

ISAW NEWSLETTER 5

Fall 2011



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
New York University

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The fall academic term is off to a quick start, with the crowded opening of our exhibition on Dura-Europos (“Edge of Empires”: see p. 12) on September 22, a full roster of seminars, new cohorts of graduate students (p. 6) and visiting research scholars (p. 4), our first lectures of the year, and (not least) the resumption of the weekday lunches at which students, faculty, staff, and visiting scholars come together for informal conversation about matters academic and not. One of our new faculty members, Rod Campbell, is teaching his first seminar; the other, Lorenzo d’Alfonso, is in the field in Turkey for the first season of work at his exciting new excavation and will be in New York at the end of October. ISAW begins to have the feeling of an established institution—sufficiently so that we are now beginning to conduct our first program review. During the course of this year the faculty will take a look at how our doctoral program is working and whether it needs any tweaks to both educate the scholars who will carry our research mission forward and at the same time give our students the combination of breadth and depth that they will need in today’s fierce job market.

This year we will also conduct a search for one last faculty position, this time in the archaeology, art, and history of the early Near East. Applications are already arriving, and we hope to have candidates give talks in February. Also on the agenda for this fall is the rollout of ISAW’s first digital publications. Our online, open-access journal, *ISAW Papers*, will debut at the end of October, and at the same time we plan to release our first book, which will also be available open-access on the Web and as a print-on-demand volume and e-book through the NYU Press. You will be hearing more about this soon.

Roger S. Bagnall
Leon Levy Director



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This page: Oak Library

Cover: ISAW front entrance

New Faculty

Lorenzo d'Alfonso Assistant Professor of Western Asian Archaeology and History

Professor d'Alfonso earned his M.A. in Ancient Civilizations from the University of Pavia (1997) and his Ph.D. in Ancient Anatolian and Aegean Studies from the University of Florence (2002). Since then he has worked as a post-doctoral fellow and adjunct professor at the Universities of Mainz, Konstanz, and Pavia.

His main research interests concern the social, judicial, and political history of Syria and Anatolia under the Hittite Empire and during its aftermath (16th-7th centuries BCE). On these themes he published a monograph on the judicial procedures of the Hittite administration in Syria (2005), a website of textual references (*The Emar Online Database*), more than 30 articles in volumes and journals, and co-edited two volumes.

From 2006 to 2009 he was the director of an archaeological survey in Southern Cappadocia, and since 2010 he has concentrated his efforts on the site of Kınık Höyük in Niğde, Turkey. Professor d'Alfonso will begin offering seminars at ISAW in the spring of 2012.

Roderick Campbell Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History

Since graduating from Harvard in 2007 with a dual Ph.D. in Anthropology (Archaeology) and

East Asian Languages and Civilizations (Chinese History), Professor Campbell's research has been focused on theorizing ancient social-political organization, social violence, and history. His geographical and temporal focus has been late 2nd millennium BCE northern China, although an interest in broader comparison and long-term change is beginning to draw him beyond Shang China.

The recent, stunning pace of archaeological work in China has created both a huge backlog of un- or under-analyzed materials and an ever-growing mass of Chinese language publications rapidly outdating Western academic knowledge of the field. This situation creates opportunities for new analyses and dire needs for new English-language syntheses of the early history of one of the world's great civilizations. With training as an archaeologist, historian and epigrapher, his work attempts to unite disparate sources of evidence with contemporary social theory.

Professor Campbell's current fieldwork project, a collaboration with archaeologists from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, is a zooarchaeological production analysis on what may be the world's largest collection of worked bone at Anyang, the last capital of the Shang dynasty. He recently received a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for the next phase of this project.

Recent publications have included an article on early complex polities for *Current Anthropology* and a report on the Origin of Chinese Civilization Project (with Yuan Jing) for *Antiquity*. He has

recently finished an edited volume manuscript on Violence and Civilization for the Joukowsky Institute publication series and is completing another manuscript on the archaeology of the Chinese Bronze Age for the Cotsen Institute. He has received numerous fellowships, awards, and grants for his work including the Luce Archaeology Initiative, the Chiang Ching-kuo foundation, and the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Professor Campbell is teaching his first seminar at ISAW this semester.

Nicola Aravecchia Clinical Assistant Professor of Archaeology

Nicola Aravecchia holds a B.A. in Classical Studies from the University of Bologna, an M.A. in Ancient and Medieval Art & Archaeology and a Ph.D. in Art History (2009), both from the University of Minnesota. Previously, he was a Visiting Research Scholar in 2009-2010 and a Visiting Research Associate in 2010-2011.

His research interests concern Egypt in Late Antiquity and focus on the origins and development of Early Christian art and architecture in that region of the Mediterranean world. He also has a strong interest in the application of models of spatial analysis to archaeology, with the goal of studying how public and private spaces were constructed and used in antiquity and how they affected social relationships; one of his essays analyzes the social construction of space within Egyptian monastic settlements in Late Antiquity. He is the field director of the archaeological mission of Ain el-Gedida, a fourth-century settlement

in the Dakhla Oasis of Upper Egypt, where he has been excavating since 2006 under the project directorship of Roger Bagnall. Currently, he is working on the final archaeological report of the 2006-2008 excavation seasons. In collaboration with other scholars in the field, he is developing an online gazetteer of Early Christian sites and monuments in Egypt.

