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ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ - CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

TRAIL 2014, FRASNE, FRANCE, **26-28 MARCH 2014**

registration open -- scholarships available

Registration for the TRAIL 2014 Meeting, to take place in Frasne, France the 26-28 March 2014, is still open. You can find the preliminary program, practical details, and the registration form on our website: <http://trail2014.univ-fcomte.fr>.

The TRAIL 2014 workshop focuses on the role of forests in archaeological research, cultural heritage management frameworks, and our perception of past and present landscapes in light of the proliferation of lidar surveys over the past decade. The expansion of lidar survey coverage across the globe is rapidly and substantially altering the information base used in the study and management of forests and the ways in which we engage with these parts of the landscape. Over the course of three days papers, posters, workshops, and discussions will highlight:

- Integration with complementary prospection techniques including test pitting, surface, geophysical and coring surveys.
- Incorporation into extant cultural heritage management frameworks and policies.
- Applications in landscape, micro-regional and regional analyses.
- The social and economic roles of forests.

Participants will be able to attend three workshops of their choice on:

- Processing and visualisation of lidar data: complementary techniques
- Integration of geophysical and lidar data: methodological and technical problems
- Special Problems: non-standard processing of 'raw' data
- Interpretation of lidar data: integration with extant data schemas and frameworks

Presentation will be in English and workshops will be in French and English.

A limited number of scholarships are available to assist students with their costs. Please see the website for details.

Please note that the registration costs for the conference include housing, meals and coffee breaks during the meeting at Frasne.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at trail2014@mshe.univ-fcomte.fr with any questions or for additional information.

SUMMER SCHOOL (ACCREDITED) -
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN CULTURAL
HERITAGE & TOURISM, 25 JULY - 5
AUGUST 2014, DELPHI, GREECE

11 Days equivalent workload to 90 hours (incl. 20 hours essay), 4 ECTS

The summer school includes:

- 1 day introduction to the current state-of-the-art and trends for future innovation
- 2 days theory and practice on digital archaeometry
- 3 days theory and practice on 3D digitization
- 1 day introduction to cultural databases, repositories and international standards
- 3 days theory and practice on the development of 3D applications

This Summer School DIGARCH14 is a collaboration between:

- the **University of the Aegean** (www.aegean.gr)- Dept of Mediterranean Studies (Leader) & Dept of Product and Systems Design Engineering
- the **University of Coastal Carolina, USA**
- **ATHENA-Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies**, Xanthi's Branch
- the **Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology**, Vienna, Austria

The Summer School is linked to the Workshop [Virtual Archaeology Museums & Cultural Tourism](#) initiated last August by the our University and established to a biennial basis and annual summer school coorganized by participated international Institutes and as a consortium participation on a joint Research Programme funded by USA sources.

** Subject to number of applicants for more than 30 participants more rounds within 2014 are envisaged and will be confirmed at the end of deadline.*

Please visit the site: <http://digarch14.syros.aegean.gr/index.html>

AEGEAN MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY 2014 **SUMMER SCHOOL, 1ST-15TH JULY 2014,** **ANDROS ISLAND, GREECE**

in collaboration with the Hellenic Center for Marine Research and the Dept of Underwater Antiquities, Ministry of Culture & Sports

Course Director & Coordinator: Professor Ioannis Liritzis, professor of Archaeometry, University of the Aegean (liritzis@rhodes.aegean.gr)

The 15-Days Summer School will consist of lectures and readings, guiding visits to sites and museums, fruitful conversations with faculty and fellow students, student reports, encounters with our Greek hosts, and travel diaries will provide opportunities for students to acquire information and reflect on their experiences. Non-divers will be snorkeling.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The following six modules, including Practice, will consist of updated and advanced issues, such as: (for details check the [Programme](#) page)

- Aegean Islanders (15000 -1300 BC): The archaeology of the Aegean Islands
- Maritime Archaeology in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean
- Shipwreck and harbour archaeology: Recent research in the Aegean
- Methods and techniques in underwater archaeology and marine geoarchaeology
- Geoarchaeology, Palaeogeography & Palaeoclimate in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean
- Marine Ecosystem

PRACTICE

- Maritime archaeology (1 day)
- Marine geological survey onboard R/V ALKYON (2 days)
- Underwater photography and photomosaics (1 day)
- Marine ecosystems (1 day)

The “[University of the Aegean Summer Schools](#)” are supported by the project «*The University of the Aegean, the prominent and driving factor for the economic and social growth of the wide Aegean area*» of the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning”, which is co-funded by European Union (European Social Fund) and National Resources.

Please visit the site: <https://aegeanarch2014.pns.aegean.gr/>

**“TECHNOLOGY AND TEXTS: NEW
SCIENTIFIC AND DIGITAL METHODS FOR
THE ANALYSIS OF ANCIENT NEAR
EASTERN WRITINGS”, SESSION AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH, SAN
DIEGO, NOVEMBER 19-22, 2014**

This will be a new session at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Diego, November 19-22, 2014.

This session will be co-chaired by Annalisa Azzoni (annalisa.azzoni@gmail.com) and Christopher Rollston (Christopher.Rollston@gmail.com). Please feel free to contact them to discuss possible paper proposals or to request further details regarding the session. The Steering Committee for this session also includes Anat Mendel and Jason Bembry.

This new session will focus on technologies used in the decipherment, enhancement, reading, recording, and dissemination of ancient textual material, including things such as RTI imaging of inscriptions, photo grammetry of tablets and incised texts, the uses of digital microscopes for detailed images of texts (e.g., seals, bullae, coins), new methods of drawing and measuring inscriptions using software such as Photoshop, new three dimensional imaging techniques, digital enhancing of the ink of texts, source analysis of clay and stone, on-line databases of texts and images, digital coding of texts.

Because it is an aspect of the history of technology in the field, we are also interested in a paper or two which focuses on some of the technologies used in the early history of modern research on texts, including and especially the making of “paper squeezes” during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the use of mylar paper during the second half of the 20th century. The texts discussed in the papers may be from any region of the ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean worlds.

In short, we are interested in any and all technologies used to enhance the reading and understanding of texts as well as the methods for creating broad-based access to epigraphic images and corpora.

For further information about submitting a proposal, go to: <http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-for-papers.html>. Please note that our session has just been accepted, so it may be a few days before it shows up on the list of approved sessions.

In addition, please remember the following:

(1) Paper Proposals (accompanied by detailed abstracts) must be submitted by February 15, 2014, via the ASOR web site (<http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-4.html>).

(2) Professional Membership is required for paper presenters (see the "Rules for Participation" component of the ASOR web site).

(3) Registration for the Annual Meeting is required at the time of paper proposal (and abstract) submission.



PIGMENTS, PAINTS AND POLYCHROMIES
IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN
CONTEXT AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH, ANNUAL MEETING,
WORKSHOP SAN DIEGO, CA, WESTIN
HOTEL, NOVEMBER 19-22, 2014

Workshop Organizers:

Laura D'Alessandro (Head Conservator, Oriental Institute, Chicago) Alexander Nagel (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology, Washington DC)

With sophisticated and increased technology, documenting and investigating aspects of paint and polychromy of ancient near eastern art has advanced greatly in recent years. The means to understand the process of paint application have greatly improved, not only through the contribution of analytic methods of the natural sciences, but also by increased interest in experimental photography, imaging techniques, pigment analysis, all of which provide a much broader spectrum in looking at the interface between technology, history, archaeology and cultural studies. Until recently, however, the general significance of polychromy in ancient near eastern art has generally been overlooked and published discussions of distinct technologies, the paint processes and raw materials are still missing. Developments in the sciences and technologies, including new photographic and imaging techniques, geochemistry as well as new modes in interpreting ancient polychromy have provided the means to base these debates on more secure grounds. Growing interest in polychromy and paint archaeology has accelerated the study of sites, monuments and single artifacts.

In this workshop, professionals from Conservation Science, Archaeology, Anthropology and other disciplines working on aspects of the role, technology and preservation of polychromy and color in ancient near eastern art. The focus will be on documenting remaining traces of paint and other surface finishes in architectural sculpture and other materials. Interested speakers will need to submit a title and abstract (max. 200 words) at the link provided <http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-for-papers.html> by February 15, 2014.

Please send inquiries or questions to Alexander Nagel (nagela@si.edu).

MELLON RESEARCH INITIATIVE: EVENTS, **WORKSHOP ON DIGITAL TOOLS,** **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

The Workshop on Digital Tools will examine the use and potential of digital technologies in the research of art history, archaeology, and conservation. With support from the Mellon Foundation, the IFA has distributed grants to five students to further their research by learning and applying tools such as GIS technology and ImageJ software. At the workshop, the students will present the progress of their research and their experience of using digital tools:

Claire Brandon, Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU Elizabeth Buhe, Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU Lindsay Ganter, M.A. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU Christina Long, M.A. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU Margaret Wessling, M.A. Candidate in Conservation, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU

The workshop will be moderated by Jim Coddington, Chief Conservator, Museum of Modern Art, New York and Jonathan Hay, Deputy Director for Faculty and Administration; Ailsa Mellon Bruce Professor of Fine Arts

RSVP information:

This event is open to the public, but an RSVP is required. To make a reservation for this event, please [click here](#). Please note that seating in the Lecture Hall is on a first-come first-served basis with RSVP. A reservation does not guarantee a seat in the lecture hall. We will provide a simulcast in an adjacent room to accommodate overflow.

The conference will be streamed live on this webpage.

Agenda:

9:30am

Registration

10:00am

Introduction and Welcome: Jonathan Hay, Deputy Director for Faculty and Administration; Ailsa Mellon Bruce Professor of Fine Arts, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU

10:15am

Claire Brandon, Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU: Mapping the recent history of expository sites in Rome, 1970-2010

11:15am

Elizabeth Buhe, Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU:
Visualizing Egypt in the Louvre, circa 1827

12:15pm

Break

1:00pm

Lindsay Ganter, M.A. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts-NYU:
Reconstructing La Grange Terrace

2:00pm

Christina Long, M.A. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts- NYU: Mapping Social and Ritual
Landscapes through GIS: A Case Study of the Northern Cemetery at Abydos, Egypt

3:00pm

Break

3:30pm

Margaret Wessling, M.A. Candidate in Conservation, Institute of Fine
Arts-NYU: Tracking Deterioration on Daguerreotypes with ImageJ Open-Source
Software

4:30pm

Reception

Please visit the site: <https://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/fineart/research/mellon/digital-tools-workshop.htm>

**ASOR MEMBER-ORGANIZED SESSION:
INTEGRATED CHRONOLOGIES OF THE
BRONZE AGE: COMBINING HISTORICAL,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC
APPROACHES, AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH, ANNUAL MEETING,
SAN DIEGO, CA, WESTIN HOTEL,
NOVEMBER 19-22, 2014, CALL FOR PAPERS**

Session Organizers:

Felix Höflmayer (The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago), Aaron A. Burke (University of California, Los Angeles)

The last decades have seen considerable advance in the use and application of radiocarbon dating and Bayesian modelling (i.e. combining radiocarbon determinations with other information, such as the sequence of samples derived from archaeological stratigraphy) in the field of chronological research. Past major projects like ARCANÉ or SCIEM 2000 reviewed the material evidence for the relative chronological phases and aimed to synchronize different regions based on first appearance of certain key-wares. On the other hand, the Oxford project on ‘Radiocarbon dating and the Egyptian historical chronology’ combined over 200 new radiocarbon determinations with historical information, like the succession of kings and their respective reign lengths and the DAI-Thyssen project ‘Radiocarbon dating the Bronze Age of the Levant’ focused on acquiring radiocarbon sequences from key-sites in order to synchronize different regions on the basis of radiocarbon dating alone.

The aim of this session is to provide a forum for 1) current research that combines different approaches (historical, archaeological, scientific) for refining chronologies, 2) the impact of these data on current chronological schemes, and 3) the issue of how this data could be integrated in a most useful and transparent way.

Interested speakers will need to submit a title and abstract (max. 200 words) at the link provided <http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-for-papers.html> by February 15, 2014.

For any inquiries contact Felix Höflmayer (fhoeflmayer@uchicago.edu) or Aaron A. Burke (burke@humnet.ucla.edu).

VITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR MAMMOTHS AND THEIR RELATIVES, MAY 2014, GREVENA, SIATISTA, N. GREECE

Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you that the Organising Committee of the VIth ICMR (May 2014, Grevena, Siatista, N. Greece) decided to extend the deadline for registration, abstracts and fees to January 31th, 2014. Therefore we hope that many of you will be able to complete the registrations promptly. Moreover, we would like to invite even more colleagues to send their registrations and submit their abstracts.

For the payment, please note that if you need an invoice instead of receipt from the Research Committee of Aristotle University you have to send us: the (Organization, Institution, Company) name, address, the VAT and phone number. You will receive your invoice/receipt electronically as soon as possible and the original documentary on your arrival in Greece. Please do not hesitate to ask for further information.

www.mammothconference.com and mammothconference2014@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to receiving your registrations and seeing you in Greece.

Kind regards

Evangelia Tsoukala

On behalf of the OC of the VIth International Conference for Mammoths and their Relatives

**“CONSERVATION AND SITE
PRESERVATION IN THE NEAR EAST”,
AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL
RESEARCH (ASOR) ANNUAL MEETING, SAN
DIEGO, CA, WESTIN HOTEL, NOVEMBER
19-22, 2014, CALL FOR PAPERS**

This session will be co-chaired by Suzanne Davis davissl@umich.edu and LeeAnn Barnes Gordon leeannbarnes@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact them to discuss possible paper proposals or to request further details regarding the session.

The goal of the session is to create a forum where archaeologists and conservators can share research, exchange ideas, and discuss issues impacting the conservation of Near Eastern artifacts and sites. Contributors' presentations will examine regional and national trends in preservation as well as site-specific programs. Presenters will also consider how political instability and the need for economic development are impacting the preservation of archaeological heritage in the Near East. Generous discussion time will engage the contributors and the audience, creating a dialogue that will ultimately improve conservation of artifacts and sites in the Near East.

This session will be the third of four in a series on conservation at the ASOR annual meeting. To read AIC blog posts about previous sessions, follow these links: Chicago, IL (2012): <http://bit.ly/1f0H2iL> and Baltimore, MD (2013): <http://bit.ly/1mmiAgU>. The full list of sessions for the ASOR 2014 meeting can be found here: <http://www.asor.org/am/index.html>

Interested speakers should submit a talk title and abstract (max. 250 words) by **February 15th** via ASOR's online abstract submission system, a link to which can be found here <http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-2.html>. Membership in ASOR is required for submission.

EARLY VILLAGE SOCIETIES 2013-24

SPRING TERM SEMINAR

SERIES@LIVERPOOL

Dear all,

You are all cordially invited to attend the 2013-14 Spring Term seminar Series of the Early Village Societies research group at the University of Liverpool. Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, as well as PhD researchers are especially welcome. I hope to see as many of you as possible there.

Details of individual events, venue, dates-times and contact points are provided in the attached file

Best wishes,

Eleni Asouti
Early Village Societies Research Group Convener

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Profile @Google Scholar: [Eleni Asouti](http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=EleniAsouti)

Profile @Academia.edu: <http://liverpool.academia.edu/EleniAsouti>

Early Village Societies 2013-24 Spring Term Seminar Series@Liverpool

All seminars take place in **SEMINAR ROOM M202** of the **HARTLEY BUILDING**, Brownlow St., Liverpool L69 3GS and are open to everyone • Seminars run from **5.00-6.30pm** including time for discussion • Visitors are advised to arrive at the Hartley Building **by 4.45pm** as the main doors are locked by security at 5.00pm • For directions and parking please refer to University of Liverpool maps @ <http://www.liv.ac.uk/maps/>

- For further information please contact Ceren Kabukcu (ckabukcu@liv.ac.uk) or Christine Schepens (ab0u306f@liverpool.ac.uk)

28 January (Tuesday)	Global perspectives on transitions to farming <i>Graeme Barker (University of Cambridge)</i>
13 February (Thursday)	Managing intimacy: the invention of street networks in the Near East <i>Bruce Routledge (University of Liverpool)</i>
27 February (Thursday)	Approaches to prehistoric demography and potential applications to the Neolithic of the Near East <i>Christina Collins (University of Liverpool)</i>
4 March (Tuesday)	The Natufian phenomenon <i>Anna Belfer-Cohen (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)</i>
13 March (Thursday)	Pre-state societies in Iraqi Kurdistan - new fieldwork and research agendas <i>David Wengrow (University College London)</i>
1 May (Thursday)	The transition to farming in central Anatolia <i>Douglas Baird (University of Liverpool)</i>
6 May (Tuesday)	Title to be confirmed <i>Glynis Jones (University of Sheffield)</i>

ARCHAEOLOGY OF CYPRUS, ASOR CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to call your attention to the Call for Papers for the ASOR-Sponsored “Archaeology of Cyprus” session at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) to be held in San Diego, CA (November 19-22, 2014). Please pass this note along to interested colleagues. The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 15, 2014.

The session will be chaired by Elisabetta Cova (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, covae@uwm.edu) and myself (Erin W. Averett, Creighton University, erinaverett@creighton.edu). We encourage the submission of a broad range of papers dealing with the art and archaeology of Cyprus from prehistory to the present. Topics may include reports on archaeological fieldwork and survey, artifactual studies, as well as more focused methodological or theoretical discussions. Papers that address current debates and issues are especially welcome.

Please note that all presenters at the Annual Meeting must be (or become) members of ASOR and pre-register for the meeting. In some cases, foreign colleagues can request a waiver of either the membership fee and/or the registration fee. Submission guidelines, registration information, and deadlines can be found on ASOR's annual meeting page: <http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-for-papers.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,

Erin

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THE EARLY/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE
TRANSITION IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST:
CHRONOLOGY, C14, AND CLIMATE
CHANGE, THE TENTH ANNUAL
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ORIENTAL
INSTITUTE SEMINAR, MARCH 7-8, 2014, THE
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

During the late third millennium BC one of the biggest transformations of the ancient Near East took place, affecting almost all regions from Egypt to Anatolia and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Iranian plateau. This period not only saw the collapse of urbanization in the southern Levant at the end of the Early Bronze Age III and the following pastoral Intermediate Bronze, and the rise and decline of the Akkad empire in the Upper Euphrates region, but also the end of the Egyptian Old Kingdom in the Nile valley. In recent years it has been argued that climatic reasons, especially rapid climate change in the late third millennium BC (the so-called 4.2 ka BP event) might have triggered this supra-regional collapse in western Asia and Egypt, linking it to a period of aridification and cooling.

This seminar brings together specialists working in different fields of the ancient Near East, including Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as scholars working on radiocarbon dating and climate data. Three major topics will be discussed: The radiocarbon evidence for the mid- to late third-millennium BC Near East, the chronological implications of new dates and how historical/archaeological chronologies should/could be adapted, and — based on this evidence — if and how climate change can be related to transitions in the late Early Bronze Age. Furthermore, written sources concerning late Early Bronze Age Near Eastern interrelations and/or transformation and collapse from Egypt to Syria/Mesopotamia will be taken into account.

Schedule and Presenters:

Friday, March 7, 2014:

Introduction, 9:00-9:30 am

Gil Stein: Opening Remarks

Felix Höflmayer: Introduction

Session 1: Chronology, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Thomas Schneider: Walking on Shaky Ground: The History of the First Intermediate Period from an Epistemological Perspective

Michael Dee: Comparing Climatic Signals from the Blue Nile Catchment with the Decline of Old Kingdom Egypt using High-precision Radiocarbon Dating

Elisabetta Boaretto: High Resolution Early Bronze Age 14C Chronology from the Southern Levant: Micro-archaeological Approach for Context Characterization and Archaeological Interpretation

Felix Höflmayer: A New Chronology for the Late Early Bronze Age Levant and Its Implications for the Collapse of the First Urbanization

Sturt Manning: The Chronology and Complications of Climate-related Change ca. 2200 BC in the East Mediterranean/Southwest Asia

Session 2: Sites & Regions, 2:00-5:30 pm

Nadine Moeller: The Early/Middle Bronze Age Transition in View of Evidence from Egypt during the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period: A New Evaluation

Raphael Greenberg: No Collapse: Reimagining the Demise of EBA Urbanism in the Southern Levant

Hermann Genz: The Transition from the Early to the Middle Bronze Age on the Lebanese Coast

Glenn Schwartz: Western Syria and the Early/Middle Bronze Age Transition

Harvey Weiss *et al.*: 'Seventeen Kings Who Lived in Tents': Shubat Enlil before Shamshi Adad

Peter Pfälzner: The EBA to MBA Transition in the Syrian Jezireh: A Multi-tracked Passage?

Saturday, March 8, 2014:

Session 3: Climate Change & History, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Roman Gundacker: On the Significance of some Old Kingdom Toponyms and Ethnonyms

David Schloen: Economic and Political Implications of Raising the Date for the Collapse of Urbanism in the Early Bronze Age Southern Levant

Aaron Burke: Amorites and Climate Change: The Negotiation of Amorite Identity during the Transition from the Early to the Middle Bronze Ages

Aron Dornauer: Bioclimatic and Agroecologic Properties of Crop Taxa. A Survey of the Cuneiform Evidence Concerning Climatic Change and the Early/Middle Bronze Age Transition

Bernhard Weninger: Archaeological and Palaeoclimatological Data to Evaluate the Potential Impact of the 4.2 ka calBP event in the Aegean and Southeast Europe

Open to the Public

For more details, see: <https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/symposia/2014.html> or contact Felix Höflmayer: fhoeflmayer@uchicago.edu

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INAUGURAL RADIOCARBON IN THE ENVIRONMENT CALL FOR ABSTRACTS **NOW OPEN**

Dear Colleagues,

Abstract submission is now open for the inaugural Radiocarbon in the Environment Conference which will take place from the 18-22nd August 2014 at Queen's University Belfast. The deadline for abstract submission is 30 April.

The sessions are organized around seven themes on the applications and methods of radiocarbon and stable isotope analysis in ecological and environmental research. Please see the session abstracts for more detail at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/14C/ConferenceSessions/>.

Guidelines for abstracts are on the submission page:
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/14C/SubmitAbstracts/>

We hope to see you in Belfast this summer!

With best regards from the organizers,

Paula Reimer
Evelyn Keaveney
Philippa Ascough
Jesper Olsen

Prof. Paula J. Reimer, Director
Centre for Climate, the Environment & Chronology (14CHRONO)
School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology
Queen's University Belfast Belfast, BT7 1NN U.K.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΕΩΝ ΕΜΑΕΤ **ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ – ΜΑΪΟΣ 2014**

στην αίθουσα του ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ
Κέκροπος 10, 10558 Πλάκα

Ωρα έναρξης 18.30

Η αίθουσα παραχωρείται ευγενώς από το ΔΣ του Ιδρύματος Βούρου - Ευταξία

Δευτέρα, 17 Φεβρουαρίου 2014

Αλ. Ευσταθόπουλος

«Λατομεία και η τέχνη των λατόμων στην αρχαιότητα»

Δευτέρα, 10 Μαρτίου 2014

Γ. Βαρουφάκης

«Τα έμβολα των πολεμικών πλοίων της αρχαιότητας»

Δευτέρα, 31 Μαρτίου 2014

Π. Καρύδης

«Η εξέλιξη της κατασκευής του πλοίου και η συμβολή της ελληνικής ναυπηγικής»

Δευτέρα, 7 Απριλίου 2014

Αμ. Καραπαχαλίδου

«Αρχαιολογικά ευρήματα τεχνολογικού ενδιαφέροντος στην πόλη της Χαλκίδας »

Δευτέρα, 28 Απριλίου 2014

Φρ. Σερζής

«Ζητήματα αντοχής και κατασκευής του Τριγώνου της Δάφνης»

Δευτέρα, 5 Μαΐου 2014

Α. Αρχοντίδου

«Εργαστήριο εφυσωμένης κεραμικής στη Μυτιλήνη των ελληνιστικών χρόνων »

Η παρουσία Μελών και Φίλων της ΕΜΑΕΤ είναι χαρά για όλους-μας, ανεβάζει δε και τη στάθμη των παραγωγικών συζητήσεων που επακολουθούν κάθε ομιλίας.

