologists. Hundreds of such altars appear as early as the first century C.E. all over Palmyra. Most are dedicated "to the one whose name is blessed forever". Further epithets are "Lord of the World" or "of Eternity", and "the good and merciful one". Sometimes, the person making the dedication explains that he gives the altar "Because he called upon [the god] and he has answered him.

Why do people bring incense to a god not known to them by name?

Here's why two brothers (named Zabdibol and Moqimu) dedicated an altar to the nameless god in December 188 C.E.:

In thanksgiving every day, Zabdibol and Moqimu, sons of Gadda ... [dedicate this altar] to the merciful, the good and compassionate [god] for the well-being of themselves and of their sons and all their house.**

Nameless he may be, but he has all the best features of a named god -- mercy, compassion, goodness. By dedicating this incense burner and the act of burning incense, the brothers are expressing both their gratitude and honouring the deity.

The cult of this so-called 'Anonymous God', did not take place in any known sanctuary; he had no temple of his own nor did he inhabit the temple of any other god. Rather, the hundreds of small altars dedicated to him could be set up virtually anywhere in the city.

And by almost anyone, it seems: there are incense burners gifted by the city and paid for out of treasury funds -- and it runs right down the social scale to a man identified as a 'butcher' or 'cook' and to dedications made by freed slaves. That may be why nearly all of these dedications are written only in Palmyrene (fewer than 5% are bilingual [Palmyrene and Greek****] compared with about half of the major honorific inscriptions from statue bases and columns).

Some altars are even offered by women. Because the role of women in public life was restricted at Palmyra, the nameless god can best be considered as belonging primarily in the private sphere of religion. This is a god who listens, too, to an individual's prayers -- because he called upon him and he has answered him. That response establishes a personal relationship between the god and his worshippers, a relationship, they hope, that extends to their immediate family. In this sense, they mean 'their house' as almost a residential (rather than genealogical) term.

So it is no great surprise that, among the very first finds from the new middle-class quarter of the city (the South-West Quarter , which we wrote about last week), the Italians uncovered an altar dedicated to the Anonymous God. Still, however personal this worship came to be, a great number of the altars dedicated to the nameless god were found in or near the Efqa spring -- one of the most sacred places in Palmyra from ancient times. There was definitely a need, too, to publicize the worshipper's relationship with the nameless god.

What could be the reason so many men and women worshipped a god not identified by name?

Unknown and Nameless Gods

It may be a case of a foreign god whose name and image is unknown.

At least for the Greeks and Romans who wrote about it, the god of the Jews fits this description. For polytheists, the Jewish god was an unknown god because he could not be called by name and had no image even in the innermost recess of his unapproachable sanctuary in Jerusalem. A god without a name and without an image is an unknown god. Since an unknown or anonymous god is also attested in pre-Islamic Arabia, the nameless god of Palmyra might be thought of as a quasi-monotheistic Semitic trait.

Or it could be a god about whose identity one is in doubt. In ancient religions, it was of great importance to know the right name of the deity. If you erred in invoking the god's name, he might be offended

-- with possibly dire consequences. This is a widespread and very ancient fear. Sinuhue, the hero of an early Egyptian tale (ca. 1800 BCE), flees for his life to a foreign country; alone in this strange land, he pleads, "O god, whosoever you are who has decreed this flight, have mercy and bring me home." The same invocation is found in Homer (Od. V 455), "Hear Lord, whoever thou art!"

Ten centuries later, an ancient Roman prayer begins, "Dis Pater, Veiovis, Manes, or by whatever other name it is allowed to address you.... (Macrobius, Saturnalia, III, 9, 10). Even at Athens, altars were erected to placate the unknown god responsible for bringing a plague -- and thus the logical one to end it; as witness St Paul (Acts of the Apostles 17:23):

Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship

Another reason might be that the god is unknown to outsiders but has been revealed to insiders and whose name should not be mentioned to the non-initiated. Complex processes of concealment and revelation are pivotal in the life of many mystery cults. Just like images or objects will only make sense in initiate cults if you have some kind of mental key (which is why we don't understand them), the god's true name will never be known to the profane. Is the turning away from blood sacrifice in the worship of the Anonymous God a sign of such exclusiveness, possibly in opposition to the animal sacrifices celebrated in the temples?

Of course it is imaginable, too, that the Anonymous God is an illusion. His dedications may be indirect ways of referring to a god who is otherwise known. Some think that the Anonymous God is 'really' Baal-Shamin, with whom he shares his main titles (e.g. "Lord of Eternity"); others see him as Yaribol, the ancestral god of Palmyra and protector of the Efqa spring, where so many of his incense burners were found. In any case, the Palmyrans had no difficulty dealing with two 'supreme gods' (Bel and Baalshamin; both 'Zeus' in Greek) whose jurisdictions must have overlapped a good deal. So there's no reason that they couldn't call the same god by different names or titles on various offerings.

Yet there remains something strange about the Anonymous God. While his worshippers must have travelled to places like Dura Europos and further abroad, his cult -- unlike those of other Palmyran gods -- did not travel with them. This implies a strong sense of localism: he always remained close to home, a personal and familial deity. Although his altars were set up in public places, very few of his dedications were translated into Greek. So, what his cult may have offered was not the ritual assertion of civic pride but a strong sense of local identity. Was he, in fact, a middle-class, and hopelessly parochial god?

When the Italians finish excavating the South-West Quarter, we should know a lot more about this unknown god.

We'll just have to sit tight and wait.

* The word gad frequently appears in Palmyrene inscriptions. It can mean 'luck' or 'good fortune' but usually refers to the protector deity of the city, i.e. the gad of Palmyra.