Professor Aravecchia is Academic Director of NYU's semester abroad program in Egypt (Archaeology and History in Egypt) and will also teach courses on Classical Art and Archaeology in the Department of Classics at NYU.

Peter De Staebler Assistant Curator

Peter D. De Staebler was appointed Assistant Curator in September 2011. He is a field archaeologist with 20 years of experience in Greece, Italy and Turkey, including 14 years at the NYU excavations at Aphrodisias. His primary research interest is in Roman architecture and urban development, especially in the Roman east and Late Antiquity. He has investigated the city wall, stadium, and ceramics at Aphrodisias, and he is the assistant director of the Aphrodisias Regional Survey Project. Dr. De Staebler has lectured extensively on Roman art and archaeology. He holds an A.B. from Bowdoin College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. With Jennifer Chi and Sebastian Heath, he curated ISAW's current exhibit, *Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos*.

Visiting Research Scholars

For the 2011-2012 academic year, ISAW has appointed nine research scholars. The scope of their research ranges from Classical Greek poetry to East Asian art history, spanning eras from the first millennium BCE to early medieval periods.

Daniel Caner
Associate Professor of History and Classics
University of Connecticut, Storrs
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Research Interest: Late Antiquity

Alexander Dale
Ph.D., University of Oxford
Research Interest: Classics

George Hatke
Ph.D., Princeton University
Research Interest: Arabia and Horn of Africa

Fiona Kidd
Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow
Dept. of Archaeology, University of Sydney
Ph.D., University of Sydney
Research Interest: Central Asian Art and Archaeology

Sarah Laursen
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Research Interest: Chinese Art History

Justin Leidwanger
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Research Interest: Maritime Archaeology

Rita Lucarelli
Research Scholar, Book of the Dead Project
University of Bonn, Germany
Ph.D., University of Leiden
Research Interest: Egypt

Michael Penn
Associate Professor of Religion
Mount Holyoke College
Ph.D., Duke University
Research Interest: Late Antiquity

Emmanuelle Raga
Ph.D., Université Libre de Bruxelles
and Institut d'Etudes Européennes
Research Interest: Late Antiquity

Incoming Graduate Students

Alan Gampel

Alan Gampel graduated from Stanford University with bachelor degrees in music and history. At Stanford, he wrote an honors thesis on broadside ballads from the British civil war period. Alan went on to complete a Master's degree in music from the University of Southern California and a second Master's degree in musicology from the Université de Paris-Sorbonne in 2010. His Master's thesis at the Sorbonne was on the history of musical notation during the first millennium, with a particular focus on Christian liturgical primary sources in Greek and Syriac. Alan's research interests continue to focus on early musical indications, the origins of modern western musical notation and the relationship between musical signs and symbols in the early medieval period.

Anthony SooHoo

Anthony P. SooHoo received a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1987, where he focused on ancient Egyptian language and culture. In 2002, he received a M.A. in Philosophy from Fordham University. After being awarded a M.Div. in 2008 from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest as a member of the Society of Jesus, a religious order founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola. From the same institution he received a Licentiate in Sacred Theology after submitting and defending his thesis on demonology and exorcism in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Subsequently, he earned a Licentiate in Ancient Near Eastern Studies (2010) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome for his thesis on the temporal deictic particles ܕܢܝܢ and ܕܢܝܢܐ in Aramaic. His primary interest is in magic and ritual, especially the practice

of divination and necromancy in the Ancient Near East. At ISAW he intends to continue his comparative study of religious belief and practice and social organization.

Irene Soto

Irene received her B.A. in Anthropology and Ancient Studies from Barnard College, Columbia University in 2010. As an assistant ceramicist of

NYU Excavations at Amheida, Egypt she developed an interest in trade routes and goods. While interning with the department of Egyptian Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art she researched animal mummies as objects of temple economy. At ISAW, she hopes to expand her research geographically and focus on trade, markets, and labor organization during the Greco-Roman period.

Fan Zhang

Fan Zhang received her B.A. in History from Nankai University, China in 2011. She is focusing on the mortuary art of China from 200 BCE to 200 CE. Through an interdisci-

plinary study of archaeology and art history, she hopes to clarify the origin of Chinese landscape painting. The scope of her work includes how landscape elements are presented in visual art of that era and to what extent the landscape tradition is influenced by external culture systems. Moreover, she intends to examine how Ancient Chinese views on life and death are reflected in mortuary objects. At ISAW, Fan Zhang seeks to expand her knowledge of Central Asia and Western Asia in order to conduct a comparative study to discover the interaction among different cultures with artwork at the nexus.

Updates from ISAW Scholar Alumni

Gilles Bransbourg, VRS 2010-11 and current ISAW Research Associate, is working at the American Numismatic Society as Assistant Roman Curator. His duties include contributing to the digitization of the Roman coin collection database, with the goal of creating a research instrument available to academics and non-academics alike. He is also curating *The Signs of Inflation*, an ANS exhibition at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in spring 2012.