Θ.Π. Τάσιος,

Πρόεδρος ΕΜΑΕΤ

METALS USED IN PERSONAL ADORNMENT,
HISTORICAL METALLURGY SOCIETY
CONFERENCE AND AGM, 31ST MAY – 1ST
JUNE 2014, BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND
ART GALLERY, BIRMINGHAM

For many centuries metal, especially precious metals, has been the dominate material used in the construction of jewellery and other items of personal adornment. The basic form of personal adornment varies over time, location and culture. This influences not only the style of the pieces but also impacts the method of manufacture.

This conference therefore provides an opportunity to examine the metals used and the metalworking techniques carried out to produce these pieces. The provisional programme is now available on our website. There are papers on variety of topics covering all aspects of metal use and manufacture of items of personal adornment from the bronze age through to the 19th century, and from cultures across the globe.

As part of the conference there will be a tour of the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, and a behind the scenes tour of the Birmingham Museum conservation department where they are working on the Staffordshire Hoard.

The booking form is available on our website, <http://hist-met.org/meetings/personal-adornment.html>.

For more information please contact HMSagmconf@hist-met.org or post to Eleanor Blakelock, Conservation and Scientific Research, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK.

NEOTOMADB AND CINERGI: ADVANCES AND EMERGENT NEEDS IN PALEOGEOSCIENCE CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE WEBINAR, FEB 4

The steering committee of the Collaboration and Cyberinfrastructure for Paleogeosciences (C4P) project would like to invite you to the webinar series: “Advances And Emergent Needs in Paleogeoscience Cyberinfrastructure”.

The first webinar is Tuesday, February 4, 4-5p Eastern Time.

The topics on Feb 4 are Community Inventory of EarthCube Resources for Geosciences Interoperability (CINERGI) and the Neotoma Database.

The link to the webinar is WebEx link for Feb 4, 4-5p ET (the date stated at the link updates weekly)

If a password is required, enter the Meeting Password: 73131647

For plain text postings where the link did not show up: Any updated links or information as well as the updated webinar schedule and archived presentations will be posted at <http://workspace.earthcube.org/c4p/content/c4p-webinars>

CINERGI EarthCube project (Ilya Zaslavsky)

<http://workspace.earthcube.org/cinergi>

Community Inventory of EarthCube Resources for Geosciences Interoperability. This Building Blocks project focuses on constructing a community inventory and knowledge base on geoscience information resources to meet the challenge of finding resources across disciplines, assessing their fitness for use in specific research scenarios, and providing tools for integrating and re-using data from multiple domains. The project team envisions a comprehensive system linking geoscience resources, users, publications, usage information, and cyberinfrastructure components. This system would serve geoscientists across all domains to efficiently use existing and emerging resources for productive and transformative research.

Neotoma Database (Eric Grimm)

<http://www.neotomadb.org/>

Neotoma Paleoecology Database and Community is an online hub for data, research, education, and discussion about paleoenvironments. Anyone with an Internet connection can access Neotoma. The primary philosophy behind Neotoma is data sharing so that users can easily: Discover: find information efficiently by searching the database on spatial, temporal, and metadata criteria; Explore: interactively browse and visualize live data and metadata; Share: get data and information in a variety of useful formats (e.g., downloads, reports, graphics).

The format is 20 minutes per presenter, with two main parts: (a) a show-and-tell presentation of the science and the resource (b) discussion of the key informatics needs that the resource is facing. The intended audience for this webinar is professional

paleogeoscientists and cyber/computer scientists. All webinars will be recorded and publicly archived at <http://workspace.earthcube.org/c4p/content/c4p-webinars>.

We hope you can join us,

C4P Steering Committee

David Anderson, NOAA, National Climatic Data Center

Lisa Park-Boush, University of Akron

Douglas Fils, Ocean Leadership

Chris Jenkins, University of Colorado at Boulder

Kerstin Lehnert, Columbia University

W. Christopher Lenhardt, RENCi

Anders Noren, University of Minnesota

Thomas Olszewski, Texas A&M University

Dena Smith, University of Colorado at Boulder

Mark D Uhen, George Mason University

Jack Williams, University of Wisconsin

More about C4P:

Website: <http://workspace.earthcube.org/c4p>

For more information:

- Technical information for webinars: cyber4paleo@gmail.com

- Steering committee members and Lead PI Kerstin Lehnert, lehnert@ldeo.columbia.edu

"THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF FEASTING AND FOODWAYS", AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (ASOR) ANNUAL MEETING SAN DIEGO, CA, WESTIN HOTEL, NOVEMBER 19-22, 2014

Session co-chairs: Janling Fu (Harvard University), Jonathan Greer (Grand Rapids Theological Seminary), Cynthia Shafer-Elliott (William Jessup University)

The attention in recent years on feasting and foodways has led to numerous colloquia. Less addressed has been the relationship between production and foodways. What is the role played by economic factors in constraining and helping structure practices involving food? How do questions about the type of economy, issues of specialization and craft production, for instance, prove useful in the study of feasting?

In that light, we welcome papers that address foodways and economics in terms of the following questions:

- How were feasts produced?
- Do we see evidence of specialization in the production of foodways/the feast?
- Do we find an intensification of production as seen in archaeobotanical or faunal remains, or as witnessed in ceramic evidence?
- How did trade networks contribute to the production of the feast/foodways?
- How might craft specialization and emerging technologies contribute to feasting or foodways?

Please note the following:

1. Please submit your abstracts by February 15, 2014 (<http://www.asor.org/am/2014/call-4.html>).
2. Professional membership in ASOR is a prerequisite for participation in the Annual Meeting Program for paper presenters and session chairs. Further details are noted under the Rules for Participation section of the website, so please remind speakers of this requirement.
3. Registration for the Annual Meeting is required at the time of abstract submission. In addition, speakers will need to register for the Annual Meeting when the paper is submitted. Thank you in advance for sharing this important detail with your speakers.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the session co-chairs Janling Fu (jfu@fas.harvard.edu), Jonathan Greer (jonathan.greer@cornerstone.edu), Cynthia Shafer-Elliott (cshaferelliott@jessup.edu)

ΔΙΑΛΕΞΗ ΤΟΥ MAURIZIO SERACINI ΣΤΟΝ **«ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΟΣΜΟ», ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 7** **ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ, 18.00**

Με αφορμή την έκθεση «Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι: Ο Άνθρωπος, Ο Εφευρέτης, η Ιδιοφυΐα» ο καθηγητής και εξειδικευμένος μελετητής έργων τέχνης του ντα Βίντσι, έρχεται στην Αθήνα

Διάλεξη του καθηγητή και εξειδικευμένου στην ανάλυση έργων τέχνης του **Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι, Maurizio Seracini**, διοργανώνει το Κέντρο Πολιτισμού «Ελληνικός Κόσμος» την Παρασκευή 7 Φεβρουαρίου και ώρα 18.00. Η διάλεξη με τίτλο: «Ένα μέλλον για το παρελθόν: Επιστήμη & Τεχνολογία για την Προστασία και Διατήρηση της Παγκόσμιας Πολιτισμικής Κληρονομιάς» πραγματοποιείται με αφορμή την έκθεση «Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι: Ο Άνθρωπος, Ο Εφευρέτης, Η Ιδιοφυΐα» που έχουν μέχρι στιγμής επισκεφθεί δεκάδες χιλιάδες επισκέπτες.

Ο καθηγητής **Maurizio Seracini** είναι πρωτοπόρος στη χρήση πολυφασματικών συστημάτων απεικόνισης και αναλυτικών τεχνολογιών, σε έργα τέχνης και εγκαταστάσεις. Ιδρυτής και Επιστημονικός Διευθυντής του EDITECH (Electronics, Diagnostics and Technology), του πρώτου κέντρου ταυτοποίησης έργων τέχνης στην Ιταλία από το 1977, έχει μελετήσει πάνω από 3000 έργα τέχνης και ιστορικά κτίρια, από τον «Μυστικό Δείπνο» του **Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι** και την «Αλληγορία της Ανοίξης» του **Μποτιτσέλι** μέχρι τη «Μέδουσα» του **Καραβάτζιο**. Ο **Seracini** χρησιμοποιεί πρωτοπόρες τεχνικές όπως υπέρυθρες ακτίνες, θερμογραφία και λείζερ, για τις εργασίες συντήρησης έργων τέχνης και μνημείων αλλά και για την αναζήτηση χαμένων αριστουργημάτων.

Η πιο διάσημη έρευνα του **Seracini** είναι η πάνω από 30 χρόνια αναζήτηση του χαμένου πίνακα του **Da Vinci**, «**Η μάχη του Anghiari**», έργο τρεις φορές μεγαλύτερο από το «Μυστικό Δείπνο». Ως διευθυντής του **CISA3** (Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology) University of California, San Diego (UCSD) πραγματοποιεί με την ομάδα του έρευνες από το 1970, για να ανακαλύψουν αυτό το χαμένο αριστούργημα του **Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι**. Όπως ισχυρίζεται ο **Seracini**, βάσει στοιχείων χρώματος που συνέλεξαν από τους τοίχους του **Palazzo Vecchio** της Φλωρεντίας στην επιβλητική Αίθουσα των Πεντακοσίων, το χαμένο έργο του ντα Βίντσι βρίσκεται στο σημείο εκείνο όπου είναι ζωγραφισμένη η τοιχογραφία «Μάχη του **Marciano**», του διάσημου κατά το 15ο αιώνα ζωγράφου και αρχιτέκτονα **Τζόρτζιο Βαζάρι**. Όταν η αίθουσα του δημαρχείου ανακατασκευάστηκε το 1563, ο **Βαζάρι** κάλυψε τους τοίχους με τοιχογραφίες που απεικόνιζαν τις στρατιωτικές νίκες των **Μεδίκων**, που είχαν επιστρέψει στην εξουσία και ο πίνακας του **Λεονάρντο** ξεχάστηκε. Όμως, το 1975, καθώς ο **Seracini** μελετούσε μία από τις σκηνές της μάχης, παρατήρησε μια μικρή σημαία με δύο λέξεις, «**Cerca Trova**» (Ψάξε, Βρες) και ξεκίνησε τις σχετικές έρευνες.

Τα εργαλεία και οι πρωτοποριακές τεχνικές που εφαρμόζει ο **Seracini** κατά την έρευνα αυτή ενισχύουν τη φήμη του ως «εξειδικευμένου αναλυτή» έργων τέχνης. Μερικοί μάλιστα υποστηρίζουν ότι ο ήρωας **Robert Langdon** στα βιβλία του **Dan Brown**, **The Da**

Vinci Code, Angels and Demons και Inferno, βασίζεται στον Maurizio Seracini και το έργο του.

Στην Αθήνα, ο διάσημος καθηγητής θα παρουσιάσει πώς με τη βοήθεια επιστημονικών εργαλείων και της τεχνολογίας μπορούμε να αναγνωρίσουμε και να συντηρήσουμε στο πέρασμα του χρόνου μεγάλα έργα τέχνης. Όπως ο ίδιος έχει δηλώσει: «Όσο διάγουμε τη ζωή μας με περιέργεια και πάθος, υπάρχει λίγος.. Leonardo μέσα σε όλους μας».

Βιογραφικό Maurizio Seracini

Ο Maurizio Seracini εργάζεται στο Πανεπιστήμιο του Σαν Ντιέγκο από το 2006, έχοντας ολοκληρώσει το 1973 στο ίδιο Πανεπιστήμιο τις προπτυχιακές σπουδές του (Bioengineering). Είναι επίσης κάτοχος πτυχίου (Ingegneria Elettronica) από το Πανεπιστήμιο της Πάντοβας το 1976. Το 1977 ίδρυσε το EDITECH (Electronics, Diagnostics and Technology), το πρώτο κέντρο ταυτοποίησης έργων τέχνης στην Ιταλία, του οποίου έκτοτε είναι επιστημονικός διευθυντής. Από το 2000 μέχρι το 2012 υπήρξε Επιστημονικός Διευθυντής του Ερευνητικού Προγράμματος «Η μάχη του Anghiari». Από το 2006 είναι Διευθυντής της CISA3 (Interdisciplinary Science for Art, Architecture and Archaeology) University of California, San Diego (UCSD) ενώ από το 2007 είναι Επίκουρος καθηγητής (Τμήμα Structural Engineering), Jacobs School of Engineering, University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

Έκθεση «Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι: Ο Ανθρωπος, Ο Εφευρέτης, Η Ιδιοφυΐα»

Η έκθεση «Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι: Ο Ανθρωπος, Ο Εφευρέτης, Η Ιδιοφυΐα» στον «Ελληνικό Κόσμο», που τα τελευταία χρόνια έχει φιλοξενηθεί σε πάνω από 20 πόλεις του κόσμου, παρουσιάζει τις πιο σημαντικές πτυχές της ζωής και του έργου της παγκόσμιας αυτής ιδιοφυΐας. Η έκθεση είναι κατάλληλη για όλες τις ηλικίες. Παρουσιάζει βιογραφικά στοιχεία του Λεονάρντο και παράλληλα αποκαλύπτει την πολυσχιδή δραστηριότητά του ως γνώστη των τεχνών, της επιστήμης, της μηχανικής και της μουσικής. Τα εκθέματα συνοδεύονται από i-pads και ηλεκτρονικούς υπολογιστές με πλούσιο υλικό όπως φωτογραφίες, βίντεο, κινούμενα σχέδια κ.ά.

Η έκθεση περιλαμβάνει περισσότερα από 40 τρισδιάστατα, διαδραστικά, μοντέλα εφευρέσεων - μηχανών που ακόμη εντυπωσιάζουν 550 χρόνια μετά: μηχανές πτήσης, μοντέλα που βασίζονται στην υδραυλική και τη μηχανική επιστήμη καθώς και πολεμικές μηχανές. Τα εκθέματα έχουν κατασκευαστεί, υπό κλίμακα, από μια παραδοσιακή ιταλική επιχείρηση η οποία εδώ και δύο αιώνες δημιουργεί ρέπλικες με βάση τις τεχνικές και τα υλικά που χρησιμοποιούσε ο ντα Βίντσι. Οι επισκέπτες έχουν επίσης την ευκαιρία να θαυμάσουν 23 ψηφιακά αντίγραφα των παγκοσμίου φήμης ζωγραφικών έργων του μεγάλου δημιουργού. Κάθε έργο συνοδεύεται από πληροφορίες σχετικά με την τεχνοτροπία που χρησιμοποιήθηκε, τις συνθήκες δημιουργίας του και τη διαδρομή του κατά τη διάρκεια των τελευταίων 550 χρόνων.

Η έκθεση συνοδεύεται από μια νέα ταινία στη Θόλο με τίτλο «Κατακτώντας τους Ουρανούς. Ένα όνειρο της ανθρωπότητας», που έλαβε το Βραβείο σκηνοθεσίας στο FullDome Festival τον Ιούνιο του 2013. Η ταινία περιγράφει το μυστήριο της κατάκτησης των ουρανών από τον άνθρωπο, μέσα από την οπτική του Λεονάρντο ντα Βίντσι, των αδελφών Ράιτ και άλλων εφευρετών.

Διάλεξη Maurizio Seracini

Παρασκευή 7 Φεβρουαρίου, ώρα 18.00

«ΘΕΑΤΡΟΝ», Κέντρο Πολιτισμού «Ελληνικός Κόσμος»

Πειραιώς 254, Ταύρος, Αίθουσα Ιφιγένεια

Είσοδος ελεύθερη/ Θα τηρηθεί σειρά προτεραιότητας

Πληροφορίες: www.hellenic-cosmos.gr

ΔΙΑΤΙΘΕΤΑΙ ΔΩΡΕΑΝ ΧΩΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΕΥΣΗΣ

ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ ΠΡΟΣΒΑΣΗΣ

Λεωφορεία: 049 (Πειραιάς-Ομόνοια), στάση ΣΧΟΛΗ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΤΕΧΝΩΝ

914 (Ομόνοια-Πειραιάς-Παλαιά Κοκκινιά), στάση ΣΧΟΛΗ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΤΕΧΝΩΝ

Τρένο (γραμμή ΗΣΑΠ): ηλεκτρικός σταθμός Καλλιθέας

Λίγα λόγια για τον «Ελληνικό Κόσμο»

Ο «Ελληνικός Κόσμος», το Κέντρο Πολιτισμού του Ιδρύματος Μείζονος Ελληνισμού (www.hellenic-cosmos.gr), εγκαινιάστηκε το 1998 και κλείνει φέτος 15 χρόνια δημιουργίας και προσφοράς στα πολιτιστικά δρώμενα της Αθήνας. Στο διάστημα αυτό ο «Ελληνικός Κόσμος» έχει αναδειχθεί ο πρώτος χώρος στην Ελλάδα σε επισκέψεις μαθητών, σύμφωνα με επίσημα στοιχεία του Υπουργείου Παιδείας. Παράλληλα, έχει καθιερωθεί ως ένα υπερσύγχρονο πολιτιστικό κέντρο και μουσείο, όπου μπορεί ο επισκέπτης να γνωρίσει την ελληνική ιστορία και τον πολιτισμό μέσα από διαδραστικές εκθέσεις, εκπαιδευτικά προγράμματα, περιηγήσεις Εικονικής Πραγματικότητας και ντοκιμαντέρ, συνδυάζοντας άρτια την ιστορική πληροφορία με τις πλέον σύγχρονες τεχνολογικές εφαρμογές. Το Δεκέμβριο του 2006 εγκαινιάστηκε η «Θόλος», το νέο υπερσύγχρονο θέατρο Εικονικής Πραγματικότητας, ενώ το Μάρτιο του 2008 ξεκίνησε τη λειτουργία του το «ΘΕΑΤΡΟΝ».

Παρακαλώ επισκεφθείτε το δικτυακό τόπο:

<http://www.fhw.gr/cosmos/index.php?id=17&m=2&s=17&lk=727&lg=>

ILIC6 - INTERNATIONAL LIMNOGEOLOGY CONGRESS 2015, RENO – TAHOE, NEVADA, JUNE 15TH – 19TH, 2015

The International Association of Limnogeology (IAL) is pleased to announce its Quadrennial International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC6), June 15-19, 2015, at the [Peppermill Resort Hotel](#) in Reno, Nevada.

ILIC is a meeting of the International Association of Limnogeologists, and is sponsored by the International Association of Limnogeology. Visit their website, at www.ohio.edu/geology/ial.

The Conference program will take a multi-disciplinary look at the sedimentary record of lakes, including climate change, contaminant, and limnological research from the present to the Precambrian. We are expecting a wide variety of topics to be presented and many opportunities for education, discussion, and networking. The Conference brings together internationally known limnogeologists, geologists, limnologist, paleontologists and geochronologists from academia, federal, regional, and private sectors from all around the world.

Please visit the site: <http://ilic6.org/>

ΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ/ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ –
JOB VACANCIES/FELLOWSHIPS

HONOR FROST FOUNDATION BURSARIES
FOR STUDENTS FROM THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN TO ATTEND
THE IKUWA V CONFERENCE

Applications due by 28 February 2014

The fifth IKUWA Conference will be held in Cartagena, Spain on 15-19 October 2014.
<http://museoarqua.mcu.es/>

The ‘International Congresses on Underwater Archaeology’ have become an important part of the programme to exchange information and experience in this important and still growing branch of archaeology.

The proceedings of the first three conferences (in Sassnitz, Germany; Zurich and London) have been published; and that of the fourth, held in Zadar, Croatia, is under way.

It seems important that young archaeologists from the countries which Honor Frost regarded as a priority should have the opportunity to attend IKUWA V. Preferences for travel grants will be given to students from Cyprus, Lebanon and Syria but other applicants from the region may be considered depending on demand.

The Foundation is offering a number of bursaries to cover travel and accommodation costs.

Applicants should send a covering letter with details of their travel budget and their CVs via email to: hff@britac.ac.uk for the attention of the Honor Frost Foundation, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK by 28 February 2104.

Selection will be made by officers of the Foundation and of the IKUWA Standing Committee and applicants will be notified regarding the decisions by early April.

The final Call for Conference Papers has just been issued and can be viewed at <http://honorfrostfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/IKUWA-V-final-call-for-papers.pdf>

Applicants for an HFF bursary may wish to offer a paper or poster, but this is not a pre-condition. Such proposals for papers or posters should be sent to: informacion.arqua@mecd.es, www.honorfrostfoundation.org

TSAKOPOULOS HELLENIC COLLECTION, **LIBRARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP** **PROGRAM, 2014-2015**

Thanks to generous funding from the Elia Society, the University Library at California State University, Sacramento is pleased to announce the third of a three-year Library Research Fellowship Program to support the use of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection by fellows for scholarly research in Hellenic studies while in residence in Sacramento. The Program provides a limited number of fellowships ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 to help offset transportation and living expenses incurred during the tenure of the awards and is open to external researchers anywhere in the world at the doctoral through senior scholar levels (including independent scholars) working in fields encompassed by the Collection's strengths who reside outside a 150 mile radius of Sacramento. The term of fellowships can vary between one week and three months, depending on the nature of the research, and for the third year will be tenable from July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. **The fellowship application deadline is February 21, 2014. No late applications will be considered.**

Consisting of the holdings of the former Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection is the largest Hellenic collection in the western United States and one of the largest of its kind in the country, currently numbering approximately 75,000 volumes. It comprises a large circulating book collection, journal holdings, electronic resources, non-print media materials, rare books, archival materials, art and artifacts. With its focus on the Hellenic world, the Collection contains early through contemporary materials across the social sciences and humanities relating to Greece, the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey, and the surrounding region, with particular strengths in Byzantine, post-Byzantine, and Modern Greek studies, including the Greek diaspora. There is a broad representation of over 20 languages in the Collection, with a rich assortment of primary source materials. Since 2009 the collection has experienced particularly dramatic growth through two major gift acquisitions totaling more than 5,000 volumes and miscellaneous other gifts totaling another 4,200 volumes. For further information about the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, visit <http://library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos>.

For the full Library Research Fellowship Program description and application instructions, see: <http://library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos/lrfp.asp>. Questions about the Program can be directed to George I. Paganelis, Curator, Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection (paganelis@csus.edu).

Best,

George I. Paganelis

If you do not wish to receive future announcements from the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection, you may [unsubscribe](#) from our e-mail list.

George I. Paganelis
Curator, Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection
University Library
California State University, Sacramento
2000 State University Drive East
Sacramento, CA 95819-6039
Ph: (916) 278-4361 * Fax: (916) 278-5917
paganelis@csus.edu
<http://www.library.csus.edu/tsakopoulos>

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS, TYTUS
SUMMER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The University of Cincinnati Classics Department is pleased to announce the Margo Tytus Summer Residency Program. Summer Residents, in the fields of philology, history and archaeology will come to Cincinnati for a minimum of one month and a maximum of three during the summer. Applicants must have the Ph.D. in hand at the time of application. Apart from residence in Cincinnati during term, the only obligation of Summer Residents is to pursue their own research. They will receive free university housing. They will also receive office space and enjoy the use of the University of Cincinnati and Hebrew Union College Libraries.

The University of Cincinnati Burnam Classics Library (<http://www.libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/>) is one of the world's premier collections in the field of Classical Studies. Comprising 260,000 volumes and other research materials, the library covers all aspects of the Classics: the languages and literatures, history, civilization, art, and archaeology. Of special value for scholars is both the richness of the collection and its accessibility -- almost any avenue of research in the classics can be pursued deeply and broadly under a single roof. The unusually comprehensive core collection, which is maintained by three professional classicist librarians, is augmented by several special collections such as 15,000 nineteenth century German *Programmschriften*, extensive holdings in Palaeography, Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. At neighboring Hebrew Union College, the Klau Library (<http://library.cn.huc.edu/>), with holdings in excess of 450,000 volumes and other research materials, is rich in Judaica and Near Eastern Studies.

Application Deadline: February 15.

A description of the Tytus Summer Residency Program and an application form is available online at <http://classics.uc.edu/index.php/tytus>. Questions can be directed to Prof. Getzel M. Cohen (getzel.cohen@uc.edu).