** The Palmyrene formula appears in such invocations as 'for the life of X and the lives of [his] sons. I find this phrase awkward in English so I used the slightly less accurate Greek equivalent of 'well-being'.

***Translated as Zeus and/or Theos Hypsistos (God Most High), a divine title common among pagans, Jews and Christians.

I have made use of the following resources: K. Dijkstra, Life and Loyalty: a study in the Socio-Religious Culture of Syria and Mesopotamia, Leiden, 1995; L. Dirven, The Palmyrenes of Dura-Europos: a study of religious interaction in Roman Syria, Leiden, 1999; J. Elsner, "Cultural Resistance and the Visual Image", Cl. Phil. 96, 2001, 260-304; P.W. van der Horst, Hellenism, Judaism, Christianity: essays on their interaction, Leuven, 1990; T. Kaizer, The Religious Life of Palmyra, Mainz, 2002.

Please visit the site:

<http://judithweingarten.blogspot.com/2010/02/unknown-god-of-palmyra.html> [Go there for pix]

TUTANKHAMEN'S DYNASTY IN THE VALLEY OF KINGS, BY ZAHY HAWASS

The press conference held at the Egyptian Museum last week is still being discussed not only among scientists and Egyptologists but also among lovers of ancient Egyptian civilization, especially as the conference highlighted new scientific discoveries that revealed a great deal about the golden pharaoh Tutankhamen and his dynasty.

We all know that several unknown mummies are believed to have belonged to the royal dynasty. Last week, we wrote about King Akhenaten's mummy which was proven to have not suffered the deformities shown by his statues. The other significant discovery was Queen Tiye's mummy, a powerful and dominating figure who married King Amenhotep III or the "Pasha of all pharaohs." She made the king have sculptures of her made equal in size to those of the king, and he even constructed a luxurious palace dedicated to her in a district called Malqata in western Luxor with an artificial lake for her to walk along with its own boat made especially for her.

It is well known that by using her power and influence, Queen Tiye managed to obtain a royal decree to have her father, Yuya, and mother, Thuya, buried in the Valley of Kings, a place designated to kings alone. The tomb was discovered almost untouched and we managed to obtain DNA samples from the mummies of Yuya and Thuya. We then carried out studies and DNA tests on some unknown royal mummies from the 18th Dynasty of the New Kingdom. We studied seven mummies, two of which were discovered in the Mummies Cache in KV35, the tomb of King Amenhotep II. One of the mummies is called the Elder Lady and it became evident that this is the mummy of Queen Tiye. As for the other mummy known as the Younger Lady, analyses have revealed a maternal relationship between this mummy and that of Queen Tiye, and this proved that she was the daughter of King Amenhotep III and the mother of King Tutankhamen, therefore the wife of King Akhenaten. Even though the Younger Lady and her family were identified, her name remains a mystery that requires new evidence.

From these results, it is evident that King Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye were both the maternal and paternal grandparents of King Tutankhamen, [and that the mother is] the Younger Lady in KV35 and [the father is] King Akhenaten in KV55. The discovery proves that both Queens Nefertiti and Kiya, the wives of King Akhenaten, are not related to Tut. I say that the mother of the golden pharaoh cannot be Nefertiti or Kiya (the foreign wife of Amenhotep III and then Akhenaten) but is one of Amenhotep III's five daughters [i.e. the Younger Lady]. Therefore, it is most likely that Akhenaten married his [full] sister in order to have a son to succeed him.

Studies are still underway, and there is a possibility of finding more discoveries such as the mummies of the two female fetuses found buried in the tomb [of Tutankhamen]. Analyses have proven that they are the daughters of King Tutankhamen, and hopefully this will lead to the discovery of the mummy of their mother, Ankhesenamen, as well as other mummies, one of which could prove to be Queen Nefertiti.

These scientific discoveries were documented and published in JAMA [Journal of the American Medical Association], an American medical journal that accepts scientific

studies only after they have been approved and revised by specialists who are assigned with revising scientific research before it is published.

We now know a great deal about the dynasty of the golden pharaoh Tutankhamen who captured the world's attention twice; once when the treasures of his tomb were discovered and once again when the members of his family were identified.

Please visit the site: <http://aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=7&id=20012>

BULGARIA: ARCHAEOLOGISTS FINALLY PUT DATE ON ANCIENT STAROSEL TOMB

A team of archaeologists from the Bulgarian National History Museum, with the help of a German lab, has finally managed to estimate the time of the construction of the largest underground temple on the Balkan Peninsula, the Thracian Starosel tomb to the fourth century BC.

In the summer of 2009, the archaeological team, led by Dr. Ivan Hristov, took samples from a stake in the middle of the tomb where gifts to the Greek goddess of the hearth Hestia were laid, novinite.com reported recently.

The sample underwent radio carbon dating analysis in Dr. Bernd Krommer's laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, which showed that the stake was burned in the period after 358 BC, when the temple was constructed, and the earth was heaped on top of it to form a burial mound.

Based on the analysis of the lab results and events of the time, Dr. Hristov concluded that the temple in the village of Starosel, in the so-called Chetinyova Mound, and the nearby Thracian ruler's residence under Mount Kozi Gramadi were built during the reign of the Thracian King Amatokos II (359-351 BC) of the Thracian Odrysian state (fifth to third century BC).

Another testament to this theory are the images of a labrys - a symmetrical double-headed axe, which were discovered on several items, including Thracian coins, around Starosel. The family coat of arms of King Amatokos was a labrys.

