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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

Newsletter 17 Winter 2017



NYU | ISAW

From the Director

As I write these words, ISAW is in the midst of the January three-week interval between our Fall and Spring classes. Far from being a holiday, this is a very busy time. For our faculty, among other activities, it is when we do much of the sifting through the numerous applications we have received for next year's doctoral program admissions and visiting research scholarships. In my first few years at ISAW, we took turns poring through thick batches of paper files; now everything comes electronically, so we can all read through the applications simultaneously. But it remains a big job—and a hugely rewarding one! Through it we become acquainted with some of the most exciting scholars at work today on the world of antiquity, as well as some of the most promising future scholars, and our selection is an important part of shaping ISAW's own future and furthering its mission.

Our students come to us each with a unique set of interests and goals, and so our program is unlike typical disciplinary doctoral programs in its flexibility and the variety of kinds of classes that we offer. In coming issues of the newsletter, leaders and participants in a selection of recently held ISAW courses will be contributing articles describing what they have been up to. To start this series off, this issue features a new team-taught seminar, "Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World," which clearly was an exciting and stimulating experience for all involved.

It is especially gratifying and appropriate that this article shares a page with the announcement that the Archaeological Institute of America's prestigious 2017 Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology has gone to the Pleiades project, based since 2008 at ISAW. ISAW people and projects were conspicuous throughout this year's joint annual meetings of the AIA and the Society for Classical Studies, attended by about 2,500 archaeologists, classicists, art historians, epigraphers, anthropologists, and scientists, reinforcing our growing reputation for forward-looking research and pedagogy.

Alexander Jones
Interim Director and Professor of the Exact Sciences in Antiquity

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.

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Cover Photo: An unpublished codex of tablets with Greek and Coptic documents —the most ancient tax receipts in Coptic

© Musée du Louvre / Christian Larrieu

From the Eighth Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series, presented Wednesdays, March 22 - April 12, 2017 by Jean-Luc Fournet

Community News

Announcement of Faculty Tenure, Effective Fall, 2017

Rod Campbell

Assistant Professor of East Asian Archaeology and History

I would like to thank the faculty of ISAW for supporting my tenure case and especially former director Roger Bagnall for his mentorship. I intend to pursue three major research projects over the next five to ten years. The first is a historiographic book-length investigation into the construction of the Shang dynasty as a historical subject, tackling issues of scale, narrative, as well as the fragmentary and frequently incommensurable nature of its sources. The second is a new theory of Early Chinese visual culture, combining both cultural

holistic and formalist approaches with a more contemporary anthropological perspective. If I am correct, it will change the way Early Chinese art is understood. The goal of the third project is to shed light on the economy of North China at the end of the 2nd millennium BCE. With fieldwork underway on the capital at Anyang, the only excavated contemporaneous village and the longest excavated Shang secondary center, we have an ideal comparative set and have already made some exciting discoveries.



Tribute to Norman L. Peck (1938-2016)

Shelby White

Founder



Norman Lloyd Peck, was a great friend of ISAW. Mr. Peck was a quintessential New Yorker. Born in Brooklyn, he attended the Lawrenceville School and Princeton University, where he graduated in 1957. Mr. Peck made his career in real estate but loved his time spent in the philanthropic world as President of the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation.

The breadth of Norman Peck's interests and vision was vast, and his wise philanthropy had an

impact on so many important cultural institutions. The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World was one of these beneficiaries, where he was both a generous funder and a loyal friend. Norman and Leon Levy shared a long history together and many interests, including ancient history. The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation's endowment of the Annual Leon Levy Lecture meant so much to all of us at ISAW. Norman's dedication and contributions to the world of arts and philanthropy was transformative, and his legacy will continue.

Visiting Student Feature

Matthias Stern

PhD Candidate, University of Basel, Switzerland

As a PhD student at the University of Basel, Switzerland, I am currently working on my dissertation project, entitled "Fiscalité, Local Politics, and Social Control in Byzantine Egypt. The Case of the Pagarchy," and had the pleasure to be hosted as a visiting graduate student at ISAW for three months from March through May 2016. During my brief but exhilarating time, I participated in courses led by Professors Roger Bagnall, Robert Hoyland, and Sören Stark and met with Roger Bagnall and the community

for in-depth sessions on my dissertation. In addition, I had countless 'offstage' discussions about general or particular aspects of the ancient world. The abundance of expertise in all different sorts of fields gathered at ISAW helped me shape my work in detail and open it to various areas of scholarly discourse. Apart from such professional gains, however, I also experienced a most cordial reception into the ISAW community, for which I will be ever grateful.



