

ISAW NEWSLETTER 8

Spring 2013



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
New York University

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

January 14, 2013

ISAW reached an exciting milestone today: the first gathering with our entire faculty present. The newest member of our faculty, Daniel Potts, arrived earlier this month, and we seized the one day when all of the faculty had returned from break but before my departure for the field season at Amheida to have a full-day faculty retreat. Central to the agenda was a topic that we have been discussing ever since early fall: Now that ISAW's early growth spurt is behind it, all of our programs are well developed, and the full faculty is in place, how can we begin to deepen our role in New York University as a whole? An external review committee, on the occasion of the completion of our fifth year, devoted some productive time to talking about this both inside ISAW and with faculty and administrators downtown, and our advisory committee took up the subject at its December meeting (postponed from earlier in the fall because of Hurricane Sandy). Over the coming months we look forward to developing a variety of initiatives in this area.

This issue of the Newsletter highlights the archaeological fieldwork of three of our faculty, spread across the Asian landmass from southeastern Turkey to China. Lorenzo d'Alfonso's excavations in Cappadocia, still at an early stage of what is likely to be a major long-term project, follow and build on the results of an extensive regional survey that he is preparing for publication; Sören Stark's project in Uzbekistan is using limited and targeted excavation to clarify the results of a large regional survey; and Rod Campbell's work at Anyang has taken material from an excavation conducted largely under salvage conditions and subjected it to a fascinating and sophisticated analysis.

Our Visiting Research Scholars by now form an impressive body of alumni alongside this year's cohort, and the products of their research are featured in a list of recent publications, Hallie Franks' account of her current work, and in a short piece on ISAW's own digital publications, in both book and article form.

When I first met with ISAW's search committee more than six years ago, I asked how early our idea of "ancient" would go: as far as the Neolithic, I wondered? I was assured that nothing before the third millennium BCE was in prospect. Our program of exhibitions has already demolished that notional boundary with our successful show on "The Lost World of Old Europe," and now "Temple and Tomb: Prehistoric Malta" will take us back even a bit further, into another corner of Europe rarely in view. I hope that you will take advantage of this remarkable opportunity for broadened horizons, as well as joining us at lectures throughout the term.

Roger S. Bagnall
Leon Levy Director



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This page: Oak Library, ISAW

Cover: Kınık Höyük excavation site, Turkey. For more, see p. 7.

ISAW COMMUNITY NEWS

Recent Publications

A selection of 2012-2013 academic year publications by members of the ISAW community.

Faculty

Roger Bagnall

Ed., with K. Broderson et al. *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, 13 vols. and electronic edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012.

"Christianity on Thoth's Hill." In *Oasis Papers 6: The Proceedings of the Sixth Conference of the Dakhleh Oasis Project*, eds. R. Bagnall, et al. Oxford: Oxbow, 2012.

Lorenzo d'Alfonso

"Seeking a Political Space. Some Thoughts on the Formative Stage of the Hittite Administration in Syria." *Altorientalische Forschungen* 38/2 (2012):163-176.

"Tabal, an 'Out-Group Definition' in the 1st Millennium BC." In *Leggo! Festschrift F.M. Fales*, eds. G.B.Lanfranchi et al., 173-194. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2012.

with C. Mora. "Anatolia after the End of the Hittite Empire. New Evidence from Southern Cappadocia." *Origini* 34 (2012): 283-299.

Roderick Campbell

"On Sacrifice: an Archaeology of Shang Sacrifice." In *Sacred Killing*, eds. A. Porter and G.Schwartz, 305-323. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012.

Beate Pongratz-Leisten

"Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East: Offering and Ritual Killing" In *Sacred Killing*, eds. A. Porter and G.Schwartz, 291-304. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012.

"Assyrian Royal Discourse Between Local and Imperial Traditions at the Hābūr." *Revue d'Assyriologie* 105 (2011): 1-20.

"Comments on the Translatability of Divinity: Cultic and Theological Responses to the Presence of the Other in the Ancient Near East." In *Les représentations des dieux des autres (Supplemento a Mythos 2. Rivista di Storia delle Religioni)*, eds. C. Bonnet, et al. 83-111. Caltanissetta: Salvatore Sciascia Editore, 2012.

Daniel Potts

"A 'Scythian' Pick from Vaske (Gilan) and the Identity of the XVIIth Delegation at Persepolis." In *Stories of Long Ago: Festschrift für Michael D.*

Roaf, eds. H. D. Baker, et al, 459-470. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2012.

In the Land of the Emirates: The Archaeology and History of the UAE. Trident Press and Sultan bin Zayed's Culture and Media Centre, Abu Dhabi, 2012.

Ed. and "Chapter 12: Fish and Fishing." In *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East*. 220-235. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Sören Stark

"Siedlungswüstungen, Kurgane, und Felsbilder – archäologische Feldforschungen im Hochgebirge Tadschikistans." In *Nomaden in Unsere Welt*, eds. J. Gertel and S. Calkin, 116-125. Bielfeld: Transcript Veriag, 2012.

Lillian Tseng

"Funerary Spatiality: Wang Hui's Sarcophagus in Han China." *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, 61/62 (2012): 116-131.

Visiting Research Scholars

Jan Bremmer

Ed., with Marco Formisano. *Perpetua's Passions*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

"Greek Demons of the Wilderness: the case of the Centaurs." In *Wilderness Mythologies*, ed. L. Feldted, 25-33. Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 2012.

"Religious Violence and its Roots: a view from antiquity." *Asdiwal* 6 (2011 [2012]): 71-79.