Before the analyses of the lab in Germany and of Dr. Hristov, researchers of Ancient Thrace believed that the Starosel tomb and underground temple complex were built by King Sitalces (445-424 BC), the third ruler of the Odrysian State.

The Thracian objects in the region of Starosel, it was discovered, were also in operation during the reign of King Teres II (351-341 BC).

Archaeologists believe that the region was the power center of Ancient Thrace in the fourth century BC, before it was destroyed during the rise of the Macedonian state of Philip II in 342-341 BC.

As BalkanTravellers.com reported in 2008, the Starosel site was discovered and researched by prominent Bulgarian archaeologist Georgi Kitov, who died of a heart attack while excavating the site in September of that year.

Please visit the site: <http://www.balkantravellers.com/en/read/article/1821>

SEARCH OF KEY BLUE INGREDIENT IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN POTTERY

Jennifer Smith, PhD, associate professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, was belly crawling her way to the end of a long, narrow tunnel carved in the rock at a desert oasis by Egyptians who lived in the time of the pharaohs.

"I was crawling along when suddenly I felt stabbed in the chest," she says. "I looked down and saw that I was pressing against the broken end of a long bone. That freaked me out because at first I thought I was crawling over bodies, but I looked up and saw a sheep skull not too far away, so I calmed down. At least the bones weren't human."

What was she doing in the tunnel?

The answer: seeking an uncontaminated sample of a mineral that might have been the key ingredient in the blue used to decorate "blue painted pottery" popular among the Egyptian elite during the New Kingdom (1550 to 1079 BCE).

Colleague Colin A. Hope, an expert in blue painted pottery, had asked if she wouldn't help him pin down the source of the blue pigment by sampling and analyzing material from the mine.

Hope and Smith, together with Paul Kucera, a doctoral student at Monash University who first identified the mines, describe the pottery, the mines and the mineral in a chapter of *Beyond the Horizon*, a festschrift for the Egyptologist Barry A. Kemp,

'Generic geologist'

In the wastes of the eastern Sahara, nestled against the limestone escarpment that separates the desert from the Nile Valley, lies the Dakhleh Oasis. This fortunate spot, where deep water is able to reach the surface along fractures and faults under its own pressure, has been continuously inhabited for a very long time -- perhaps as long as 400,000 years.

During that period there were roughly four glacial cycles and, although Egypt itself was ice-free, the local climate oscillated from hyperarid to semi-arid as the Earth's orbital position drove changes in the location of the tropical rainfall belts.

Smith studies the impact of these climate fluctuations on ancient oasis dwellers.

But Smith is also the "generic geologist" as she puts it, for the Dakhleh Oasis Project, a long-term study of the oasis that covers the entire stretch of Dakhleh history, from the Neolithic through the Pharaonic, Roman, Islamic and modern settlements, and employs -- off and on -- more than 50 specialists.

"The dig house is open from November until March," Smith says.

As generic geologist, Smith was asked to help with a material-sourcing puzzle that she says was "way outside her period." During the 2007 season, Colin A. Hope, PhD, associate professor and director of the Center for Archaeology and Ancient History at Monash University in Australia, asked her whether a mineral found at the oasis could have been used to color the blue painted pottery.

It was a small question but an intriguing one.

Blue painted pottery

Most Egyptian pottery is undecorated, but during the New Kingdom, the period when Egypt is at the zenith of its power, a variety of pottery was elegantly decorated in a distinctive pale blue.

The pottery has been found at many sites in Egypt, and also in the Middle East and in Sudan.

The largest deposits, however, were found at New Kingdom sites in Egypt, including Malqata (the palace complex of Amenhotep III), Amarna (the remains of the city built by the Akenaten, the famous pharaoh who moved the capital from Thebes and established his own religion), the cemetery at Deir el-Medineh (the village where artisans who worked on the tombs in the Valley of the Kings during the New Kingdom lived), and the Great Temple of Amun (patron of kingship during the New Kingdom).

"Walking over some sites, it is only a matter of minutes before several shards of blue painted pottery or cobalt blue glass or faience can be collected," Hope, who has written extensively about the pottery, says.

Given the restricted use to which the pigment was put and the archeological sites where remnants were found, Hope believes it was probably available only to artisans associated with major royal residences.

The pale blue is distinguishable at a glance from the brilliant blues and blue-greens of the faience glazes common from the 3000 BC onward.

Faience, probably most familiar in the form of the small statue of a hippo nicknamed William that is now in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, was made by adding ground copper to ground quartz to create what ceramists today call Egyptian paste.

But it is difficult to create durable patterns with copper pigment on pottery, says Hope. "Copper-based pigments must be applied in thick layers and were added after firing, so they tended to flake off when an object was handled. Instead of copper, the colorant used on most of the blue painted pottery is cobalt, which was fired onto the pots.

Where did the cobalt-bearing mineral come from? Analysis of the paint showed that the cobalt was accompanied by trace amounts of zinc, nickel and manganese, a mixture of elements distinctive enough to serve as a chemical fingerprint.

The mines of Dakhleh

At the height of its power, the Egyptian administration of the Nile Valley sponsored mineral exploitation of the Valley and surrounding desert regions. As early as 1980, it was suggested that the cobalt might have come from the desert oases at Dakhleh and Kharga.

In the lower foothills of the oasis escarpment at the western end of Dakhleh, four mine shafts were meticulously hand-cut into the rock.

Steps carved along the shafts allowed a safe descent. The shafts provided access to horizontal galleries, some as long as 15 meters, that followed horizontal veins of the mineral alum.

A few centimeters thick, the alum veins are fibrous, pale gray to pink in color and slightly astringent.