Jinyu Liu, VRS 2007-08, was awarded a 2011 New Directions Fellowship by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for her research project *Graeco-Roman Classics in China: A Dialogue across Time and Space*. Currently, she is a visiting scholar at the newly founded Center for Classical Studies of Beijing University, China. In July 2011, she completed the manuscript for a book entitled *Introduction to Roman Studies* for Beijing University Press. Written in Chinese, the book provides an accessible account of the development of Roman studies as a discipline, as well as discussion of key issues, primary sources, and resources for the field.

Judith A. Lerner, VRS 2010-11 and current ISAW Research Associate, has published "Considerations on an Aspect of Jewish Culture under the Sasanians: The Matter of Jewish Sigillography" a review article for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. With Lilla Russell-Smith of the Museum für Asiatische Kunst (Berlin), she co-edited *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology* 4, which is published under the aegis of ISAW.

With faculty member Sören Stark, Dr. Lerner has also formed a monthly Eurasian Table at ISAW that brings together art historians and archaeologists in the New York area with shared interests in the interconnections and transformations of cultures from the eastern Mediterranean to Central Asia, Northern India and China from the Hellenistic period to early Islam.

Rachel Mairs, VRS 2007-08, has been appointed a Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology and Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies at Brown University.

Mathieu Ossendrijver, VRS 2010-11, has been appointed as Junior Professor in the History of Ancient Science at Humboldt University, Berlin.

Christine Proust, VRS 2010, has been presented with the Institut de France's Prix Paul Doistau-Émile Blutet de l'Information scientifique for 2011, awarded in alternate years for work in the history of science and epistemology, and has been appointed a Senior Researcher of the CNRS. A paper on the Babylonian tablet Plimpton 322, written with the late John Britton (ISAW Research Associate) and Steve Shnider of Bar Ilan University, has just appeared in the *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*; the tablet was the centerpiece of the ISAW exhibition *Before Pythagoras* in Fall 2010.

Oleksandr Symonenko, VRS 2009-10, has been awarded a 2011-12 Glassman Holland Research Fellowship at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem.

Karen Sonik, VRS 2010-11, was recently awarded The Donny George Youkhana Dissertation Prize for best US doctoral dissertation on ancient Iraq from The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). She has been appointed a Visiting Assistant Professor in Art History at UCLA, and has co-edited a forthcoming volume: *A Common Cultural Heritage: Studies on Mesopotamia and the Biblical World in Honor of Barry L. Eichler*.

Caroline Sauvage, VRS 2009-10 and Visiting Assistant Professor 2010-11, has been awarded the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres Prix de la fondation Louis de Clercq* for her work on the material from Ugarit and Minet el-Beida preserved at the Museum of Saint-Germain-en-Laye (near Paris).

Kevin van Bladel, VRS 2008-09, has been appointed Director of the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Southern California, where he is also Associate Professor of Classics.

Joan Westenholz, VRS 2010-11, has been selected as a Member for 2011-12 at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Alice Yao, VRS 2008-09, has received a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to continue archaeological fieldwork in China for the next three years. With **Valeryia Kozlovskaya** (VRS 2008-09), she has a forthcoming article examining inscriptionality in empires and frontiers in *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* in April 2012.

RESEARCH & TEACHING

The Visible Heaven of Han China

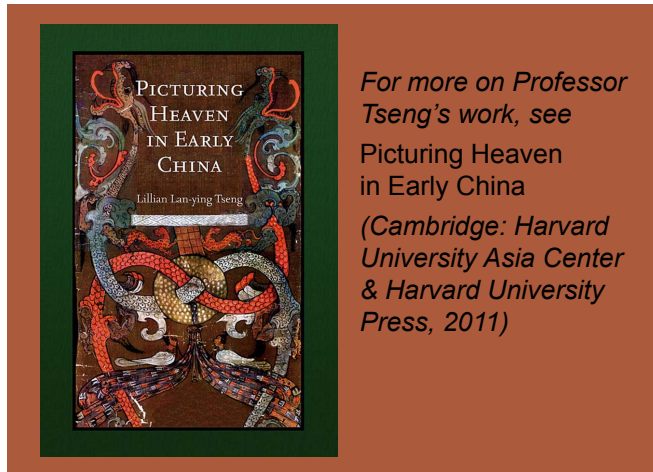
Lillian Tseng

Associate Professor of East Asian Art and Archaeology

The ancient Chinese formed their basic ideas of Heaven—as the sky, the supreme deity, and the residence of the deity—during the Western Zhou period (ca. 1050–771 BCE). Political disorder and social dislocation during the prolonged decline of the Zhou prompted people to ponder the connection between Heaven and their own world. Celestial signs, once thought to foretell national affairs, came to be correlated with the fate of individuals. Rising interest in celestial prognostication popularized sky lore during the subsequent Han dynasty (207 BCE–220 CE), refining one aspect of what had previously been conceived of as “heavenly.” During this time correlative thinking also generated discussion about the correspondences between the macrocosm and the microcosm. Cosmologists came to regard Heaven as a force—composed of *qi*, which was divided into *yin* and *yang*—that kept the cosmos moving. Additionally, the *Heavenly Thearch*, who communicated only with the highest ruler, became a mighty guardian of individuals. People even fancied that the *Heavenly Thearch* would open his residence, where deities and auspicious animals gathered, to accommodate the deceased. Belief in ascending to Heaven after death became widespread.