Getzel M. Cohen
Professor of Classics and History
Director, Tytus Visiting Scholars Program
Phone: 513-556-1951; Fax: 513-631-1715
Dept. of Classics, 410 Blegen Library, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0226

POSTDOC POSITION IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Postdoctoral project in monitoring radiocarbon in carbon dioxide to follow exchanges between the atmosphere and other components of the carbon cycle, on lands and oceans.

Location: CEREGE, Collège de France, Aix-en-Provence, France

The postdoctoral researcher will set up a measurement program of the isotopic composition ($^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$) of atmospheric samples (air and aerosols) and oceanic water samples. One of the goals will be to validate estimations of anthropic carbon emissions for certain key zones, notably in the South of France, as well as to ensure the temporal monitoring of these emissions, in collaboration with pollution survey agencies.

The postdoctoral researcher will participate to the design, construction, testing and use of extraction lines dedicated to the purification of CO_2 from air and water samples, prior to mass spectrometry measurements of their isotopic composition. Radiocarbon measurements will be performed by means of a new small-size accelerator mass spectrometry system dedicated to ^{14}C measurement in ultra-small samples. The new spectrometer AixMICADAS includes both a solid source working with carbon targets and a CO_2 gas source dedicated to measurements of small ion beams.

The applicant should have a PhD in geochemistry or chemistry with a demonstrated experience in analytical chemistry and geochemistry. Other relevant skills also include vacuum technology and automation.

The postdoctoral researcher will be affiliated to the Chair in Climate and Ocean Evolution, which forms part of the Geochemistry & Geochronology team of the CEREGE, the laboratory responsible for steering the ASTER-CEREGE project funded through the EQUIPEX “*Investissements d’Avenir*” Program. More details are available on the lab web page: <https://www.cerege.fr/spip.php?article209#carbone14>

The initial contract will be for one year and will be renewable. Send a cover letter and CV to Prof. Edouard Bard: bard@cerege.fr

2014 RICHARD SEAGER FELLOWSHIP, **INSTAP SCEC**

INSTAP STUDY CENTER FOR EAST CRETE
2133 Arch Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19103
USA

215-496-9914 215-496-9925 (fax) elizabethshank@hotmail.com

2014 RICHARD SEAGER DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The INSTAP Study Center for East Crete is pleased to announce the availability of one Doctoral fellowship to be awarded on a competitive basis to an eligible candidate for work to be done at the Study Center in Pacheia Ammos, Crete in 2014. A minimum of four weeks should be spent working at the Center. The fellowship is intended for scholars in the field of the Aegean Bronze Age/Early Iron Age who are working to complete their PhD Dissertations. The fellowship will be awarded in the amount of \$4,000. Applications must be received by e-mail no later than **March 31, 2014** and the award will be announced by **April 24, 2014**.

In addition to the completed application form, proposals should include a *curriculum vitae* of the applicant, a copy of their Dissertation Proposal, an outline of the Dissertation, and two letters of support, one from the head of your Dissertation Committee, and another from an additional member of your Committee. It is assumed that the applicant will have passed his or her Doctoral Examinations, and have a Dissertation Proposal that has been approved by his or her Department.

Applications and the required enclosures should be sent as attachments to:
elizabethshank@hotmail.com

Consideration for the fellowships is open to all candidates meeting the stated requirements. Awards are made irrespective of race, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, and actual or perceived medical conditions. It is possible that in the absence of qualified candidates with appropriate projects, a fellowship will not be awarded.

Application Form:
INSTAP Study Center for East Crete
2014 RICHARD SEAGER DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
Cover Sheet

Name of Applicant

Title of Dissertation

**INSTAP Study Center for East Crete
2014 RICHARD SEAGER DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
Application Form**

1. Full name of applicant: Social Security Number:

2. Title of Dissertation:

3. Present Address: Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

4. Institution:

5. Citizenship:

6. Name of the head of your Dissertation Committee:
Telephone number:
E-mail address:

7. Name of another Dissertation Committee Member:
Telephone number:
E-mail address:

8. Please list any publications by the applicant:

9. Please list any other fellowship applications for 2014:

Date to receive funding:

Method of payment: _____ A check in US dollars _____ A check in Euros

Where would you like your check to be sent?

If awarded the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete Richard Seager 2014 Doctoral Fellowship, I agree to abide by the terms of the award, including the submission of a final report detailing the work completed and a financial accounting by January 1, 2015. I agree to supply the Library of INSTAP Study Center for East Crete with a copy of my dissertation upon the completion of my degree.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Proposed Plan of Study

Please provide a brief description of the work that you plan to complete while at the INSTAP Study Center for East Crete, and the dates that you intend use the Center's facilities. Your Proposed Plan of Study must fit on this page and one additional page.

Elizabeth Shank, PhD
United States Coordinator

INSTAP Study Center for East Crete
2133 Arch St, Mulberry Atrium, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 496-9914
www.instapstudycenter.net

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: MA PROGRAM IN MARITIME CIVILIZATIONS, UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The International Maritime Civilizations MA Program provides students with an understanding of the sea and maritime civilizations and prepares them for research in their chosen areas of specialization.

Haifa's coastal location and the Mediterranean region's rich maritime history provide the ideal backdrop for this field of study.

International MA Program

The University of Haifa's international master's degree in Maritime Civilizations offers a unique interdisciplinary curriculum. Students will have an exceptional opportunity to explore the history, archaeology and fabric of maritime societies, as well as the natural environment in which they developed and currently exist. Students will examine a variety of fields pertaining to maritime civilizations and the marine environment including coastal and underwater archaeology, marine biology and ecology, maritime history, and maritime geology and geomorphology.

Special emphasis will be placed on harbors, ships and seafaring as part of the maritime heritage of the Mediterranean. Moreover, the program sheds light on the ecological and geomorphological dynamics in the eastern Mediterranean and their influence on the interaction between man and the sea in ancient and in modern times. This program is based on ongoing, active research carried out in the field and in laboratories at the Department of Maritime Civilizations and the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies.

The curriculum offers advanced knowledge and research training to students interested in exploring human interactions with the sea in a dynamic learning environment in which theory is combined with hands-on scientific experience in the field and in the laboratory.

Culminating in a capstone project, the normal program can be completed in one-year of full-time study taught over three consecutive semesters from October until September. Students wishing to qualify for the Ph.D. program at the University of Haifa will need to complete a research thesis in the semester or year following the completion of their coursework.

Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded a master's degree in two general areas in maritime studies: history and archaeology, and the natural sciences.

Field Work

Field activities are an integral part of the program. They expose students to hands-on, applied science, a variety of research methods, offer them first hand acquaintance with the sea and introduce them to the challenges of marine studies. The curriculum includes weekly field trips as well as field-based courses and research. Students will also be

required to participate in a summer internship program during which they will work on a project under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Program Objectives:

- To provide students with an understanding of the sea and maritime civilizations and to prepare them for research in their chosen areas of specialization;
- To train a new generation of scholars, researchers and educators in the field of marine sciences;
- To provide students with specialized knowledge of the effects of human interaction with the Mediterranean Sea;
- To offer an excellent academic program that combines classroom study with hands-on scientific exploration.

Program Structure and Scope

The program offers two tracks of study:

Track A: involves preparation of a research thesis and consists of 34 credits, including three introductory courses, a survey course, two seminars, 10 elective credits and an eight-credit summer project. A thesis is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies, which is normally completed in the semester or year following the completion of coursework.

Track B: encompasses 38 credits (no thesis), including three introductory courses, a survey course, three seminars, 10 elective credits and an eight-credit summer project.

Scholarships available

Two \$5000 scholarships in this program will be offered to two prospective students, based on academic excellence and previous field experience

For additional information:

www.uhaifa.org

http://marsci.haifa.ac.il/index.php/maritime_civilizations

E-mail: graduate@mail.uhaifa.org

Phone: +972-4-824-0766

Fax: +972-4-824-0391

Skype: haifainternationalschool

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΕΙΣ - ANNOUNCEMENTS

IAA PRIZE FOR FIRST ARTICLES AFTER THE PH.D

The IAA awards a prize for the best first article written after the Ph.D. Please observe the following rules and regulations (see also the IAA website <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/IAA/index.html> -> Prizes):

Conditions

1. The article should be available in one of the official RAI languages, French, German or English.
2. The article should be published or should have been accepted in final form for publication within the last two years and no more than five years after the PhD.
3. Applicants must be members of the IAA.
4. A person can apply only once. There is no age limit.
5. The winner receives €1,000, the runner-up will receive €250.

Committee

1. The committee will consist of three persons, one from the IAA Board and two from among the other members of the IAA.
2. The committee members will serve for three years, after which a new committee will be chosen.

Time table

1. Articles should be delivered as a PDF with embedded fonts to the IAA Office in Leiden no later than March 1. The office shall then forward them to the committee members before March 10.
2. The three members of the committee will evaluate the articles and make a preliminary ranking.
3. The committee will submit its selection report to the IAA Board no later than May 1.
4. During the following Rencontre the conclusions will be discussed at the Board meeting.
5. The prizes will be awarded during the general meeting.

Please send your article to:

International Association for Assyriology c/o Prof. Dr. W.H. van Soldt
Email: w.h.van.soldt@hum.leidenuniv.nl

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITY: **ARCHAEOLOGY IN ALBANIA,** **NARTA LAGOON ARCHAEOLOGICAL** **PROJECT, JUNE 30, 2014 - AUGUST 4, 2014**

Application Deadline: February 15, 2014

Location and Project Description: The Narta Lagoon is an environmentally diverse wetland area near Vlora, SW Albania. The lagoon is situated in a superbly strategic location, as it is demonstrated by its geographical proximity to one of the most famous roads of antiquity, the Via Egnatia – once connecting Rome to Constantinople. Only a few kilometers north, there is the ancient Apollonia, a Greek colony established in the 6th century BC. Three UNESCO World Heritage sites, Berat, Butrint and Gjirokastër are found in the vicinity as well. The area around the site is remarkably diverse in its ecology, cultural variation, and historical monuments. The proximity to Greece and Italy has given the region a multi-cultural aura, unsurpassed by any other in Europe.

Vlora is the third largest city in Albania. A legendary view of high mountains complements the panorama of the city in the East and the South. Albania's proclamation of independence from the Ottoman Empire was first declared in Vlora, which briefly became the seat of the first Albanian government. The proximity to Italy and Greece, has given the city a multicultural quality, noticeable especially in everyday activities and cuisine. The bay of Vlora marks the boundary between the Adriatic and the Ionian seas, making the city one of the most touristic zones of Albania.

The UB Archaeology in Albania summer program, hosted at the Narta Lagoon Archaeological Project, aims to investigate the spread of the earliest farming communities to Europe and the reaction of these early farmers to the effects of a climate change that occurred 8,200 years ago. The survey and excavation at the Narta Lagoon will provide students with a detailed understanding of cutting-edge archaeological method and theory, and a firsthand experience of modern excavation and survey methodology.

Participants will be provided with an intensive and rewarding archaeological field and lab experience for undergraduate and graduate students interested in archaeology and consists of daily excavations, evening lectures and weekly field trips to the cultural highlights of the region. The lecture program consists of presentations, seminars and discussions with local and international specialists and includes all facets of archaeology, anthropology and history. Participants will be exposed to the ethnic melting pot of the Balkans, as scholars and students from Albania and its neighboring countries, such as Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo, will be invited to participate in this truly international, interdisciplinary and multi-cultural program.

Excursions and Extracurricular Activities: Participants will have the chance to visit two World Heritage sites: Berat and Butrint. The former is medieval town with an excellently preserved 2500 years old castle, the only inhabited Iron Age castle of its kind in Europe. The second is a world famous site, home of the temple of Asclepius, ancient

god of medicine. Butrint is located in one of the most interesting ecological landscapes in the world, built on a small peninsula inside a saltwater lake in front of the island of Corfu. In addition, the students will visit the site of Apollonia, a classical Greek colony, which was the location of emperor Augustus collegium.

Estimated Costs: \$950 + airfare

Room and Board Arrangements: During their time in Albania, students will live and dine at a large villa in Narta, a small fishing village on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, not far from the pleasant city of Vlora. Full-time Albanian cooks will provide 3 meals per day. The quality of the food is outstanding, as the region is famous for its culinary tradition and the freshness of its produce.

Contact Information: Eugen Ruzi 380 MFAC, Ellicott Complex Buffalo, NY 14261 USA

eugenruz@buffalo.edu

AIA SITE PRESERVATION GRANT: **UPCOMING DEADLINE**

The Archaeological Institute of America would like to inform you of an opportunity to apply for the Site Preservation Grant, which funds projects that uphold the AIA's mission to preserve and promote the world's archaeological heritage. The goal of the grant, which carries a maximum value of \$25,000 awarded over a period of one to three years, is to maximize global preservation efforts and awareness through AIA support. The AIA targets projects that not only seek to directly preserve archaeological sites, but also emphasize outreach, education, and best practices to positively impact the local community, students, and the discipline of archaeology as a whole.

Please note, applicants must first submit an inquiry form, located on our website (link provided below). If approved, applicants will then be invited to complete a full application, due February 15.

The next deadline for this grant is February 15, 2014. All application materials must be received, not postmarked, by that date.

For more information or to submit an inquiry, please visit our website at <http://archaeological.org/grants/706>.

To learn about past winners, visit our projects page at <http://archaeological.org/sitepreservation/projects>.

Kelly Lindberg
Site Preservation Program Administrator
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Boston, MA 02215
Phone: 617-358-6098
Fax: 617-353-6550
klindberg@aia.bu.edu
www.archaeological.org

MICHAEL VENTRIS MEMORIAL AWARD **FOR MYCENAEAN STUDIES 2014**

The Michael Ventris Memorial Fund was founded in 1957 in appreciation of his contribution to the fields of Mycenaean civilization and architecture. The Trustees of the Fund offer an annual award of up to £2,000 to a junior scholar for research into Mycenaean studies or kindred subjects: (1) Linear B and other Bronze Age scripts of the Aegean and Cyprus, and their historical and cultural connections and (2) all other aspects of the Bronze Age of the Aegean and Cyprus. It is intended that the Award should support a specific project, which may be part of a continuing programme of post-doctoral research.

The Award is open to applicants from all countries who have completed their doctorate within the past eight years. Applications are also accepted from postgraduate students who are about to complete their doctorate, but the Award is not intended to fund doctoral research per se. The Award cannot be used to pay third parties, e.g. to undertake drawings, scientific analyses etc.

Applications must reach the Deputy Director, Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU not later than 15 February 2014. Applicants should give particulars of their age, qualifications, academic record, and should outline the work they intend to pursue in the event of the Award being made to them, including projected costs. Applications should not exceed 6 single-sided pages (A4). They may be submitted by email attachment (as a PDF or Word document).

Applicants must also supply the names and addresses of two referees, and, at the same time, ask the referees to write independently in support of their application.

For further information please contact admin.ics@sas.ac.uk

The Award will be made by a Committee appointed by the Institute of Classical Studies and Architectural Association acting jointly. Payment will be in one single sum in May of each year. The Committee reserves the right to make no Award in any given year or to invite a scholar to hold the Award in a particular year. If sufficient money is available, the Committee may from time to time make small grants from the Fund.

The successful candidate will be required to submit a written report to the Advisory Committee on the work that the Award has enabled him or her to complete. He or she may be invited to make a public presentation of the results at the Institute of Classical Studies.

ΔΙΕΡΕΥΝΗΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ
ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ ΗΜΕΡΙΔΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΙΠΣ
ΣΤΗΝ ΤΡΙΠΟΛΗ, ΜΕ ΘΕΜΑ
"ΜΕΤΑΛΛΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΤΑΛΛΟΥΡΓΙΚΕΣ
ΕΓΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΕΛΟΠΟΝΝΗΣΟ
ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΑ"

Το ΑΙΠΣ, Ειδική Περιφερειακή Υπηρεσία του ΥΠ.ΠΟ.Α. με χωρική αρμοδιότητα την Πελοπόννησο, προχωρά σε μία πρώτη πρόταση κατάθεσης αιτημάτων συμμετοχής. Στόχος μας να εξακριβώσουμε τη δυνατότητα συλλογής αιτημάτων συμμετοχής σε επιστημονική ημερίδα, με θέμα την Μεταλλουργία και τις μεταλλουργικές εγκαταστάσεις στην Πελοπόννησο καθ' όλη την Αρχαιότητα.

Θέματα που θα περιγράφουν μεταλλουργικές εγκαταστάσεις, μεταλλουργικούς κλιβάνους, χώρους εμπλουτισμού μεταλλευμάτων -αλλά και άλλες υλικές μαρτυρίες της διαδικασίας καμίνευσης / εμπλουτισμού- θα γίνονται αποδεκτές. Αποδεκτές θα είναι και οι συνθετικές εργασίες, που θα περιλαμβάνουν τα πορίσματα ανασκαφών, αλλά και άλλων πηγών -όπως και οι αρχαιομετρικές έρευνες / αναλύσεις υλικών, που θα αξιοποιούν τεχνικές μεθόδους.

Η παρούσα πρόσκληση προηγείται της 1ης εγκυκλίου της ημερίδας (η οποία θα ακολουθήσει σε σύντομο χρονικό διάστημα) -και έχει στόχο την διερεύνηση του πεδίου, την ωρίμανση του εγχειρήματος και την καλύτερη οργάνωσή του.

Μετά Τιμής,

Σωτήρης Ραπτόπουλος (για το Α.Ι.Π.Σ.)

FITCH LABORATORY, BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS, GREECE - INTRODUCTION TO CERAMIC PETROLOGY COURSE 2014

In June 2014, the Fitch Laboratory will hold a two-week postgraduate training course providing an introduction to ceramic petrology, building upon the Laboratory's established reputation on ceramic petrology applications and its extensive reference collections of geological and ceramic thin sections.

The course is open mainly to people with no (or limited) previous experience on petrology although familiarity with archaeological ceramics will be useful. It is an excellent introduction for students already (or hoping to embark) on a Master's or research degree in archaeological materials, as well as for postdoctoral researchers interested in being familiar with ceramic petrology applications. Although the focus is primarily with ceramic materials, the skills learnt are applicable to the study of lithics, building materials, pigments and soils.

The course comprises daily lectures and practicals introducing to optical polarizing light microscopy, the identification of main rock-forming minerals, the classification of rock types, the use and interpretation of geological maps and, subsequently, the analysis of ceramic thin sections to reconstruct provenance and technology. The participants are also introduced to the principles of chemical analysis of ceramics (with a critical review of the most commonly used techniques involving both desktop and portable equipment) and the combined use of chemical and petrographic data. Moreover a demonstration is held on the preparation of thin sections as well as of samples for chemical analysis. Furthermore, a field class to Aegina, including a visit to a traditional pottery workshop, provides practical experience on prospection for pottery raw materials and sampling, as well as contemporary potting practices. Towards the end, each participant has the opportunity to undertake a case study project. In total, the course includes 20 hours of lectures, 28 hours of laboratory practicals, 11 additional contact hours for project accomplishment, plus a day-fieldtrip.

A course manual and a fieldtrip guide are provided for participants covering all aspects of the course and further reading, and a certificate of attendance is issued for each participant upon course completion. The course co-coordinators and instructors are Dr **Evangelia Kiriati** (Director, Fitch Laboratory) and Dr **Ruth Siddall** (Senior Lecturer, Earth Science/Dean of Students, UCL) with contributions by Dr Noemi Müller (Scientific Research Officer, Fitch Laboratory), Dr John Gait (Williams Fellow in Ceramic Petrology, Fitch Laboratory) and Mr Michalis Sakalis (Technician, Fitch Laboratory).

Dates: 16 – 27 June 2014.

Course Fee: The course fee includes tuition, accommodation, fieldtrip expenses, all teaching materials, BSA membership for a month including 24 hour access to the superb library and entry to archaeological sites and museums, plus daily coffee and biscuits, packed lunch for the fieldtrip and a welcome and a farewell meal. The fee is 850£ (for

shared accommodation in double rooms) or 930£ (for single accommodation). Self-catering accommodation (including breakfast) will be provided at the BSA Hostel, next to the Fitch Laboratory building (http://www.bsa.ac.uk/pages/content.php?cat_id=19). Travel to and from Athens is the sole responsibility of the course participant.

The course is limited to 10 places. Post-graduate students are recommended to apply to their universities for financial support; limited funding may be available (to cover part of the fees) for students who would otherwise be unable to attend and they should express their interest in such financial support in their application.

Applications forms can be downloaded from the BSA website. Applications should be submitted to the Fitch Laboratory administrator, Ms Zoe Zgouleta via e-mail (flsecretary@bsa.ac.uk).

Closing date: **7 March 2014**. References must also be received by then through e-mail: it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the reference is sent. The successful candidates will hear by early April 2014.

For further information, please check the relevant sections on the British School at Athens web pages (<http://www.bsa.ac.uk/>) or contact either of the two course coordinators, Dr Evangelia Kiriatzi (fldirector@bsa.ac.uk) or Dr Ruth Siddall (r.siddall@ucl.ac.uk).

**JOURNAL OF INTERCULTURAL AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY ARCHAEOLOGY
(JIIA) PEER REVIEWED ONLINE JOURNAL,
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Available at <http://www.jiia.it>
Editor: Dr. Antonella D'Ascoli

Thematic issue: Consumption of perfumed oil in the ancient Mediterranean and Near East: funerary rituals and other case studies / Consumo di olii profumati nel Mediterraneo e Vicino e Medio Oriente: riti funerari ed altri usi.

The 'Journal of intercultural and interdisciplinary archaeology' (JIIA) invites the submission of papers for a forthcoming issue focusing on the consumption of perfumed oil in the ancient Mediterranean. One of the earliest known uses has been associated to funerary rituals (purification of bones) in the Hittite kingdom. In Egypt, oils and ointments were part of the mummification process as well as personal luxuries used by those in life. Since those first instances, perfumed oils have been present in many cultures of the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. The Mycenaean palaces mass produced perfumed oil and later in Italy the same product resurfaces in Italy and Greece associated to funerary rituals referring to the cult of heroes.

The proposed thematic issue intends to gather multiple perspectives, including scientific ones on the chemistry of the oils themselves, if available, across the whole Mediterranean and spanning from the Bronze to the Iron Ages. The purpose is to evidence similarities and differences in rituals and consumption, attempting to follow a specific product across regional and chronological boundaries.

Mediterranean archaeologists often erect artificial boundaries in time and space due to their high specialisation, in order to make the archaeological record more manageable. One of the key aims of JIIA is to discuss themes that help cross boundaries and bridge specialisms.

Contributions able to report on and further our understanding of the production and consumption of perfumed oils are invited from any archaeological perspective. It is hoped to publish a number of papers presenting different case studies.

The Journal is an online peer-reviewed academic journal, which is being relaunched after a test run. A limited printed run is planned for the New Series 2014.

Please send abstracts of no more than 500 words to Dr. Antonella D'Ascoli ad@ngi.it by 15 February 2014.

Accepted papers should not exceed 5,000 words with colour figures at 300 dpi (CMYK). Deadline for first drafts is March 20, 2014, final publication is expected by April 2014.

Please visit the site: <http://blogs.brown.edu/joukowsky/2014/01/28/cfp-journal-of-intercultural-and-interdisciplinary-archaeology-jiia-deadline-25-january-2014/>

INTERNET SITES

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ISRAEL

The Archaeological Survey of Israel is an online service that gives access to much information on excavations in Israel, with maps, summaries of excavation, pix, etc.

Go to:

<http://www.antiquities.org.il/survey/newmap.asp#b> for the Hebrew version or
http://www.antiquities.org.il/survey/newmap_en.asp#zoom=8.0000;xy:34.80852508545,31.298049926757 for the English version.

ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Εξαιρετικό εκδοτικό έργο του Εθνικού Ιδρύματος Ερευνών δωρεάν σε ηλεκτρονική μορφή!

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Please visit the site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3z4aRohCH08>

EVIDEOS: 2, ON HAZOR

Please visit the sites: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYmwgUB-Ezk> is a brief video on Bronze Age Hazor and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAJx91HKJxw> is one on Iron Age Hazor.