Lecture Series

Eighth Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

Egyptian versus Greek in Late Antique Egypt: The Struggle of Coptic for an Official Status

Jean-Luc Fournet, Professor, Collège de France, Paris
March 22-April 12, 2017

Jean-Luc Fournet is a papyrologist and a specialist in late antiquity. In March 2015, he was appointed professor at the Collège de France (Paris), which created for him its first chair of papyrology named “Written Culture in Late Antiquity and Byzantine Papyrology.” Prior to his current position, he was a scientific member of the Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale in Cairo (1992-1996), researcher at the CNRS in Strasbourg (1996-2004), and professor at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Department of Historical and Philological Sciences) in Paris (2004-2015). He devotes much of his scholarly activity to editing new texts, including papyri and Greek inscriptions on late antique amphorae, which he was the first to decipher, and has a special interest in the culture of late antiquity—particularly poetry, multilingualism, and modalities of written culture.



Photo courtesy Patrick Imbert, Collège de France

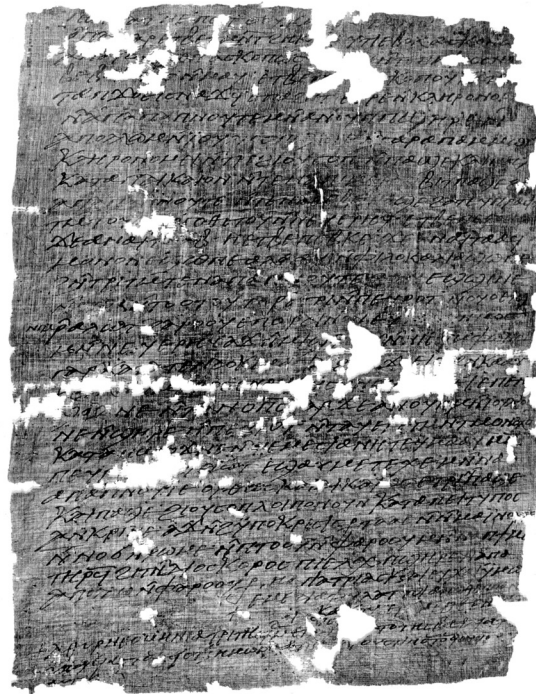


Photo by Aain Leder (FAO), courtesy Greco-Roman Museum, Alexandria

One of the first legal documents in Coptic (and the most ancient with a date): a settlement drawn up by Dioscorus of Aphrodite (P.Alex. inv. 689, AD 569)

March 22, Rostovtzeff Lecture I: *An Egyptian Exception?*

During the first three centuries of its history, Coptic, the final stage of the Egyptian language written with Greek letters, was only used for literary purposes and private correspondence but not for contracts between individuals, documents sent by individuals to the authorities, or internal administrative communication—areas in which the Greek language had a monopoly. This situation is unique in comparison with what is observed in other provinces of the Roman Empire and cannot be explained by a legal prohibition.

March 29, Rostovtzeff Lecture II: *Why Greek Was Preferred to Coptic ?*

This lecture will outline several possible reasons for the late development of official Coptic. Possible reasons include the nature of the language itself, the prestige enjoyed by the Greek language, the milieu of Coptic’s creation, and the longstanding distrust of the Greek-speaking State towards the legal use of Egyptian.

April 5, Rostovtzeff Lecture III: *The Rise of Legal Coptic and the Byzantine State*

In the middle of the 6th century, Coptic began to be used in a limited way for some documents other than purely private letters or accounts. Cultural and political considerations may account for the progressive use of Coptic for legal documents, but the key to this linguistic revolution must be sought in the situation of the judicial state institutions after Justinian and before the Arab Conquest.

April 12, Rostovtzeff Lecture IV: *The Role of the Church in the Growth of Legal Coptic*

This lecture will present an unpublished set of wooden tablets from Panopolis (now in the Louvre) attesting the use of Coptic for tax receipts in the 6th century and revisit the archive of Apa Abraam bishop of Hermonthis (c. 595-621) and of the monastery he founded—the largest group of legal Coptic texts prior to the Arab Conquest. These texts will lead us to examine the role of the Church and especially monasticism in the development of Coptic for official transactions.

Workshops

February 10

Synthesis in Pottery Analysis: The Technical as a Portal to the Social Workshop, organized by Alan Greene (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar) and Yitzchak Jaffe (ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor)

Recent years have seen dramatically increased attention to both the technical study of archaeological pottery and to instrumental technique development that targets ever more efficient and accurate methods of investigation. This research has enhanced our understanding of an impressively diverse set of production, distribution, use, and disposal aspects, yet these studies have most consistently focused on inferring the overall properties of the vessels themselves—such as mineral content, firing temperature, and thermal shock resistance—while remaining more muted on the social and cultural implications that such observations suggest for the communities who made and used ceramic containers. A smaller community of scholars, however, has begun to marshal this growing set of methods, and to introduce several of their own, in order to answer social, cultural and political questions of global significance, ones that go beyond the technical parameters of pots themselves and investigate the lives and societies of their associated human populations. This workshop will bring together researchers who are combining the technical capacities of new laboratory methods with archaeology's traditional tools of interpretation to achieve a new kind of techno-social synthesis. Please note that the workshop will not be open to the general public; attendance at the workshop will be limited to invited academic guests only. For more information, please contact the workshop organizers.

