FROM THE DIRECTOR

It’s January, so I write from the Dakhla Oasis in Egypt, practically the most remote part of that land whether pharaonic or Roman—or even today, when it has no air service (the nearest is in Kharga, two and a half hours away) and takes over ten hours to reach by road under good conditions. Once upon a time, such distance would have shielded me from the daily business of ISAW administration, but those days are gone. I awake most days to the stuffed in-box produced by the penchant in New York to send me urgent messages, preferably with bulky attachments, at the end of the working day, when I am long asleep. And the intersession is, if anything, busier than most times, as we read graduate applications and the still more numerous—252 this year—visiting research scholar applications, trying to sort out the most competitive, coordinate rankings, and draw up our shortlists.

Dreadful and frustrating though my feeble DSL connection in Dakhla is (I remind myself to pound the table, not the computer), I am well connected compared to Sören Stark during his field season in Uzbekistan, about which you can read here (p. 7). And other members of the faculty periodically scatter across the globe in the course of their research as well (Dan Potts in Armenia, p. 6). We are in our own way a very global institute, and of course NYU prides itself on its character as a global network university. We are in the midst of renovating our web site, which will improve our ability to stream lectures or mount good digital avatars of our exhibitions to the world. But ISAW is also an intensely local community, within our walls on East 84th Street. We talk to one another over lunch or coffee, we bump into visitors in the exhibition, we discuss ISAW’s research over a cup of hot cider with friends, we sit next to interesting people at lectures. In January’s Fireside Chat, I presented my work on ancient graffiti with guest curator Roberta Casagrande-Kim, discussing the topic with supporters of diverse interests and backgrounds. The event was successful in connecting our friends with the community and work of ISAW, and we look forward to more Fireside Chats in upcoming months.

Technology can do a lot to keep us connected when we are not in the building; we interview prospective graduate students or staff members by Skype, and faculty members are telepresent at meetings via our videoconferencing system, the most exotic so far no doubt being Robert Hoyland from Addis Ababa. But how far can such telepresence go without undermining the sense of community? If it is better than nothing, it is not really a substitute for physical presence, with all of the serendipity that this fosters. Remote contact tends to be agenda-driven rather than spontaneous. The technology improves steadily, but it is hard to see that distinction disappearing, even with Tom Elliott’s dream robotic avatar roaming the halls of ISAW. (Indeed, an absent but bossy director might imagine having a director-robot surveying the building and its inhabitants more effectively than he could in person, not to mention sitting in for him at faculty meetings; but I digress.)

Leaving fantasy aside, however, the question of how to balance the demands for a global role, lots of travel, and extended time in the field, that research and teaching put on us, with our roles as members of a resident community is not likely to be solved soon. It is not unique to ISAW, only perhaps more acute than in most humanities institutes. (Physicists are long since used to the situation.) It is a problem born of our wealth of opportunities and technologies, and we will have to put our creativity to work in achieving a humane way of scholarly life that seizes opportunities but makes them work in the context of community.

Roger Bagnall
Leon Levy Director
Recent Publications
A selection of 2014-2015 academic year publications by members of the ISAW community

**Exhibition Catalogue**


**Research Associates**

Gilles Bransbourg


Jocelyn Penny Small


**Visiting Research Scholars**

Jonathan Ben-Dov (2010-11)


Ari Bryen (2008-09)


Matteo Comparetti (2013-14)


Sabine R. Huebner (2007-08)


“‘It is a difficult matter to be wronged by strangers, but to be wronged by kin is worst of all’ - Inheritance and Conflict in Graeco-Roman Egypt.” In *Inheritance, Law and Religions in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*, ed. with B. Caseau, 99-108. Paris: Collège de France, 2014.