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ΝΕΕΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΙΣ – NEW PUBLICATIONS

OXFORD JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY ©

JOHN WILEY & SONS LTD., VOLUME 33,

ISSUE 1 PAGES 1 - 109, FEBRUARY 2014

The latest issue of Oxford Journal of Archaeology is available on Wiley Online Library

Original Articles

The Sound of Rock Art. The Acoustics of the Rock Art of Southern Andalusia (Spain) (pages 1–18) Margarita Díaz-Andreu, Carlos García Benito and María Lazarich Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12024

Metalworking at Hazor: A Long-Term Perspective (pages 19–45) Naama Yahalom-Mack, Yuval Gadot, Adi Eliyahu-Behar, Shlomit Bechar, Sana Shilstein and Israel Finkelstein Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12025

Athenian Black Gloss Pottery: A View from the West (pages 47–67) Justin St. P. Walsh and Carla Antonaccio Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12026

Building Communities in Ancient Samnium: Cult, Ethnicity and Nested Identities (pages 69–87) Rafael Scopacasa Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12027

The Augustan Temple and Forum of the Colony of Barcino: A 90 Degree Turn (pages 89–107) Hector A. Orengo and Ada Cortés Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12028

Erratum (page 109)

Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014 | DOI: 10.1111/ojoa.12029

This article corrects:

Unpicking the Chronology of Carrowmore

Vol. 32, Issue 4, 343–366, Article first published online: 10 OCT 2013

Please visit the site: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ojoa.2014.33.issue-1/issuetoc> [Go there for links to purchasable articles]

ePUBLICATIONS: 7, ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT OF TILMEN HÖYÜK (GRPOP)

The Turco-Italian Archaeological Expedition to Karkemish is pleased to announce the publication of a new series of scientific publications, "Gaziantep Regional Project Occasional Publications." GRPOP are non-periodical scientific studies and reports about the socio-cultural heritage and natural environment of the region of Gaziantep. Seven publications, listed below, have been released, all on Tilmen Höyük (excavated 2003 to 2008). Forthcoming issues will deal also with Taslı Geçit Höyük (excavated 2009 and 2010) and Karkemish (excavated since 2011 onwards). GRPOP is open also to scientists from all fields and from any affiliation, contributions are peer-reviewed.

All publications may be consulted and downloaded freely from the GRPOP website:
<http://www.orientlab.net/pubs/>

GRPOP

2013:1 - G.M. Bargossi, G. Gasparotto, M. Marocchi, "Tilmen Höyük: Petrographic and Geochemical Investigation on Lithic Remains from the Palace Area"

2013:2 - V. Minguzzi, E. Esquilini, E. Zantedeschi, "Tilmen Höyük: A Mineralogical-geochemical Characterization of Some MBA and LBA Pottery Sample"

2013:3 - P. Rossi Pisa, M. Speranza, M. Bittelli, H. Çakan, "Tilmen Höyük: Climate, Soil, Hydrology and Vegetation"

2013:4 - N. Macchioni, S. Lazzeri, "Tilmen Höyük: Identification of Wood Species from Areas E and G"

2013:5 - Y.S. Erdal, "Tilmen Höyük: Human Skeletal Remains from Area Q"

2013:6 - M. Carra, "Tilmen Höyük: Archaeobotanical Remains from Area E"

2013:7 - G. Marchesi, "Tilmen Höyük: An Inscribed Bulla from the 1962 Campaign of Excavations"

ASTROM EDITIONS ANNOUNCE FOUR NEW **STUDIES IN MEDITERRANEAN** **ARCHAEOLOGY**

A. Bernard Knapp, Jennifer Webb & Andrew McCarthy (editors)

J.R.B. Stewart. An Archaeological Legacy

M139, Uppsala, 2013, pp. 239

ISBN13: 978-91-7081-253-8

80.00 EUR

This volume presents the extensively revised papers from a conference held in honour of J.R.B. Stewart at the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in March 2013. It is arranged in two sections: in the first, authors discuss aspects of current research on chronology, community, ceramic production, copper, environmental thought and the emergence of the state in Cyprus, demonstrating how Stewart's legacy has impacted the discipline, our interpretations of prehistory and our methodologies; the second contains a number of biographical pieces about Stewart, his colleagues and the role his widow, Eve, played in sustaining his work. Part archaeology, part historiography and part biography, the volume seeks to assess Stewart's legacy within 20th century archaeological scholarship and in the context of our current understanding of Cyprus in the Bronze Age.

Christina F. Clarke

The Manufacture of Minoan Metal Vessels. Theory and Practice

PB 178, Uppsala, 2013, pp. 249

ISBN13: 978-91-7081-249-1

56.00 EUR

This volume reconstructs the processes used to create Minoan hammered precious-metal and copper-alloy vessels, combining an assessment of the archaeological material with the practical application of replicated equipment and techniques. This interdisciplinary approach provides a new perspective on Minoan metallurgy and metalworkers. It has important implications for interpreting Minoan metal artefacts, metallurgical evidence, the organisation of production and the place of Minoan vessels within the broader context of contemporary societies.

Ian A. Todd

Vasilikos Valley Project. Part 12.

The Field Survey of the Vasilikos Valley III. Human Settlement in the Vasilikos Valley

M71.12, Uppsala, 2013, pp. 252

ISBN13: 978-91-7081-251-4

76.00 EUR

This volume is the 12th report in the series of final publications of the excavations and studies of the Vasilikos Valley Project in the Larnaca District on the southern coast of Cyprus. It is the second of three devoted to the field survey, and includes an analysis of settlement patterns through an examination of structures of all types, from antiquity to the twentieth century.

Jennifer M. Webb & David Frankel

(with contributions by M. Georgakopoulou, T. Rehren, G. Constantinou and I. Panayides)

Ambelikou Aletri. Metallurgy and Pottery Production in Middle Bronze Age Cyprus

M138, Upsala, 2013, pp. 245

ISBN13: 978-91-7081-250-7

76.00 EUR

This volume presents the full documentation, analysis and discussion of the excavations carried out by Porphyrios Dikaios in 1942 at Ambelikou Aletri. The site lies to the west of the modern village of Ambelikou, northwest of the Skouriotissa copper mines, in the northern foothills of the Troodos Mountains. It has always been known for the evidence of copper mining and processing through the discovery of Middle Bronze Age pottery in modern mines and the casting moulds and other evidence for metal processing at the site itself. Less well known is a potter's workshop. Here the catastrophic abandonment of the workshop, its installations and artefacts (including some four dozen jugs from the last kiln load) provides an insight into aspects of craft practices shortly after 2,000 BCE.

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Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology

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Please visit the site: <http://www.astromeditations.com/index.php>

STONE TOOLS IN TRANSITION: FROM HUNTER-GATHERERS TO FARMING SOCIETIES IN THE NEAR EAST

F. Borrell, J.J. Ibáñez, and M. Molist (eds.), Stone Tools in Transition: From Hunter-Gatherers to Farming Societies in the Near East. 7th Conference on PPN Chipped and Ground Stone Industries of the Fertile Crescent: 191-205. ISBN (paper): 978-84-490-3818-1.

Bellaterra (Barcelona), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Servei de Publicacions. 2013

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http://publicacions.uab.cat/llobres/fitxa_web_llobres.asp?ID=1866

VISUAL HERITAGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Series: Springer Series on Cultural Computing Ch'ng, Eugene; Gaffney, Vincent; Chapman, Henry (Eds.) 2013, XXIX, 361 p. 151 illus., 106 illus. in color.

eBook: \$99.00

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Hardcover: \$129.00

-Enlightens readers into the ways in which technologies are developing and how they are used within heritage, and where future developments will focus
-Presents cutting edge research on applied digital technologies to heritage, with sites, landscapes and buildings from across Europe, North and Central America, amongst others
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However, rather than merely improving and enriching the ways in which we understand and engage with the past, this technology is enabling us to do this in entirely new ways.

The chapters contained within this volume present a broad range of technologies for capturing data (such as high-definition laser scanning survey and geophysical survey), modelling (including GIS, data fusion, agent-based modelling), and engaging with heritage through novel digital interfaces (mobile technologies and the use of multi-touch interfaces in public spaces). The case studies presented include sites, landscapes and buildings from across Europe, North and Central America, and collections relating to the ancient civilisations of the Middle East and North Africa. The chronological span is immense, extending from the end of the last ice age through to the twentieth century.

These case studies reveal new ways of approaching heritage using digital tools, whether from the perspective of interrogating historical textual data, or through the applications of complexity theory and the modelling of agents and behaviours. Beyond the data itself, VisualHeritage in the Digital Age also presents fresh ways of thinking about digital heritage. It explores more theoretical perspectives concerning the role of digital data and the challenges that are presented in terms of its management and preservation.

Please visit the site: http://www.springer.com/computer/hci/book/978-1-4471-5534-8?wt_mc=Alerts.NBA.Dez-13_EAST_14620186&otherVersion=978-1-4471-5535-5

IMAGE-BASED MODELLING FROM UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV) - PHOTOGRAMMETRY: AN EFFECTIVE, LOW-COST TOOL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS*

J. Fernández-Hernandez, D. González-Aguilera*, P. Rodríguez-Gonzálvez, J. Mancera-Taboada Article first published online: 8 JAN 2014

DOI: 10.1111/arc.12078

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Issue Cover image for Vol. 56 Issue 1

Archaeometry

Early View (Online Version [for subscribers] of Record published before inclusion in an issue)

Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV);archaeology;software development;image-based modelling;photogrammetry;computer vision

The recording and 3D modelling of complex archaeological sites is usually associated with high capital and logistical costs, because the data acquisition must be performed by specialists using expensive surveying sensors (i.e., terrestrial laser scanners, robotic total stations and/or ground-penetrating radar). This paper presents a novel, low-cost, user-friendly photogrammetric tool for generating high-resolution and scaled 3D models of complex sites. The results obtained with unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) photogrammetry of an archaeological site indicate that this approach is semi-automatic, inexpensive and effective, and that it guarantees quality.

Please visit the site: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/arc.12078/abstract>

TELL ABU AL-KHARAZ IN THE JORDAN VALLEY. VOLUME III: THE IRON AGE, FISCHER, P.M.

I have the pleasure to announce that the 3rd volume of the excavations at Tell Abu al-Kharaz is published. Although situated in the Jordan Valley, the site produced numerous finds of Eastern Mediterranean origin (roughly 1200-700 BCE) which could be of interest to the subscribers of AegeaNet.

Fischer, P.M. Tell Abu al-Kharaz in the Jordan Valley. Volume III: The Iron Age. Vienna 2014, 558 pp.

<http://hw.oeaw.ac.at/7332-8?frames=yes>

The author directed the excavations of this settlement from 1989 to 2013. The town flourished in the Early Bronze Age, and after an occupational lacuna of more than thousand years the site was re-occupied in the second half of the Middle Bronze Age and remained permanently occupied until the end of the Iron Age. The new volume is No. III in a series of three (The Early Bronze Age Vol. I, published by the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press in 2008, and the Middle and Late Bronze Ages Vol. II, in 2006). Chapter 1 describes excavation and processing methods. In Chapter 2 the stratigraphy, the architecture, the ceramics and small finds are presented as an integrated part of the publication. Chapter 3 deals with the typology and chronology of the ceramics which include numerous imports. Chapter 4 is devoted to the evaluation of the 42 radiocarbon dates from Iron Age contexts. The general conclusion and discussion is in Chapter 5 which deals with discussions on the climate, type of settlement, number of people, administration, the seven settlement phases, architecture, pottery and small finds as well as trade and trade routes. There are finds that are unmistakably related to the Philistines/Sea Peoples which is unique for the Transjordanian Jordan Valley. Other finds are related to the Phoenician and Egyptian sphere of culture. Special attention is devoted to relative and absolute chronological enquiries based on the considerable number of radiocarbon dates and parallels from other sites. The four appendices deal with the figurines, a unique carved bone handle, cosmetic palettes of stone and alabaster, and glyptic and ostraka.

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VISUALIZING KNOWLEDGE AND CREATING MEANING IN ANCIENT WRITING SYSTEMS

Shai Gordin (ed.)

Visualizing Knowledge and Creating Meaning in Ancient Writing Systems.

Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient, Band 23 260 pages, with 73 b/w-pictures — content Hardcover

Price: € 29,80 [D]

ISBN: 978-3-935012-11-9

<http://en.pewe-verlag.de/cgi-bin/order-en.cgi>

International Workshop of the Research Group "Notational Iconicity", 24th-25th September 2010

Ancient writing systems employ logographic and logophonic principles playing on the relationship between writing, script and scribal learning. The workshop proceedings published in this volume explore the way these relationships encode knowledge and meaning reflected in the social, historical and cultural mentalité of the early peoples of East Asia (China and Japan), Anatolia, the Aegean, Egypt and Mesoamerica. The meeting was organized in the FU Berlin on the fall of 2010 by the editor and Dr. Renata Landgráfová (now Charles University, Prague) in the frame of the DFG research training group 1458 "Notational Iconicity" ("Schriftbildlichkeit") headed by Prof. Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum and Prof. Sybille Krämer.

The premise of our meeting was that script and the organization of texts can reveal how knowledge is transformed and transmitted among different social groups across time and space, and eventually standardized as written tradition. Its multidisciplinary approach follows recent trends in the attempt to arouse debate between scholars of disparate systems of writing – be it Cuneiform, Hieroglyphic or Linear in nature – and to discuss their elements independent of origin or cultural context. A broad perspective on ancient writing and its visual elements was established with the contributions delving into the aspects of generating knowledge and meaning (J. Janák, M. Weeden), categorizing knowledge (E. Boot, T. W. Kwan, H. Tomas), diffusion and transformation of knowledge (Sh. Gordin, R. Landgráfová) and rationalizing knowledge (E. Birk).

Please visit the site: <http://en.pewe-verlag.de/index.php?page=new-books>

THE PHAISTOS DISC AND HURRIAN

Fournet, A. 2014
The Phaistos Disc and Hurrian
Thebookedition. ISBN 979-10-92354-23-2
VIII+63p
27 Euros.

The book first presents the Disc of Phaistos. Several hypotheses of decipherment have been proposed for this mysterious artefact. The book comprises two parts: a theoretical discussion of the difficulties and methods for deciphering such a document and a practical attempt resorting to Hurrian as the language X encoded in the Disc with a syllabic grid of 55 Cv signs (11 series and 5 vowels) of the Aegean or Cypriot type.

The process of decipherment applies a top-down approach, that tries to feed the decipherment with the constraints embedded in the Disc instead of getting stalled by them. During the first phase, the target is to determine a plausible syntactical structure of the Disc on the basis of Hurrian agglutinative patterns and phonology. During the second phase, the target is to fill the syntactical structure with lexemes and gradually determine the most adequate syllabic grid.

Apart from a few sections on Face B, understandable as possible though unattested Hurrian words, a consistent translation of the Disc is achievable with Hurrian vocabulary and grammar.

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Please visit the site: <http://www.thebookedition.com/the-phaistos-disc-and-hurrian-arnaud-fournet-p-106434.html>

MICROMORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SEDIMENTS AT THE BRONZE AGE SITE OF MITROU, CENTRAL GREECE: PATTERNS OF FLOOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Panagiotis Karkanas, Aleydis Van de Moortel

Journal of Archaeological Science 43 (2014) 198e213

ABSTRACT

The study of settlement sites is usually based on the analysis of architectural or cultural phases. The sediments that constitute the excavated deposits inside or outside houses are rarely studied. This work presents micromorphological analysis of sediments at the prehistoric site of Mitrou, a small tidal islet in central Greece. Unusually long archaeological sequences have been excavated ranging from the Early Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age (ca. 2400e900 BCE). The occupational deposits in the Early and Middle Bronze Age are characterized by meticulous maintenance practices with multiple replastered floor sequences. These include surfaces made of debris produced inside houses by day-to-day activities. In this way an impressive thick sequence of overlapping worn-out floors and occupational deposits is produced with a characteristic finely layered macroscopic appearance. There is no clear association of a building phase with a single floor level but rather with a thick sequence of floor build-up. This practice ends in the Late Bronze Age, and from then on, floors are not frequently repaired and their construction technique is more standardized. Usually, a relative thin sequence of one or two floors is associated with a new architectural phase. The observed change is broadly correlated with the rise of a prepalatial political elite at Mitrou. The contrasting maintenance techniques also are relevant to discussions about differences between tells and 'flat' settlements. Until the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, Mitrou's indoor surfaces are those of a tell site whereas after that its surfaces resemble those of a 'flat' settlement. In Mitrou it appears that this change is related to a different perception of construction and maintenance of floors that in turn should be traced to the pattern of reconstruction of entire houses. These changes have a social significance that may reflect differences in household processes and use of space.

**THE SETTLEMENT AT DHASKALIO - THE
SANCTUARY ON KEROS AND THE ORIGINS
OF AEGEAN RITUAL PRACTICE: THE
EXCAVATIONS OF 2006–2008, VOLUME I**

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ΕΙΔΗΣΕΙΣ - NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN DIGGERS IDENTIFY TOMB OF EGYPT PHARAOH

A US team in Egypt has identified the tomb of pharaoh Sobekhotep I, believed to be the founder of the 13th dynasty 3,800 years ago, the antiquities minister said Monday.

The team from the University of Pennsylvania had discovered the quartzite sarcophagus of Sobekhotep I, which weighed about 60 tonnes, a year ago, but was unable to identify who it belonged to until last week, the ministry said.

Its identity was established after the team found fragments of a slab inscribed with the pharaoh's name and showed him sitting on a throne, Antiquities Minister Mohamed Ibrahim said in a statement.

"He is likely the first who ruled Egypt at the start of the 13th dynasty during the second intermediate period," the minister said.

The discovery is important as not much information was available about Sobekhotep I "who ruled Egypt for four years and a half, the longest rule at this time," said Ayman El-Damarani, a ministry official.

The tomb's discovery in the southern archaeological site of Abydos is expected to reveal more details about his life and rule, he added.

The team also discovered the remnants of canopic vases traditionally used to preserve internal body organs, along with gold objects owned by the king.

Please visit the site: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/655774/american-diggers-identify-tomb-of-egypt-pharaoh/> [Go there for pict]

UC RESEARCH UNCOVERS HOW ANCIENT ARTISTS USED PALACE FLOOR AS A CREATIVE CANVAS, BY M.B. REILLY

The floors of Greek Bronze Age palaces were made of plaster that was often incised and painted with grids containing brightly colored patterns and/or marine animal figures.

In researching one such floor in the Throne Room at the Palace of Nestor, one of the best-preserved palaces of the Mycenaean civilization, University of Cincinnati Department of Classics doctoral student Emily Catherine Egan has found evidence that the floor's painted designs, dating back to between 1300-1200 BC, were meant to replicate a physical hybrid of cloth and stone – serving not only to impress but also to instruct the ancient viewer.

She will present her findings at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America, Jan. 2-5, in Chicago, one of a number of UC presentations at the conference. Her work at the Palace of Nestor builds on a long tradition in UC's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences since the remains of the site were first discovered in 1939 by UC archaeologist Carl Blegen.

According to Egan, "Mycenaean palatial floor paintings are typically believed to represent a single surface treatment – most often cut stone or pieced carpets. At Pylos, however, the range of represented patterns suggests that the floor in the great hall of the palace was deliberately designed to represent both of these materials simultaneously, creating a new, clever way to impress visitors while simultaneously instructing them on where to look and how to move within the space."

As part of her work with UC's Hora Apotheke Reorganization Project (HARP), Egan conducted research on the painted floor at the Palace of Nestor from 2012-13. She examined firsthand sections of the floor, as well as published and unpublished excavation documents and drawings.

During her research, Egan noted that some of the intricate motifs of the Throne Room floor recalled the mottled and veined patterns of painted stone masonry, while other elements mimicked patterns on depictions of textiles in wall paintings both from Crete and the Greek mainland.

She contended that the hybrid combination of these materials on the Throne Room floor (also evident in other paintings in the palace) was specifically designed to "supersede reality. It depicted something that could not exist in the real world, a floor made of both carpet and stone. As such, the painting would have communicated the immense, and potentially supernatural power of the reigning monarch, who seemingly had the ability to manipulate and transform his physical environment."

Egan also argued that the hybrid quality of the floor was intended to draw attention to one of its other notable features – a dramatic diagonal in the grid design, apparent upon standing at the doorway of the room. Past studies had posited that this introduction of a

strong diagonal into the floor's otherwise regular grid pattern had been an uncorrected mistake.

However, Egan's firsthand examination of parts of the floor found evidence that small mistakes on individual painted tiles had been corrected by the ancient artists. Thus, she reasoned, "Since they corrected such small mistakes, it seems highly unlikely that those same artists would have left a major error, like mis-aligning a large portion of the room's floor, uncorrected. Instead, I believe that the diagonal was intentional – a way to draw both a visitor's eyes and his or her footsteps toward the throne positioned along the right-hand wall of the room. It was painting with a purpose."

In addition, Egan's study at the Palace of Nestor has uncovered the first evidence for the use of a drafting technique called an artist's grid to paint a floor. Until now, artists' grids have only been identified in Bronze Age wall paintings, almost all of them from Crete. (An artist's grid is just that, a faint grid laid down on a surface to be painted in order to subdivide that surface and aid in breaking down and accurately spacing a complex, repeating pattern or design.)

According to Egan, "A fragment of wall painting from Pylos shows evidence of the use of an artist's grid, and nine squares of the Throne Room's floor feature the same technique. As on walls, the floor grids were used to create a range of sophisticated, balanced designs – only this time on a horizontal rather than vertical canvas. This find is particularly exciting because it solves a longstanding riddle. When first excavated, these 'mini grids' were tentatively identified as functional elements of the room – marking out places for dignitaries to stand on occasions of state. My re-study of the grids, however, now shows that they were artists' tools, providing us with important new information about how the painted floor was designed and constructed."

###

Egan's research was supported by the Louise Taft Semple Fund of the UC Department of Classics, in support of the Pylos Excavations, and the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, under a grant awarded to Sharon Stocker, UC senior research associate of classics, in support of the Pylos Excavations. Preliminary research for Egan's work was also conducted with the support of an Ione Mylonas Shear Fellowship from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens from 2010-11.

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Please visit the site: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2014-01/uoc-uru010214.php [Go there for pix]

ANCIENT POMPEII'S ELITE ATE GIRAFFE & SEA URCHIN, NEW RESEARCH SUGGESTS, BY TIA GHOSE

The commoners of the ancient city of Pompeii may have eaten a varied diet, with the wealthier even dining on giraffe, new research suggests.

Remains of food scraps found in the drains of Pompeii, Italy, a Roman city wiped out by a volcano, revealed that the middle- and lower-class residents dined on cheap but healthy foods, while slightly wealthier citizens dined on delicacies.

The new findings belie the common belief that the Roman elite dined on exotic delicacies while poor Romans starved on birdseed.

"The traditional vision of some mass of hapless lemmings — scrounging for whatever they can pinch from the side of a street, or huddled around a bowl of gruel — needs to be replaced by a higher fare and standard of living, at least for the urbanites in Pompeii," study co-author Steven Ellis, a classics professor at the University of Cincinnati, said in a statement.

Pompeii was a bustling Roman city that was buried in ash after the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Ellis and his colleagues excavated about 20 shop fronts near one of the once-bustling gates of Pompeii known as the Portia Stabia. The latrines and cesspits behind the food sellers revealed charred food waste from the kitchens, as well as human waste, that dated as far back as the fourth century B.C., when Pompeii was still in an early stage of development. [Preserved Pompeii: Photos Reveal City in Ash]

Along with grains, the waste revealed that the commoners of Pompeii ate a simple, but fairly varied, Mediterranean diet that included lentils, olives, nuts and fish, as well as the odd scrap of salted meat.

More upscale restaurants could be distinguished by the wider array of delicacies they served.

"The material from the drains revealed a range and quantity of materials to suggest a rather clear socioeconomic distinction between the activities and consumption habits of each property, which were otherwise indistinguishable hospitality businesses," Ellis said.

For instance, the drains at a more central property contained traces of imported foods such as shellfish, sea urchin and even a giraffe's leg.