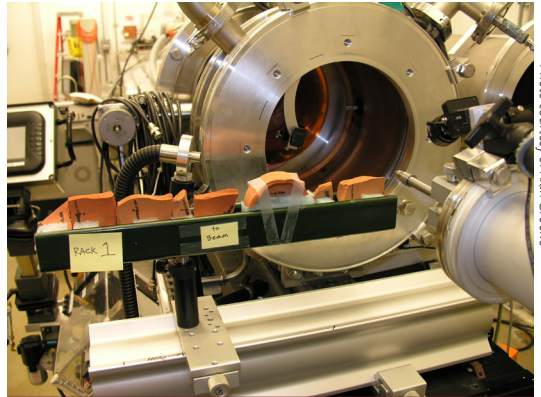


Photo courtesy of Alan Greene

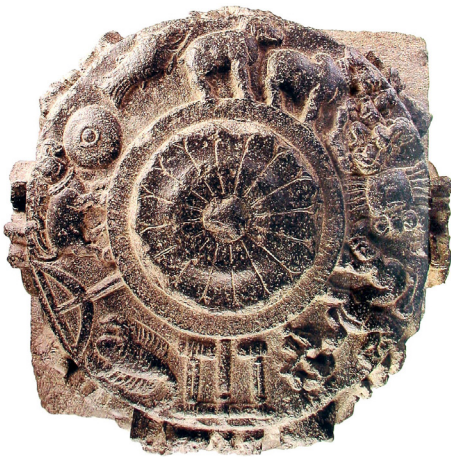
Experimental pottery set up for analysis at Argonne National Laboratory's Advanced Photon Source synchrotron outside Chicago

February 27

Cosmos, East and West: Astral Sciences in South and East Asia and their Interaction with the Greco-Roman World Conference, organized by Bill Mak (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar)

The astral science was among the most developed bodies of knowledge in the ancient world. A complex and interrelated system of astronomical observation, astral rituals, divination and physiognomy was developed in Greece, India and China. While each civilization cultivated this knowledge along its own cultural trajectory and each system contained features unique to its own, there were moments when their paths crossed and ideas cross-fertilized and hybridized. This conference is concerned with the traditional lore of the cosmos and its evolution in South and East Asia, and how the astral knowledge of the "West" was received in the "East" in the pre-modern world. The event will take place in conjunction with the ISAW exhibition "Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity," which all participants will have the opportunity to visit, as well as the evening exhibition lecture by Prof. Stephan Heilen on the same day.

RSVP required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp.



Saura-Pitha. Andhra Pradesh, India. 12th century

P. L. Gupta, *Indian Numismatics: History, Art, and Culture* (Delhi: Agam Kala Prakashan, 1992), p.49

April 6 and 7

The Age of Empires: Comparisons and Interactions between East and West in Antiquity Symposium, co-organized by ISAW and The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Specialists in Greco-Roman and Asian studies will explore the significance of recent archaeological finds from China's First Emperor's mausoleum—the 7,000 strong terracotta warriors and a group of intriguing acrobat figurines—from a global perspective in the first two days. Leading Chinese archaeologists will present up-to-date reports on archaeological finds and research of the Qin and Han periods in the third day.



Photo courtesy of Lillian Tseng

Terracotta warriors at Pit 1, Mausoleum of the First Emperor (d. 210 BCE), Lintong, China

In the final day of the symposium, established and emerging young scholars will discuss the expansion and outreach of the Han Empire reflected in art and material culture, investigating the royal tombs in China's heartland, nomadic burials in the steppes of northern Asia, and Han lacquerware found in the Crimean Peninsula. Detailed information will be available later at <http://isaw.nyu.edu/news>. The symposium is co-organized by the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is made possible by The Met's Joseph Hotung Fund and by New York University through its Center for Ancient Studies, Rose-Marie Lewent Conference Fund, Global Institute for Advanced Study, Center for the Humanities, and Shanghai Campus.

April 28

The Core of a New Age: Northern Mesopotamia and Syria in the Late Bronze Age

Conference, organized by Beate Pongratz-Leisten (ISAW) and Lorenzo d'Alfonso (ISAW)

During the Late Bronze Age, northern Mesopotamia consists of two major regions that highly differ in their political trajectories. East of the Euphrates, two major powers grew prominent, one after the other, and became major players in what is known as the age of diplomacy: one is the kingdom of Mittanni, the other is Assyria. West of the Euphrates, instead, we see a fragmented political landscape with local kingdoms wavering between the major powers. The two regions, however, strongly interacted from very early times in history; with the Late Bronze Age, the expansion of the kingdom of Mittanni and Assyria toward the west promoted and intensified the interaction between local interests and external hegemonic pursuits in the administrative, political, cultural and economic spheres. The aim of the workshop is to reflect on the settlement patterns, agrarian landscapes, transmissions of knowledge, circulations of people and goods, and conceptualization of power in northern Mesopotamia and Syria. The central question to be explored is how and in which contexts can we observe a common ideology reflecting this intersecting of political, economic, and social frameworks of the Club of Great Powers. **RSVP required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp.**