Emily Hammer

with Guillermo Algaze and Bradley Parker. "The Tigris-Euphrates Archaeological Reconnaissance Project: Final Report of the Cizre Dam and Cizre-Silopi Plain Survey Areas." *Anatolica* 38 (2012), 1-115.

George Hatke

Aksum and Nubia: Warfare, Commerce, and Political Fictions in Ancient Northeast Africa. New York: NYU Press, 2013.

Scholar Alumni

Jonathan Ben-Dov (2010-11)

with Wayne Horowitz, John M. Steele. *Living the*

Lunar Calendar. Oxford: Oxbow, 2012.

Jacco Dieleman (2010-11)

"Coping with a Difficult Life. Magic, Healing, and Sacred Knowledge." In *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, ed. C. Riggs, 337-61. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Sabine Huebner (2007-08)

Ed., "Brother-sister marriage," and "Census." In *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, eds. R. S. Bagnall, S. R. Huebner, et al., 1194-5 and 1410-12. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012.

Lidewijde de Jong (2010-11)

"Resettling the Steppe: the archaeology of the Balikh Valley in the Early Islamic period." In *Proceedings of the 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East. Volume 2*, eds. R. Matthews and J. Curtis, 517-531. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012.

David Klotz (2009-10)

Caesar in the City of Amun: Egyptian Temple Construction and Theology in Roman Period Thebes. Monographies Reine Élisabeth 15. Turnhout: Brepols, 2012.

with Marc LeBlanc. "An Egyptian Priest and *Dioikêtês* in the Ptolemaic Court: Yale Peabody Museum 264191." In *Parcourir l'éternité: Hommages Jean Yoyotte Vol. II*, eds. C. Zivie-Coche and I. Guermeur, 645-698. *Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études, Sciences Religieuses* 156. Turnhout: Brepols, 2012.

"The Lecherous Pseudo-Anubis of Josephus and the 'Tomb of 1897' at Akhmim." In *Et in Ægypto et ad Ægyptum, Recueil d'études dédiées à Jean-Claude Grenier, Cahiers de l'ENIM* 5, vol. 2 (2012), eds. A. Gasse, et al., 383-396.

Jinyu Liu (2007-08)

"Late Antique Fora and Public Honor in the Western Cities: Case studies." In *Shifting Cultural Frontiers In Late Antiquity VIII*, eds. D. Brakke, et al., 224-253. Farnham: Ashgate, 2012.

Anne Porter (2007-08)

Mobile Pastoralism and the Formation of Near Eastern Civilizations: Weaving Together Society. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Ed. with G. Schwartz. *Sacred Killing: Human and Animal Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2012.

Christine Proust (2009-10)

"Interpretation of Reverse Algorithms in Sev-

eral Mesopotamian Texts." In *The History of Mathematical Proof in Ancient Traditions*, ed. K. Chemla. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

"Reading colophons from Mesopotamian clay-tablets dealing with mathematics." *NTM Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik und Medizin* 20 (3):123-156.

Giovanni Ruffini (2007-08)

Medieval Nubia: A Social and Economic History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Caroline Sauvage (2009-10)

Routes maritimes et systèmes d'échange internationaux au Bronze Récent en Méditerranée Orientale, TMO 62. Lyon: Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, forthcoming 2012.

"Spinning from old threads: the whorls from Ugarit at the Musée d'Archéologie Nationale of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and at the Louvre." In *Textile Production and Consumption in the Ancient Near East. Archaeology, Epigraphy, Iconography*, ed. H. Koefoed, 187-212. Oxford: Oxbow, forthcoming 2012.

Oleksandr Symonenko (2009-10)

Zoloto, kon' i tchelovek. Sbornik statey k 60-letiyu Aleksandra Vladimirovicha Symonenko (The Gold, the Horse, and the Man. Festschrift to the 60th anniversary of Professor Oleksandr Symonenko). Kiev: Publishing House Skif, 2012.

Alice Yao (2008-09)

"Sarmatian Mirrors and Han Ingots (100 BC - 100 AD): How the Foreign became Local and Vice Versa." *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 2 (2012): 57-70.

with Jiang Zhilong. "Discovering the elusive Bronze Age settlements of the 'Dian' kingdom, China." *Antiquity* 86 (2012): 353-363.

Mantha Zarmakoupi (2009-10)

"Private Villas". In *Blackwell Companion to Roman Architecture*, eds. C. Quenemoen and R. Ulrich. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012.

"The Quartier du Stade on late Hellenistic Delos: a case study of rapid urbanization". *ISAW Papers* 6 (2012).

"Entertainment and public buildings." In *Blackwell Companion to Roman Republican Archaeology*, ed. J. DeRose Evans. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012.

RESEARCH & TEACHING

The Tiesanlu Bone Workshop

Roderick Campbell

Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History

In 2002 and 2006 a total of nearly 6,000 square meters of a Shang dynasty bone working area was uncovered at Tiesanlu, Anyang, China (last capital of the Shang dynasty). These excavations recovered nearly 50 metric tons of animal bone – the remains of bone working on a prodigious scale. In 2009, I led a collaborative pilot project funded by a Luce/ACLS East Asian Archaeology post-doctoral grant with researchers from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Archaeology. The results of that study were published in *Antiquity* 85 and suggested not only the surprising scale of bone-working at Anyang but linkages with royal ritual on one hand, and wide, non-elite distribution on the other.