Alum is both the term for a specific compound and for a class of compounds, all of which contain two negatively charged sulfate groups and two chemical elements or groups bearing a positive charge. The specific compound is hydrated aluminum potassium sulfate but many other elements or groups can substitute for the aluminum and potassium, and cobalt is one of these.

Alum was probably exploited for a variety of purposes in ancient times, some having nothing to do with color. The Egyptians, for example, used alum both to whiten skins during tanning and to prepare cloth to absorb dye.

Alum is still used today in styptic pencils to stem bleeding and in recipes for pickling cucumbers. More recently, it has been in vogue as a "crystal deodorant" that is sold as more natural than older deodorant products.

Was the Dakhleh Oasis alum used as a general-purpose astringent, or did it have the same chemical fingerprint as the blue paint on the pottery?

Analyzing the alum

To find out, Smith needed to sample the alum and analyze its composition. "I wanted to get relatively unaltered samples," she says, "which is why I was crawling to the end of a gallery. The galleries were small enough you couldn't really crawl on your hand and knees: you had to belly crawl."

Smith brought the samples she collected back to Washington University where she ran them through a variety of sophisticated analytical instruments. "When we characterize a natural mineral," she says, "we want to know two things: its chemical composition and then how the elements that make it up are arranged, or its crystal structure."

In the case of the Dakhleh alum, the crystal structure was of little use because it would have been destroyed in preparing the paint. Only the composition could connect the alum to the pottery.

Smith's results showed that the alum did contain cobalt, although they weren't particularly rich in this element. The cobalt, however, was accompanied by trace amounts of manganese, nickel and zinc, the same mixture of elements found in the blue paint.

Surprised by the low concentration of cobalt, Smith wondered if the ancient artisans hadn't found a way to concentrate it on site. One sample she collected, a crust at the edge of a partially flooded mine shaft, had a higher cobalt content than the others. Because sulphate dissolves easily and the mines were much more likely to have been flooded in the past, she wondered whether the cobalt was mined not by chipping it out of the rock but instead by ladling water out of the mines and collecting the sediment left over when the water evaporated.

"But this is wild arm waving given the amount of data," Smith says.

This small exercise in archeological problem solving left her with a deep respect for the long-vanished miners.

"I look at all these different veins of sulfate and I don't know which are useful for which purposes without doing analyses, but they must have had ways of telling from observable properties which ones to mine. That's impressive," she says.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100317121354.htm>

FINDING PUTS DOG ORIGINS IN MIDEAST, BY NICHOLAS WADE

Borrowing methods developed to study the genetics of human disease, researchers have concluded that dogs were probably first domesticated from wolves somewhere in the Middle East, in contrast to an earlier survey suggesting dogs originated in East Asia.

This finding puts the first known domestication — that of dogs — in the same place as the domestication of plants and other animals, and strengthens the link between the first animal to enter human society and the subsequent invention of agriculture about 10,000 years ago.

A Middle Eastern origin for the dog also fits in better with the archaeological evidence, and has enabled geneticists to reconstruct the entire history of the dog, from the first association between wolves and hunter gatherers some 20,000 years ago to the creation by Victorian dog fanciers of many of today's breeds.

A research team led by Bridgett M. vonHoldt and Robert K. Wayne of the University of California, Los Angeles, has analyzed a large collection of wolf and dog genomes from around the world. Scanning for similar runs of DNA, the researchers found that the Middle East was where wolf and dog genomes were most similar, although there was another area of overlap between East Asian wolves and dogs. Wolves were probably first domesticated in the Middle East, but after dogs had spread to East Asia there was a crossbreeding that injected more wolf genes into the dog genome, the researchers conclude in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

The archaeological evidence supports this idea, since some of the earliest dog remains have been found in the Middle East, dating from 12,000 years ago. The only earlier doglike remains occur in Belgium, at a site 31,000 years old, and in western Russia from 15,000 years ago.

Humans lived as roaming hunters and gatherers for most of their existence. Dr. Wayne believes that wolves began following hunter-gatherer bands to feed on the wounded prey, carcasses or other refuse. At some stage a group of wolves, who happened to be smaller and less threatening than most, developed a dependency on human groups, and may in return have provided a warning system.

Several thousand years later, in the first settled communities that began to appear in the Middle East 15,000 years ago, people began intervening in the breeding patterns of their camp followers, turning them into the first proto-dogs. One of the features they selected was small size, continuing the downsizing of the wolf body plan. "I think a long history such as that would explain how a large carnivore, which can eat you, eventually became stably incorporated in human society," Dr. Wayne said.

The wolf DNA in the study was collected over many years by Dr. Wayne from wolf packs around the world. A colleague, Elaine Ostrander, gathered much of the dog DNA by persuading owners at dog shows to let her take a scraping of cells from inside the cheek. The dog genome has been decoded twice: scientists at the Broad Institute in

Cambridge, Mass., have sequenced the boxer's genome, and Craig Venter, a pioneer of DNA sequencing, has decoded his poodle's genome.

With these two genomes in hand, the Broad Institute designed a dog SNP chip, similar to those used to scan the human for genetic disease. SNPs, or "snips," are sites of common variation along the DNA. Affymetrix, a SNP chip maker, manufactured the dog SNP chip for Dr. Wayne's team, letting him have 1,000 chips free, though thereafter they cost \$250 apiece. The dog SNP chip brought to light the close relationship between dogs and wolves in the Middle East and also the genetic relationship between various breeds.