Early texts provide us with numerous examples of how the ancient Chinese presented, elaborated, questioned, and debated various ideas of Heaven, beginning in the eleventh century BCE. Until the Han dynasty, however, visual representations of Heaven did not emerge in significant numbers. Depictions of Heaven cast light on at least two essential questions that I have addressed in this book: was Heaven represented as it had been referred to in writing—as the sky, the supreme deity, a cosmic force, a pantheon of deities, and a land of immortals-- and how did the many meanings of Heaven influence how it was represented?

Based on materials excavated in the second half of the twentieth century, I argue that picturing Heaven requires a significative rather than an imitative view of representation. Artisans must have borrowed tacit knowledge from convention, ranging from cosmology to mythology to astronomy, to represent Heaven as visible and accessible. That picturing Heaven is an act of appropriation, however, does not diminish the value of the artisans' contribution to its representation. Artisans not only



For more on Professor Tseng's work, see *Picturing Heaven in Early China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center & Harvard University Press, 2011)

exhibited their talent in how they transformed knowledge into image but also played an active role in deciding how pictures of Heaven should be used in various contexts.

Although my research has focused on Han China, it provides a comparative basis for examining similar materials from other cultural areas. Other ancient peoples also ascribed divinity to kings; the Mesopotamians as early as the third millennium BCE documented the idea in images, of which the stele of Hammurabi (r. 1792–1750 BCE) is a notable example. In comparison, Han emperors claimed their mandate as the sons of Heaven at the center of “Bright Halls,” structures intended to manifest the cosmos in miniature.

The concept of “heavenly ascent” is another idea shared by many people in the ancient world. For example, a fresco from the hypogeum of Vibia provides an example that dates to mid-fourth-century Rome. The scene combines induction and dining, suggesting Heaven as a destination for the deceased, but also attests to the fusion of pagan customs and Christian beliefs in Late Antiquity. The added gate and angel distinguish the scene from the depictions of other Roman banquets, which were often held at graves or in churches. The Han Chinese also viewed Heaven as a desirable place to spend one's afterlife, but instead of focusing on life in Heaven (such as the promise of a banquet), Han artisans and their patrons were obsessed with passage to Heaven. My research has focused more on what took place before the gate to the Han Heaven than on what supposedly happened beyond it.

Maritime Economic Networks in the Roman East: A View from Underwater off the Coasts of Cyprus and Turkey

Justin Leidwanger

ISAW Associate Research Scholar

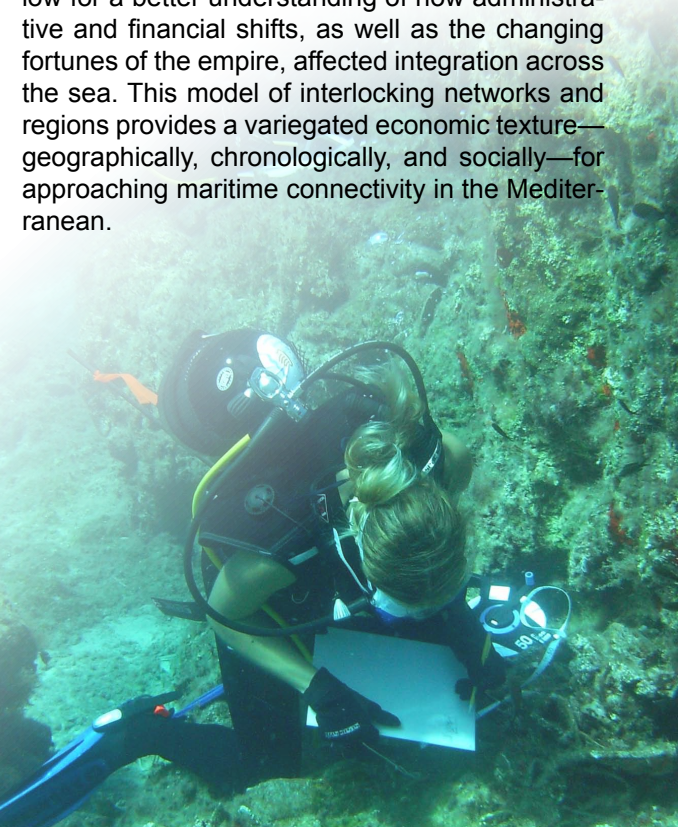
The Romans boasted that the Mediterranean was *mare nostrum* (our sea), a conspicuous reference to the opportunities for security, communication, and trade brought about by expansive imperial power. Ships laden with exotic and mundane goods crisscrossed the waters from east and west, converging on the harbors and outlying ports that dotted the Mediterranean's sinuous coasts. This complex “network” of maritime activity made the Mediterranean a much smaller world than ever before, but its farmers, merchants, and consumers were not necessarily integrated into a single, Mediterranean-wide economy. My current research and book project, *Maritime Economic Networks in the Roman East*, investigates the nature of integration and regionalism in maritime trade in the eastern Mediterranean through an analysis of Roman and Late Roman (1st-7th c. CE) ceramic assemblages from shipwrecks off the Turkish and Cypriot coasts.