During the 2011-12 winter break and the 2012 summer vacation, another study was conducted on the Tiesanlu materials, funded by a Wenner Gren International Collaboration Grant – this time to study the organization of production. Building on the results of the pilot project, my colleagues and I suspected that the Tiesanlu bone working area was in fact a large integrated workshop perhaps borrowing organizational principles from other industries such as bronze working. To test this hypothesis we set about systematically sampling the bone working waste recovered from the excavations, looking for evidence of specialization and separation of activity in terms animals used, bones processed, artifacts produced or even production stage. In addition, in order to better understand the production process, we purchased several sets of cattle limb bones from a local butcher and conducted experiments aimed at replicating cleaning, degreasing, sawing, shaping, grinding, drilling and polishing techniques. Though the results have not been fully analyzed, we made several interesting discoveries including the reconstruction of a complex drill based on

a stone drill weight recovered from the lithic assemblage and recognized as such only in the process of drill experimentation. Moreover, the realization that soaking the bones before working, whether as part of the cleaning process or merely as softening, was an inescapable part of the process, has led to new lines of ceramic investigation at the site – the prediction that there should be areas of site where the bone was initially prepared that have not only large quantities of whole bone or initial reduction waste but also large basins.



Dr. Campbell saws bone in the workshop.

Though it is premature to speak of findings when the data has yet to be systematically analyzed, our goal of producing a series of site maps for each period showing the distribution of different types of bone working remains will be met, and the initial results appear to confirm our hypothesis. Thus, one midden analyzed in the winter season yielded ten times a higher proportion of final stage waste than was found in any of our pilot project contexts, suggesting it contained the remains of debris produced from a divided production process. Moreover, the products of the process appear to be overwhelmingly only two styles of decorative pins (out of a dozen or so pin types that appear at the site, among a variety of artifacts being produced at Tiesanlu). Other areas seem to be concentrated on the production of tools such as shovels, awls and arrowheads.

In short, if a systematic analysis of the data bear out the initial impressions, we will be able to show that the gigantic bone debris field of Tiesanlu is, in fact, the remains of a large, coordinated and integrated bone workshop that produced vast quantities of daily use artifacts for wide distribution.

Kınık Höyük, A New Excavation in Southern Cappadocia, Turkey

Lorenzo d'Alfonso

Assistant Professor of West Asian Archaeology and History

Archaeological excavations at Kınık Höyük started during the summer of 2011, and the second campaign took place in the summer of 2012. The excavations have been planned as a ten year project of extensive excavation of the west half of the mound that dominates the site, with a geophysical survey and some test trenches of the terrace around the mound, as well a project to stabilize the most monumental architectural remains, in view of transforming the site into an open-air museum. Operations so far have been focused on the top of the citadel, where the geomagnetic survey signaled the presence of a relevant stone building, and on different areas of the slopes, where monumental stone walls were revealed.

On the top of the mound, the two earliest periods of inhabitation of the site have been exposed. They correspond to the Middle Ages - possibly a Seljuk occupation, and the Hellenistic age. During the former, no traces of public structures have been found so far, while many elements support a rural context, with small and poor houses that reused previous Hellenistic architectural remains on stone, flanked by recoveries for husbandry, some pithoi possibly used for water supply, productive areas (much glass slag was collected), and shallow trash pits.

The Hellenistic presence on the citadel of Kınık is more articulated. The architecture excavated thus far seems also domestic in nature, even though a one meter thick stone wall running along the southern edge of the site likely belongs to a fortification. The architecture in the northern section is less monumental than the southern wall, but defines two rectangular large rooms with well-structured clay soils. Both rooms belong to the same building, which will be further excavated at a later date.

Extensive excavations on the slopes of Kınık Höyük uncovered the monumental remains of the citadel stone walls; the topsoil covering it contained four levels dating to the Late Iron Age. This discovery was particularly interesting because this period, covering almost four centuries after the end of the Neo-Hittite states, is poorly known and under-investigated in most of Anatolia. Among the many valuable discoveries this area yielded thus far were a rich collection of fine painted potsherds. The motif and style of their decoration strongly suggest a relation with the



Pot sherds found at Kınık Höyük

Orientalizing production of eastern Greek pottery dating to the late 7th century BCE. This in turn hints at a wide circulation of goods and ideas in this period for Western and Central Anatolia, in contrast to the wars and crises believed to have followed the Cimmerian invasion, suggesting a need to revise our understanding of this period.

The citadel stone walls of Kınık Höyük are more than four meters wide. They are constructed with a core of clay mortar and unshaped stones, rarely exceeding a diameter of about 30-35cm. On the outer face, we opened a two meters wide test trench. Even though we have not yet reached the base of the foundations, this trench revealed that at least in this area the walls are preserved for a depth of more than five meters.

Two building phases have been identified, the lower one using timber and bigger stones, in some cases roughly shaped into blocks. The upper part of the structure shows a slightly tapered profile: here smaller logs were set in the masonry, organized in six irregular horizontal rows. These wooden elements projected beyond the wall surface for several centimeters; their poor wooden remains were still preserved in the log holes on a thick layer of mud plastering. The impressive coating is tempered with organic inclusions and is distributed over the whole of the later phase of the wall face. In comparison to similar wall plastering in fortifications at other Anatolian sites, Kınık Höyük is noteworthy for its exceptional conservation. Phase I of the monumental walls date to the Middle Iron Age, when the city was one of the main centers of the forgotten kingdom of Tuwana. The site as a whole promises to continue yielding valuable information on this kingdom and even earlier times as the excavation progresses.