Anna Lanaro (2013-14)


Jinyu Liu (2007-08)


South Caucasian Colloquium

Karen Rubinson

ISAW Research Associate

Twenty scholars – students and professors – from New York and the nearby region - gathered at ISAW in December for the South Caucasian Colloquium, an opportunity to informally share current research, exchange information on hard-to-find resources, ask for input on research questions and meet others in disparate fields who work in the same, sometimes challenging, geographic region. Among those attending were historians, archaeologists, art historians, archaeozoologists, scholars of religions, languages, and genetics, whose research time-frames ranged from the Mesolithic through early Islamic times. Although we all have our field-specific professional meetings, the unique environment of the South Caucasus – three countries, a robustly varied geography and a multiplicity of languages – means that the Colloquium provides an opportunity for shared knowledge relevant to our many different fields. Although prehistoric and historic boundaries of cultures and traditions shifted often, the geologic and geographic constraints of the region yield many interesting comparative resonances through time.

For example, this year evidence of metallurgical sources and traditions were discussed both by a graduate student who has done survey and excavation in Georgia and by a professor who is using modern mining maps to guide a search for ancient metal use in Armenia. These discussions provided immediately useful information for a participating numismatist who works with Islamic materials. Such serendipitous exchanges (no formal papers or arranged sessions here!) are what make the South Caucasian Colloquium such a successful undertaking and such exchanges exemplify the mission of ISAW.


“Notices of objects 15134A, 15134B, 76783.01, 91196, 91197.01-02, 91194, 91195, 76673, 76698.05, 91331, 76704, 76714+76882.05, 76715, 81206, 81214, 91330.” In La Grèce des origines, entre rêve et archéologie 44: 384-411.


Between Steppe and Sown: Archaeology in the Borderlands of Bukhārā Sören Stark, Assistant Professor of Central Asian Art and Archaeology

The archaeological investigation of the “long wall” of Bukhārā and questions of the role of the frontier in an oasis context is the research objective of a field project jointly conducted by ISAW and the Institute of Archaeology of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences in Samarkand that I lead. In the course of four field seasons we have prospected and documented all remaining sections of the “long wall”—once running at a total length of at least 300 miles and encircling the entire oasis—including about two dozen fortified border towns, fortresses, forts and watch-towers, directly associated with this “long wall”. In order to better understand the creation, the development over time, and the ultimate purpose of these impressive defense systems, excavations have been carried out at numerous spots, both at the wall itself and adjoining fortified sites.

The 2014 field team consisted of scholars and students from Germany, China, Russia, Uzbekistan, and the U.S. We finished our excavation at Ganch-tepa, a small sized 5-9th century A.D. border fortress. Simultaneously prior to our excavations at the citadel site of a former border town, now called Khoja-Ajvandi-tepa. In addition, a small team carried out a systematic survey of sites northeast of Bukhārā, along the narrow stretch of the Zerafshan rivers towards Karmina and Dabusiya, documenting ca. 60 new sites: fortified towns, rural castles (with or without adjacent settlement), border forts and kurgans (nomadic burial tumuli). This was complemented by an UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) based aerial survey of sites that had been visited and studied in the previous years.

Our final work at Ganch-tepa ultimately confirmed our hypothesis that this castle was initially centered on a large open courtyard. This is a type of castle hitherto undocumented in Sogdiana—though well known from further south: late-antique Bactria/Tokhārestān. Perhaps the introduction of this type of castle belongs to the larger context of a certain ‘Bactrianisation’ of Sogdian culture during the rule of the Kidarite dynasty (originating from Bactria-Gandhāra), over Sogdiana in the 5th century A.D. Thus, the unusual plan of Ganch-tepa is best explained by assuming that the castle originated as a Kidarite state fortress. But last year’s works also showed that it was soon altered and turned into a rather typical seat of a local aristocrat (dilbāqān), with the courtyard turned into a central reception room surrounded by suites, once decorated with wall paintings (small fragments of which we found in 2012). Long after the building had fallen into ruins this reception room and the central courtyard below was partly destroyed by a system of tunnels uncovered during the 2014 season. A coin of Muhammad II Khwārezm-shāh suggests that these tunnels were and possibly created in the time around the Mongol invasion, perhaps as a hide out.