"This is thought to be the only giraffe bone ever recorded from an archaeological excavation in Roman Italy," Ellis said. "How part of the animal, butchered, came to be a kitchen scrap in a seemingly standard Pompeian restaurant not only speaks to long-distance trade in exotic and wild animals, but also something of the richness, variety and range of a nonelite diet."

The team also found traces of exotic and imported spices that came from far-flung regions such as Indonesia.

Please visit the site: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/05/ancient-pompeii-elite-ate-giraffe-sea-urchins_n_4538312.html

TOMB OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BEER BREWER UNEARTHED

Egypt's minister of antiquities says Japanese archeologists have unearthed the tomb of an ancient beer brewer in the city of Luxor that is more than 3,000 years old.

Mohammed Ibrahim says Friday the tomb dates back to the Ramesside period and belongs to the chief "maker of beer for gods of the dead" who was also the head of a warehouse. He added that the walls of the tomb's chambers contain "fabulous designs and colors, reflecting details of daily life ... along with their religious rituals."

The head of the Japanese team, Jiro Kondo, says the tomb was discovered during work near another tomb belonging to a statesman under Amenhotep III, grandfather of the famed boy-pharaoh Tutankhamun.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2014/01/03/world/middleeast/ap-ml-egypt-antiquities.html> [Also at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25593526>]

BATH TUNNELS OF KING'S DAUGHTERS DISCOVERED UNDER TURKEY'S SECOND LARGEST CASTLE

Two secret tunnels have been discovered under Turkey's second largest castle, in the northern province of Tokat's Niksar district. The tunnels date back to the Roman period, and it has been claimed that one of the tunnels was used by a Roman king's daughters in order to go to the bath in the Çanakçı stream area.

The excavations are being carried out by the municipality in the 6.2 kilometer-wide Niksar Castle, which is Turkey's second largest castle after Diyarbakır Castle. The tunnels are located in the southern and northern facades of the castle and are approximately 100 meters long.

The earth masses in the tunnels have been removed, but work was subsequently halted as permission for the excavations expired and the number of staff was insufficient.

The 100 meter tunnel in the northern façade is said to have been used by the king's daughters to reach the Roman bath near the castle.

Niksar Mayor Duran Yadigar, who has inspected both tunnels, said works in the castle unearthed the entrance of the tunnels. "One tunnel goes to the stream below the castle. We have also excavated a parallel tunnel used by the king's daughters. When the works are completed, the two tunnels in the south and north of the Niksar Castle will be completely unearthed. The artistic features of the castle will be revealed," Yadigar said.

Requires attention

Yadigar added that once these structures are completely revealed, the castle will make a great contribution to cultural tourism in the region. "We expect the Culture and Tourism Ministry to be interested in the Niksar Castle.

A quarter of the castle's western section has been restored. Once it is completely restored, this place could be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, and we could present the value of the Black Sea region to the world. I ask the relevant officials to show an interest in these tunnels," Yadigar said.

Halis Şahin of the Tokat Museum, who provided information about the excavations, said works to reveal the Roman era tunnels would continue throughout the year.

Please visit the site: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bath-tunnels-of-kings-daughters-discovered-under-turkeys-second-largest-castle.aspx?pageID=238&nID=60735&NewsCatID=375>

ANCIENT GREEKS USED PORTABLE GRILLS AT THEIR PICNICS, BY MEGAN GANNON

The ancient Mycenaeans have a reputation as palace-builders and warriors, but they were also quite sophisticated cooks. More than 3,000 years ago, they used portable grill pits to make souvlaki and non-stick pans to make bread, new cooking experiments suggest.

The Mycenaean civilization, which was the backdrop for Homer's "Odyssey" and "Iliad," thrived in Greece during the late Bronze Age from around 1700 B.C. until the society mysteriously collapsed around 1200 B.C. The Mycenaeans left behind amazing palaces and gold-littered tombs at sites like Pylos and Mycenae, but in these places, archaeologists also have found less glamorous artifacts, such as souvlaki trays and griddles made from gritty clays.

It wasn't clear how these two types of pans were used, said Julie Hruby of Dartmouth College, presenting her research at the Archaeological Institute of America's annual meeting here on Saturday (Jan. 4). [The 7 Most Mysterious Archaeological Finds on Earth]

Ancient Artifacts: Fake or Authentic?

"We don't have any recipes," Hruby told LiveScience. "What we do have are tablets that talk about provisions for feasts, so we have some idea of what the ingredients might have been, but in terms of understanding how people cooked, the cooking pots are really our best bet."

The souvlaki trays were rectangular ceramic pans that sat underneath skewers of meat. Scientists weren't sure whether these trays would have been placed directly over a fire, catching fat drippings from the meat, or if the pans would have held hot coals like a portable barbeque pit. The round griddles, meanwhile, had one smooth side and one side covered with tiny holes, and archaeologists have debated which side would have been facing up during cooking.

To solve these culinary mysteries, Hruby and ceramicist Connie Podleski, of the Oregon College of Art and Craft, mixed American clays to mimic Mycenaean clay and created two griddles and two souvlaki trays in the ancient style. With their replica coarsewares, they tried to cook meat and bread.

Hruby and Podleski found that the souvlaki trays were too thick to transfer heat when placed over a fire pit, resulting in a pretty raw meal; placing the coals inside the tray was a much more effective cooking method.

"We should probably envision these as portable cooking devices — perhaps used during Mycenaean picnics," Hruby said.

As for the griddles, bread was more likely to stick when it was cooked on the smooth side of the pan. The holes, however, seemed to be an ancient non-sticking technology, ensuring that oil spread quite evenly over the griddle.

Lowly cooking pots were often overlooked, or even thrown out, during early excavations at Mycenaean sites in the 20th century, but researchers are starting to pay more attention to these vessels to glean a full picture of ancient lifestyles.

As for who was using the souvlaki trays and griddles, Hruby says it was likely chefs cooking for the Mycenaean ruling class.

"They're coming from elite structures, but I doubt very much that the elites were doing their own cooking," Hruby told LiveScience. "There are cooks mentioned in the Linear B [a Mycenaean syllabic script] record who have that as a profession — that's their job — so we should envision professional cooks using these."

Please visit the site: <http://news.discovery.com/history/archaeology/ancient-greeks-used-portable-grills-140109.htm>

BRINGING THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT: **DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY MEETS** **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

This is the thirteenth in a series of posts exploring 3D modeling in Mediterranean and European archaeology. For more in this series click [here](#). We hope these papers will start a discussion either in the comments of the blog or on Twitter using the #3DMedArch hashtag.

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Introduction

New technologies are making it possible to reinvestigate what ancient human life was like in earlier historical eras in ways that are more ethical, safe, cheap, and exact than ever before. One of the most groundbreaking technologies harnessed to analyze archaeological objects and landscapes is 3D modeling and, consequently, 3D printing. Over the last two years, as 3D modeling software, techniques, and printers have rapidly become cheaper and more user friendly, the adoption of 3D technologies in archaeological research has literally exploded with new projects appearing on a daily basis, as demonstrated by numerous contributions to this volume. Although archaeologists began printing objects created with 3D laser scanners a few years ago (Kuzminsky and Gardiner 2012; Niven et al. 2009), the speed of technological development focusing on modeling and printing in 3D presents another tool for the archaeologist's expanding digital toolkit. Our purpose here is to present a preliminary study of the applicability of image based modeling, as opposed to laser scanning, for 3D printing in archaeology using three printing formats (ABS plastic, powder, and resin). The artifact we tested was an Acheulean handaxe (Figure 1A), the same artifact presented in Olson and Placchetti's (2013) contribution.

The Problem

Efforts to illustrate accurately the form and appearance of chipped stone tools of flint, obsidian, and other siliceous rocks have been ongoing since the mid-nineteenth century when the first flaked stone artifacts were recognized as the artificial products of early human handicraft. Photography has only rarely been employed for illustrating stone tools because of the reflective surfaces of the rocks that were used to manufacture the tools, which make it difficult to light the specimens adequately to bring out the texture. There was also the problem of the depth of field, which made it difficult to focus both on the center and the retouched edges of the stone tool in the same photograph. Finally, the three dimensional form of the artifact was difficult to evaluate in the flat, two dimensional world of reflective analog photography.

These difficulties were overcome, at least partially, by the use of measured line drawings that included the outline of the stone tool, the pattern of the scars on the surface left by

the removal of flakes in the reduction and retouch stages of artifact manufacture, and the use of shading lines in the flake scar outlines to suggest the volume of the artifact and the texture of its surface as they might have appeared if the artifact was lit obliquely from the upper left. These conventions for making two dimensional technical line drawings were established by French and English archaeologists in the 1860s, and have been used in publications ever since to enable readers to “see”

artifacts like the Palaeolithic handaxes that convinced early archaeologists of the antiquity of humans in Europe. There was even a chromolithographic plate illustrating a handaxe in a publication from 1865 that attempted to show the color of such an artifact in a realistic manner.

As a consequence of the slow evolution of the methods of illustration and reproduction of stone tools, the demand for a more flexible method for reproducing the appearance of stone tools has long been desired. This need is now being met by the combination of digital photography and 3D printing. Here we discuss our own successful experiments to photograph original artifacts, in this case early Palaeolithic handaxes like those that were the subject of the first attempts at artifact illustration in the nineteenth century. We believe that this method, which uses commercially available software and hardware and does not require prolonged technical training or expensive scanners, can be readily and inexpensively deployed to the field, whether the museum, the laboratory, or the excavation site, allowing the rapid and accurate 3D imaging and reproduction of stone tools in a matter of hours. In our view this is the most significant advance in the illustration of stone tools to have been made in over the past 150 years.

The (Abbreviated) Process

The process began by taking 95 photographs at five different angles using a tripod and a rotatable surface, an effective photographic method that has been successively tested in the field (Olson et al. 2013). The object was photographed with an 18 MP Canon Rebel T4i with an 18–135 mm lens. The photos were then loaded into PhotoScan to first generate a tessellated 3D point cloud, then a monochromatic 3D model, and finally a fully photorealistic textured model. The textured model was then exported as an .obj file and brought into Meshlab for scaling and conversion to a .stl file for printing. With the assistance of Mechanical Engineering and the 3D Printing Lab at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, we printed the handaxe using three types of 3D printers (ABS plastic [Figure 1B], powder [Figure 1C], and resin [Figure 1D]).

In the end, it took approximately 4 hours to fully model the Acheulean handaxe with an image based modeling technique and depending on the desired printing media, up to 7 hours for each print. From a costs perspective, the modeling of the objects required a digital SLR camera, a tripod, and a professional license of PhotoScan (\$549 with the educational discount). Printing costs varied by printer type, but costs incurred for materials were as follows: ABS plastic (\$58.55) (Figure 2), powder (\$36.06), and resin (\$120.77). It must be noted, however, that the pricing provided is based on Wentworth’s 3D Printing Lab guidelines, which only include material replacement costs and not auxiliary fees that one might encounter in a commercial setting.

Implications

After critically evaluating each model, it was clear that certain 3D printing formats were more conducive to retaining minute lithic characteristics than others. The powder model, unless immersed in a durable coating, is simply too fragile for continued handling.

Although the model retains faint horizontal lines, which are byproducts of printing, the ABS plastic model retained the physical characteristics that a lithicist would expect to see in a reproduction. Baker (2013) and Forte (2013) briefly note the benefits of ABS plastic printing in this volume. It is the resin model that is the spitting image of the original handaxe in both its fidelity in retaining lithic features and its physical weight and feel.

This entire process has allowed us to think of all the ways that the combination of inexpensive image based modeling and printing could revolutionize existing modes of archaeological analysis, dissemination, and education. This process now makes it possible for an archaeologist with little training to obtain a digital camera, shoot a host of photos of an object, process the images in a user-friendly and inexpensive photogrammetry program, and then print a 3D model (printing costs varying between \$35 and \$125 depending on the material type and artifact size), all within a day's work. It is completely revolutionary as it literally brings the technology of the Stone Age back to life and solves a 150-year old problem of lithic display.

Please visit the site: <http://mediterraneanworld.wordpress.com/2014/01/02/bringing-the-past-into-the-present-digital-archaeology-meets-mechanical-engineering/> [Go there for pix]

NEW THEORY ON HOW EGYPT'S PYRAMIDS WERE BUILT WILL CAUSE 'WAR WITH ARCHAEOLOGISTS', BY FIONA KEATING

Welsh engineer Peter James has unveiled a new theory that the ancient Egyptian pyramids were built from rubble.

Archaeologists are fighting claims that their explanations on how the pyramids were built are incorrect.

Far from being constructed of giant stone blocks, 90% are rubble, according to a Times report.

Peter James, dubbed Indiana James, who has spent the last two decades studying the Egyptian pyramids, said: "Under the current theories, to lay the two million stone blocks required the Egyptians would have had to have laid a large block once every three minutes on long ramps.

"If that happened, there would still be signs that the ramps had been there, and there aren't any.

"I'm going to have a war with archaeologists. They will say: 'How would you know? You're not an archaeologist.' But if you wanted a house built would you use me or an archaeologist? Archaeologists have never had the engineering experience."

Structural engineer James and his team at Cintec International in Newport, South Wales, are world leaders in restoring ancient sites.

He has assisted in reinforcing burial chambers in the 4,600-year-old Step Pyramid and the Red Pyramid.

Inside the Step pyramid in Egypt, they discovered that a massive tonnage of small stones was being held up only by the trunk of a palm tree thousands of years old.

The engineer believes that the inside of the pyramids are made of small, easily handled blocks and that they were built from the inside out – not the outside in. "Think of the pyramids as the proverbial Lady of the Night: all fancy hat and no knickers."

James also has theories about what happened to the cladding of the pyramids. Archaeologists are convinced that the smooth stone was stolen for other building projects.

The engineer believes the outer stones fell off because of thermal expansion due to the great differences in temperature between day and night, ranging from 50C to 3C.

James, who doesn't pull his punches, said: "The pyramids were built to honour the sun god Ra, but in the end he was the one who bugged them."

Please visit the site: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/new-theory-how-egypts-pyramids-were-built-will-cause-war-archaeologists-video-1431910> [Go there for video]

WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT POISONED BY TOXIC WINE? BY MEREDITH BENNETT- SMITH

Could wine containing a potentially lethal dose of a white flowering plant have caused the death of one of the world's most fearless leaders?

Researchers have long pondered over the unexplained death of Alexander the Great, the Macedonian military leader who conquered a vast swathe of territory between the eastern Mediterranean and India before dying in Babylon in 323 B.C.

After his death, Alexander's military exploits were embellished to the point of legend, as were the many suggested causes of his untimely passing at about age 33. But now a new journal article analyzing the king's demise suggests a poisonous wine may have been the culprit.

The article, published this month in the journal of Clinical Toxicology, was co-authored by the University of Otago's Dr. Leo J. Schep, who has been studying Alexander's death for almost a decade.

The researcher, from the National Poisons Centre in New Zealand, theorizes that Alexander was killed by a toxic wine created using a fermented form of *Veratrum album* (also known as white hellebore) sometimes used to induce vomiting, the New Zealand Herald reports.

That mixture could have contained a fatal dose. Indeed, the study authors detail the potential deadliness of the plant in the study abstract:

Veratrum poisoning is heralded by the sudden onset of epigastric and substernal pain, which may also be accompanied by nausea and vomiting, followed by bradycardia and hypotension with severe muscular weakness.

After evaluating a wide variety of potential poisons, the paper's authors concluded that the white hellebore idea was the most plausible theories involving poison, given that the leader's alleged symptoms matched the kind the plant would have produced, Schep told The Huffington Post in an email.

"Exposure to extracts from this plant causes clinical effects similar to [Alexander's] reported signs and symptoms," he told HuffPost. "Of note was the duration of symptoms, which could continue for more than 12 days if intoxicated patients are not treated."

As to how the wine may have been administered, Schep told HuffPost that the "medicinal properties" of *Veratrum album* were well known at the time. Therefore, "someone with such knowledge, who was able to obtain the plant extract, and had access" to Alexander or his chalice could have poisoned him. Schep singled out Alexander's cup bearer as a possible suspect in such a scenario.

Schep was first asked to participate in the investigation into Alexander's death ahead of a BBC documentary on the subject back in 2003, the New Zealand Herald reports.

"They asked me to look into it for them and I said, 'Oh yeah, I'll give it a go, I like a challenge' - thinking I wasn't going to find anything," Schep said, per the outlet. "And to my utter surprise, and their surprise, we found something that could fit the bill."

Of course, poisoning is not the only theory surrounding Alexander's death. Researchers have offered up many different hypotheses, ranging from a deadly bacterium found in the River Styx to typhoid fever to excessive drinking.

But all of these theories are missing a key piece of evidence: Alexander's remains.

In a 2011 conversation between historians James Romm and Paul A. Cartledge, the experts noted that while several theories including Schep's are intriguing, until the missing corpse of Alexander is discovered -- and possibly autopsied -- it will be almost impossible to prove any cause of death definitively.

Please visit the site: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/13/alexander-the-great-poisoned-toxic-wine_n_4591553.html

LONDON SKULLS REVEAL GRUESOME EVIDENCE OF ROMAN HEAD HUNTERS IMPROVED FORENSIC TECHNIQUES HAVE SHED NEW LIGHT ON 39 SKULLS EXCAVATED NEAR MUSEUM OF LONDON IN 1988, BY MAEV KENNEDY

The work of Redfern and Bonney may force archaeologists to have another look at more recent skull finds such as the one above, excavated during work on a new Crossrail station. Photograph: The Guardian Scores of skulls excavated in the heart of London have provided the first gruesome evidence of Roman head hunters operating in Britain, gathering up the heads of executed enemies or fallen gladiators from the nearby amphitheatre, and exposing them for years in open pits.

"It is not a pretty picture," Rebecca Redfern, from the centre for human bioarchaeology at the museum of London, said. "At least one of the skulls shows evidence of being chewed at by dogs, so it was still fleshed when it was lying in the open."

"They come from a peculiar area by the Walbrook stream, which was a site for burials and a centre of ritual activity – but also very much in use for more mundane pursuits. We have evidence of lots of shoe making, so you have to think of the cobbler working yards from these open pits, with the dog chewing away – really not nice."

"We believe that some of the heads may be people who were killed in the amphitheatre. Decapitation was a way of finishing off gladiators, but not everyone who died in the Roman amphitheatre was a gladiator, it was where common criminals were executed, or sometimes for entertainment you'd give two of them swords and have them kill one another. Other heads may have been brought back by soldiers from skirmishes, probably on the Hadrian or Antonine walls – again, it would have taken weeks to bring them back, so not a nice process."

The 39 skulls were excavated at London Wall almost within sight of the Museum of London in 1988, and deposited at the museum, but the scientists have only recently applied improved forensic techniques to them. Redfern and her colleague Heather Bonney, from the Earth Sciences Department of the Natural History Museum, publish their results for the first time this week in the Journal of Archaeological Science.

The tests revealed that almost all the skulls are of adult males – some could not be identified – and most bear scars and slash marks of many wounds inflicted around the time of death. Many also have multiple healed wounds, one with the shattered cheek bone typical of a violent punch in the face, showing their lives were not tranquil. On some there is clear evidence of decapitation with a sword: possibly all were killed in that way, but if the fatal blow was through the neck the proof has vanished with the rest of their bodies.

"Whether they died in the amphitheatre or in battle, decapitation with a sword is a very efficient way of ending a life – somebody very much wanted these people dead," Redfern said.

The evidence suggests that they were left for years decomposing in the open pits.

"There is none of the fracturing you'd expect if they'd been put on spikes, so it looks as if they were just set down and left – though of course you could have had a nice shelf to display them on."

There is evidence of head taking from across the Roman empire, including Trajan's column in Rome which shows clean shaven Roman soldiers presenting bearded barbarian heads as trophies to the emperor. Heads are also shown being held up in triumph on tomb stones of cavalry officers in Britain and elsewhere. Although pits of body parts have been found in Britain, the London skulls, deposited over several decades, are an unprecedented find from the Roman capital.

Hundreds of skulls have been found for centuries along the course of the long vanished Walbrook – most recently by the team working on the new Crossrail station just outside Liverpool Street station.

They have often been interpreted either as washed out of Roman cemeteries, or as victims of Boudicca's revolution, when the East Anglian leader of the Icenii tribe swept south to London in AD60, torching Roman settlements and towns.

However the work of Redfern and Bonney may force archaeologists to have another look at the skull finds.

The London Wall skulls are far too late for Boudicca: they have been dated to the 2nd century AD, a time of peace, prosperity and expansion for the Roman city.

"These were all young men, very untypical of what we usually find in Roman burials, where we tend to get the very young and the old," Redfern said.

"Most people in second century London lived peaceful quiet lives – but as we now know, not everyone. This is a glimpse into the very dark side of Roman life."

Please visit the site: <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/jan/15/london-skulls-roman-head-hunters>

DOUBTS GROW IN ISRAEL OVER THE TRUE WHEREABOUTS OF 'HEROD'S TOMB'

Mausoleum unearthed near Jerusalem in 2007 not grand enough for megalomaniacal biblical king, claim some experts Laurent Zecchini

A reconstruction of the mausoleum belonging to Herod the Great, the king of Judea, formed the centrepiece of a major 2013 exhibition at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Herod the Great: the King's Final Journey. It was based on a discovery unearthed by Ehoud Netzer in May 2007 in the hills of Herodium, the tumulus south-east of Jerusalem.

This find, the fruit of a 40-year quest by the Israeli archaeologist, was hailed as a revelation. However, some people now question whether the tomb really belonged to Herod, a major historical figure in Judeo-Roman history. One sceptic is the Israeli archaeologist, Joseph Patrich, who, like Netzer was before he died in 2010, is professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Patrich has "profound respect" for his teacher. "I tell my students about how much we owe Netzer for our knowledge of Herodian architecture. He was a great archaeologist and made a considerable contribution. But I believe he was wrong about Herod's tomb. It contradicts everything we've learned about Herodian architecture from Netzer."

Together with his colleague Benjamin Arubas, Patrich voiced his concerns at a conference in Jerusalem. Since then he claims to have sensed "a feeling of relief" in the archaeology community – in other words, he was not alone in having doubts but few people had dared to express them.

The main point of his argument is that the very size of Netzer's mausoleum does not match what we know about the megalomaniac king. Both the mausoleum and the sarcophagus are far too modest in relation to those of the other historical figures, such as Caesar and Alexandra the Great, with whom Herod compared himself.

Patrich believes that it is inconceivable that after building monumental fortresses and palaces, Herod "would have been content with such a dark tomb for himself". He stressed other inconsistencies, such as the absence of a courtyard or an entrance wide enough to receive the thousands who, according to Flavius Josephus, followed Herod's funeral procession. Furthermore, the mausoleum's location is wrong, since it would not have been connected to the main palace buildings as they stood at Herodium's peak.

The layout is awkward too, and would have entailed destroying a water cistern to build the staircase leading to the tomb. "Herod was a master of architecture, so would he really have built the monument in such a clumsy way?" wonders Patrich. He believes that Netzer's tomb belonged to "a different construction project prior to Herod's projects for Herodium".

Jean-Sylvain Caillou, of the French Biblical and Archaeological School in Jerusalem, shares Patrich's doubts. He thinks that Netzer's find could be "a royal tomb, perhaps belonging to one of Herod's family members, but not the king himself. It would be

absurd for him to choose a small tomb at the base of the tumulus when all the symbolism surrounding him would have him at the peak of Herodium." Patrich agrees, so it seems that the mystery of Herod's tomb remains.

The dig continues at Herodium, and perhaps there will be new, more verifiable discoveries in the future. Meanwhile, Patrich is pleased to observe that most experts now refer to "Herod's tomb" in inverted commas.

This article appeared in Guardian Weekly, which incorporates material from Le Monde.

Please visit the site: <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/jan/14/herod-judea-tomb-jerusalem-herodia>

ANCIENT PEOPLE FOUGHT DEMONS AND DISASTERS WITH EGGS, BY MEGAN GANNON

Residents of Sardis, an ancient city in modern-day Turkey, spent decades rebuilding after a devastating earthquake struck one night in the year A.D. 17. To ward off demons and future disasters, some locals may have sealed eggshells under their new floors as lucky charms, archaeologists found.