Investigating the “Long Wall” of Bukhara: Excavations at the Fortress Ganch-tepa in 2012

Sören Stark

Assistant Professor of Central Asian Art and Archaeology

Our investigations of the territorial fortification system of the oasis of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, during the 2012 field-season concentrated on excavating and documenting the small-sized fortress site of Ganch-tepa (meaning “Stucco-hill”), situated in the eastern extremity of the oasis. The site is part of a relatively well-preserved section of the former oasis fortification system, consisting of a 13 km continuous stretch of the oasis wall, running south of the Zerafshan river and incorporating a total of four fortresses of varying sizes. At Ganch-tepa the oasis wall is not directly adjoining the fort but running the short distance of c. 10m around its eastern and southern facade.

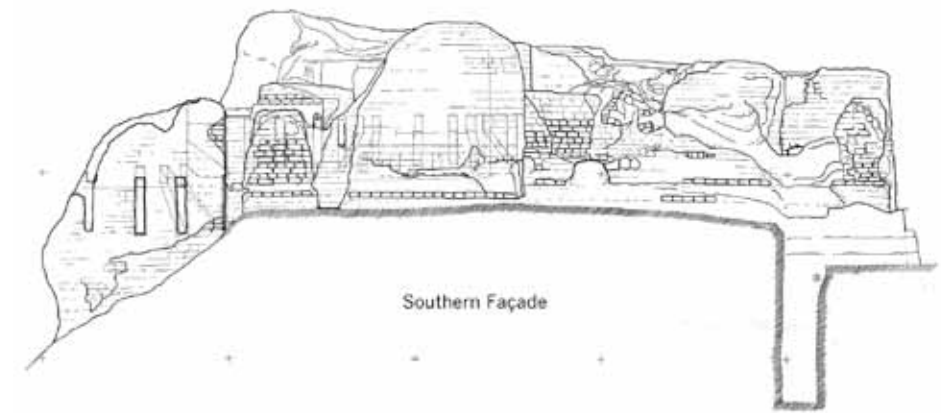
The potential of the site with regard to questions of dating and historical contextualization of the oasis wall system around Bukhara became apparent when we recorded the site during our preparatory survey in July 2011, observing its exceptionally good state of preservation, as well as architectural features clearly dating back to circa the 4th-6th centuries CE.

Excavations during July and August 2012 yielded the following preliminary results: The fortress features a roughly rectangular but not entirely symmetrical shape. The southern façade as well as the southern part of the eastern façade were

preserved up to the lower part of the third story of the building – an exceptionally good state of preservation considering that all walls were constructed with unbaked mud bricks or blocks of rammed earth (pakhsa).

Two major building phases can be observed. The first phase is characterized by rectangular towers slightly protruding from the curtain wall – both pierced by a multitude of arrowslits, arranged in checkerboard pattern over the whole of the façade (at least the 2nd and the third story). The thickness of curtain and tower walls amounts to only 1.4m in the 2nd story. All these elements are characteristic of the military architecture in Sogdia dating to the 5th century CE. The earliest ceramic assemblage from the site, also belonging to the 5th century CE, confirms such a date.

In a substantial part of the southern facade (where the main gate was likely situated) the curtain and tower walls had completely collapsed and were repaired without much care. Currently it is unclear when and why —siege, earthquake?— this happened. At any rate, in a second major building phase all arrowslits were carefully closed and both tower and the curtain walls substantially reinforced. A diag-