Attempts over the past few decades to utilize shipwrecks to answer long-term economic questions tend either to build models from individual excavated and well preserved vessels, or to rely on quantified numbers as an index of intensity of trade through time. My approach contextualizes shipwrecks within a dynamic landscape of spatial, environmental, and technological factors affecting movement by sea. This methodology draws primarily on more readily available survey data rather than fully excavated shipwrecks, providing a timely reminder—in light of the recent entry into force of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage and its stress on *in situ* preservation—of how carefully researched data sets obtained from limited or non-intrusive underwater surface survey can inform a broad range of socioeconomic questions.

Through the use of the mapping and modeling capabilities of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with respect to wind patterns, environmental features, and sailing technologies, the locations and compositions of these cargos shed light on a more meaningful human geography. Distance and regions of operation for merchant ventures preserved in the archaeological record can be measured in actual sailing times—a day's sail, five days' sail, etc.—from a point of origin. At the same time, recent network analysis capabilities

developed in the fields of sociology, biology, and physics offer tools for detecting and evaluating the network structure of Roman maritime trade. Shipwreck cargos can be used to tie communities and regions into a larger Roman maritime economic network, where the distance between individual producers and consumers is measured in degrees of separation.

The underwater material record of shipwrecks surveyed off the Turkish and Cypriot coasts reveals several patterns. Small ships and short distances appear to have been the norm, facilitating the development of strongly regional economies that allowed for dependable exchange among central and peripheral maritime communities. Larger, longer-distance merchant ships became more prevalent during late antiquity, when they primarily served to move goods between central ports, like Constantinople, Paphos in Cyprus, or Kos in the southeast Aegean. The varying degrees of integration and fragmentation within and across these maritime networks speak to patterns of regionalism in the Roman economy, which allow for a better understanding of how administrative and financial shifts, as well as the changing fortunes of the empire, affected integration across the sea. This model of interlocking networks and regions provides a variegated economic texture—geographically, chronologically, and socially—for approaching maritime connectivity in the Mediterranean.



Underwater research at the site of an early 2nd-century CE shipwreck off the eastern coast of Cyprus

Libraries

Charles E. Jones
ISAW Head Librarian

This past spring, the ISAW library went public with the first version of the Ancient World Digital Library (AWDL) Book Viewer. Developed for us by the Digital Library Technology team of the NYU Library, this viewer provides access to a set of Egyptological titles scanned from copies in the Library of the Institute of Fine Arts. During the past few months ISAW Library staff have been working on ways to provide access to these titles as well as future components of the AWDL. Available titles are carefully catalogued in NYU's online catalogue; search "AWDL" in Bobcat (<http://bobcat.library.nyu.edu>) or view them directly in the book viewer at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/awdl/>.

In early 2011 we began to offer a book delivery service to faculty, scholars, staff, and students in the ISAW building. Any circulating book from Bobst or offsite storage can be paged and delivered to ISAW, often within 24 hours. On the heels of this service, NYU also inaugurated the Manhattan Research Library Initiative, or MaRLI. MaRLI enables NYU and Columbia Ph.D. students and faculty, as well as scholars whose work is based

Digital Programs

Tom Elliott

Associate Director for Digital Programs

Together with scholars, students and enthusiasts both within ISAW and around the world, we continue to advance our vision of unfettered access to resources for the study of the ancient world. You can connect to the scholarly tools mentioned below -- and more -- via the "Online Resources" section of the ISAW website: <http://isaw.nyu.edu/online-resources>.

Recent highlights include:

- With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Pleiades now provides information about over 34,000 ancient places. In collaboration with the Alexandria Archive Institute, we have begun expanding into the Ancient Near East.
- The Ancient World Image Bank is actively working with engineers at Flickr.com -- which hosts our imagery -- to build automatic links between Pleiades and AWIB so that Pleiades users can find images of a particular place and AWIB users can learn more about the places depicted in the images they view.
- Papyri.info is a broad collaboration between ISAW, the NYU Digital Libraries Technology Services division, and academic institutions

at NYPL, to check out materials from all three libraries. The model is a departure from NYPL's historical practice, whereby research materials were not allowed to circulate. Access to these additional collections greatly broadens the ability of ISAW community members to carry out their research.

This fall, The Ancient World Online's (AWOL) list of open access journals in Ancient Studies (<http://ancientworldonline.blogspot.com/2009/10/alphabetical-list-of-open-access.html>) reached the milestone of 1,000 titles. AWOL provides notice and comment on open access material relating to the ancient world, and is a component of the Ancient World Digital Library.

In staff news, Dawn Gross, ISAW Assistant Head Librarian, has been elected the Secretary of the Faculty of the NYU Division of Libraries. Head Librarian Charles Jones has been appointed Acting Vice President and Chairman of the Committee on Publications for the American Schools of Oriental Research.

around the globe. This team has recently rolled out a more comprehensive search system; editorial facilities for bibliography, commentary, and geography. Coptic texts are now being added to the system. These advances have been supported by the NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and benefit also from the volunteer labor of papyrologists worldwide.