Dr. Wayne was surprised to find that all the herding dogs grouped together, as did all the sight hounds and the scent hounds, making a perfect match between dogs' various functions and the branches on the genetic tree. "I thought there would be many ways to build a herding dog and that they'd come from all over the tree, but there are not," Dr. Wayne said.

His team has also used the dog SNP chip to scan for genes that show signatures of selection. One such favored dog gene has a human counterpart that has been implicated in Williams syndrome, where it causes exceptional gregariousness. Another two selected genes are involved in memory. Dogs, unlike wolves, are adept at taking cues from human body language, and the two genes could have something to do with this faculty, Dr. Wayne said.

An earlier survey of dog origins, based on a small genetic element known as mitochondrial DNA, concluded that dogs had been domesticated, probably just once, in East Asia. The author of the survey, Peter Savolainen of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, said he was not convinced by the new report for several reasons, including that it did not sample dogs in East Asia from south of the Yangtze, the region where the diversity of mitochondrial DNA is highest. Also archaeologists in China have been less interested in distinguishing dog and wolf remains, he said.

Two other experts on dog genetics, Carlos Driscoll and Stephen O'Brien, of the National Cancer Institute, said they believed that Dr. Wayne's team had made a convincing case. "I think they have nailed the locale of dog domestication to the Middle East," Dr. O'Brien said in an e-mail message from Siberia, where he is attending a tiger management workshop.

Dog domestication and human settlement occurred at the same time, some 15,000 years ago, raising the possibility that dogs may have had a complex impact on the structure of human society. Dogs could have been the sentries that let hunter gatherers settle without fear of surprise attack. They may also have been the first major item of inherited wealth, preceding cattle, and so could have laid the foundations for the gradations of wealth and social hierarchy that differentiated settled groups from the egalitarianism of their hunter-gatherer predecessors. Notions of inheritance and ownership, Dr. Driscoll said, may have been prompted by the first dogs to permeate human society, laying an unexpected track from wolf to wealth.

Please visit the site: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/18/science/18dogs.html>

HUGE MONKEY GOD STATUE FOUND

CAIRO - EGYPTIAN archaeologists have discovered a colossal ancient statue of the pharaonic deity of wisdom, Thoth, in the shape of a baboon, the council of antiquities said in a statement on Tuesday.

The four-metre tall statue was discovered in four pieces along with two statues while workers were lowering ground waters beneath Luxor to help preserve the city's pharaonic temples, the statement said. It dates back to the 18th Dynasty, which ruled Egypt until 1292 BC.

'It is the first time that a statue of Thoth, depicting him as a monkey, of this magnitude has been discovered,' Mansur Boraik, head of pharaonic antiquities in Luxor, told AFP.

The statues were discovered near the temple of Amenhotep III, who ruled until 1372 BC.

Another statue, of which only the upper half was found, depicted the king and the sky god Horus, represented as a falcon, antiquities chief Zahi Hawass said in the statement.

'The team also discovered an alabaster statue base that is expected to have been the base of one of Amenhotep III's statues,' he said.

A granite statue of the pharaoh Ramses III, who ruled about 3,000 years ago, was also found. -- AFP

Please visit the site:

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/TechandScience/Story/STIStory_502854.html

OLDEST TEMPLE FOUND IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY

Archaeologists say a temple being excavated in southeastern Turkey is 12,000 years old and is likely the oldest temple ever uncovered.

The site was first identified in 1986 when a farmer tilling his field in Sanliurfa found a statuette in the soil, the Radikal newspaper reported Wednesday.

Since then, archaeologists have uncovered the foundation of the temple built in the Neolithic Age along with carvings of pigs, foxes, snakes, fawns and headless humans.

Officials with the Harran University Archaeology Department have yet to identify the culture that built the temple or their belief system, the newspaper said.

German teams were the first to excavate beginning in 1995, but the Turkish Culture and Tourism Ministry placed the site on its first-degree protection list in 2005, taking control of the research.

Prior to its discovery, the world's oldest known temple was in Malta, dating from 5,000 B.C.

Please visit the site:

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2010/03/17/Oldest-temple-in-the-world-found-in-Turkey/UPI-74761268856609/

AFTER YEARS OF WAR AND ABUSE, **NEW HOPE FOR ANCIENT BABYLON,** **BY JOHN NOBLE WILFORD**

The most immediate threat to preserving the ruins of Babylon, the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, is water soaking the ground and undermining what is left in present-day Iraq of a great city from the time of King Nebuchadnezzar II.

It is also one of the oldest threats. The king himself faced water problems 2,600 years ago. Neglect, reckless reconstruction and wartime looting have also taken their toll in recent times, but archaeologists and experts in the preservation of cultural relics say nothing substantial should be done to correct that until the water problem is brought under control.

A current study, known as the Future of Babylon project, documents the damage from water mainly associated with the Euphrates River and irrigation systems nearby. The ground is saturated just below the surface at sites of the Ishtar Gate and the long-gone Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders. Bricks are crumbling, temples collapsing. The Tower of Babel, long since reduced to rubble, is surrounded by standing water.

Leaders of the international project, describing their findings in interviews and at a meeting this month in New York, said that any plan for reclaiming Babylon as a tourist attraction and a place for archaeological research must include water control as “the highest priority.”

The study, aimed at developing a master plan for the ancient city, was begun last year by the World Monuments Fund in collaboration with Iraq’s State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. A \$700,000 grant from the United States Department of State is financing the initial two-year study and preliminary management plan. An official of the monuments fund said the entire effort could last five or six years.

“This is without doubt the most complex program we’ve ever had to organize,” said Bonnie Burnham, the fund’s president.