Simultaneously we started excavating at the site Khoja-Ajvandi-tepa (named after a local Muslim saint whose maqār is situated nearby, one of the most important in Bukhārā) at the eastern fringes of the oasis. This site of a former border town caught our attention prior to the excavation because of its circular citadel, which is unique in Bukhārā. During our first season we exposed a mighty outer 5th century A.D. ring of fortifications in an excellent state of preservation, with rectangular towers at regular intervals, featuring a checkerboard pattern of arrow slits spread over the entire façade. The resulting polygonal plan of the citadel is unique, in all of Western Central Asia for this period and still awaits explanation. As we continued to excavate we were surprised to find this outer ring of fortifications was preceded by a comparable polygonal inner ring of fortification with rectangular towers, anticipating most architectural features of the outer ring wall, but—judging from the oldest ceramic material from the site—dating to the 4th century A.D. The fortifications of this older phase appear also in an excellent state of preservation making them one of the best-preserved 4th century A.D. fortifications in this part of Central Asia (fig. 1). It appears the site has great potential to substantially improve our knowledge about one of the most enigmatic periods in the history of Western Central Asia: the transitional era between antiquity and the early Middle Ages that witnessed substantial upheaval and change in the course of the ‘Hunnic invasions’ into Sogdiana.

In cooperation with a team of specialists from the Archaeoecopter project at the University of Applied Sciences in Dresden, eds. the first aerial survey using light and low-cost UAVs (DJI Phantoms) in this part of Central Asia, one of our main objectives was to test the feasibility of aerial vehicles under the particularly difficult wind conditions that prevail in this oasis area. In the course of four field seasons we have used this method to survey archaeological sites along the Zerafshan rivers from Seraj until Khoja-Ajvandi-tepa, that were previously known to archaeologists but not yet systematically surveyed. These surveys were used to create a digital map of the Zerafshan plain for archaeological purposes and for the preservation of built heritage.

In the fall of 2015, a pilot project has been conducted in cooperation with a team of specialists from the University of Applied Sciences in Dresden, eds. the first aerial survey using light and low-cost UAVs (DJI Phantoms) in this part of Central Asia, one of our main objectives was to test the feasibility of aerial vehicles under the particularly difficult wind conditions that prevail in this oasis area.
Exploring the First Capital of the Mongol World Empire and its Hinterland
Jan Bennemann, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

For the past decade I’ve been leading a team from Bonn University focused on the archaeology of Mongolia. Following an invitation of the Mongolian Academy of Science we started to explore the first capital of the Mongolian World Empire, Karakorum, which is said to be founded by Genghis Khan in 1220 and was expanded and enclosed with a wall by Ögedei Khan in 1235. It is situated in the Orkhon Valley in the heart of modern Mongolia, in an area famous for a couple of impressive monuments of several steppe empires. The Orkhon Valley was given UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2004. We initiated our first excavation in the center of Karakorum to investigate the impact of the main roads to get an idea of the extent of settlement debris and the rise and decline of the city. Our key assumption was that the ups and downs of the importance of the city must have left traces in the amount and quality of the building activities and the supply of luxurious goods such as Chinese porcelain. To tackle these questions I have assembled an interdisciplinary team consisting of a palaeobotanist, archaeozoologists, historians, archaeometallurgists, a numismatist and several other researchers.

During the last few years we conducted a pedestrian survey in selected areas of the Orkhon Valley, mapped many newly discovered walled enclosures using a drone and a SQUID (superconducting quantum interference device) – a very sensitive magnetometer developed by the Institute of Photonics Technology in Germany. We were impressed by the density and variety of sites in the valley. For example, we investigated a settlement and production site which supplied the capital with building material about 5 km southwest of Karakorum. In the upper Orkhon Valley, close to the river, 13 km south-southwest of the ancient capital, we discovered a stone quarry with an inscription in Chinese which testifies that craftsmen from a town near the modern city of Hohot, Inner Mongolia province in China, were working in the quarry. A complete report of this extraordinary site will be published in the forthcoming volume of the Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology, which is based at ISAW.