In the summer of 2013 archaeologists were excavating an ancient building at Sardis that was constructed after the earthquake. Underneath the floor, they found two curious containers that each held small bronze tools, an eggshell and a coin, resting just atop the remains of an earlier elite building that was destroyed during the disaster.

The objects in the odd assemblages were important in ancient rituals to keep evil forces at bay, and the archaeologists who found them believe they could be rare examples of how the earthquake affected ancient people on a personal level.

Please visit the site: <http://www.livescience.com/42504-disaster-preventing-eggs-sardis.html>

LAST GRAIN STORES AT ÇATALHÖYÜK **FOUND**

A cache of perfectly preserved Neolithic grain, the largest so far known in the Middle East, has been uncovered by Polish archaeologists working at Çatalhöyük in Central Turkey.

Çatalhöyük is one of the centres of urbanisation of the earliest farming communities and one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world.

”In a small room with an area of approximately 7 square metres we discovered four containers formed from packed clay containing a large quantity of multi-row grains” – explained Prof. Arkadiusz Marciniak from the Institute of Prehistory in Poznan.

Well preserved

In total, between the two grain hoppers that were excavated the archaeologists recovered almost 5kg of grain. Such an amount in a well preserved state is of great importance to the investigation of early agriculture.

Archaeobotanical research has shown that it was an extinct species of wheat – popular in Neolithic times in the Middle East and Europe. The room in which the discovery was made lay in the north-eastern part of the house group – which consisted of residential buildings constructed around 8,200 years ago.

Containers for barley in the room where the stored grain was discovered. Image: A. Marciniak

A period of decline

The find dates to a period when this once thriving settlement was in decline and inhabited by only a single household. The entire complex of structures will be fully investigated over the coming research seasons.

It is clear that the storage room in which the grain bins were located had burned down with carbonised grains suggesting a swift and hot fire. In addition to the grain bins, the archaeologists also recovered several ceramic vessels.

Çatalhöyük is located in the southern part of the Anatolian Plain in central Turkey and excavations began in the 1960s under the direction of James Mellaart. The research resumed in 1993 under an international team headed by Professor Ian Hodder of Stanford University with Polish archaeologists joining the project in 2001.

Çatalhöyük was inhabited continuously for around 1200 years between 7200 and 6000 BCE.

In its heyday, this densely built-up residential area covered several acres and had a population of up to 6000 inhabitants.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.pasthorizonspr.com/index.php/archives/01/2014/last-grain-stores-at-catalhoyuk-found>

POLES DISCOVERED AN OVER 8 THOUSAND YEARS OLD GRAIN STORAGE IN TURKEY

The largest so far known in the Middle East amount of grain of the Neolithic period in a perfect state of preservation has been discovered by Polish archaeologists in Çatalhöyük, a famous archaeological site in Turkey.

Çatalhöyük is one of the largest urban centers of first farmers and one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world.

"In a small room with an area of approximately 7 m² we discovered four clay containers. Each contained barley" - explained project pleader Prof. Arkadiusz Marciniak from the Institute of Prehistory, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

In total, from each of the two studied containers archaeologists recovered almost 5 kg of grain. Such amount and such a good state of preservation is a global scale phenomenon. In addition, a different grain cluster was discovered in the room. Archeobotanical analysis showed that it was an extinct species of wheat, popular in Neolithic times in the Middle East and Europe. The room in which the discovery was made was situated in the north-eastern part of the homestead - it belonged to a larger residential building, inhabited 8,200 years ago.

It was the final period of the large settlement. According to Prof. Marciniak, only few inhabited households remained on the hill at the time.

The entire structure will be explored in the coming research seasons. It is known already that the grain storage must have burned down: grain was charred at the temperature of several hundred degrees.

Nevertheless, archaeologists were able to determine that the walls of the room were whitened from the inside. In addition to the grain containers, archaeologists found several ceramic vessels, also used for storage.

Çatalhöyük is located in the southern part of the Anatolian Plateau (central Turkey). So far, Polish excavations have focused in the central part of the tell - an artificial hill formed as a result of centuries of settlement. Currently, during the second season, archaeologists explore a part of the south slope.

The first excavations at Çatalhöyük were conducted in the 1960s by British archaeologists James Mellaart. The research was resumed only in 1993. International team is headed by Prof. Ian Hodder of Stanford University. Polish archaeologists joined the project in 2001.

Çatalhöyük was inhabited continuously for 1200 years between 7200 and 6000 BC. It is estimated that during its heyday, the densely built-up settlement with an area of dozens of acres had 6000 residents. The site became famous due to the paintings which decorated the walls of houses and other plastic interior decorations. They depicted human and

animal figures as well as geometric motifs. An interesting fact is that the dead were buried under the floors of houses.

Last year's excavations continued from June to August. The work was possible with financial support of the National Science Centre under the Harmony programme.

Please visit the site: <http://www.naukawpolsce.pap.pl/en/news/news,398823,poles-discovered-an-over-8-thousand-years-old-grain-storage-in-turkey.html>

FIRST DINOSAUR REMAINS FOUND IN SAUDI ARABIA

A team of international researchers has found the first dinosaur remains ever in Saudi Arabia, identifying two species that lived in what is now the Red Sea coastal region more than 72 million years ago, the Al Medina newspaper reported Sunday.

The scientists discovered parts of the tail of a Titanosaurus, a type of vegetarian dinosaur that measured at least 20 meters (66 feet) long, and some of the teeth of another dinosaur.

“This discovery is important not only for the fossils that were found, but also because of the fact that they have been able to be identified,” Benjamin Ker, the scientist in charge of the project and a researcher at Sweden’s Uppsala University, said.

These are the first dinosaur remains found on the Arabian Peninsula, Ker said.

The scarcity of fossils on the Arabian Peninsula is due to the fact that the sedimentary rocks there were formed in valleys and rivers during a geological epoch when there were few dinosaurs, Tom Rich, a member of Australia’s Museum Victoria, told the newspaper.

Remains similar to the ones found in Saudi Arabia have already been unearthed in North Africa, Madagascar and South America, Rich said.

The research team is comprised of Swedish, Australian and Saudi scientists from the University of Uppsala, the Museum Victoria, Australia’s Monash University and the Saudi Geological Service.

Please visit the site: <http://www.hispanicallyspeakingnews.com/latino-daily-news/details/first-dinosaur-remains-found-in-saudi-arabia/28706/>

GENOME STUDY REVEALS NEW INSIGHT ON DOG DOMESTICATION

Dogs and wolves evolved from a common ancestor between 11,000 and 34,000 years ago, researchers suggest.

The results of a recent study of canine genomes suggests that dogs and their wolf cousins share an evolutionary history that is considerably more complex than previously thought, pointing to a common ancestor that lived between 11,000 and 34,000 years ago and that the earliest dogs may have first lived among hunter-gatherer societies, before the advent of agriculture.

It challenges the popular theory that humans domesticated dogs around the time that they developed agriculture, and that dogs evolved from a single wolf population or group.

The study, led by Adam Freedman, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), published in PLoS Genetics on January 16, 2014, also indicates that dogs are more closely related to each other than they are to wolves, suggesting that some of the genetic overlap observed between some modern dogs and modern wolves is more likely the result of interbreeding after dog domestication.

"Dog domestication is more complex than we originally thought," said John Novembre, associate professor in the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Chicago and co-author of the study. "In this analysis we didn't see clear evidence in favor of a multi-regional model, or a single origin from one of the living wolves that we sampled. It makes the field of dog domestication very intriguing going forward."

To get to these conclusions, the research team constructed high quality genome sequences from three gray wolves: one each from China, Croatia and Israel, regions where dogs are thought to have originated. They also produced genomes from two modern dog breeds: a basenji, a breed which originates in central Africa, and a dingo from Australia, both areas that have been historically isolated from modern wolf populations. In addition to the wolves and dogs, they sequenced the genome of a golden jackal to serve as an "outgroup" representing earlier divergence.

Their analysis of the basenji and dingo genomes, plus a previously published boxer genome from Europe, showed that the dog breeds were most closely related to each other. Likewise, the three wolves from each geographic area were more closely related to each other than any of the dogs. This seems to be true regardless of geographic proximity between the dog breeds and their wolf counterparts. It suggests that, according to Novembre, both dogs and wolves were descended from an older, wolf-like ancestor common to both species. It raises the possibility that there were other, now extinct, wolf lineages from which the ancestors of the modern dogs diverged.

"So now when you ask which wolves are dogs most closely related to," he says, "it's none of these three because these are wolves that diverged in the recent past. It's something more ancient that isn't well represented by today's wolves."

Please visit the site: <http://popular-archaeology.com/issue/12012013/article/genetic-study-reveals-new-insight-on-dog-domestication>

MYSTERY PHARAOH FOUND IN EGYPT, **BY ROSSELLA LORENZI**

The remains of a previously unknown pharaoh who reigned more than 3,600 years ago have emerged from the desert sand at South Abydos in Sohag province, about 300 miles south of Cairo, the Egyptian antiquities ministry said.

The skeleton of Woseribre Senebkay, who appears to be one of the earliest kings of a forgotten Abydos Dynasty (1650–1600 B.C.) was found by a University of Pennsylvania expedition working with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. It rested in a four-chambered tomb amidst the fragmented debris of his coffin, funerary mask and canopic chest. Such chests were used to contain the organs of an individual.

Senebkay's tomb dates to about 1650 B.C., during Egypt's Second Intermediate Period, when central authority collapsed, giving rise to several small kingdoms. It was found close to a larger royal sarcophagus chamber, recently identified as belonging to king Sobekhotep (probably Sobekhotep I, ca. 1780 BC) of the 13th Dynasty.

According to the archaeologists, the kings of the Abydos Dynasty placed their burials near the tombs of earlier Middle Kingdom pharaohs, including Senwosret III of the 12th Dynasty (about 1880–1840 B.C.) and Sobekhotep I.

In fact, there is evidence for about 16 royal tombs belonging to the dynasty, whose existence was first hypothesized by Egyptologist Kim Ryholt in 1997.

"It's exciting to find not just the tomb of one previously unknown pharaoh, but the necropolis of an entire forgotten dynasty," said Josef Wegner, Egyptian Section Associate Curator of the Penn Museum, who led the University of Pennsylvania team.

Badly plundered by ancient tomb robbers, the tomb of Senebkay is modest in scale. It features a limestone burial chamber painted with images of the goddesses Nut, Nephthys, Selket, and Isis flanking Senebkay's canopic shrine.

Other texts in the tomb identify the pharaoh as the "king of Upper and Lower Egypt, Woseribre, the son of Re, Senebkay."

Please visit the site: <http://news.discovery.com/history/ancient-egypt/mystery-pharaoh-found-in-egypt-140116.htm> [Go there for links to pix] [Another story and more pix at <http://english.ahram.org.eg/News/91651.aspx>]

PAPHOS EXCAVATIONS UNCOVER ANCIENT BATH HOUSE

EXCAVATIONS east of the new-opened Kings Avenue Mall in Paphos have uncovered a series of clay pipes, speculated to be a part of a Hellenistic and Roman-era aqueduct and system of bath houses.

Efstathios Raptou, an Antiquities Department official told the Cyprus News Agency on Saturday that although no amphorae or statues were found, the findings were of great importance in terms of the topography of Paphos, indicating that the ancient city was far higher above sea level than originally thought.

Raptou also believes that it was possible the whole structure was decorated with murals that were destroyed centuries ago.

The system of pipes appeared to have been used to move water from different directions in the nearby hills to a series of tanks at the centre of the complex.

A total of four tanks were discovered, one of which was intact measuring nine metres in length, 4.7 metres wide and 1.65 in height, like a small bathing pool. The lower part of the ‘tank’ was embedded in the rock face.

A second, smaller tank at a higher level, which was connected to the other one by one of the clay pipes, was largely destroyed.

The state of the largest of the four tanks – vertically split in two – suggested the baths may have been abandoned at some stage and assigned some other use.

Fragments of marble coverings, mosaic flooring, and wall paintings were also evident at the site. The remaining archaeological material uncovered did not suggest any residential use.

The antiquities department posits that the baths were in continuous use throughout the Hellenistic period more than 300 years BC and may have fallen out of use gradually during Roman times.

“From an architectural point of view it’s a significant building,” said Raptou who supervised the excavations.

Please visit the site: <http://cyprus-mail.com/2014/01/18/paphos-excavations-uncover-ancient-bath-house/>

MUSEUM ACQUIRES RARE EARLY CHRISTIAN MOSAICS

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Fordham University has acquired its first Christian artifacts from antiquity: nine mosaics from a church built in the fifth century, a time when Christian art was still inflected with pagan images and the cross had yet to become the dominant symbol of the faith.

The mosaics formed part of a church floor located in what is now northwest Syria. An anonymous donor gave them to Fordham's Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art in December, expanding the historical sweep of a collection that was already the largest of its type among universities in the New York region.

"They're evidence of very, very early Christianity in the Levant and the eastern Mediterranean, so they're exciting for that," said Jennifer Udell, Ph.D., curator of university art. "It certainly is proof of an established religion gaining hold, and being an important enough religion to engender building projects with beautiful mosaics. We didn't have anything like them so they've really increased the scope of our holdings."

Located at Fordham's Rose Hill campus, the Museum of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art already contains more than 260 objects, dating from the 10th century B.C. through the third century A.D., that illustrate the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean region.

The nine new pieces, with their pictures and inscriptions, offer a window into a transitional time in the church. Seven of the mosaics show animals or geometric shapes, making them typical of a period in which church floors generally featured things like flora and fauna or sunbursts, said Michael Peppard, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology. Generally absent are images of Christ, the cross, or human figures.

"One thing they clearly are emphasizing is the idea of new creation and paradise," he said. "There's that sense of, Christians are a new creation, they're newly born, they're inhabiting this Garden of Eden again, and that comes out pretty strongly."

Udell noted that one of the mosaics shows a peacock, "which early on became a symbol of the resurrection." In an example of how motifs crossed religious boundaries at the time, she said, the peacock image was also popular in synagogues.

"Religious art still [was] sort of adopting motifs from the Greco-Roman world, which was all pagan in the eyes of the Christians," she said. "So you're looking at objects that are harnessing a visual language that was familiar to the population at the time. It makes a lot of sense that the early church fathers and early leaders of Christianity would want to appeal to the broader population by using familiar visual imagery."

The other two mosaics are inscribed with valuable information, Peppard said: the names of four church officials, the name of the benefactor who paid for the church's construction, and the date it was built.

(That would be the month of Apellaios in the 775th year following the region's conquest by Alexander the Great, equivalent to December of 463 A.D.)

The name of the bishop cited in the mosaics, Epiphanius, was common at the time but probably denotes Epiphanius, bishop of Apamea in the 450s and 460s. Peppard and Udell are conducting research to answer this and other questions about the mosaics.

The text also mentions another official, the *periodeutês*—a kind of auxiliary bishop—who provided pastoral care for rural churches in Syria at the time, according to Peppard. It's an office that was prominent for a few hundred years before fading away, although its name is still used by modern-day Maronite Catholics, he said.

“[In these mosaics] we have kind of everything you want as a historian,” he said. “We have five proper names and a date, and those things are not to be taken for granted in history.”

The mosaics also provide great examples of epigraphy for students of the classics to examine, Udell said. “It's going to be pretty exciting for students of the classics and religion to actually study something that's material, instead of just text.”

Editor's Note

In light of the present civil conflict in Syria and legitimate concerns for the security of that country's ancient archaeological sites and artifacts, it should be noted that the recent gift to Fordham of the nine mosaics described in the above article was accepted following a thorough provenance review in accordance with University policy and careful examination of accompanying, official documentation attesting to the mosaics' legal export to the United States in 1972.

Eyewitness testimony and other evidence further point to their excavation no later than 1968. A forthcoming article in the *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (Journal for Papyrology and Epigraphy) by Fordham theology professor Michael Peppard, Ph.D., and a future article by Jennifer Udell, Ph.D., curator of University art, will offer thorough examinations of the mosaics' ancient and modern histories.

Please visit the site:

http://www.fordham.edu/Campus_Resources/eNewsroom/topstories_3067.asp

FORDHAM’S FOLLY? SOME ANSWERS, MANY MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT ACQUISITION OF SYRIAN MOSAICS

Last week, Fordham University announced it had accepted a gift of nine early Christian mosaics from an anonymous donor.

The mosaics formed part of a church floor located in what is now northwest Syria, according to a university press release, which showed University museum curator Jennifer Udell and Theology professor Michael Peppard posing victoriously next to the recently uncrated acquisitions.

The acquisition sparked concern for several reasons: According to inscriptions translated by Peppard, the mosaics likely come from an ancient church near Apamea, Syria — the site of devastating looting, particularly in recent years. The acquisition also falls outside the Fordham museum’s collecting area, which until now focused on Greek, Roman and Etruscan art. That collection was built largely from the 2007 donation of objects from William D. Walsh, many of which had no clear provenance before the auction sale where they were purchased.

The donation raised concerns among scholars. “The message that it sends is there is nothing wrong with looting and buying illegal objects. Fordham needs to be very careful about this,” UPenn museum director Richard Hodges told the New York Times.

Finally, the donor has insisted on anonymity, and the press release disclosed nothing of the mosaic’s removal from Syria or subsequent ownership history. Predictably, the announcement has caused a flurry of concern among archaeologists and those who follow the illicit antiquities trade.

Via Twitter, Peppard offered a few bits of information: “Excavation unknown. Entered Beirut antiquities market in 60s. Legally purchased/exported in 1972.”

Legally according to...? “According to Lebanese customs papers and all relevant international laws at the time. Henri Seyrig (Beirut) sent photos of these to J.-P. Rey-Coquais in 1968, so they were already there.”

Where were the mosaics likely found? “There were hundreds of rural church ruins in Syria in mid 20th c. Can’t know for sure, esp. since 2011. I argue Apamene diocese based on names, comparanda, and info from Seyrig in 1968.”

When pressed for more detail, Peppard demurred. “I was brought on to translate the inscriptions. I don’t know everything our legal counsel did, but it was a lot. I asked all the Qs that I knew to ask. I really can’t take this up on Twitter any more. Sorry.”

A similar conversation unfolded on the Facebook page of Elizabeth Marlowe, an art history professor at Colgate University, where Fordham’s Susanna McFadden defended the acquisition.

“Guys, I don’t disagree with you on the ethics of this issue, but to defend my colleagues and their decision to acquire these objects: 1) They were previously collecting dust in someones private collection and would never have otherwise seen the light of day if it weren’t for this acquisition. 2) The curator was very careful to make certain that the mosaics had a clear provenance detailing their purchase well before 1970 before accepting the gift 3) We wouldn’t know where they were from AT ALL if Fordham hadn’t acquired them and thus became accessible to a scholar who has managed to convincingly date and located them (article forthcoming in ZPE) 4) A discussion of the legal and ethical issues about this acquisition will certainly ensue as a result of this acquisition, and is welcomed by the curator and all involved. There will be full transparency. BUT, the mosaics only arrived a month ago, and this article was written by a PR person for the university who knows nothing of the issues and was simply trying to get the word out. Lets not attack prematurely.”

Marlowe responded: “Sorry Susanna; I don’t hold you accountable for this (obviously), but given Fordham’s recent collecting history, I don’t see why we should give their acquisitions decisions the benefit of the doubt. The argument that collecting looted antiquities saves them from oblivion is always trotted out, but the fact remains that if there were no buyers of undocumented antiquities, no one would bother to rip them out of their archaeological contexts in the first place.

The celebratory tone of this article, and its utter silence about the larger issues, only encourages buyers and looters to keep doing their thing. And the gushing of the historian is naive, at best.”

At our request, Fordham has now released additional information about the acquisition in an unsigned “university statement” provided by Udell:

Prior to acceptance of the mosaics, museum and University officials, including the curator, executive director of University Art Collections, and University counsel, plus a Fordham scholar specializing in early Christianity, conducted a thorough review of the mosaics’ provenance, ancient and modern.

In accordance with University policy, and in line with standard guidelines for museums, University personnel reviewed documentation provided by the donor. This included two separate special customs invoices, issued by the U.S. Bureau of Customs and filed with the Treasury Department, which confirm that the mosaics were legally purchased in Beirut on May 19, 1972, and August 4, 1972, and shipped on the SS Concordia FJell and SS Star, respectively, and imported into the United States at the port of Baltimore on June 16 and August 23, 1972, respectively.

The mosaics remained continuously in the possession of the donor’s family until they were given to Fordham.

Though acquired in Beirut, their Syrian provenance was established by Michael Peppard, Ph.D, an assistant professor of theology at Fordham.

Among Peppard’s research interests is early Christianity, including its art, ritual, and material culture. His research on the prosopography of the early Byzantine Christian names on the large round mosaic (based largely upon the work of Pauline Donceel-Voute’s work on church mosaics of Syria and Lebanon) shows that the names, especially the bishop Epiphanius, are closely associated with the Apamene diocese of Syria, the

region to the west of modern Maarrat al-Numan on the highway between Aleppo and Damascus.

In a forthcoming article in the *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (ZPE=Journal for Papyrology and Epigraphy), the international flagship journal for first editions of such artifacts, Peppard shows that:

[The mosaics] were available for purchase earlier than [1972], though.

In a March, 1968, letter to Jean-Paul Rey-Coquais, Henri Seyrig reports having seen a group of mosaics from “the region of Tell Minis” for sale, which seems to have included these among others. He made photographs of two of them along with “une série de copies hâtives.”

Then in a 1979 article about Apamene inscriptions from Huarte, Pierre Canivet reported that Rey-Coquais had shared with him knowledge of the mosaic inscriptions he had seen via Seyrig, one of which dated the episcopacy of Epiphanius to 463 CE. It would take until 1994, however, for the text of that mosaic (namely, the large rondel now in Fordham’s possession) to be printed, in a footnote by Denis Feissel, who had seen a photograph and a transcription of it from a different source, the records of Jean Marcillet-Jaubert. Finally, the transcription was included in a 1996 article by Rey-Coquais and in that year’s *L’Annee epigraphique et Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum* (SEG).

Peppard’s research was conducted prior to the University’s acceptance of the gift. He and Jennifer Udell, Ph.D., curator of University art at Fordham, will continue to publish scholarly examinations of the mosaics’ ancient and modern histories.

Fordham has also amended the release on its website with some of the above information, adding this statement:

Fordham University acknowledges the serious and legitimate concerns for the security of Syria’s ancient archaeological sites and artifacts, and more broadly, the importance of establishing provenance as rigorously as possible in acquiring artworks from antiquity. The University is committed to best practices in antiquities acquisition, documentation, and display.

We have asked Fordham to release the underlying provenance documents to us, so they can be inspected widely and skeptically by those with no interest in the acquisition. We’ll post them here when we have them.

David Gill at Looting Matters has also asked several pertinent questions about the acquisition. To his list we add our own:

Lebanon is notorious as a country of transit for looted antiquities from the Middle East, in part because forged government export documents have historically been easy to obtain. (Just ask Arthur Houghton about the Sevso Treasure and other cases.) Did Fordham obtain copies of the provenance records described above? Do they hold up to close scrutiny?

Why has the donor of such valuable archaeological material insisted on anonymity? What tax write-off did the donor receive for the donation?

Given the uniqueness of the material, who provided the arm’s length valuation?

Where is the other related material cited in the Henri Seyrig letter?

In our conversation over Twitter, Peppard asked us, “Honest Q: What would you do differently?” For a start: In light of overwhelming evidence of on-going and historical looting in Syria and the prevalence of false provenance documents, these questions should have been addressed publicly and in detail in the triumphant press announcement.

While we await the release of more details, perhaps now is as good a time as any to dig into that 2007 Walsh donation.

Please visit the site: <http://chasingaphrodite.com/author/chasingaphrodite/>

THE SEEDS OF CIVILIZATION - WHY DID HUMANS FIRST TURN FROM NOMADIC WANDERING TO VILLAGES AND TOGETHERNESS? THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN A 9,500-YEAR-OLD SETTLEMENT IN CENTRAL TURKEY, BY MICHAEL BALTER

Basak Boz looked up from the disarticulated human skeleton spread out on the laboratory bench in front of her.