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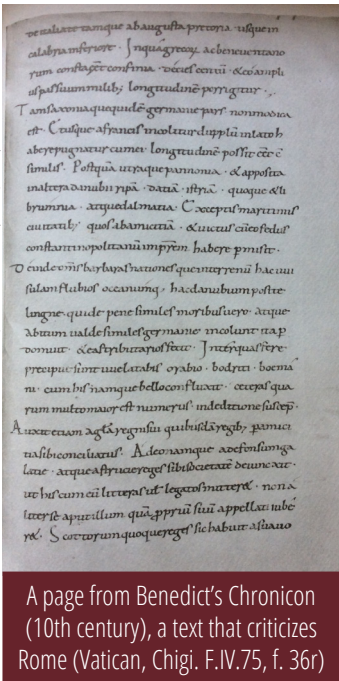
Lion, Glazed terracotta, 38.8 x 14 x 37 cm, Yorghan Tepe, Iraq 1500-1350 BCE, Mitannian period, Harvard Art Museums/ Arthur M. Sackler Museum, 1931.162.A

May 8

Rome and its Critics in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

Workshop, organized by Maya Maskarinec (ISAW Visiting Research Scholar)

This workshop explores what charges, whether virulent defamations or subtler critiques, were leveled against late antique/early medieval Rome, here defined as roughly the 4th-10th centuries. What anxieties can be detected in grievances against Rome? Why are they foisted onto Rome? How did the multiple overlapping and shifting significations of 'Rome' attract or deflect critique? The period under consideration saw the fragmentation of the Roman Empire, the resurgence of local identities and the development of new forms of political and religious communities. Nevertheless, despite—or perhaps precisely because of—this plurality, Rome, as a place and as an idea, remained a standard point of reference across the Mediterranean and Western Europe. Accordingly, examining shifting critiques of Rome will allow insight into the competition between disparate cities, ecclesiastical hierarchies and political systems and the alternate visions of society that they promoted. Please note that the workshop will not be open to the general public; attendance at the workshop will be limited to invited guests only. For more information, please contact the workshop organizer.



Il Chronicon di Benedetto, ed. G. Zucchetti (Rome, 1920)

A page from Benedict's *Chronicon* (10th century), a text that criticizes Rome (Vatican, Chigi. F.IV.75, f. 36r)

Faculty Focus

Nessana and its Papyri

Robert Hoyland

Professor of Late Antique and Early Islamic Middle Eastern History

In 1935 Harris Dunscombe Colt, son of a wealthy New York lawyer, began excavations at the small town of Nessana (modern Auja' al-Hafir) in the Negev Desert in southern Israel with the support of New York University. He had worked with celebrated archaeologists such as Flinders Petrie in famous sites like Lachish, so it seemed to many strange that Colt would select for his own investigation a patently minor settlement in a relatively out-of-the-way place. Yet it proved to be a serendipitous choice.

In the season of 1937 Colt's team chanced upon a cache of some 200 papyri in one of the village's churches, the first such find from the territory of what was Roman Palestine. It turned out to shed fascinating light on the people of this rural settlement during the sixth and seventh centuries AD and their relations with the wider world around them. The papyri concern different social groups (soldiers, farmers, clerics, administrators etc.) in different social situations (paying taxes, getting married, sowing and harvesting, buying and selling, preparing for journeys etc.) and are written in different languages (Greek, Arabic and Aramaic) under different governments (Byzantine Christian and Arab Muslim). In short they are a fantastic resource for learning about the everyday life of a Near Eastern village as it passed from Byzantine to Arab rule, though, to Colt's great disappointment, the disruptions of the Arab conquests in the 630s and 640s leave no trace in the papyri.

Despite its great worth this corpus has been surprisingly little studied, in part because only half of the papyri were edited and translated (albeit the more complete ones) and almost no images were included in the publication. Recently Roger Bagnall was

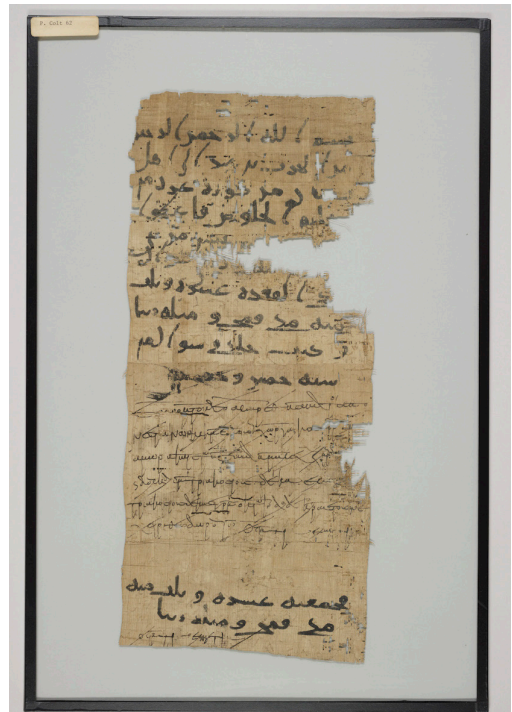


Photo courtesy of the Morgan Library and Museum

P. Nessana 62: a requisition notice in Greek and Arabic for supplies presented to the people of Nessana by the Arab governor al-Harith ibn 'Abd in the year 55 AH (675 CE)