Complementary to the pedestrian survey we realized in cooperation with the German Aerospace Center in Berlin an airborne prospection of 714 km² in the middle Orkhon Valley including the two large urban centers Karabalgausun, the capital of the Uyghur empire (744-840), and Karakorum. Now we can prove that the urban complexes are not solitary but are embedded in a network of production sites, residences, signal towers, even farmsteads, and elite cemeteries. These results will dramatically alter the understanding of the nomads as non-civilized people or barbarians. Our research was mainly funded by the Gerd and Hubert Henkel Foundation and the Ministry of Science and Education.

My research at ISAW will be focused on a comparative analysis of the archaeological evidence of the steppe empires in Mongolia. Archaeological investigations of nomadic empires and their urban centers present a challenge, yet still rare, subject of scientific inquiry in need of inclusion within broader discussions of urban development, political complexity, and greater world history. Therefore, it is my aim to examine these empires through an integration of the full corpus of archaeological evidence with studies of known historical records within the methodological framework of historical archaeology, comparative analyses and empirical urban theory. Up to now, archaeologists have contributed relatively little to the discussion on steppe empires or urban centers and still less applied themselves to comparative analyses. The methodological approach I apply is the intensive, diachronically comparative study on the basis of primary data of one region.

At the Intersection of Work, Economy, and Society: Studying the Working Lives of Romans
Elizabeth A. Murphy, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

Lanus et pistor et candilabarius: the butcher, and the baker, and the candelabra maker. These trades and hundreds of others are attested on ancient Roman relief and in epigraphy. Across the Roman world, craftspeople could be found in a wide range of work-shops – from small domestic operations to large-scale ventures employing dozens of individuals. They could also be identified in a wide range of archaeological contexts – on an agricultural estate, in a rural village, in a military fort, in an industrial suburban zone, or in the heart of a large city. As witnesses to daily and seasonal rhythms of work, workshops represent dynamic venues in which individuals manuvered, interacted with other workers, customers, and suppliers; defined their own social positions and identities; and in some cases even resided.

My research investigates the material remains of Roman period (1st – 6th c. AD) working lives in the eastern Mediterranean. By studying the locations of production, the techniques of manufacture, as well as the products, my work reconstructs the organization of production in order to pose questions concerning the transmission of technical knowledge, the organization and interrelations of workers, and decision-making strategies concerning workplace economics. By comparing the organizations of different industries it becomes possible to unravel diversity in production practices, and the extent to which organizational practices represent patterned decision-making strategies influenced by structural features of Roman economy and society.

Fieldwork has been central to these studies, and through my continual work with the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project (based at the University of Leuven, Belgium), I have excavated and studied the remains of several Roman- and Byzantine-periods pottery workshops at the site of Sagalassos, Turkey. This past summer, this research was extended to consider the relationship between different industries operating within the ancient city, by tracking evidence of: shared resources, transmission of technologies and technical knowledge, and common patterns in the organization of the production process. This fieldwork has begun with the investigation of sites of metal and ceramic production.

I have recently initiated a project analyzing legionary production sites. This research will assess the influence of military supply networks and worker organization on crafts production for the Roman military. Sites specifically operated by the legions are included in this study, and should offer a means to assess how highly regimented contexts of labor organization might impact the production process and the formation of workshops. This study kicked off in December (2014) at the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff with the analysis of artifact material from the legionary ceramic production site at Holt, Denbighshire.

Through the extraordinary support of the ISAW community and its wonderful resources, my period here is already proving fruitful and has resulted in several articles that are currently under review.

Prisons in Ancient Mesopotamia
Nicholas Reid, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

I am currently writing a history of prisons in ancient Mesopotamia. Until the 1970s little thought had been given to the history of prisons. And once they began to be investigated, the ancient Near Eastern evidence was largely overlooked or merely treated through the lenses of biblical data. Many of the issues and concepts of crime and punishment facing our world today can be traced into the proto-historical and early historical record of ancient Mesopotamia. Even ideas, such as reform through caging, that may have been considered relatively recent developments of Western thought were contemplated in the ancient Near East.