- The NEH has awarded ISAW and its partner, Drew University, a \$217,000 grant for a two-year series of summer seminars on the application of the Linked Open Data model to ancient studies. The seminars will be held in early summer 2012 and 2013 and are designed for humanities scholars, library and museum professionals, and advanced graduate students.
- An ISAW-led "digital epigraphy" workshop at the Jakarta Research Center of the *École française d'Extrême-Orient* (EFEO) in July 2011 has led to the signing of a formal framework agreement between ISAW and EFEO. Under this rubric, the two institutions will collaborate towards joint research projects, joint publications, and exchange of data and expertise in the field of Asian epigraphy.

Academic Fieldwork

Lorenzo d'Alfonso

Kınık Höyük, Cappadocia (Turkey)

Excavations at Kınık Höyük by ISAW and Pavia University began in August 2011, under Professor d'Alfonso's direction. An intensive survey conducted on and around the site from 2006 to 2009 indicates that the site flourished during the Iron Age (1200-500 BCE). This dating corresponds with Iron Age stelae and rock reliefs of the "forgotten" Neo-Hittite kingdom of Tuwana found in this region, suggesting Kınık Höyük may provide further information about a civilization that archaeologically remains nearly unknown.

This year, three operations were opened on the site. Operation B investigated the top of the acropolis and brought to light houses and one productive area from the Seljuk period, with a layer of Hellenistic materials beneath. Opera-

Roderick Campbell

Tiesanlu, Anyang (China)

Professor Campbell's fieldwork is situated in Anyang, China, the last site of the last capital of the Shang dynasty (ca. 1600-1050 BCE). In 2002 and 2006 the remains of a large-scale bone artifact manufacturing site were discovered at an Anyang locus called Tiesanlu. The pilot project analysis of these remains revealed the mass production of quotidian artifacts such as hairpins and awls from a raw material likely derived from royal sacrifice. The estimated scale of this production poses serious challenges for the accepted account of the Shang economy being based around elite consumption. The first English publication on this research will appear in the December 2011 issue of *Antiquity*.

Sören Stark

Bukhara Oasis (Uzbekistan)

Between June and August 2011, Sören Stark carried out his first field season of his project on "long walls" around Western Central Asian oasis territories in cooperation with Dr. Djamal Mirzaakhmedov from the Institute of Archaeology at the Uzbek Academy of Sciences. The goal of this year's investigations was to survey the still existing remains of the outer fortification system around the oasis of Bukhara.

Sections of the original oasis wall were traced in the western, northern, and eastern limits of the oasis. At several sections a sophisticated system of gates, small forts/watchtowers, and sizeable fortress sites could be documented. At two

Professor d'Alfonso (left) and colleague examine a citadel wall

operations A and C investigated the citadel walls on the northern and south-western slopes of the mound, respectively. These stone and plaster walls are very well preserved in both areas. Late/Middle Iron Age layers cover the top of the walls, thus offering a *terminus ante quem* for their dating. Apart from the Neo-Hittite site of Karatepe in Cilicia, no other Anatolian Iron Age sites show such a well preserved defensive architecture.

The mission is jointly funded by ISAW, Pavia University, IUSS Pavia, Banca Albertini Srl and Niğde valiliği. The Turkish villages of Altunhisar and Yeşilyurt have also provided substantial space and transportation support. The current excavation phase concludes in October 2011 and will resume in June 2012.

The current phase of research, funded by a Wenner-Gren international collaboration grant, will partner Campbell with researchers from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences/Institute of Archaeology, as well as graduate students from CASS/IA and UCLA. This phase will focus on determining the form and organization of manufacture at the site: are the artifacts and features at Tiesanlu the remains of multiple domestic producers or a large, well-integrated workshop? Determining how this mass production was organized will hopefully contribute to a deeper understanding of Late Shang Anyang, early Chinese production and economy, and the comparative study of ancient economy.

sections (one in the west, near the fortress site of Kampirak-tepa, and one to the east, near the site Kyzyl-tepa) several cross sections were excavated; one of these sections revealed that the wall was reinforced by semi-circular bastions. The discovery of bricks with dimensions typical for the early Medieval period and a few diagnostic ceramic sherds from the 5th century (in debris layers of the wall) provided the first clues on the date of the structure. Samples from both sites are currently being processed in cooperation with the Institute for Geography at Freie Universität Berlin, and will hopefully provide further data for dating the "long wall" of Bukhara.

EXHIBITIONS

Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos

Jennifer Chi, Exhibitions Director and Chief Curator

Peter D. De Staebler, Assistant Curator

Sebastian Heath, Research Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies

September 23, 2011 - January 8, 2012

The History of Dura-Europos

The ancient city of Dura-Europos stood at the crossroads of the Hellenistic, Persian, and Roman worlds for some five centuries. Strategically located high above the Euphrates River, between Syria and Mesopotamia, the city was founded in ca. 300 BCE by one of the Macedonian generals who succeeded Alexander the Great. Within two centuries, however, it was overtaken by the Near Eastern Parthians, who maintained control until the city was captured by the Roman emperor Lucius Verus in 164 CE. The city thrived as a critical stronghold along the Roman imperial frontier until 256 CE, when it was destroyed by the Sasanian successors to the Parthian Empire. By the time of its demise, Dura-Europos was a city positioned at the commercial, political, and cultural intersections of the Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds.