successful in persuading the Pierpont Morgan library, where the papyri were deposited by Colt, to allow ISAW to digitize them and make them accessible on the web, which will greatly facilitate and encourage their study. To get the ball rolling, I, along with Hannah Cotton, Emeritus Professor of Classics at the Hebrew University, and Arietta Papaconstantinou, Professor of Late Antiquity at Reading University, will be initiating a project that will take a fresh look at the papyri and the village of Nessana, in particular taking account of the archaeological context.

The material from Colt's excavations was never subjected to close examination, and the extensive excavations in Nessana carried out by Ben Gurion University in the 1980s and 1990s were never published at all. There is therefore enormous scope for new insights into the history of this important little settlement and its environs during this pivotal period in the Near East.



Photo courtesy of Professor Gideon Avni, Israel Antiquities Authority

The Byzantine settlement of Nessana looking towards the acropolis

Libraries

David M. Ratzan
Head Librarian

We have had a very busy fall term in the ISAW Library, in no small part due to the addition to our team of Patrick Burns, Assistant Research Scholar, Digital and Special Projects, which, I am happy to report, has allowed us to move ahead on several of our digital projects and to increase our teaching role at ISAW.

With respect to our digital agenda, we have made some truly excellent progress. For instance, we have done some interesting work on visualizing our collection, so that patrons may search for new titles by geography (you may now do this yourself by going to the ISAW Library website). We also successfully petitioned the Library of Congress to accept Pleiades IDs—unique linked data identifiers for historical places generated by Pleiades, an online digital gazetteer edited by ISAW's Tom Elliott—in MARC records, the global standard for library digital metadata. In practice, this means that the otherwise inert MARC records can now be linked and interact with the growing web of online data. (See the article in Digital Programs.) This is an exciting development and I hope to have more to report on this soon.

One of the highlights of our term was the second Digital Antiquity Research Workshop, which the ISAW Library co-sponsored with Digital Projects (a full account of the program is available online on the ISAW Library Blog). Building on ISAW's contribution to the Linked Ancient World Data Institute (LAWDI) meetings in 2012 and 2013, the workshop, now under the umbrella of Linked Ancient

World Data, New York (LAWDNY), brought together faculty, students, and scholars for an informal all-day exchange of ideas on current digital work in ancient studies. This year we had thirty participants and nine presentations, with presenters coming from all over the Northeast and as far away as Ohio. Topics ranged from engaging undergraduates in digital projects at liberal arts colleges, to cultural heritage documentation, to text analysis and visualization in service of stylistics and genre studies. ISAW graduate student Christine Roughan spoke about her work modeling the Tower of the Winds before giving a tour of our current exhibition, *Time and Cosmos*, with Sebastian Heath and Alexander Jones, which focused on the role such models play in exhibition and teaching contexts.

On the teaching front, library staff collaborated with Digital Programs on a new course, "Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World" (see the contribution in this Newsletter). Stemming from this class have been several encouraging developments, not least the informal Python workshop Patrick organized this term for graduate students and Visiting Research Scholars, which will continue this term.

If you would like ongoing updates on our activities between Newsletters—from monthly notices of new acquisitions to news about our digital projects and the staff's scholarly work—please follow the ISAW Library Blog or the ISAW Library Facebook or Twitter accounts (@ISAWlib).