The archaeologist standing in the lab doorway shuffled his dusty boots apologetically. “It looks like something really important this time,” he said.

Building 42 is one of more than a dozen mud-brick dwellings under excavation at Catalhoyuk, a 9,500-year-old Neolithic, or New Stone Age, settlement that forms a great mound overlooking fields of wheat and melon in the Konya Plain of south-central Turkey. In the previous two months, archaeologists working on Building 42 had uncovered the remains of several individuals under its white plaster floors, including an adult, a child and two infants. But this find was different. It was the body of a woman who had been laid on her side, her legs drawn to her chest in a fetal position. Her arms, crossed over her chest, seemed to be cradling a large object.

Boz, a physical anthropologist at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, walked up a hill to Building 42. She took out a set of implements, including an oven baster for blowing off dust and a small scalpel, and set to work. After about an hour, she noticed a powdery white substance around the object the skeleton cradled.

“Ian!” she said, beaming. “It’s a plastered skull!” Ian Hodder, the Stanford University archaeologist who directs the Catalhoyuk excavations, was making his morning rounds of the 32-acre site. He crouched next to Boz to take a closer look. The skull’s face was covered with soft, white plaster, much of it painted ochre, a red pigment. The skull had been given a plaster nose, and its eye sockets had been filled with plaster. Boz could not be sure if the skull was male or female at first, but from the close knitting of the suture in the cranium (which closes as people age), she could tell that it belonged to an older person; later testing showed it was a woman’s.

Since researchers first began digging at Catalhoyuk (pronounced “Chah-tahl-hew-yook”) in the 1960s, they’ve found more than 400 skeletons under the houses, which are clustered in a honeycomb-like maze. Burying the dead under houses was common at early agricultural villages in the Near East—at Catalhoyuk, one dwelling alone had 64 skeletons. Plastered skulls were less common and have been found at only one other Neolithic site in Turkey, though some have been found in the Palestinian-controlled city of Jericho and at sites in Syria and Jordan. This was the first one ever found at Catalhoyuk—and the first buried with another human skeleton. The burial hinted at an

emotional bond between two people. Was the plastered skull that of a parent of the woman buried there nine millennia ago?

Hodder and his colleagues were also working to decipher paintings and sculptures found at Catalhoyuk. The surfaces of many houses are covered with murals of men hunting wild deer and cattle and of vultures swooping down on headless people. Some plaster walls bear bas-reliefs of leopards and apparently female figures that may represent goddesses. Hodder is convinced that this symbol-rich settlement, one of the largest and best-preserved Neolithic sites ever discovered, holds the key to prehistoric psyches and to one of the most fundamental questions about humanity: why people first settled in permanent communities.

In the millennia before Catalhoyuk's flowering, most of the Near East was occupied by nomads who hunted gazelle, sheep, goats and cattle, and gathered wild grasses, cereals, nuts and fruits. Why, beginning about 14,000 years ago, did they take the first steps toward permanent communities, settling together in stone houses and eventually inventing farming? A few millennia later, as many as 8,000 people gathered in Catalhoyuk, and they stayed put for more than a thousand years, building and rebuilding houses packed so closely together that residents had to enter through the roofs. "The formation of the first communities was a major turning point in humanity's development, and the people of Catalhoyuk seem to have pushed the idea to an extreme," says Hodder. "But we are still left with the question of why they would bother to come together in such numbers in the first place."

For decades, it seemed that Catalhoyuk's mysteries might never be explored. James Mellaart, a British archaeologist, discovered the site in 1958 and made it famous. But his research was cut short in 1965, after Turkish authorities withdrew his excavation permit after alleging he was involved in the Dorak Affair, a scandal in which important Bronze Age artifacts reportedly went missing. Mellaart was not formally charged, and a committee of distinguished archaeologists later exonerated him of any role in the affair. Still, he was never allowed back at the site, and it sat neglected for nearly 30 years.

Hodder, a tall, bespectacled, 56-year-old Englishman, first heard about Catalhoyuk in 1969 as a student of Mellaart's at London's Institute of Archaeology. In 1993, after some delicate negotiations with Turkish authorities, helped greatly by support from leading Turkish archaeologists, he was given permission to reopen the site.

Nearly 120 archaeologists, anthropologists, paleoecologists, botanists, zoologists, geologists and chemists have gathered at the mound near Konya summer after summer, sieving through nearly every cubic inch of Catalhoyuk's ancient soil for clues about how these Neolithic people lived and what they believed. The researchers even brought in a psychoanalyst to provide insights into the prehistoric mind. Catalhoyuk, says Colin Renfrew, emeritus professor of archaeology at Cambridge University in Britain, is "one of the most ambitious excavation projects currently in progress." Bruce Trigger of Montreal's McGill University, a noted historian of archaeology, says Hodder's work at the site "is providing a new model of how archaeological research can and should be carried out." Still, Hodder's unorthodox approach—combining scientific rigor and imaginative speculation to get at the psychology of Catalhoyuk's prehistoric inhabitants—has generated controversy.

Archaeologists have long debated what caused the Neolithic Revolution, when prehistoric human beings gave up the nomadic life, founded villages and began to farm the land. Academics once emphasized climatic and environmental changes that took place about 11,500 years ago, when the last ice age came to an end and agriculture became possible, maybe even necessary, for survival. Hodder, on the other hand, emphasizes the role played by changes in human psychology and cognition.

Mellaart, now retired and living in London, believed that religion was central to the lives of Catalhoyuk's people. He concluded that they had worshiped a mother goddess, as represented by a plethora of female figurines, made of fired clay or stone, that both he and Hodder's group have unearthed at the site over the years. Hodder questions whether the figurines represent religious deities, but he says they're significant nonetheless. Before humans could domesticate the wild plants and animals around them, he says, they had to tame their own wild nature—a psychological process expressed in their art. In fact, Hodder believes that Catalhoyuk's early settlers valued spirituality and artistic expression so highly that they located their village in the best place to pursue them.

Not all archaeologists agree with Hodder's conclusions. But there's no doubt the Neolithic Revolution changed humanity forever. The roots of civilization were planted along with the first crops of wheat and barley, and it's not a stretch to say that the mightiest of today's skyscrapers can trace their heritage to the Neolithic architects who built the first stone dwellings. Nearly everything that came afterward, including organized religion, writing, cities, social inequality, population explosions, traffic jams, mobile phones and the Internet, has roots in the moment people decided to live together in communities. And once they did so, the Catalhoyuk work shows, there was no turning back.

The phrase "Neolithic Revolution" was coined in the 1920s by the Australian archaeologist V. Gordon Childe, one of the 20th century's leading prehistorians. For Childe, the key innovation in the revolution was agriculture, which made human beings the masters of their food supply. Childe himself had a fairly straightforward idea about why agriculture was invented, arguing that with the end of the last ice age about 11,500 years ago, the earth became both warmer and drier, forcing people and animals to gather near rivers, oases and other water sources. From such clusters came communities. But Childe's theory fell out of favor after geologists and botanists discovered that the climate after the ice age was actually wetter, not drier.

Another explanation for the Neolithic Revolution, and one of the most influential, was the "marginality," or "edge," hypothesis, proposed in the 1960s by the pioneering archaeologist Lewis Binford, then at the University of New Mexico. Binford argued that early human beings would have lived where the hunting and gathering were best. As populations increased, so did competition for resources, among other stresses, leading some people to move to the margins, where they resorted to domesticating plants and animals. But this idea does not square with recent archaeological evidence that plant and animal domestication actually began in the optimal hunting and gathering zones of the Near East, rather than in the margins.

Such traditional explanations for the Neolithic Revolution fall short, according to Hodder, precisely because they focus too much on the beginnings of agriculture at the expense of the rise of permanent communities and sedentary life. Though prehistorians

once assumed that farming and settling down went hand in hand, even that assumption is being challenged, if not overturned. It's now clear that the first year-round, permanent human settlements predated agriculture by at least 3,000 years.

In the late 1980s, a drought caused a drastic drop in the Sea of Galilee in Israel, revealing the remains of a previously unknown archaeological site, later named Ohalo II. There, Israeli archaeologists found the burned remains of three huts made from brush plants, as well as a human burial and several hearths. Radiocarbon dating and other findings suggested that the site, a small, year-round camp for huntergatherers, was about 23,000 years old.

By about 14,000 years ago, the first settlements built with stone began to appear, in modern-day Israel and Jordan. The inhabitants, sedentary hunter-gatherers called Natufians, buried their dead in or under their houses, just as Neolithic peoples did after them. The first documented agriculture began some 11,500 years ago in what Harvard archaeologist Ofer Bar-Yosef calls the Levantine Corridor, between Jericho in the Jordan Valley and Mureybet in the Euphrates Valley. In short, the evidence indicates that human communities came first, before agriculture. Could it be, as Hodder tends to believe, that the establishment of human communities was the real turning point, and agriculture just the icing on the cake?

Hodder has been influenced by the theories of the French prehistory expert Jacques Cauvin, one of the first to champion the notion that the Neolithic Revolution was sparked by changes in psychology. In the 1970s Cauvin and his co-workers were digging at Mureybet, in northern Syria, where they found evidence for an even earlier Natufian occupation underneath the Neolithic layers. The sediments corresponding to the transition from the Natufian to the Neolithic contained wild bull horns. And as the Neolithic progressed, a number of female figurines turned up. Cauvin concluded that such findings could mean only one thing: the Neolithic Revolution had been preceded by a “revolution of symbols,” which led to new beliefs about the world.

After surveying several Neolithic sites in Europe, Hodder concluded that a symbolic revolution had taken place in Europe as well. Because the European sites were full of representations of death and wild animals, he believes that prehistoric humans had attempted to overcome their fear of wild nature, and of their own mortality, by bringing the symbols of death and the wild into their dwellings, thus rendering the threats psychologically harmless. Only then could they start domesticating the world outside. It was Hodder's search for the origins of that transformation that eventually took him to Catalhoyuk.

By the time Catalhoyuk was first settled—about 9,500 years ago, according to a recent round of radiocarbon dating at the site—the Neolithic epoch was well under way. The residents of this huge village cultivated wheat and barley, as well as lentils, peas, bitter vetch and other legumes. They herded sheep and goats. Paleoecologists working with Hodder say the village was located in the middle of marshlands that may have been flooded two or three months out of the year. But ongoing research suggests the village wasn't anywhere near its crops.

So where did they grow food? Tentative evidence has come from Arlene Rosen, a geoarchaeologist at the Institute of Archaeology in London and an expert in the analysis

of phytoliths, tiny fossils formed when silica from water in the the soil is deposited in plant cells.

Researchers think phytoliths may help reveal some of the conditions in which plants were grown. Rosen determined that the wheat and barley found at marshy Catalhoyuk were likely grown on dry land. And yet, as other researchers had shown, the closest arable dry land was at least seven miles away.

Why would a farming community of 8,000 people establish a settlement so far from its fields? For Hodder, there is only one explanation. The settlement site, once right in the middle of marshlands, is rich in the dense clays that villagers used to make plaster. They painted artworks on plaster, and they fashioned sculptures and figurines out of plaster. “They were plaster freaks,” Hodder says.

If the people of Catalhoyuk had located their village in the wooded foothills, they would have had easy access to their crops and to the oak and juniper trees they used in their mud-brick houses. But they would have had a difficult, perhaps impossible, time transporting the clay from the marshes over a distance of seven miles: the material must be kept wet, and the villagers’ small reed-and-grass baskets were hardly suitable for carrying the large quantities that they clearly used to plaster and replaster the walls and floors of their houses. It would have been easier for them to carry their crops to the village (where, as it happened, the foodstuffs were stored in plaster bins).

In addition, the CarsambaRiver, which in prehistoric times flowed right past Catalhoyuk, would have enabled villagers to float juniper and oak logs from the nearby forests to their building sites.

Some experts disagree with Hodder’s interpretations, including Harvard’s Bar-Yosef, who believes sedentariness became more attractive for hunter-gatherers when environmental and demographic pressures pushed them to keep their resources together. Boston University archaeologist Curtis Runnels, who has conducted extensive studies of prehistoric settlements in Greece, says that nearly all early Neolithic sites there were located near springs or rivers, but those settlers seldom decorated their walls with plaster. Runnels says there may well be other reasons that Catalhoyuk occupants settled in the marsh, even if it is not yet clear what they were. “Economic factors always seem a little inadequate to explain the details of Neolithic life, particularly at a site as interesting as Catalhoyuk,” Runnels says. “But my view is that Neolithic peoples first had to secure a dependable supply of food, then they could concentrate on ritual practices.”

But Hodder maintains that the people of Catalhoyuk gave a higher priority to culture and religion than to subsistence and, like people today, came together for shared community values like religion. Hodder sees support for that idea in other recent Neolithic digs in the Near East. At 11,000-year-old Gobekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey, a German team has uncovered stone pillars decorated with images of bears, lions and other wild animals. “These appear to be some sort of monuments, and they were built 2,000 years before Catalhoyuk,” Hodder says. “And yet there are no domestic houses in the early levels of settlement at Gobekli. The monuments appear to belong to some sort of ritual ceremonial center. It is as if communal ceremonies come first, and that pulls people together. Only later do you see permanent houses being built.”

At Catalhoyuk, the plaster-covered skull found last year testifies to the material’s significance for the people of this prehistoric village. Yet the find leaves Hodder and his

coworkers with an enigmatic portrait of early human togetherness: a woman lying in her grave, embracing the painted skull of someone presumably very important to her for 9,000 years. Whatever brought our ancestors together, it was enough to keep them together—in death as well as in life.

Please visit the site: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-seeds-of-civilization-78015429/>

CARTHAGINIANS SACRIFICED OWN CHILDREN, ARCHAEOLOGISTS SAY

Graves holding tiny cremated bones confirm accounts dismissed as Greek or Roman black propaganda, study shows Maev Kennedy The Guardian

Just as ancient Greek and Roman propagandists insisted, the Carthaginians did kill their own infant children, burying them with sacrificed animals and ritual inscriptions in special cemeteries to give thanks for favours from the gods, according to a new study.

"This is something dismissed as black propaganda because in modern times people just didn't want to believe it," said Josephine Quinn, a lecturer in ancient history at Oxford, who is behind the study, with international colleagues, of one of the most bitterly debated questions in classical archaeology.

"But when you pull together all the evidence – archaeological, epigraphic and literary – it is overwhelming and, we believe, conclusive: they did kill their children, and on the evidence of the inscriptions, not just as an offering for future favours but fulfilling a promise that had already been made.

"This was not a common event, and it must have been among an elite because cremation was very expensive, and so was the ritual of burial.

It may even have been seen as a philanthropic act for the good of the whole community."

Argument has raged on the subject since cemeteries known as tophets – after the biblical account of a place of sacrifice – were excavated in the early 20th century on the outskirts of Carthage in modern Tunisia, and then at other Carthaginian sites in Sicily and Sardinia. The graves held tiny cremated bones carefully packed into urns, buried under tombstones giving thanks to the gods. One has a carving which has been interpreted as a priest carrying the body of a small child.

Some archaeologists and historians saw the finds as proving ancient accounts of child sacrifice; others insisted they showed tender respect for cherished children who died before or soon after birth.

Quinn and her colleagues, a group of Punic archaeologists and historians from Italy and the Netherlands, who publish their findings in the journal *Antiquity* – where the argument has been rumbling on for several years – completely reject the latter theory.

"The inscriptions are unequivocal: time and again we find the explanation that the gods 'heard my voice and blessed me'. It cannot be that so many children conveniently happened to die at just the right time to become an offering – and in any case a poorly or dead child would make a pretty feeble offering if you're already worried about the gods rejecting it."

"Then there is the fact that the animals from the sites, which were beyond question sacrificial offerings, are buried in exactly the same way, sometimes in the same urns with the bones of the children."

Although hundreds of remains were found, there were far too few to represent all the stillbirth and infant deaths of Carthage. According to Quinn, there were perhaps 25 such burials a year, for a city of perhaps 500,000 people.

The Roman historian Diodorus and other ancient historians gave graphic accounts of Carthaginian child sacrifice: "There was in their city a bronze image of Cronus, extending its hands, palms up and sloping towards the ground, so that each of the children when placed thereon rolled down and fell into a sort of gaping pit filled with fire."

Diodorus even said that some citizens who bought children from poor people and reared them specially for sacrifice believed misfortunes had resulted because they had not sacrificed their own offspring.

The argument has been passionate for years, with scientists often reaching opposed conclusions from the same bone fragments: four years ago a group of scientists published a paper saying the cremated remains did not indicate infant sacrifice.

Now in the same issue as Quinn's research, Antiquity is publishing a new paper on the same bones, insisting that the earlier study got the science of burnt infant bones wrong, and therefore greatly overestimated the number who died before birth rather than being murdered in infancy.

Quinn said many of her academic colleagues were appalled by her conclusions.

"The feeling that some ultimate taboo is being broken is very strong. It was striking how often colleagues, when they asked what I was working on, reacted in horror and said, 'Oh no, that's simply not possible, you must have got it wrong.'"

"We like to think that we're quite close to the ancient world, that they were really just like us – the truth is, I'm afraid, that they really weren't."

Please visit the site: http://www.theguardian.com/science/2014/jan/21/carthaginians-sacrificed-own-children-study?CMP=tw_t_gu

IRVING FINKEL: READER OF THE LOST ARK - TOM CHIVERS MEETS THE MAN WHO DECIPHERED A 4,000-YEAR-OLD BLUEPRINT – FOR THE ORIGINAL NOAH’S ARK

Four thousand years ago, a millennium and a half before the first Jewish scholars put pen to parchment on the Book of Genesis, a scribe in what is now Iraq carved the story of a great flood on to a clay tablet, in the strange and beautiful script known as cuneiform. The story told of how a god came and warned a great man to build a boat, and to take his family on that boat, and two animals of every kind, because the world was to be cleansed with a flood.

About 30 years ago, one Douglas Simmonds wandered in to the British Museum, and handed the tablet to a man called Irving Finkel, who immediately recognised it as one of the most important archaeological finds of recent years. Dr Finkel, an Assyriologist or student of the civilisations of ancient Mesopotamia, begged Simmonds to leave it with him, but he would do no such thing. It took him until 2009 to convince Simmonds to let him have it; when he did, what he discovered was a piece of the flood story – the Assyrian story of the Ark, centuries before Noah.

“Lots of people used to bring things in,” says Finkel, “people whose fathers or grandfathers had fought in Iraq in the First World War.

Usually it’s some administrative paperwork, but sometimes it’s a gem, like this one: one of the most important tablets ever discovered.”

Four years later, he has turned his painstaking translation of this chipped lump of clay into a book: *The Ark Before Noah*.

Finkel is exactly how you’d want a curator of ancient writings at the British Museum to look: grandfatherly eyes, magnificent snowy beard, a mane of white hair ostensibly tied into a ponytail but really free to do what it likes. We’re talking in his office, in the back rooms of the museum, and it too is a splendid cliché: not a surface that doesn’t have books and papers teetering on it in great piles; clay tablets here and there, desk drawers overflowing.

He has spent his life digging around in the museum and elsewhere, looking for tablets like the Simmonds one: an obsession since his first days at university, in 1969. “It’s my life’s work,” he says. “I am entirely devoted to it.” His arrival at the British Museum a decade later was a transformative moment: downstairs, in Victorian glass-topped boxes in the museum’s library, there are 130,000 cuneiform tablets, in varying states of repair. “It’s impossible to explain what it was like. I was like a chocolate fetishist locked in a sweet shop. If you’re one of these mad people who cares about these things, takes the oath of allegiance, learns to read the script, it opens up a whole world.

The Ark Tablet in the hands of its decipherer, Dr Irving Finkel (Benjamin McMahon)

The discovery that tablets from these ancient civilisations – Assyria, Babylonia and Sumeria – told the story of the flood associated with the later Hebrews shook the Victorian world when it was announced in 1872. We should declare an interest: The Daily Telegraph was one of the driving influences. “That newspaper of yours had a very big role to play in the story of Assyriology,” Finkel tells me. “It’s indissolubly linked to the flood story.” A man called George Smith was the first to find and translate a tablet which told the story of the cleansing flood; to Victorian Christianity, still coming to terms with other blows to the literal truth of the Bible, the idea that the story of Noah was simply a garbled form of an older pagan myth was shattering.

But it made great headlines, so the proprietors of The Daily Telegraph sent Smith back to the banks of the Tigris, one of the two rivers that give Mesopotamia its Greek name (“between rivers”; the other is the Euphrates). In the long-dead city of Nineveh, he found more tablets; the story, fleshed out, became known as the “Epic of Gilgamesh”. The tablet collection, which is still at the British Museum, is named after this newspaper: DT42. “He found the new pieces rather quickly, and made the mistake of telling the Telegraph straight away, who sensibly enough told him to come home,” says Finkel, cheerfully. “He should have kept quiet until the end of the season.”

The question that is invariably asked at this point is: does this mean that the Ark story is “real”? People still search Mount Ararat in Turkey, looking for the remains of a giant boat. But this isn’t a meaningful question, says Finkel. The Mesopotamian landscape is essentially a flood plain. “In that landscape, mankind’s vulnerability to flooding is explicit,” he says. “There must have been a heritage memory of the destructive power of flood water, based on various terrible floods. And the people who survived would have been people in boats. You can imagine someone sunbathing in a canoe, half asleep, and waking up however long later and they’re in the middle of the Persian Gulf, and that’s the beginning of the flood story.” There are, he says, geological and archaeological suggestions that there was an especially cataclysmic flood around 5,000BC.

The most interesting revelation from the Simmonds tablet is that the Ark, as originally conceived, was not how we picture it. “We all know what Noah’s Ark looked like – a boat, with a house on it, and a high prow and a high stern,” says Finkel. “You could sail to New York in it if you liked. But the Ark didn’t have to go in a direction, it just had to survive the flood.” In essence, it would have been a giant life raft: circular, and almost impossible to sink. “It was a coracle,” says Finkel: a kind of round boat of rope around a wood frame. “Half the people in Mesopotamia were professional boat people, so when someone told them this story, and said, imagine the biggest boat you ever saw, they must have asked: what did it look like?” What is incredible is that the tablet has detailed instructions how to build this enormous coracle, 70ft across, six yards high, even down to the length of rope required. “It’s about the distance from London to Edinburgh,” says Finkel, who had a mathematician check the working and found that it was correct to within one per cent.

The Ark as traditionally depicted; but was its true shape closer to that of an Iraqi coracle? (Alamy; Courtesy of Irving Finkel)

Finkel gave me the tablet to hold. It’s almost exactly the size of a modern smartphone, and the shape of a pillow; terracotta-coloured, tightly covered, almost every last millimetre, in a strange pattern of carvings that look more like the arbitrary patterns on a

Christmas jumper than anything we might recognise as writing; it's cracked and glued back together, like an old vase, with some of the writing obscured by the worst bits of damage. I would like to announce that there is a sense of mystical awe that overwhelms me as I hold this 4,000-year-old artefact, this thing carved when the Egyptians were still building pyramids. But there isn't, just a vague sense of terror that I'll drop it and shatter it. "That would be the end of the world, for me," confirms Finkel, unhelpfully.

The story of the flood, as exciting as it is, is only a tiny part of Finkel's obsession. I put it to him that his book is not really about the Ark at all, it's a love letter to cuneiform handwriting, and he nods. "The most interesting writing system of all!" he says, which he can best describe as a mix between hieroglyphic picture-symbols and a syllable-based system like Japanese. But it's also about the window it provides to an ancient but weirdly familiar world.

"Writing is just a kind of dress, in which ideas and words are clothed," he says. "When you adjust your vision, people emerge from antiquity. People with behaviour, and motives, and characteristics, which are familiar to us." He draws an analogy with the recent Pompeii exhibition at the museum: "Lots of people came out saying how amazing it was that they had breakfast and slippers and pencil sharpeners and all the normal stuff of life." People are people, in 1850BC or AD2014, in Nineveh or Middlesbrough.