Dura remained virtually unexplored from its destruction until its accidental discovery in 1920 when British troops digging a rifle pit behind the city's ancient fortification walls happened upon well-preserved ancient wall paintings in what turned out to be the Temple of the Palmyrene Gods (or of Bel). Systematic excavations were

undertaken by the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in 1922-1924 under Belgian archaeologist and historian Franz Cumont. The site had also caught the interest of Michael Rostovtzeff, a Russian émigré scholar at Yale University, and in 1928 collaborative Yale-French excavations began, continuing for ten years. After a long hiatus, excavations at Dura began again in 1986, under the *Mission Franco-Syrienne d'Europos-Doura*, and are currently under the direction of archaeologists Pierre Leriche and A. Al Saleh. To date, archaeologists have revealed nearly a quarter of the city, including a synagogue painted with biblical scenes, one of the earliest Christian house-churches, and numerous public and private pagan shrines—discoveries that have fundamentally altered our understanding of religious practice in antiquity.

The Exhibition

Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos, on view at ISAW from September 23, 2011 through January 8, 2012, tells the story of life in the city during its final phase as a cosmopolitan Roman military garrison, with an urban landscape shaped by religious, linguistic, and cultural diversity.

This page:

Relief of the Gad (Fortune) of Dura with Seleukos Nikator and Priest
Palmyrene Limestone, H. 46 cm,
W. 61.6 cm, D. 16.5 cm
From the Temple of the Gaddé,
Dura-Europos, ca. 159 CE
Yale University Art Gallery, Yale-French
Excavations at Dura-Europos: 1938.5314

Next page:

Thymiaterion (Incense Burner)
Green-Glazed Terracotta, H. 31.8 cm, W.
23.3 cm, D. 13.9 cm
From the Cistern at the Temple of
Atargatis, Dura-Europos, mid-2nd–
mid-3rd century CE
Yale University Art Gallery, Yale-French
Excavations at Dura-Europos: 1938.4966

Photography © 2011 Yale University Art
Gallery



Edge of Empires Lecture Series

- November 3** *Religious Diversity and the Christian House-Church at Roman Dura-Europos*
Michael Peppard,
Fordham University
- November 17** *Europos-Dura between Rome and the Sasanians: The Fate of a City*
Pierre Leriche,
Mission Franco-Syrienne d'Europos-Doura
- December 1** *Designing Sacred Spaces in the Synagogue of Roman Dura-Europos*
Karen B. Stern,
Brooklyn College of the City University of New York
- December 17** *Cities and Towns of the Roman Middle-Euphrates According to the Middle Euphrates Papyrus*
Jean Gascoü,
Université de Paris-Sorbonne

All lectures begin at 6 pm in the ISAW Lecture Hall.
RSVPs are required, 212.992.7818, rsvp_exhibitions@nyu.edu
For more details, visit isaw.nyu.edu/exhibitions/edge-of-empires

A group of archival photographs provides an overview of archaeological work and discoveries at Dura. These include images of the legendary directors of the Yale-French excavation Franz Cumont and Michael Rostovtzeff in the field, and of both the interiors of architectural spaces and exteriors of some of the city's major monuments. Together, these reveal an extraordinary overview of the monumentality of the site's discovery and the astonishingly well-preserved nature of many of the city's architectural finds.

The archaeological installation begins with objects that emphasize the international character of the Roman army, which raised its troops from all parts of the Roman Empire, and whose population at Dura was surely one of the driving forces behind the multicultural atmosphere of the city. A series of inscriptions provides further evidence of the wide range of cultures represented in Dura, where Greek, Aramaic, Latin, Parthian, Middle Persian, and Hebrew are all documented to have been used in the third century CE. Pottery and coins on display illustrate the city's trade connections not only to local and regional production centers, but also to North Africa, the Aegean, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Finally, the largest component of the exhibition focuses on Dura's religious diversity, one of the most fascinating aspects of this city's history. Twelve ceiling tiles from the synagogue are set

alongside monumental paintings from the baptistery of the Christian house-church as well as reliefs depicting some of the most favored pagan divinities within the city's polytheistic pantheon. The exceptional assembly of pagan, Jewish, and Christian imagery emphasizes Dura-Europos as a city in which religious tolerance was integral to its societal framework, with these three communities living, working, and worshiping next to one another in an apparently open environment. By telling the story of the site's discovery and displaying the exceptionally well-preserved excavated material, the exhibition encourages viewers to focus on Dura's physical remains as a key to imagining its inhabitants, living on the farthest edge of empire.

A catalogue accompanying the exhibition is available for purchase at ISAW and through Princeton University Press. For more information about *Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos*, please visit isaw.nyu.edu/exhibitions.

Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos has been organized by the Yale University Art Gallery and the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College. The ISAW presentation was made possible through the support of the Leon Levy Foundation. Additional funding was generously provided by the David Berg Foundation.

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

The Fifth Annual Leon Levy Lecture

A Greek Statuary Complex at the Sarapieion of Memphis and the Early Ptolemaic Kings

Marianne Bergmann

Director Emeritus of the Archäologisches Institut, Universität Göttingen

ISAW Senior Fellow

November 1, 2011. 6 pm.