A few archaeologists have expressed concern about what they said was the project’s slow start. Project members said that they have had serious problems persuading foreign experts to go to Iraq and then clearing them and their instruments for work there.

Besides the wear of time that all ruins of antiquity are prey to, consider the depredations Babylon has suffered in recent history. German archaeologists who made the first careful study of the site, before World War I, recognized the despoiling inroads of irrigation waters drawn from a tributary of the Euphrates River, 50 miles south of modern Baghdad.

McGuire Gibson, a specialist in Mesopotamian archaeology at the University of Chicago, who is not involved in the project, agreed that water is Babylon’s “major problem,” which he said was made worse in recent years when a lake and canal were dug as part of

a campaign to lure tourists. Nebuchadnezzar himself, Dr. Gibson noted, dealt with water encroachment by erecting new buildings at ever-higher elevations, on top of mounds of old ruins.

The first German investigators, led by Robert Koldewey, reported finding extensive water damage to mud-brick structures and the intrusion of agricultural fields and villages within boundaries of the original city. People had already carted off bricks and stones, leaving almost nothing of the Ziggurat, known from the historian Herodotus and the Bible as the Tower of Babel. The Germans themselves hauled off the elaborate Ishtar Gate to a museum in Berlin.

Then, in the 1970s and '80s, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, casting himself as heir to Nebuchadnezzar's greatness, had his own imposing palace built at Babylon along the lines of his royal predecessor's. He even adopted the king's practice of stamping his own name on the bricks for the reconstruction. Archaeologists were aghast. The new palace and a few other restorations, they say, are hardly authentic, and yet they dominate the site.

What to do with Hussein's palace is another issue, said the co-director of the project, Jeff Allen. "How to balance integrity of the site with its use as a tourist attraction is the problem," he explained, noting that Iraq counts on Babylon as a future source of foreign tourist income.

Mr. Allen, an American consultant in cultural preservation who is based in Cairo, said it would cost millions of dollars to demolish the palace or convert it into a visitor center for tourists. "This still has to be studied by other experts," he said, joking that one suggestion is that the palace would make a perfect casino.

"I'd leave the palace alone," Dr. Gibson said, pointing out that it was based on sketches left by the German archaeologists.

"So that way, you will walk around in something of what the ancient architecture looked like," he continued. "Otherwise, you walk around with nothing to see but a bunch of rubble."

Elizabeth C. Stone, an archaeologist at Stony Brook University in New York who is familiar with Babylon, said she supported efforts to reopen the site to tourists, especially Iraqis themselves. "It's near Baghdad and is the one site where you used to see Iraqis going to get a sense of their past," she said.

Further damage was incurred during the Iraq war, started in 2003. Looting was prevalent there and at other archaeological sites. The United States military occupied Babylon for several years, protecting it from plundering but leaving other scars. About one square kilometer of surface soil, some of it with artifacts, "got removed one way or another," Dr. Stone said.

"The military certainly did not do the place any good," said Lisa Ackerman, executive vice president of the monuments fund. "They moved a lot of dirt around, but that damage is largely fixable."

The site was returned to Iraqi control more than a year ago. Ms. Ackerman and Mr. Allen said the project had already surveyed the remains, building by building, and started the restoration of two museums. Although Iraq has a large corps of trained archaeologists, they said, an immediate need is to instruct others in the conservation of ruins and bring in structural engineers and hydrologists to handle the water problem.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/science/23babylon.html?scp=2&sq=burnham&st=cse>



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΡΙΣΜΟΥ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

THEOPETRA CAVE – A STONE-COURSE WAS DATED USING OSL PROVIDING A MEAN AGE OF 23,000 YEARS BEFORE PRESENT

Αθήνα, 22 Μαρτίου 2010

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ



Αποψη του προϊστορικού σπηλαίου της Θεόπετρας κοντά στην Καλαμπάκα, Θεσσαλία (δεξιά), όπου έχουν πραγματοποιηθεί συστηματικές ανασκαφές κατά τα τελευταία 23 έτη υπό τη διεύθυνση της Δρος **Ν. Κυπαρίσση-Αποστολικά**, Προϊσταμένης της Εφορείας Παλαιοανθρωπολογίας και Σπηλαιολογίας Νοτίου Ελλάδος του Υπουργείου Πολιτισμού και Τουρισμού. Αριστερά φαίνεται τμήμα του τεχνητού λιθοσωρού-τείχους που περιορίζει την είσοδο του σπηλαίου σε συνδυασμό και με τους υπάρχοντες πακτωμένους βράχους εκεί και χρονολογήθηκε με την νέα μέθοδο της Οπτικής Φωταύγειας (OSL). Η χρονολόγηση απέδωσε μια μέση ηλικία **23.000 ετών** πριν από σήμερα και πιστοποιεί το έργο της κατασκευής του λιθοσωρού ως **το αρχαιότερο μέχρι σήμερα** γνωστό τεχνικό έργο στον ελλαδικό χώρο και -πιθανότατα- παγκοσμίως. Η ηλικία συμπίπτει απόλυτα με την ψυχρότερη περίοδο της τελευταίας παγετώδους εποχής και υποδηλώνει ότι το έργο κατασκευάστηκε από τους παλαιολιθικούς οικιστές του σπηλαίου για να προστατευθούν από το τότε δριμύ ψύχος και πιθανόν για να εμποδιστεί η είσοδος στο σπήλαιο μεγάλων ζώων που θα ζητούσαν καταφύγιο σε αυτό για τον ίδιο λόγο. Η χρονολόγηση πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Εργαστήριο Αρχαιομετρίας του Κέντρου “Δημόκριτος” από την ερευνητική ομάδα των **Ν. Ζαχαριά**, Επίκουρου Καθηγητή του

Πανεπιστημίου Πελοποννήσου, και του **Δρ. Ι. Μπασιάκου**, Διευθυντή Ερευνών του Ε.Κ.Ε.Φ.Ε. “Δημόκριτος”.