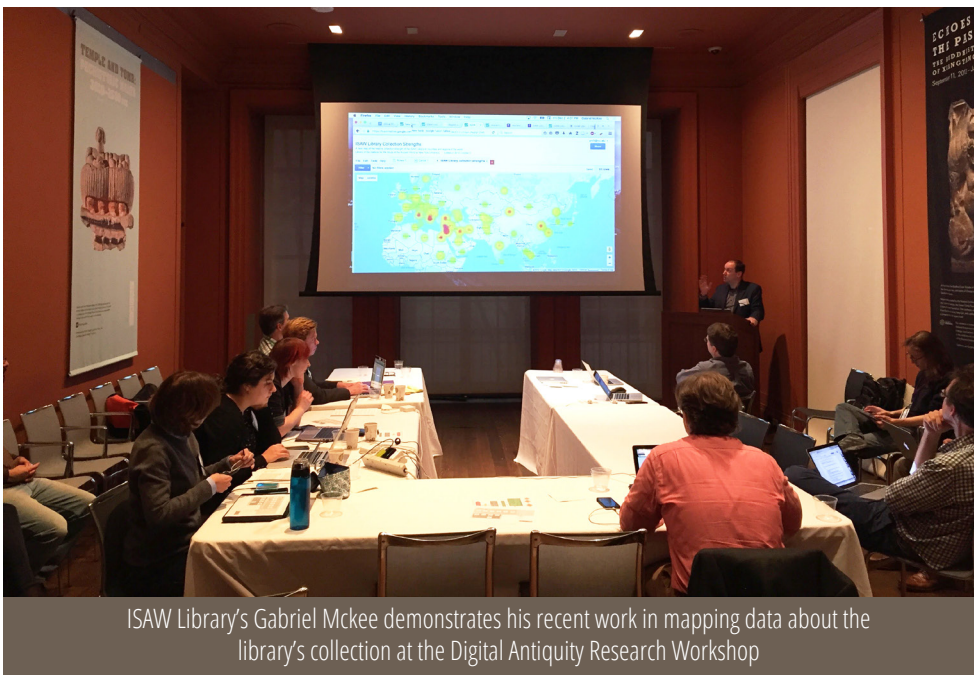


Photo courtesy of Patrick Burns

ISAW Library's Gabriel Mckee demonstrates his recent work in mapping data about the library's collection at the Digital Antiquity Research Workshop

Digital Humanities

Tom Elliott

Associate Director for Digital Programs and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Fall 2016

On January 6 in Toronto, Canada, the Archaeological Institute of America awarded its 2017 Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology to the Pleiades gazetteer of ancient places (<https://pleiades.stoa.org>), a project headquartered at ISAW since 2008. Tom Elliott, ISAW's Associate Director for Digital Programs, accepted the award on behalf of the Pleiades community. He emphasized in his remarks the essential, collaborative nature of the project, which involves hundreds of individuals and scores of academic projects world-wide. Elliott currently serves as both Co-Managing Editor of Pleiades and Principal Investigator for a three-year, \$322,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for its upgrade and expansion.



Andrew Moore, President of the AIA, congratulates Elliott during the Awards Ceremony at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Toronto

Photo courtesy of the Archaeological Institute of America

Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World

Sebastian Heath, Clinical Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies

Tom Elliott, Associate Director for Digital Programs and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Fall 2016

Emily Cole, Visiting Assistant Professor

Georgios Tsolakis, Graduate Student

Digital tools and methods have been contributing to ISAW's success since its beginnings in 2007. In 2013 Sebastian Heath began teaching a series of graduate seminars with the goal of making sure our students have the digital skills that will allow them to succeed as archaeologists, historians and philologists when they begin their careers as professors and researchers. (See the ISAW newsletter from Fall 2014.) In his words, since then the topics he has set have ranged from mapping to 3D modeling and he has pushed students towards ambitious projects and expected them to start each seminar as confident computer users. Recognizing the need to offer a course that had no pre-requisites other than interest and initiative, David Ratzan, Tom Elliott and Sebastian decided to create a seminar that would have no initial expectation of prior experience. The team taught Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World this fall.

Sebastian writes: "The projects the students took on range from creating a collaborative database of hieroglyphic Luwian, to mapping the geographic entities in Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid, and to visualizing networks of communication found in a corpus of Early Arab-period letters composed in Egypt. Training grounds for gladiators, tumuli throughout the Mediterranean, the letters of Libanius, the vocabulary of anger in Greek tragedy, family lineage at Aphrodisias, excavation

photography in Central Asia, and the processing of legacy archaeological data are the other topic students are working on. We have asked them to collect computationally actionable data, choose digital tools to work with that data, and to come to an intellectually coherent result while thinking about and describing how they can carry on their projects once the semester is over. In short, our students have taken on the general assignment of becoming confident computer users of the sort we hope to see in future semesters. I am happy to write that they were often helped in this process by ISAW's newly hired Assistant Research Scholar, Digital and Special Projects, Patrick Burns. And it is just as important that many students have taken advantage of the course to develop skills and to gather materials that will contribute directly to their theses. Digital work at ISAW is embedded within our general mission, which includes the exploration of connectivity within the ancient world and the training of future academic leaders. The seminar Introduction to Digital Humanities for the Ancient World is just the latest development in that ongoing effort."

From one of our Visiting Assistant Professors, Emily Cole, comes this perspective: "My interest in the Digital Humanities seminar was inspired by my work on multilingual texts from ancient Egypt. I am looking to explore new ways to display and compare texts in several ancient languages while also making them

accessible to scholars in a variety of fields. From day one of the Digital Humanities seminar, we were introduced to a range of tools, but it was up to us to choose the ones that would help answer our individual research questions. In my case it has been useful to consider how the EpiDoc format for text markup used by Classicists might be applied to Egyptian texts in several different languages and scripts (<http://epidoc.sf.net>). This class provided me with the technical vocabulary that I needed to approach colleagues at established DH projects and initiate new collaborative endeavors. By sharing data, I hope to build off of existing structures and make my work accessible outside of my own scholarly sub-discipline.”