The word “prison” is used in translations and editions of ancient Near Eastern texts, but the native terminology and the functions of these institutions have not been considered with sufficient theoretical rigor. The traditional difference between a jail and a prison is that the jail is a holding place until punishment whereas a prison is a place of detention for punishment. Today, contemporary techniques of incarceration and punishment are used in both correctional facilities primarily hold the convicted, but these same institutions can also be utilized to hold people awaiting trial when bail is not offered or the conditions of bail are not met. Such multi-functional prisons correspond to the early
The Sixth Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

Sumner in the Mesopotamian World: Reading Traditions & Traditions of Reading

Gonzalo Rubio, Associate Professor of Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies, and History, Pennsylvania State University

Early Dynastic tablet from Fara (ancient Shuruppak) containing the so-called Tribute List (mid third millennium B.C.E.). Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin, VAT 12653. Photo courtesy of CDLI P010581

In a distinctively modern understanding, the term Sumner often appears essentialized (the Sumner World, Sumnerian Art, etc.). This practice, however, reflects a construct, which is at odds with the original sources and stems from conflating linguistic realities and perceived identities. Instead, the civilization that blossomed in the southernmost region of Ancient Mesopotamia can be approached in accordance with categories that attempt to reflect (or at least not to ignore) their own original, explicit and implicit, discourses, inasmuch as they can be reconstructed. Any such reconstruction has to deal primarily with the nature of textual production in Sumnerian and constitutes an endeavor defined and defied by the inherent writtenness of these traditions already in the third-millennium BCE.

In this regard, our own reading of the Sumnerian corpus and its tradition can be contrasted with the ancient readings enacted in Mesopotamia itself, particularly long after the Sumnerian language had become a cultural relic to which only a few scholars and bureaucrats had access.

Workshops

April 17

MARGINS Workshop

Organized by ISAW Visiting Research Scholar Nicholas Reid and graduate student Jonathan Valk, this workshop will investigate the social position and life courses of people at the margins of Ancient Near Eastern society, in order to arrive at a more nuanced picture of life in the Ancient Near East.

May 1

Ritual and Narrative: Texts in Performance in the Ancient Near East

Beate Pongratz-Leisten, Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Inspired by theater studies in the eighties and nineties, interdisciplinary research of ethnology, anthropology, religious studies, and historical studies concerned with cultural performance promoted the performative turn by emphasizing physical activity over thought and mind. This move towards action entailed a move away from text. This workshop turns towards a more precise definition of ritual versus theater and performance and reintroduces the complex relationship between text and performance. It explores the various forms of ritual texts transmitted in ancient Near Eastern literature, the relationship between ritual text and ritual performance.

May 30

Translating the Past, (re)shaping History?

Perrine Pilette, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

Christian Late antique and medieval historiographical texts were often gradually composed, accumulating multiple layers of historical knowledge. Given the cultural diversity of the Middle East, this knowledge was often based on sources composed in a different linguistic, and sometimes religious, environment or themselves based on such sources. In this perspective, this workshop intends to explore the impact of the translation on the actual historical knowledge in such corpuses.
The exhibition begins with a gallery devoted to a number of early Mesopotamian archaeological sites. Concentrating on the city of Ur and several sites in the Diyala River Valley, the display includes many now-iconic objects, including a wide array of Sumerian stone sculptures, spectacular jewelry in a variety of materials, and luxury items such as high-quality ostrich-egg vessels. These are shown alongside a rich selection of documentation—field notebooks, excavator’s diaries, archival photographs, and original newspaper clippings—illustrating the ways in which the finds were carefully described and presented to the press, the general public, and the academic community. Selected objects are followed as they were strategically presented to an international audience, effecting their transformation from archaeological item to aesthetic work.