View of the prehistoric cave of Theopetra at Kalambaka, Thessaly (right) where systematic excavations undergone since the last 23 years under the supervision of Dr. N. Kyprissi-Apostolika, Director of the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology of South Greece, Ministry of Culture and Tourism. At the left photo, part of the excavated stone-course is shown which in combination with fallen rocks at the area covers the cave’s entrance; the stone construction was dated using the new method of Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) providing a mean age of 23,000 years before present. The resulted age verify that the studied construction is the oldest known so far technical project in Greece and possibly in World scale and coincides with the coldest phase of the last glacial period; it also indicates that the stone course was constructed to protect the cave’s paleolithic inhabitants from the low temperatures prevailed during these times and possibly to prevent big animals to enter the cave for the same reason. The dating study was performed at the Laboratory of Archaeometry, N.C.S.R. “Demokritos” by the team of Assistant Professor **N. Zacharias**, University of Peloponnese, and Dr. **Y. Bassiakos**, Research Director at N.C.S.R. “Demokritos”.

Please visit the site:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100322/sc_afp/archaeologygreecescience_20100322164851

LAVA BREAD, ANYONE? POMPEII SNACK BAR RISES FROM ASHES AFTER 2,000 YEARS

THE LAST patrons who stood at the L-shaped counter of Pompeii's best-known snack bar eating the house-speciality – baked cheese smothered in honey – had to leave in a hurry owing to violent volcanic activity. But after an unforeseen break in business of 1,921 years, the former holiday hotspot of ancient Rome's in-crowd will finally re-open for business this weekend.

Visitors will be taken on a guided tour of the thermopolium (snack bar), once owned by Vetutius Placidus, and taste some of the food that was popular before the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79 that buried the city under 60 feet of ash and pumice.

As with many high-profile launches, this weekend sees an advance opening ceremony for 300 special guests, chosen at random. The full opening will take place later.

When Vesuvius erupted for two days, most of its citizens died as an enormous wave of scalding gas and dust tore down the volcano's flanks and enveloped the city.

The thermopolium, one of the best preserved sites in Pompeii, has been closed to the public for years in order to protect it from further damage. But following months of detailed excavation and preservation work, all visitors will soon be able to go inside and get an idea of a typical ancient Roman lunch establishment.

Inside, as in many modern cafés and bars, visitors are greeted with a large, L-shaped, decorated counter where customers stood to enjoy a quick lunch. Cylindrical holes in the bar contained glass dolia, or jars, displaying food.

Archaeologists working at the site also found a jar full of coins, amounting to about two days' income. They speculate that the owner may have left them in a last-ditch attempt to save his wealth as he fled the doomed city.

The thermopolium used to open directly on to a main street, the Via dell'Abbondanza. All sections of Pompeii society would call by for snacks or a light Mediterranean lunch, two millennia before it became à la mode in Ireland.

Dr Annamaria Ciarallo, an environmental biologist and researcher at Pompeii, said: "The food then was mainly based on cereals, vegetables, cheese and fish, with just a little meat. It was very healthy – the original Mediterranean diet."

But the sybaritic citizens of Pompeii were able to resist anything but temptation and sweet, calorie-filled desserts were the real stars of the snack bar. Its creations filled with sticky honey and ricotta cheese have direct descendants in the cafés of nearby Naples today. Two of these dishes, mostaccioli and globe, will be offered for the visitors as part of a special one-off event marking the restoration of the bar.

Dr Ciarallo said many of the snack bar's customers would have grabbed snacks and light meals as takeaways. "There wasn't a lot of ceremony. Often people, especially the busy ones, would have eaten outside," she added.

But for customers who preferred to sit, the thermopolium had a triclinium, or dining area, with couches. The house of the owner and his family adjoined the premises.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.tribune.ie/news/international/article/2010/mar/21/lava-bread-anyone-pompeii-snack-bar-rises-from-ash/>

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, NEW METHOD COULD REVOLUTIONIZE DATING OF ANCIENT TREASURES

Scientists today described development of a new method to determine the age of ancient mummies, old artwork, and other relics without causing damage to these treasures of global cultural heritage. Reporting at the 239th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS), they said it could allow scientific analysis of hundreds of artifacts that until now were off limits because museums and private collectors did not want the objects damaged.

"This technique stands to revolutionize radiocarbon dating," said Marvin Rowe, Ph.D., who led the research team. "It expands the possibility for analyzing extensive museum collections that have previously been off limits because of their rarity or intrinsic value and the destructive nature of the current method of radiocarbon dating. In theory, it could even be used to date the Shroud of Turin."

Rowe explained that the new method is a form of radiocarbon dating, the archaeologist's standard tool to estimate the age of an object by measuring its content of naturally-occurring radioactive carbon. A professor emeritus at Texas A&M University College Station, Rowe teaches at a branch of the university in Qatar. Traditional carbon dating involves removing and burning small samples of the object. Although it sometimes requires taking minute samples of an object, even that damage may be unacceptable for some artifacts. The new method does not involve removing a sample of the object.