ISAW PhD student, Georgios Tsolakis, describes the seminar in the context of his studies: “A goal that I had set before coming to ISAW was to incorporate Digital Tools in my research. Thus, Introduction to Digital Humanities offered me not only an overview of cutting-edge tools but the opportunity to expand more on the ones that best fit with my academic interests. The research question of my final project was to explore the ways that I could further investigate the interrelations of the social groups in the city of Aphrodisias, as well as how these groups relied on their family tradition of holding offices and of performing benefactions in order to establish their dominion over the political and social life of their polis.

At first, I started using Python in order to extract data from XML markup text and save them to a database. Along the way I realized that the aforementioned approach is not sufficient because there is a predicament behind the representation of information in relational database management systems, which lies in their inability to segregate and classify real world objects in their entirety into different database tables. In other words, as in the real world each object is different from the others, tabular models, despite

their infinitely repeated data structure, fail to codify real world phenomena, so I ended up using triple patterns and SPARQL query language. I am really excited to pursue this project further in the future and be an active member of the digital humanities community.”

This fall’s seminar extends ISAW’s long-standing commitment to innovation in digital practice and pedagogy. This commitment began with the decision, in 2008, of the Institute’s inaugural Director to create a senior staff position dedicated to digital programs (currently occupied by Tom Elliott). The faculty have furthered this commitment over the years by establishing an innovative, digital-friendly Statement on Assessment of Research, by identifying “Digital Humanities” as one of the key fields studied at ISAW, and by encouraging the development of the courses described above. Consequently, ISAW is a recognized leader in this field. In 2011,

Heath and Elliott were awarded a grant from the Office of Digital Humanities at the National Endowment for the Humanities to conduct two summer seminars for graduate students and junior scholars entitled “Linked Ancient World Data Institute.”

The success of these events has given rise to an annual gathering at

ISAW dubbed “LAWDNY” (for “Linked Ancient World Data New York”) that is organized by the ISAW Library in collaboration with Heath and Elliott (see Libraries). Such initiatives, which we expect to continue to mature and diversify in coming years, are aimed at equipping everyone who comes to ISAW (students, visiting scholars, and community members) not only with the critical and practical skills necessary to apply computational methods in their own disciplines, but also to evaluate and acquire new digital methods as they are developed in the future.



Photo courtesy of Kristen Soule

Publications

Recent Publications

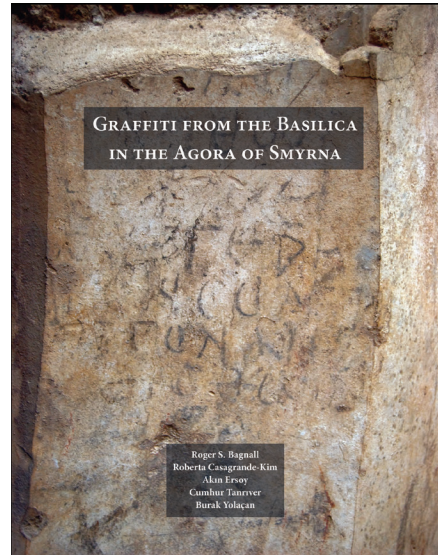
A selection of books by ISAW faculty, research associates, and previous scholars

For a more comprehensive list of recent publications by ISAW community members, please visit:

isaw.nyu.edu/news/recent-publications-december-2016

Roger S. Bagnall, Roberta Casagrande-Kim, Akin Ersoy, and Cumhuri Tanriver, eds., *Graffiti from the Basilica in the Agora of Smyrna* (New York: NYU Press, 2016).

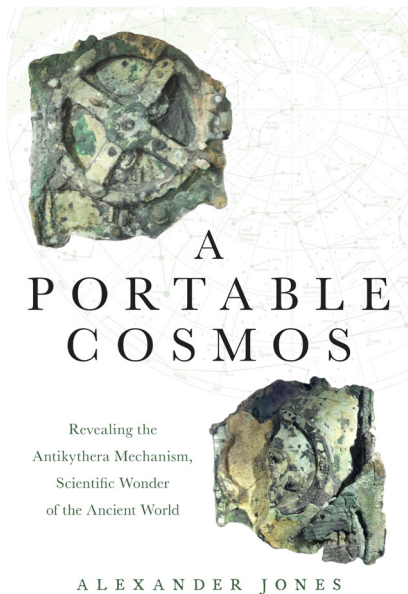
This volume breaks new ground in the publication of ancient graffiti. Abundant color photographs appear alongside Greek texts and translations in a finely produced volume available at reasonable cost. The extensive Introduction places both the texts and the illustrations of ships, gladiators, and other motifs within their Roman-period civic context. Identity, religion and gender are all addressed, meaning that this volume will be of interest to many members of ISAW's broad intellectual community.