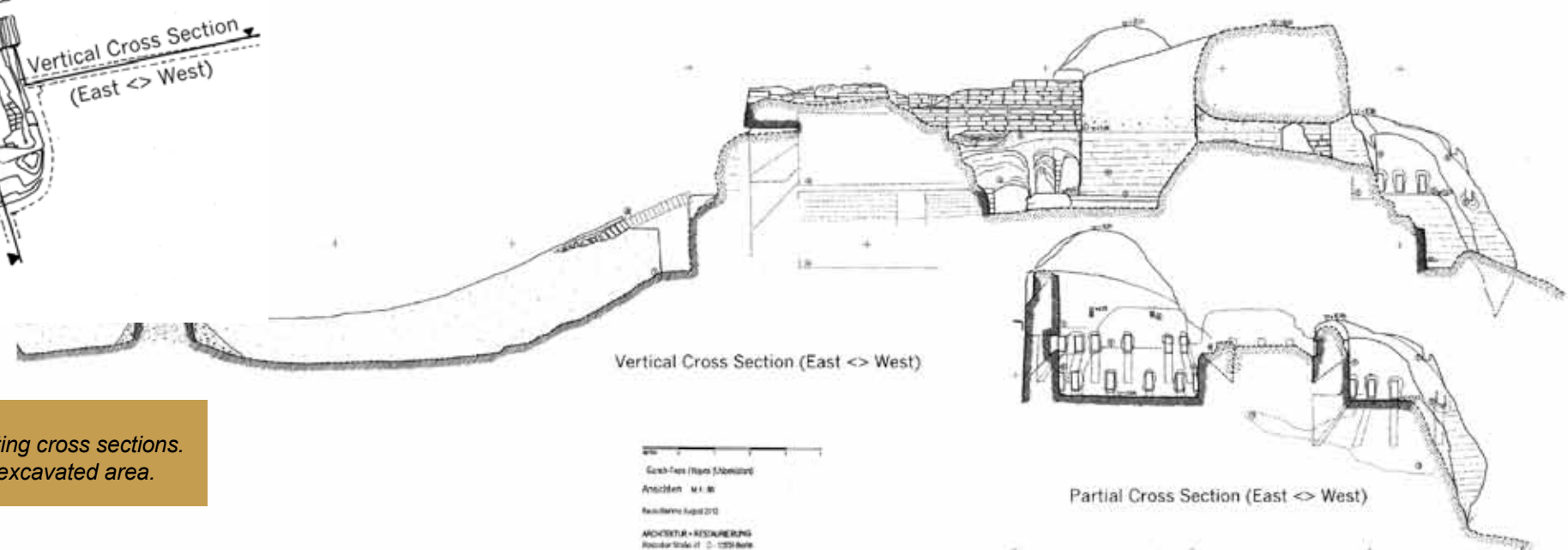
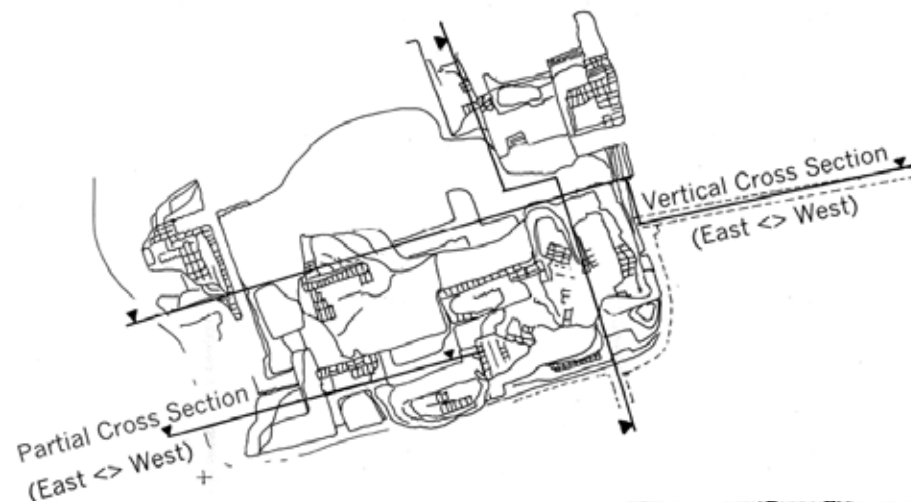


nostic sherd from the filling of one of the arrowslits points to a date of this phase in the 8th or early 9th century CE. This date is roughly confirmed by an arrowhead which remained stuck in the outer side of the reinforced wall and dates to the same period. The fortress seems to have been abandoned by the 10th century CE.

These preliminary observations give us interesting clues regarding the function and date of the fortress within the system of territorial defense of the oasis of Bukhara. First, the 5th century date of the first phase confirms the results of last year’s excavations of two cross-sections of the oasis wall near Kyzyl-tepa, 25 km south-west of Ganch-tepa. The relatively ‘light’ architecture, featuring a multitude of arrowslits, enabled the deployment of archers on at least two stories. This seems to point to a defensive function against a lightly or altogether unarmed enemy without siege machinery. This impression is also confirmed by the oasis wall running in front of the fortress: it measured a width of only 1.5-1.7m at the bottom and was rather carelessly raised with a mixture of rammed earth, gravel and irregular clay heaps, obviously serving only as an obstacle to impede

direct approach to the fortress. Such a defense tactic must have been quite efficient against lightly-armed cavalry – the arm par excellence of nomadic raiders. Thus, the wall would have primarily prevented a small band of mounted raiders from quickly passing the fortress, slipping into the oasis, and escaping back into the steppes.

The closing of the arrowslits and the substantial reinforcement of the outer walls in the second phase points to a different defense concept: defense activities were limited to the top of the curtain walls, in order to more effectively control the glacis of the oasis wall in front of the fortress. At the same time the reinforced walls could much better withstand attempts to take the fortress with the help of siege machines which were in common use in the region by the 8th century. In all likelihood the second building phase of the fortress is associated with the large-scale fortification of the oasis of Bukhara, ordered in 782-83 CE by the Muslim governor of Khorasan, as we know from the testimony of the Tarikh-i Bukhara, written in the 10th century CE.



Above: A simplified plan of Ganch-tepa, indicating cross sections. Opposite page: Cross section drawings of the excavated area.

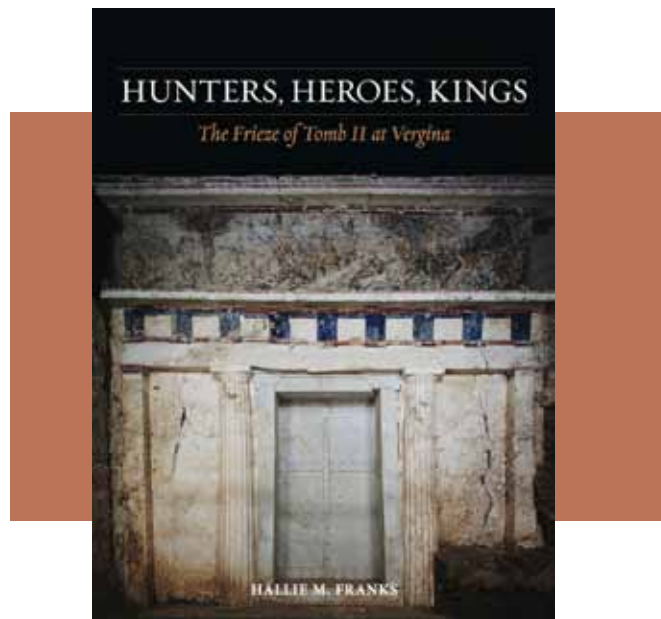
Exploring Art and Space in Ancient Greece