Conventional carbon dating estimates the age of an artifact based on its content of carbon-14 (C-14), a naturally occurring, radioactive form of carbon. Comparing the C-14 levels in the object to levels of C-14 expected in the atmosphere for a particular historic period allows scientists to estimate the age of an artifact. Both the conventional and new carbon dating methods can determine the age of objects as far back as 45,000 to 50,000 years, Rowe said.

In conventional dating methods, scientists remove a small sample from an object, such as a cloth or bone fragment. Then they treat the sample with a strong acid and a strong base and finally burn the sample in a small glass chamber to produce carbon dioxide gas to analyze its C-14 content.

Rowe's new method, called "non-destructive carbon dating," eliminates sampling, the destructive acid-base washes, and burning. In the new method, scientists place an entire artifact in a special chamber with a plasma, an electrically charged gas similar to gases used in big-screen plasma television displays. The gas slowly and gently oxidizes the surface of the object to produce carbon dioxide for C-14 analysis without damaging the surface, he said.

Rowe and his colleagues used the technique to analyze the ages of about 20 different organic substances, including wood, charcoal, leather, rabbit hair, a bone with mummified flesh attached, and a 1,350-year-old Egyptian weaving. The results match those of conventional carbon dating techniques, they say.

The chamber could be sized to accommodate large objects, such as works of art and even the Shroud of Turin, which some believe to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, Rowe said. He acknowledged, however, that it would take a significant amount of data to convince museum directors, art conservators, and others that the new method causes no damage to such priceless objects

The scientists are currently refining the technique. Rowe hopes to use it, for instance, to analyze objects such as a small ivory figurine called the "Venus of Brassempouy," thought to be about 25,000 years old and one of the earliest known depictions of a human face. The figurine is small enough to fit into the chamber used for analysis.

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415-978-3504 (Meeting, March 21-25)

202-872-6042 (After March 25)

Please visit the site: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-03/acs-nmc031210.php

ARCHAEOLOGY AND POLYNOMIAL TEXTURE MAPPING SHINING A LIGHT ON THE PAST HOW TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN ANCIENT ARTEFACTS

LOOK at an ancient coin under ordinary light and the chances are that its features, worn down by its passage from hand to hand, will be hard to make out. Point a spotlight at it, though, so that the face of the coin is illuminated from an acute angle, and the resulting shadows will emphasise any minor details.

This is the basic principle behind a novel technique that is helping archaeologists reveal previously invisible clues hidden in the worn or damaged surfaces of any objects they uncover. From wall paintings in Herculaneum to Scandinavian stone tools to rock art in Libya, polynomial texture mapping, as the process is known, is proving an invaluable way to illuminate the past.

The lighting method was originally developed by Tom Malzbender, a computer scientist at HP's laboratory in Palo Alto, California, to generate better 3-D imagery for computer games. In its most basic form, the process involves capturing between 30 and 50 digital photos of an object of interest. The pictures are taken from directly above the object in a darkened room. Though the camera is fixed, the object is lit from a different angle in every shot. The photos are then combined on a computer to create an image that can have a "virtual" light shone from various angles to reveal any hidden surface detail. The wavelength of this virtual light can also be changed using the computer, allowing colour-sensitive details of the artefact's surface to be brought out more clearly.

Graeme Earl of the University of Southampton, in England, has used the technique to study wall plaster from the Neolithic settlement of Catalhoyuk in Turkey and artefacts including consular brick stamps found at Portus, an ancient harbour at the mouth of the Tiber. He has also carried out trials which suggest that the use of a high-speed video camera can accelerate the process, so that it can be used in the field.

The technique has also been used to increase the number of readable characters on the Antikythera mechanism—a badly corroded geared device that spent more than 2,000 years at the bottom of the sea—from 800 to more than 2,000. It has also enhanced cuneiform inscriptions—markings made in clay tablets dating back as far as 3000BC that are the earliest known form of writing. Many video games, from "Tomb Raider" onwards, borrow from archaeology. It is nice to see video-game technology returning the favour.

Please visit the site: http://www.economist.com/science-technology/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15767271

ARCHAEOLOGISTS: 188 HOUSES FROM NEOLITHIC ERA UNEARTHED IN MIDDLE EUPHRATES REGION, BY RUAA AL-JAZAERI

Tal Bokrous is a sample of the first agricultural village built according to the architectural style of the Stone Age in Deir Ezzor, (432 kms northeast of Damascus, Syria).

The site is the only archaeological discovery at the Middle Euphrates Region which belongs to the booming phase of the Neolithic era.

The Neolithic era (New Stone Age), was a period in the development of human technology, beginning about 9500 BC in the Middle East that is traditionally considered the last part of the Stone Age.

The adjacent houses built along the two sides of the village yard show the greatness of the architectural style at that period.

Archaeologist Yarub al-Abdullah said "The number of the unearthed houses has amounted to 188, each house includes three rooms built of dry brick while the floors and walls were painted with mud or plaster."

Some walls were decorated with colorful paintings representing ducks and goose, he added.

The remains of charred plants were found at plaster-made louvers as a farming community used to live there depending on agriculture and keeping livestock.

Studies showed that barley used to grow naturally at the site, after that the local inhabitants developed agriculture and started to sow grain and lentils.

Handicrafts mainly depended on the available raw materials such as alabaster and obsidian stones.

Many stone-made needles, drills, sculptures and utensils were unearthed at the site.

Two sculptures of naked women and a man's head made of baked mud were the most important discoveries at the site.

The archeological findings fill an important gap in our understanding of the Middle Euphrates Region which mainly depended on agriculture.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.english.globalarabnetwork.com/201003265291/Related-news-from-Syria/archaeologist-188-houses-from-neolithic-era-unearthed-in-middle-euphrates-region.html>