Finkel has been doing this for so long, and "met" so many of the same scribes over and over again, that he gets a sense of them as people.

The Babylonian schools were filled with the same mix of troublemakers, bored kids and swots as modern ones, he says, which you can tell from the recovered tablets from children learning to read and write. And when you read a really learned, intelligent, experienced scribe, "you can really see a brain there, a brain that's clever and can see meaning. They were very sharp."

I ask him if he has any favourites, if any of the writers become almost friends. "You get cleverness and intellect, but what you don't get, usually, is personal stuff," he says. "You don't get private writing, you don't get spontaneous love poetry. So one is filled with admiration for these minds, and sometimes you wish you could bloody well talk to this guy so he could explain what he means, but not a feeling that you'd like to go for a pint with him or something."

Occasionally, though, he finds that a scribe has missed a line in a long, copied document, and they've tried to squeeze it in in the margin, with an asterisk to mark the spot: "The device is familiar, that's like us. And it's that sense of the guy going 'oh s---' – that's the moment you think you might like to buy this guy a pint and calm him down."

There are, however, puns and jokes and swearing and bawdy humour, "and music, and songs, and festivals, and drinking a lot of wine", he says.

"I think you should imagine the city of Babylon not unlike Jerusalem or Aleppo today, with a souk with metalsmiths and smells and awnings and donkeys, livestock wandering the streets, the way the world's cities have always been."

Finkel has never been to Iraq, the focus of his study for over a third of a century; he is Jewish, and when he began his work in 1969 the country refused visas to Jewish people. He still hopes to, "one of these days", but the opportunity has never arisen.

During the time he has been studying it from afar, the country, the cradle of civilisation, has been torn apart by a bloody dictatorship and then a devastating invasion and civil war. “The Museum of Iraq was sacked, and the stuff was destroyed, and the country has been ransacked of archaeological materials, and the damage is incalculable. Of course, the hospitals and water and babies are more important, but once you get past the huge human suffering the cultural damage is atrocious.”

It’s also meant that tablets like the one that Simmonds brought him can no longer be traded: dealing with materials from Iraq was made illegal a few years ago. A window on 4,000 years of history has slammed shut. “It’s heartbreaking,” Finkel says. Absolutely heartbreaking.”

'The Ark Before Noah' by Irving Finkel (Hodder, RRP £20) is available to order from Telegraph Books at £18 + £1.35 p&p. Call 0844 871 1514 or visit books.telegraph.co.uk

Read an exclusive extract from The Ark Before Noah

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Please visit the site: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/10574173/Irving-Finkel-reader-of-the-lost-Ark.html>

BATH TUNNELS OF KING'S DAUGHTERS DISCOVERED UNDER TURKEY'S SECOND LARGEST CASTLE

The secret tunnels are located on the southern and northern façades of the castle and are approximately 100 meters long. Works will continue throughout the year to completely reveal the tunnels.

The secret tunnels are located on the southern and northern façades of the castle and are approximately 100 meters long. Works will continue throughout the year to completely reveal the tunnels. Two secret tunnels have been discovered under Turkey's second largest castle, in the northern province of Tokat's Niksar district. The tunnels date back to the Roman period, and it has been claimed that one of the tunnels was used by a Roman king's daughters in order to go to the bath in the Çanakçı stream area.

The excavations are being carried out by the municipality in the 6.2 kilometer-wide Niksar Castle, which is Turkey's second largest castle after Diyarbakır Castle. The tunnels are located in the southern and northern facades of the castle and are approximately 100 meters long.

The earth masses in the tunnels have been removed, but work was subsequently halted as permission for the excavations expired and the number of staff was insufficient.

The 100 meter tunnel in the northern façade is said to have been used by the king's daughters to reach the Roman bath near the castle. Niksar Mayor Duran Yadigar, who has inspected both tunnels, said works in the castle unearthed the entrance of the tunnels. "One tunnel goes to the stream below the castle. We have also excavated a parallel tunnel used by the king's daughters. When the works are completed, the two tunnels in the south and north of the Niksar Castle will be completely unearthed. The artistic features of the castle will be revealed," Yadigar said.

Yadigar added that once these structures are completely revealed, the castle will make a great contribution to cultural tourism in the region. "We expect the Culture and Tourism Ministry to be interested in the Niksar Castle.

A quarter of the castle's western section has been restored. Once it is completely restored, this place could be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, and we could present the value of the Black Sea region to the world. I ask the relevant officials to show an interest in these tunnels," Yadigar said. Halis Şahin of the Tokat Museum, who provided information about the excavations, said works to reveal the Roman era tunnels would continue throughout the year.

Please visit the site:

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/PrintNews.aspx?PageID=383&NID=60735>

ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER ANCIENT CHURCH

Israeli archeologists say they have uncovered the remnants of a 1,500-year-old church dating back to the Byzantine era.

The Israel Antiquities Authority says the site was found during typical excavation work that took place before a planned construction of a new neighborhood in southern Israel. Among the finds were a colorful mosaic and five inscriptions that attest to a once-vibrant Christian community in the region.

A pottery workshop was also found that yielded cooking pots, bowls and lamps.

Daniel Varga, who directed the excavations on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, said Wednesday that he found an inscription in Greek containing the names Mary and Jesus.

Following the find, authorities have decided to preserve the site for future generations.

Please visit the site: <http://www.boston.com/news/world/middle-east/2014/01/22/israeli-archeologists-uncover-ancient-church/tTqT8fQVosUSpQmQ2maqdI/story.html>

ANOTHER MUSEUM FOR PETRA - WORLD HERITAGE SITE TO GET AN INSTITUTION BUILT TO “INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS”, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE TWO EXISTING MUSEUMS? BY GARRY SHAW

A museum of “international standards” will soon be built at the World Heritage Site of Petra in Jordan, raising questions about what will happen to the ancient city’s two existing institutions. The announcement came in late December from Mohammed Nawafleh, the chief commissioner of the Petra Development and Tourism Region.

The ancient city of Petra was the capital of the Nabataeans, who settled in southern Jordan by the late fourth century BC. They traded in frankincense and spices, and controlled caravan routes that linked China, India, South Arabia and the Mediterranean. The stunning city of sandstone temples and tombs cut directly into the rock face was abandoned in the 12th century AD, and only became known to Europeans after the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt entered the area disguised as a sheikh in 1812.

Named a World Heritage Site by Unesco in 1985 and made famous in the film “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”, Petra is today Jordan’s most popular heritage destination. According to the Petra National Trust, it was visited by around 450,000 people in 2013, though this was a significant drop from 2010’s record number of 975,000 visitors.

Officials hope the new museum will encourage tourists to spend more time in the ancient city. It will present the history of Petra and the Nabataeans, as well as house antiquities, but it is unclear what this means for the site’s two existing museums: the Petra Nabataean Museum, opened in 1994, and the Petra Archaeological Museum, opened in 1963.

The land for the museum has already been acquired through Jordan’s Social Security Corporation, and tenders are expected to be considered soon. The museum is to be built outside the 755 sq. km archaeological park and Japan’s International Cooperation Agency has given a \$7m grant to help fund the construction.

Please visit the site: <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/Another-museum-for-Petra/31563>

300,000-YEAR-OLD HEARTH FOUND IN ISRAEL

Humans, by most estimates, discovered fire over a million years ago. But when did they really begin to control fire and use it for their daily needs? That question -- one which is central to the subject of the rise of human culture -- is still hotly debated. A team of Israeli scientists recently discovered in the Qesem Cave, an archaeological site near present-day Rosh Ha'ayin, the earliest evidence -- dating to around 300,000 years ago -- of unequivocal repeated fire building over a continuous period. These findings not only help answer the question, they hint that those prehistoric humans already had a highly advanced social structure and intellectual capacity.

The team is headed by Profs. Avi Gopher and Ran Barkai of Tel Aviv University. Dr. Ruth Shahack-Gross of the Kimmel Center for Archeological Science at the Weizmann Institute has been involved in this archaeological research since excavations began, and she collects samples on-site for later detailed analysis in the lab. Shahack-Gross, whose expertise is in the identification of archaeological materials, identified a thick deposit of wood ash in the center of the cave.

Using infrared spectroscopy, she and her colleagues were able to determine that mixed in with the ash were bits of bone and soil that had been heated to very high temperatures. This was conclusive proof that the area had been the site of a large hearth. Next, Shahack-Gross tested the micro-morphology of the ash. To do this, she extracted a cubic chunk of sediment from the hearth and hardened it in the lab.

Then she sliced it into extremely thin slices -- so thin they could be placed under a microscope to observe the exact composition of the materials in the deposit and reveal how they were formed. With this method, she was able to distinguish a great many micro-strata in the ash -- evidence for a hearth that was used repeatedly over time. These findings were published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Around the hearth area, as well as inside it, the archaeologists found large numbers of flint tools that were clearly used for cutting meat.

In contrast, the flint tools found just a few meters away had a different shape, designed for other activities. Also in and around the area were large numbers of burnt animal bones -- further evidence for repeated fire use for cooking meat. Shahack-Gross and her colleagues have shown that this organization of various "household" activities into different parts of the cave points to an organization of space -- and a thus kind of social order -- that is typical of modern humans.

This suggests that the cave was a sort of base camp that prehistoric humans returned to again and again.

"These findings help us to fix an important turning point in the development of human culture -- that in which humans first began to regularly use fire both for cooking meat and as a focal point -- a sort of campfire -- for social gatherings," she says. "They also tell us something about the impressive levels of social and cognitive development of humans living some 300,000 years ago." The researchers think that these findings, along with others, are signs of substantial changes in human behavior and biology that commenced

with the appearance in the region of new forms of culture -- and indeed a new human species -- about 400,000 years ago.

Source: Weizmann Institute of Science. [January 27, 2014]

(<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305440313004068>).

Please visit the site: <http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2014/01/300000-year-old-hearth-found-in-israel.html#.UufXahAo7IU> [Go there for pix and captions]

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH WHAT MAY BE OLDEST ROMAN TEMPLE, BY SYLVIA POGGIOLI

Archaeologists excavating a site in central Rome say they've uncovered what may be oldest known temple from Roman antiquity.

Along the way, they've also discovered how much the early Romans intervened to shape their urban environment.

And the dig has been particularly challenging because the temple lies below the water table.

At the foot Capitoline Hill in the center of Rome, stands the Medieval Sant'Omobono church.

Today, the Tiber River is about a hundred yards away. But when the city was being created, around the 7th century B.C., it flowed close to where the church now stands, where a bend in the river provided a natural harbor for merchant ships.

"And here they decide to create a temple," says Nic Terrenato, who teaches classical archaeology at the University of Michigan and is co-director of the Sant'Omobono excavation project.

"At this point Rome is trading already as far afield as Cyprus, Lebanon, Egypt," he says. "So they build this temple, which is going to be one of the first things the traders see when they pull into the harbor of Rome."

The temple - the foundations of which are below the water line -- was probably dedicated to the goddess Fortuna. The archaeological team discovered large quantities of votive offerings such as miniature versions of drinking vessels, left not by locals but by foreign traders.

In antiquity, Terrenato says, temples built on harbors had the function of fostering mutual trust between locals and traders.

"It's like a free trade zone and the goddess is supposed to guarantee the fairness of the trade," he says.

The discovery of the archaic temple's existence came after years of fundraising in Italy and in the U.S., and it required sophisticated technological know-how.

Last summer, an ambitious joint project of the University of Michigan and Rome archaeology officials finally got under way.

Archaeologist Albert Ammerman, who has excavated numerous sites in Rome, calls it a "mission impossible."

"They're digging at the very bottom of this trench, at about 7 and a half feet below the water," he says.

The team used heavy machinery to drill a rectangular hole 15 feet deep. A crane lowered large sheets of metal to keep back the soggy soil.

Terrenato says the archaeologists had to fight claustrophobia to be able to spend as much as 8 hours a day at the bottom of that trench.

"You're in a very deep hole, and although you know in theory that the sheeting is going to hold everything up, there is a primal part of your brain that tells you to get out of there, if the walls come closing in there's not going to be any way out for you," he says.

The foundation of the temple of Fortuna, which sits below the water line, was visible for only three days during the excavation.

Sant'Omobono Project

The foundations of the temple of Fortuna were visible for only three days -- for security reasons, the team could not leave the trench open and it had to be filled up again.

But digging through the city's many layers, archaeologists have learned a lot: Early Rome -- a city of high hills and deep valleys prone to flooding -- soon became one large landfill as the founders chopped off hilltops, and dumped them into lowlands to try to make the city flatter and drier. And as the city grew layer by layer and more temples were built, Ammerman, the archaeologist says, the Romans encroached on their river, diverting the original waterway.

"It's actually not totally natural, it's the humans are actually changing the river to the way it is here," he says. "They had the ability to realize that to make their city go, they have to transform the landscape."

As they figured how to cope with their surroundings, the early Romans developed sophisticated engineering and administrative skills and a collective ability to deal with their challenging environment.

It's discoveries like these, Ammerman says, that debunk the idealized image of ancient Rome -- the immutable and eternal city -- as a place that never changed.

Please visit the site: <http://www.npr.org/2014/01/29/267819402/archaeologists-unearth-what-may-be-oldest-roman-temple>

RUINS OF BUSTLING PORT UNEARTHED AT EGYPT'S GIZA PYRAMIDS, BY OWEN JARUS

The remains of a bustling port and barracks for sailors or military troops have been discovered near the Giza Pyramids. They were in use while the pyramids were being built about 4,500 years ago.

The archaeologists have been excavating a city near the Giza Pyramids that dates mainly to the reign of the pharaoh Menkaure, who built the last pyramid at Giza. Also near the pyramids they have been excavating a town, located close to a monument dedicated to Queen Khentkawes, possibly a daughter of Menkaure. The barracks are located at the city, while a newly discovered basin, that may be part of a harbor, is located by the Khentkawes town.

Several discoveries at the city and Khentkawes town suggest Giza was a thriving port, said archaeologist Mark Lehner, the director of Ancient Egypt Research Associates. For instance, Lehner's team discovered a basin beside the Khentkawes town just 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) from the nearest Nile River channel.

This basin may be "an extension of a harbor or waterfront," Lehner said at a recent symposium held here by the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. Lehner said his team also found at Giza charcoal remains of cedar, juniper, pine and oak, all trees that grew in a part of the eastern Mediterranean called the Levant, along with more than 50 examples of combed ware jars, a style of pottery from that region.

Additionally, large amounts of granite from Aswan, located on ancient Egypt's southern border, have long been known to be at Giza, and these could have been brought down the Nile River to Giza's port.

"Giza was the central port then for three generations, Khufu, Khafre, Menkaure," said Lehner in his presentation, referring to the three pharaohs who built pyramids at Giza.

A military presence

Where there is a port there are sailors. At the city the archaeologists found evidence that a series of long buildings called "galleries" held troops who could have participated in voyages to the Levant and possibly guarded VIPs while at Giza. These galleries were about 23 feet (7 meters) high and each set was at least 113 feet (34.5 meters) long, north to south.

Archaeologists once assumed galleries like these held pyramid workers, something that recent discoveries call into question; in recent excavations of the galleries Lehner's team found charcoal remains from wood, particularly cedar, that was originally from the Levant.

"What was all this cedar from the Levant doing in a common workers barracks?" Lehner asked. In fact, these troops are represented in the tombs of highly placed officials and in pyramid temples. "You have representations of these gangs, these troops, repeated over and over again," he said, adding that the word for them can be translated as "escort" or

"the following." Each individual gallery could hold about 40 people comfortably, which is a unit these troops could be organized into, Lehner said.

"I wonder if we are basically seeing barracks not of the workers, but of elite crews of ships," Lehner said. A pharaoh named Sahure had images in his valley temple (part of his pyramid complex) of troops near the king's "ship of state," he noted.

Lehner's suspicions that the galleries were meant for troops were reinforced in 2012 when the archaeologists discovered a broken hippo hip. In ancient Egypt, hippos were considered nuisances, as the animals ate crops at night. "The young troops go out and they harpoon them and spear them," he told the Toronto audience.

There's actually a ritual in which a captured and bound hippo is harpooned to death. This ritual could have taken place at Giza at a public place such as the harbor, the hippo meat (apparently quite tasty) being consumed afterwards by the troops in the galleries.

These troops didn't always get the best food. The hippo meat would have been a nice respite from their everyday diet. The bones the archaeologists found in the galleries indicate they consumed lots of goat and sheep as well as oily, bony, catfish, said Richard Redding, chief research officer at Ancient Egypt Research Associates, in another symposium presentation. The troops didn't get as much cattle or Nile perch, which were considered the more desirable forms of meat and fish.

Redding is also a research scientist at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan.

Where are the pyramid builders?

The recent discoveries at Giza leave a mystery in their wake: Where were the dwellings of the pyramid builders, the regular workers, located?

The answer may be on the pyramids themselves. "We could probably be correct imagining workers staying on the immense ramps, on the unfinished pyramid as it rose," said Lehner in an email to LiveScience, adding that they could also have been living in the quarries in simple dwellings akin to "lean-to's."

The remains of these workers can be found in ancient dumps near the pyramids. "In 2004 we helped the Giza inspectors salvage material from an immense dump off the northern side of the Great Pyramid," said Lehner in the email. "We did not find remains of workers huts or lean-to's, but we did find old cattle bone, strips of cloth, rope and string of all gauges, fragments of wood, including part of a hammer, and other material of the workers."

Please visit the site: <http://www.livescience.com/42902-giza-pyramids-port-discovered.html>

NEW POEMS OF GREEK POETESS SAPPHO RECOVERED, BY KONSTANTINOS MENZEL

Today, only few poems by the ancient Greek poetess Sappho have survived, but thanks to new findings, two new works have been recovered, giving experts hope to find even more.

These previously unknown poems by the great poetess of the 7th century B.C. came to light when the owner of an ancient papyrus consulted Oxford classicist world-renowned papyrologist Dr. Dirk Obbink about the Greek writings on the tattered scrap.

Despite Sappho's fame in antiquity and huge literary output, only one complete poem survives until today, along with substantial portions of four others. One of those four was only recovered in 2004, also from a scrap of papyrus.

"The new Sappho is the best preserved Sappho papyrus in existence, with just a few letters that had to be restored in the first poem, and not a single word that is in doubt. Its content is equally exciting," said a Harvard classics professor upon examining the papyrus.

One of the two recovered poems speaks of a Charaxos and a Larichos, the names assigned by ancient Greeks to two of Sappho's brothers, though never before found in Sappho's own writings. The poem is set to cause discussions about whether or not the two men are Sappho's brothers. It depicts an exchange between two people concerned about the success of Charaxos' latest sea voyage. The speaker may be Sappho herself, but the loss of the poem's initial lines makes this unclear.

A horizontal line on the papyrus indicates the end of the first poem and the beginning of the next, an address to the goddess Aphrodite.

Only scattered words from this second poem can be recovered from the papyrus, which grows more tattered and illegible to the end.

The two poems share a common meter, the so-called Sapphic stanza, a verse form perhaps devised by Sappho and today bearing her name. Both belonged, therefore, to the first of Sappho's nine books of poetry and their recovery gives a clearer glimpse into the makeup and structure of that book. "All the poems of Sappho's first book seem to have been about family, biography, and cult, together with poems about love/Aphrodite," Dr. Obbink writes.

Sappho wrote in a dialect of Greek called Aeolic, which is significantly different in sound and spellings than the Attic Greek that later became standard. The handwriting on the papyrus allowed Dr. Obbink to establish its date as late 2nd or 3rd century A.D., almost a millennium after Sappho first wrote. It was not long after this time that Aeolic texts and other non-standard dialects began to die out in ancient Greece, with the focus of educators and copyists shifting on Attic writers.

The new Sappho papyrus probably came from the Egyptian city of Oxyrynchus, home to a large Greek-speaking population in antiquity and the source of most of these papyri,

"since in its dry climate even plant-based materials can survive intact," explains Dr. Obbink, also head of Oxford University's Oxyrynchus Papyrus Project.

Please visit the site: <http://eu.greekreporter.com/2014/01/28/new-poems-of-greek-poetess-sappho-recovered/> [See also <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/01/28/scholars-discover-new-poems-from-ancient-greek-poetess-sappho.html>] [Go there for pict of fragment] At <http://www.papyrology.ox.ac.uk/Fragments/Obbink.Sappho7.draft.pdf> is a downloadable draft of paper to appear in (ZPE) 189 (2014)]

LOOTED VIKING TREASURE IS DISCOVERED IN BRITISH MUSEUM STORE - CURATOR SPOTS 1,000-YEAR-OLD BROOCH IN LUMP TAKEN FROM 19TH-CENTURY EXCAVATION, BY DALYA ALBERGE

The Celtic brooch looted by the Vikings and discovered in the museum's collection.
Photograph: Andy Hall for the Observer

A Celtic treasure looted by the Vikings more than 1,000 years ago has been discovered in the British Museum's storerooms. An ornate, gilded disc brooch dating from the eighth or ninth century was found by chance and is being described as a "staggering find". No-one knew of its existence until now.

It had been concealed in a lump of organic material excavated from a Viking burial site at Lilleberge in Norway by a British archaeologist in the 1880s and acquired by the British Museum in 1891.

Curator Barry Ager, a Vikings specialist, was poring over artefacts before a visit from a Norwegian researching the Viking site when his eye was caught by some metal sticking out of the side of the organic lump.

Intrigued, he asked the conservation department to X-ray it. "At that stage, I really didn't know what was inside," he said. "It was a staggering find."

He added: "It turned out, quite remarkably, to be this Celtic disc... It's extremely exciting... It's a very rare example of its sort within the collection... shows contact between the British Isles and Norway in the Viking period ... objects seized as loot in this country and taken back."

He believes that it was originally made in Ireland or Scotland, that it came from a shrine or a reliquary, and that the Vikings converted it into a brooch by attaching rivet holes and a pin.

The brooch, almost 6cm in diameter, had been buried in the grave of a high-status Viking woman. Substantial remains of the gilding still survive on the top surface and its elaborate design includes three dolphin-like creatures and interlaced patterns.

"The ... patterns, the quatrefoil of the central roundel and the form of the 'dolphins' heads have clear parallels in Celtic metalwork and manuscripts of the 8th to early 9th centuries, such as the Tara Brooch and the Book of Mac Regol," Ager said.

He described the craftsmanship as "very fine" and said that the Vikings valued "eye-catching" objects: "The Vikings themselves were very skilled metalworkers, so I'm sure that's something that would appeal to a Viking eye."

Other artefacts that came to the museum from that burial site included two oval brooches and strings of beads. There was also a spindle whorl and a whalebone plaque, which may have been used as a food serving-tray in feasts.

Ager explained: "It was the custom to bury the person with their personal possessions. They were pagan at the time, so it was part of the standard Viking burial rite."

The burial site was a grave field marked by large mounds. The 19th-century excavation was carried out by Alfred Heneage Cocks, a British archaeologist, in his spare time between hunting and fishing in Norway. He recorded his progress in a journal. Describing the moment he discovered the spindle whorl, he wrote: "This my knife unfortunately divided before I saw it - it was as soft as the softest cheese."

Fortunately, he also retained some lumps of organic material, Ager said.

Extensive research is yet to be done. The wood within that lump leads him to suspect that it is the remains of a box to which the brooch may have been attached. Tests might determine whether it is local from the British Isles.

Removing the brooch from the lump was a painstaking process involving scalpels as conservators wanted to preserve a rare example of Viking textile. That too will be tested, but experts have already detected three different types, including a herringbone pattern.

The brooch will go on display from March 27 in Room 41 – Sutton Hoo and Europe AD 300–1100 – which tells the story of a formative period in Europe's history. A major exhibition, Vikings: Life and Legend, which focuses on the core period of the Viking Age from the late 8th century to the early 11th century, will include the remains of a 37-metre Viking longship – the longest ever found and never seen before in the UK – runs from 6 March to 22 June.

- This article was amended on Sunday 5 January 2014. The sub-headline originally mistakenly referred to an 18th rather than 19th-century excavation; and the picture caption referred to a brooch looted from the Vikings, rather than by the Vikings.

Please visit the site: <http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2014/jan/05/vikings-treasure-excavation-british-museum>