The exhibition continues with a gallery devoted to twentieth-century artistic responses to ancient Mesopotamian objects. As the artifacts began to make their way into museums across pre-WWII Europe, artists such as Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, and Willem de Kooning began drawing inspiration from the new kind of energy and vision they believed this material possessed. The Tell Asmar figurine illustrated here entered the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s collection in the 1940 and is said to have been one source for Willem de Kooning’s hugely influential Women series.

Finally, many artists today return to the archaeological object to explore its role as a window onto human history and cultures rather than as an aesthetic object. Archaeology and Aesthetics highlights the work of Jananne al- Ani, who was born in Kirkuk, Iraq, and lives and works in London, and the Chicago-based artist Michael Rakowitz, who is of Iraqi-Jewish heritage. Both create art expressive of the traumatic loss of human heritage caused by wars and the spreading conflict in the Near and Middle East. A papier-mâché figurine from Rakowitz’s ongoing work The invisible enemy should not exist (recovered, lost, stolen) 2007 is also illustrated here. His use of food packaging and Arabic newspapers is meant to represent the now-disposable nature of these irreplaceable icons from one of the world’s earliest civilizations.

Together, the many and varied objects and materials on display in ISAW’s galleries provide the viewer with an unprecedented understanding of the ever-evolving transformation of the archaeological object into a work of art.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISAW Library News
David M. Ratzan, ISAW Head Librarian

The fall term was a busy one for the ISAW Library. At the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, the collection had grown to 36,296 items. We are therefore quickly reaching our capacity here at 15 East 84th Street and over the next year will be exploring offsite storage for our collection, which is still growing by an average of 250 items a month. One bit of exciting news is that you may now keep up with our progress on a regular basis. This fall we started the ISAW Library Blog and a monthly update of new titles in the collection. The blog features a mix of updates, news, and original content connected to the Library’s collections, projects, and research (and there will be a good deal of news coming out of the Library over the next year), and the list of new titles is available in two formats, a static HTML webpage on the Library website and a Zotero library. Zotero is an online bibliographic manager, which allows users not only to search the contents of online “libraries” and “collections” (such as “ISAW Library New Items/July 2014”), but also to download bibliographic records directly into a variety of structured formats. In other news, we had another change.

Welcoming Marc LeBlanc,
Assistant Director for Academic Affairs

Just before the winter holiday, Marc LeBlanc joined ISAW as Assistant Director for Academic Affairs. Marc received his B.A. in Egyptology and Classics (Latin and Greek) from Brown University and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Egyptology from Yale University. His dissertation, a diachronic study of the Sed Festival in ancient Egypt, includes new translations of ancient texts describing the ritual performances of the Sed Festival and sheds new light on the prehistory of the Sed Festival and the development of royal iconography and ideology in Predynastic Egypt. Prior to joining us, Marc worked for three years in academic administration at the Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, most recently as Associate Director for Research Programs.

And Other News...
Jonathan Ben-Dov (VRS 2010-11) (University of Haifa), with colleagues from Computer Science at Tel-Aviv University, won a 3-year grant from the Israel Science Foundation in order to run the project: “Enhanced Algorithmic Methods as an Aid for Producing a New Edition of Cryptic Texts from Qumran”.

Matteo Compareti (VRS 2013-14) has been invited to a new position, the Guilty Azarpay distinguished visiting professor in the history of arts of Iran and Central Asia, adjunct assistant professor, Near Eastern department at the University of California Berkeley for three years.

Yehudah Cohn (Research Associate) is working on a new translation of the Mishnah, edited by Shaye Cohen and others, that will be published by Oxford University Press. The Mishnah (composed in Hebrew) is the foundational document of rabbinic Judaism, and its redaction is dated to around 200 CE. His contribution is Tractate Oholot, which deals with purity. Naomi F. Miller (Research Associate) will return to the Penn Museum’s project at Gordion, Turkey, where she will help the conservation team stabilize the excavated ruins, promote the creation of an “ecopark” to preserve the historical landscape of mounds and tumuli, and assist Ayşe Gürsan-Salzmann with a cultural heritage project for local youth (June and July, 2015).