Hallie Franks

ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

Assistant Professor, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, NYU

Tomb II at Vergina is a royal tomb, built to commemorate a member of the Macedonian royal family in the period of prosperity surrounding Alexander the Great's reign. The painted hunting scene that adorns the tomb's façade is a striking and rare example of Macedonian court art. This painting, dedicated to the recognition of the deceased, elucidates the cultural influences through which the kingdom and its rulers declared their legitimacy. My first book, *Hunters, Heroes, Kings: The Frieze of Tomb II at Vergina*, published in Fall 2012 with the American School of Classical Studies Press, redefines the place of this painting in our understanding of Macedonian art. Navigating myth, history, and visual tradition, I present a new interpretation of the famous "Hunting Frieze" at Vergina.



Continuing my interest in ancient Macedonia, I excavate with the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) and The National Institute of Archaeology with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIAM-BAS) at Heraclea Sintica, a site in the Roman province of Macedonia, located in modern southwestern Bulgaria. I am co-director of the ARCS Field School there, with Dr. Emil Nankov, and we are happy to be returning for our second season in June 2013.

My current research at ISAW, as the first Affiliated Faculty Visiting Research Scholar, takes me in a new direction. I am investigating the ways that the experience of certain architectural spaces of Classical and Hellenistic Greece creates metaphors for other kinds of movement, specifically travel. Underlying my approach is theoretical work in sociology that has explored the human experience of space as a dialectical relationship between the ways in which space is perceived, conceived, and physically experienced. This project considers Greek architectural spaces as they were lived, using those theoretical structures to consider the material nature of the space itself, the imagery associated with it (in, for example, mosaic or painted decoration), the activities that occurred within it, and the ways in which these elements come together to become meaningful for the visitor.

In the fall of 2012, I gave a public lecture at ISAW, *Traveling, in Theory: Movement as Metaphor in the Ancient Greek Symposium*, which explored the way space and imagery work in the Classical andron, a room best known as the location of the symposium, the Greek drinking party. These rooms often had pebble mosaic floors with figural decoration, the iconography of which is sometimes difficult to connect to the sympotic context. In this paper, I interpreted the imagery through the popular cultural likening of the symposium as a journey at sea. This analogy plays out in the "lived" experience of the symposium, during which the wine cup makes its way around the andron's perimeter, stopping at each symposiast like a ship stops at harbors on a voyage. In some andrones, I argue, the mosaic floors participate in this metaphor, presenting the kinds of exotic images that might be glimpsed or imagined as a ship moved along foreign shores. Thus, the imagery and architectural space of the room take on meaning through the way the space is "lived"—that is, through prescribed, standardized movements and their cultural associations.

Since the andron is one of the few ancient spaces for which we have a good idea of how movement unfolded, I hope to expand this work to look at other domestic mosaics from the late Classical and Hellenistic periods.

ISAW Library News

Charles E. Jones

ISAW Head Librarian

The ISAW Library is pleased to acknowledge the extraordinarily generous donation of his library by David N. Keightley, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley. Professor Keightley is an American sinologist and historian whose career has focused on the origins of Chinese civilization in the Neolithic and early Bronze Ages. His particular interest is in the formation of political and religious culture: ancestor worship, divination, and the development of bureaucracy, viewed in cross-cultural perspective. Among his awards is a 1986 MacArthur Fellowship. This donation of nearly a thousand volumes, mostly in Chinese, represents a lifetime of careful selection and creates an enormously important core area in the collections of the ISAW Library.



New large item shelves in the 5th floor reading room allow better access to the library's map collection.

Digital Articles and Books from ISAW

Tom Elliott

Associate Director for Digital Programs

Sebastian Heath

Research Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies

From the start, ISAW's Digital Programs have focused on producing open-licensed scholarship in support of ISAW's mission to connect innovative people and ideas in the study of the ancient world. We continue to collaborate with others on a range of digital publications in both novel and familiar forms, which can be found on the "Online Resources" page of the ISAW website.

ISAW Papers, edited by Sebastian Heath, is the institute's online journal. Five articles are now available, authored by ISAW faculty, scholars, and others, that treat topics as diverse as Greek and Babylonian astronomy, Ptolemaic numismatics, the Roman economy, Syriac philology, and the "Antikythera Mechanism." More are in process, including 2009-10 Visiting Research Scholar Mantha Zarmakoupi's forthcoming field report on urbanization on late Hellenistic Delos.

Articles in *ISAW Papers* take advantage of ISAW's institutional context and other digital initiatives. The journal is published online and digitally archived in partnership with NYU Libraries, whose focus is the long-term availability and preservation of scholarly resources. This partnership lets

ISAW concentrate on the creation of high-quality works that enrich and exploit other publications like our online gazetteer, Pleiades. Relevance, permanence, and accessibility are further enhanced because we publish ISAW Papers under a Creative Commons Attribution license, which protects copyright while permitting readers, as well as other institutions, to download, store and redistribute the series at no cost. Articles can be found simply by Googling "ISAW Papers" or by going directly to the address <http://isaw.nyu.edu/publications/isaw-papers>.

ISAW's digital books program is also directed by Heath and is informed by the same principles that drive *ISAW Papers*. Our first volume, *Amheida I: Ostraka from Trimithis 1* by Roger Bagnall and Giovanni Ruffini, appeared in early 2012. Like *ISAW Papers*, the full-text of the volume is available online via the NYU Libraries. A printed volume is available from NYU Press and there are versions for Kindle and other e-readers. A second volume, *Aksum and Nubia: Warfare, Commerce, and Political Fictions in Ancient Northeast Africa* by current ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor George Hatke, will appear in early 2013.