At some point during the reign of the Ptolemaic kings of Egypt, the entranceway to the temple of Osor-Apis/Sarapis in Memphis, a main temple of the traditional capital of Egypt, was adorned with an ensemble of over life-sized Greek sculptures. They represent groups of famous Greek intellectuals and of putti riding on Dionysian and other animals. For more than one hundred years, the date, historical context, and precise meaning of these sculptures have been under discussion. Based on improved documentation of the material, this lecture proposes answers to most of these questions. They give insight into the intricacies of the relation of the Ptolemaic kings to Egypt in one of its dynamic phases in the third century BCE.

Until 2008, Marianne Bergmann was the director of the Archäologisches Institut at the University of Göttingen, where she also taught classical archaeology. She has published on Roman portraits of the third century CE and other questions of Roman portraiture, on theomorphic representations of Hellenistic and Roman rulers and on late antique mythological sculpture. In recent times she has concentrated on problems of Greco-Roman Egypt. With M.Heinzelmann (University of Cologne), she excavates at Schedia near Alexandria.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, RSVP required to isaw@nyu.edu.

Sedentary Answers to Nomadic Policies in Central Asia, First Millennium AD

December 16, 2011

This workshop, hosted by Professor Sören Stark, aims at a cross-cultural perspective on the strategies for coping with nomadic policies adopted by sedentary societies in Central Asia in the first millennium AD. Attendees will present and discuss ongoing research on this problem from both an eastern (Chinese) and western (Iranian-Transoxanian) angle.

A specific focus will be placed on the strategy of building “long walls” in frontier regions or at the fringes of oasis territories, a phenomenon observed throughout the area under investigation in various forms.

Attendance at this workshop is by invitation only.

The Third Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lectures

Elizabeth Bolman

Associate Professor, Art History, Temple University

March 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2012. 6 pm.

Dr. Elizabeth Bolman of the Tyler School of Art at Temple University will present ISAW's third annual Rostovtzeff lecture series, titled *Shifting Narratives: Egyptian Christian Visual Culture*. The series will include a significant amount of newly discovered and recently conserved art and architecture. It will focus on the fabulous and largely unexplored potential of the material within the context of exciting recent work being done by historians of religion and practitioners of what has

been called the “new art history.”

Named for Michael I. Rostovtzeff, a Russian ancient historian and professor at Yale University, ISAW's Rostovtzeff series presents scholarship that embodies its aspirations to foster work that crosses disciplinary, geographical, and chronological lines. The lectures are free and open to the public, and will be published by Princeton University Press.

Christian Wealth and the Challenge of Charity in Early Byzantium

Daniel Caner, Visiting Scholar

October 4

The ‘New Villa of Serenus’ in Amheida

Dorothea Schulz, Amheida Excavation

October 11

Leaves of Gold: Head Ornaments from Xianbei Tombs in Northeast China

Sarah Laursen, Associate Research Scholar

October 18

Polytheism, Monotheism, and the Grey Areas in between: Antioch in the Fourth Century

Raffaella Cribiore, Professor of Classics, New York University

October 25

New Archaeological Discoveries in Afghanistan: Mes Aynak and the Buddhist Art of the Kabul River Valley

Deborah Klimburg-Salter, University of Vienna

November 8

Dynamics of acculturation and integration: the Aegeo-Anatolian interface in the second and first millennia BC

Alexander Dale, Associate Research Scholar

November 15

Comparative Demonology: the Case of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia

Rita Lucarelli, Research Scholar

November 29

Maritime Commerce and Community: Toward an Economic Archaeology of the Roman East

Justin Leidwanger, Associate Research Scholar

December 15

All lectures begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall and run approximately one hour.

For additional information and conference schedules, visit our website

isaw.nyu.edu/events



Save the Date

January 24

George Hatke, Associate Research Scholar

January 26

AIA Lecture

February 23

ARCE Lecture

February 28

Emmanuelle Raga, Visiting Scholar

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NEW ISAW WEBSITE, NEW ADDRESS

ISAW's website has been redesigned, providing more information on our public lectures and exhibits, our academic courses, our digital and library resources and projects, and our people. A new address -- **isaw.nyu.edu** -- provides easy access. See the latest news on what we're up to and subscribe to our mailing list for more frequent updates.

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.

The screenshot shows the ISAW website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Jobs', 'News', and 'Log In'. Below this is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main header reads 'INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD - NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'. On the left, a vertical menu lists categories: ABOUT ISAW, ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, LIBRARY, RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, ONLINE RESOURCES, and PEOPLE. The main content area features a large image of a building facade. To the right of the image is a news article titled 'Edge of Empires: Pagans, Jews, and Christians at Roman Dura-Europos' with a date of 'September 23, 2011 - January 8, 2012'. Below this is an 'Upcoming Events' section listing three events: a research scholar lecture on October 18, a lecture by Sarah Laursen on October 25, and a lecture by Raffaella Cribiore on October 25. On the right side, there is a 'now on exhibit' section featuring a portrait of Heliodoros, an Actuaris, with a caption and a photograph of the artifact. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'NYU Home', 'Privacy Policy', 'Site Map', and 'RSS Feed'.