Spring 2015 Public Events

JANUARY
22 A King and Courtiers Come to Boston: Homage to Egyptian Art History**
Rita E. Freed, MFA, Boston & Wellesley College
ARCE Lecture
27 Nomadic Empires in Inner Asia: A Comparative Approach
Jan Bennemann, ISAW
Visiting Research Scholar

FEBRUARY
12 Glam-Ur-ous: The Art of Archaeology and Aesthetics*
Jennifer Chi, ISAW Exhibitions Director and Chief Curator, and Pedro Azara, Poltecnico University of Catalonia
Writing Christian History in Islamic Egypt: The Case of the Medieval Arabic Text of the “History of the Patriarchs of Alexandria”
Perrine Pilette, ISAW
Visiting Research Scholar
19 Local Saints, National Politics, and the Power of the Past in Early Egypt**
Janet Richards, University of Michigan
ARCE Lecture
26 Sumerian Art and the Modernist Avant-Garde*
Zainab Bahrani, Columbia University

MARCH
3 The First Prisons in the History of the World: Incarceration, Punishment, and the Concept of Reform in Ancient Mesopotamia
Nicholas Reid, ISAW
Visiting Research Scholar
17 A Closer Look: What Does Puabi Want?*
Kim Benzel, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
30 The Akchakhan-kala Wall Paintings: Kingship and Religion in Ancient Khorezm
Alison Betts, University of Sydney

JAPRIL
9 Long-Term Occupation and Seasonal Mobility in Mongolia: A Comparative Analysis
Jean-Luc Houle, Western Kentucky University
14 The Rise of the Qin Empire and the End of Historiography in Early China
Vincent Leung, ISAW
Visiting Research Scholar
16 More than a Matter of Style: The Diyala Expedition and its Impact on Mesopotamian Archaeology*
Clemens Reichel, University of Toronto
21 Peoples and Places in Pre-Islamic Afghanistan: The Evidence of the Bactrian Documents
Nicholas Sims-Williams, University of London
28 Haupt Lecture: Egypt as Metaphor: Decoration and the Afterlife in the Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria
Marjorie Venit, University of Maryland
AIA Lecture, 6:30pm

MAY
5 Government Issue: Roman Legionary Crafts Production in Context
Elizabeth Murphy, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor
21 Recent Discoveries at Amheida**
Roger Bagnall, Leon Levy Director
ARCE Lecture

Sixth Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series:
Sumer in the Mesopotamian World:
Reading Traditions & Traditions of Reading
Gonzalo Rubio, Pennsylvania State University
10 Rostovtzeff Lecture Series, I:
Origins of Tradition: Literature & Political Theology in Sumer*
24 Rostovtzeff Lecture Series, III:
Reading Early Economy Now: Bureaucracy & Administration in Sumer*
26 Rostovtzeff Lecture Series, IV:
Reading Early Cult Then: Sex & the Temple in Mesopotamian Memory*

All lectures are held in the 2nd floor lecture hall and begin at 6 pm unless otherwise noted. Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Please check isaw.nyu.edu for event updates. **Registration is required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp
*Registration required to info@arceny.com
ISAW’s website provides information on our public lectures and exhibits, our academic courses, our digital and library resources and projects, and our people. Visit our news blog for updates on ISAW projects or subscribe to our mailing list and receive news and event reminders delivered directly to your email.

ABOUT ISAW

The creation of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) at New York University had its roots in the passion of Shelby White and Leon Levy for the art and history of the ancient world, which led them to envision an institute that would encourage the study of the economic, religious, political, and cultural connections among ancient civilizations across geographic, chronological, and disciplinary boundaries.

The Institute, established in 2006, is an independent center for scholarly research and graduate education.

To learn more about giving to ISAW, please visit our website at isaw.nyu.edu/support-isaw or call 212.992.7800.