EXHIBITIONS

Temple and Tomb: Prehistoric Malta

Peter D. De Staebler, Assistant Curator

Jennifer Chi, Exhibitions Director and Chief Curator

Sharon Sultana, Senior Curator, National Museum of Archaeology, Malta

March 21 - June 30, 2013

The ancient inhabitants of the Maltese archipelago created one of the artistically richest early Prehistoric cultures. They produced an outstanding range of aesthetically refined and intricate representations of the human figure in clay and stone, which illuminate both a distinctive local identity as well as connections to the larger Mediterranean and European worlds. The early Maltese also constructed extraordinary megalithic temples now understood to be the oldest freestanding stone structures in the world.

The first human settlers arrived on the islands c. 5100 BCE, and the great temples and the objects in the exhibition date to c.3600-2500 BCE. Since the architecture and sculptures are unique to Malta, however, their true age has only been known since the advent of radiocarbon dating. Through the earlier 20th century, the culture was thought to be much younger, but it is now known to be older than the Pyramids or Stonehenge.

The Exhibition

Temple and Tomb marks the first time that these objects have come to the United States, and the exhibition tells the story of this under-represented and re-imagined ancient culture. The exhibition opens with a selection of watercolors and archival photographs from the 1820's through the mid-20th century that document the discovery of Maltese prehistory. Uncovered from the mid-19th through the late 20th century, the sites and objects in the exhibition were discovered both above ground in massive, elaborately decorated temples and underground in rock-cut

funerary complexes.

The objects at the core of the exhibition are representations of the human figure that derive from both cult and funerary contexts. The variety and beauty of the figures is rich, with an intention of differentiation unknown in contemporary cultures. Particularly intriguing is the sexual ambiguity in this material. Some are distinctly female, such as the voluptuous clay figurine from the temple at Ħaġar Qim nick-named the "Venus of Malta." Others appear to be more male, such as the plank-like stone statuettes from the Xagħra Circle funerary complex.

These two examples are distinguished from the large number of corpulent figurines that are ambiguously sexed and whose proportions are luxuriously enormous, with huge hips, thighs, and buttocks, but smaller legs and arms, and incongruously delicate feet and hands. They are represented standing or sitting, nude or clothed, sometimes shown wearing pleated skirts. The faces of some figures are astonishingly varied and individualized, and it has been suggested that they may have been intended to represent specific individuals. Equally remarkable are figures created to have detachable and perhaps interchangeable heads.

The architectural spaces created by the prehistoric Maltese to house cultic and funerary rituals are complex. The temples follow a plan found only on the Maltese islands, and they consist of a series of D-shaped spaces that face onto a central hall. They are megalithic, composed of huge limestone blocks that were quarried and transported using only stone, bone, and wooden tools. Many of the ritual spaces are aligned with celestial phenomena, and show signs of



having been used to track the sun and stars, particularly the solstices and the first rising of certain constellations. A feature found in both constructed temples and underground rock-cut funerary spaces is the trilithon (a doorway comprised of two massive upright jambs topped by a horizontal lintel)—a form well-known from Stonehenge.

All the architectural spaces were heavily embellished, with stone friezes and altars decorated with relief carved representations of domesticated animals or fish, and carved or painted spirals. The spiral was the most common motif utilized in these spaces, and it was also used on the pottery of the period. The many spirals from Malta illustrate an especially early manifestation of a preference for this motif, and it appears here in tremendous variation, with some examples isolated and strictly geometric while others are more florid and abstractly vegetal.

This civilization came to an end in c. 2500 BCE, shortly after its peak, and the islands appear to have been abandoned for a period of centuries. Reasons for the end of the civilization are unclear, but may include aspects of foreign invasion or civil war and the concomitant over

exploitation and eventual exhaustion of natural resources, including deforestation. The Bronze Age population that resettled the islands are a completely distinct people; their cultural traditions are entirely different, though they chose to bury their dead in the massive ruins of the great temples.

This exhibition has been organized by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

Photo Credits

Opposite: Schematic Sub-rectangular Figure Wearing a Headband and Pleated Skirt. Globigerina limestone. H: 17.2, W: 5.1, D: 1.9 cm. Xagħra Circle (Gozo), Temple Period, 3600-2500 BCE. Gozo Museum of Archaeology: 32193

Below: Head from a Standing Figure. Clay. H: 12.1, W: 9.9, D: 10 cm. Tarxien Temple (Malta), Temple Period, 3600-2500 BCE. National Museum of Archaeology: 9529

Altar with Reliefs of Interconnected Volutes. Stone. H: 38, W: 33.4, D: 34 cm. Tarxien South Temple (Malta), Temple Period, 3600-2500 BCE. National Museum of Archaeology: 14391

All photos © Daniel Cilia, Courtesy of Heritage Malta

Temple and Tomb Lecture Series



March 21

Maltese Megalithic Mysteries

Sharon Sultana, Senior Curator
National Museum of Archaeology,
Heritage Malta



April 18

Archaeoastronomy in Malta: Exploring the Connections Between Maltese Temples and Their Skies

Clive Ruggles, Professor Emeritus
School of Archaeology and Ancient History,
University of Leicester

All lectures begin at 6 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Additional details may be found on our website:

isaw.nyu.edu/exhibitions/echoes

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Early Medieval Chinese Art and Archaeology

March 29

This workshop, organized by Professor Lillian Tseng, invites scholars to examine newly excavated sites and tombs in early medieval China, focusing on issues surrounding urban archaeology and funerary practices. Participants include

leading scholars from China and colleagues and graduate students in the Tri-State Area.

Participation in this workshop is by invitation only.

The Fourth Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lectures

The Sovereign Assemblage: Sense, Sensibility, and Sentiment in the Bronze Age Caucasus

Adam T. Smith, Professor of Anthropology, Cornell University

April 8, 15, 22, and 29. 6 pm.

The modern understanding of political association has centered resolutely on the citizen, whose interactions with others establish and reproduce the possibilities and limits of sovereignty. However, rarely do we interact with one another directly as citizens. Rather, a vast assemblage of things, from ballots and bullets to crowns and regalia to licenses and permits incessantly intrudes upon our political relations. What role has this assemblage played in the formation of our political practices? What principles fundamental to sovereignty does an archaeology of this assemblage reveal?

Taking the Caucasus as their geographic focus, these lectures describe the emergence of a complex series of material assemblages that originated in the Bronze Age yet continue to shape our politics today. They will detail the transformation of communities in the Caucasus from Early Bronze Age villages committed to an ideology of egalitarianism to Late Bronze Age complex polities predicated on radical inequality, organized violence, and a centralized appa-

ratus of rule. These formidable social transformations were made possible by the operation of three assemblages, or machines, that reordered human communities. Each was vital to the operation of the next, forging the polity over time in the articulation of things and persons along three linked dimensions: sense, sensibility, and sentiment. It is by attending to these points of articulation that we can unravel the enduring sovereignty of the assemblage.

Lectures in this series are as follows:

- The Sovereignty of Assemblages** (April 8)
- The Civilization Machine in the Early Bronze Age** (April 15)
- The War Machine in the Middle Bronze Age** (April 22)
- The Political Machine in the Late Bronze Age** (April 29)

The lectures are free and open to the public. Seating is limited; RSVP is required to isaw@nyu.edu.

Ancient and Modern Perspectives on Historiography in Mesopotamia

April 12

This workshop builds upon Professor Beate Pongratz-Leisten's current seminar, "The History of Assyria in Ancient and Modern Historiography," by expanding the scope in time and space and examining Sumerian and Babylonian texts as well as Assyrian. The goal is to acquire a correct understanding of the ancients' intentionality in referencing mythical, legendary, and historical figures and events, which are included in these texts. The notion of the past as either paradigmatic model or reconstructed event his-

tory will be at the center of our discussion, as will be the setting and function of the texts. We will further scrutinize the applicability of modern taxonomies such as chronicles, annals, etc. to ancient textual production and investigate how ancient historiographic writing interfaces with what modern scholarship tends to subsume under fiction and literature.

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

The Archaeology of Sasanian Politics

April 26

Archaeological excavations, surveys, and analyses have revitalized the study of Sasanian history in recent years. The International Merv Project, the investigation of the "Great Wall of Gurgan," and the survey of the Mughan Steppe, among other projects, reveal a remarkably robust state in the fifth and sixth centuries, far more capable of marshaling men and material in its service than most historians have been

willing to admit. It is the goal of this workshop, organized by Visiting Research Scholar Richard Payne and Doctoral Candidate Mehrnoush Soroush, to convene archaeologists and historians to debate how recent archaeology can provide new perspectives on the dynamics of Sasanian imperialism. Seating is limited, registration required to isaw@nyu.edu.

ISAW PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2013

The Festive Economy of the Iranian Empire
Richard Payne, Visiting Research Scholar
February 5

"Big Prehistory" and the Mashup of Inner Asian Civilization
Michael Frachetti, Visiting Research Scholar
February 19

Myth, Politics, and Biography in Ancient Egypt
Janet Richards, University of Michigan/
ISAW Senior Fellow (ARCE Lecture)
February 21

Archaeological Landscapes of Highland and Steppe Zones in Naxçivan, Azerbaijan
Emily Hammer, Visiting Assistant Professor
February 26

The Eurasian Spread of Tin-Bronze Metallurgy with Special Reference to Prehistoric Thailand
Vincent Pigott, ISAW Research Associate (AIA Lecture, 6:30 p.m.)
March 6

Kınık Höyük, A New Excavation in Southern Cappadocia, Turkey
Lorenzo d'Alfonso, Assistant Professor (co-hosted by The American Turkish Society)
March 7

Trade, Migration, and Acculturation: China and the Prehistoric Silk Routes
Li Zhang, Visiting Research Scholar
March 12

Excavating a Provincial Capital of the Assyrian Empire: The Ziyaret Tepe Archaeological Project
John MacGinnis, University of Cambridge
March 13

Greek Papyri as a Linguistic Resource
Marja Vierros, Visiting Research Scholar
April 9

"For 'İlmuquh and for Saba'": Warfare, Religion, and Ideology in the Res Gestae of Karib'il Watar bin Dhamar'alī
George Hatke, Visiting Assistant Professor
April 23

Toiletries from Burials of Early China and Neighboring Cultures
Sheri Lullo, Union College
April 30

Life on the Fringe: Reconstructing the Lives of the Ancient Peoples of the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt
Tosha Dupras, Visiting Research Scholar
May 7

All lectures are held in the 2nd floor lecture hall, and begin at 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time.

For additional information and conference schedules, visit our website:

isaw.nyu.edu/events

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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.