Alexander Jones, *A Portable Cosmos: Revealing the Antikythera Mechanism, Scientific Wonder of the Ancient World* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Corroded fragments of a complex bronze gearwork device were discovered in a Hellenistic shipwreck site at the island of Antikythera in 1901. A half century of intense research has securely established much of its workings and functions as an instrument displaying simulations of chronological cycles and astronomical phenomena. In *A Portable Cosmos* Alexander Jones recounts what we know and what we still do not know about the Mechanism, and shows that it was a sophisticated but highly characteristic product of Greek culture and science.

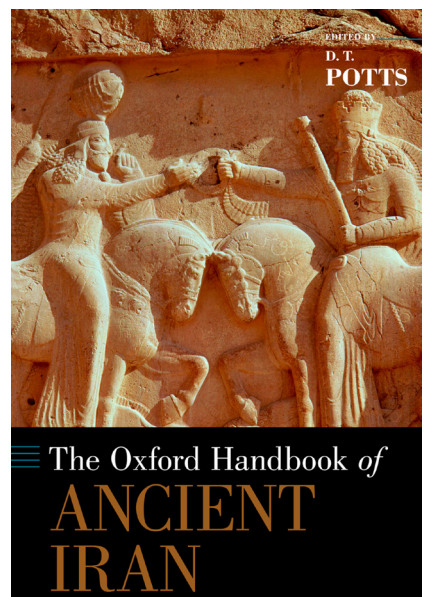
Available for purchase in the ISAW gallery store.



Daniel Potts, *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran*, corrected, paperback edition (Oxford University Press, 2017).

First published in 2013, the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran* is appearing now in a corrected, paperback edition. With over 50 chapters, and more than 1000 pages of text, the volume covers the complete span of Iran's pre-Islamic history and archaeology from the earliest Palaeolithic evidence of human occupation to the Islamic conquest.

Available for purchase in the ISAW gallery store.



BES 19



BULLETIN OF THE EGYPTOLOGICAL SEMINAR
The Art and Culture of Ancient Egypt:
Studies in Honor of Dorothea Arnold

VOLUME 19

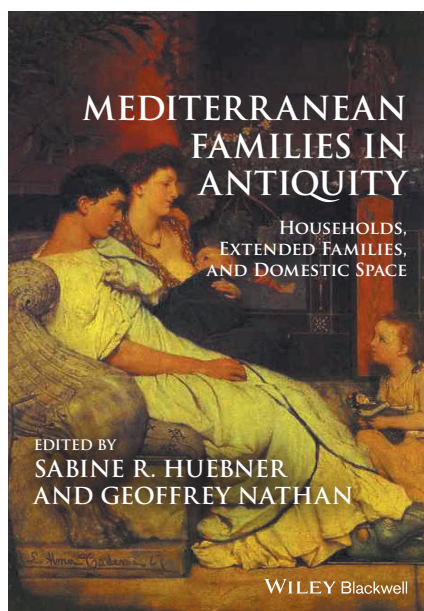
2015

Ogden Goelet and Adela Oppenheim, eds., *The Art and Culture of Ancient Egypt: Studies in Honor of Dorothea Arnold*, a special issue of *Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar*, Vol. 19 (2015).

Dorothea Arnold's career in Egyptology is distinguished by the scope of her scholarship and by her understanding its detailed messages. She has brought her keen sense of observation and meticulous archaeological reflection to publications and exhibitions that have enriched our understanding of sculpture and relief, pottery and models, the Old Kingdom through the Roman Period. This volume published in her honor reflects her wide-ranging interests. It contains seventy articles by sixty-four Egyptologists, conservators, and scientists, who examine aspects of art history, archaeology, burial customs, language, chronology, conservation, and museum studies covering all periods of ancient Egypt.

Sabine R. Huebner and Geoff Nathan, eds., *Mediterranean Families in Antiquity: Households, Extended Families, and Domestic Space* (Chichester, West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2016).

This comprehensive study of families in the Mediterranean world spans the Bronze Age through Late Antiquity, and looks at families and households in various ancient societies inhabiting the regions around the Mediterranean Sea. Recent studies have stressed the region's variety and variability, while nonetheless trying to find some unifying concepts that distinguish the Mediterranean from other regions. This volume explores for the first time whether similar topographic conditions and the continuous exchange of ideas have also produced similar concepts of the family, of marriage, childcare, or intergenerational solidarity uniting the societies inhabiting its shores.



MEDITERRANEAN FAMILIES IN ANTIQUITY

HOUSEHOLDS,
EXTENDED FAMILIES,
AND DOMESTIC SPACE

EDITED BY
SABINE R. HUEBNER
AND GEOFFREY NATHAN

WILEY Blackwell

BEFORE NATURE

Cuneiform Knowledge and
the History of Science



FRANCESCA ROCHBERG

Francesca Rochberg, *Before Nature: Cuneiform Knowledge and the History of Science* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2016).

For two millennia, before the concept of nature took shape in European and Islamic natural philosophy and science, a learned cuneiform world engaged in activities manifestly kindred with science in the ways it observed and understood phenomena. *Before Nature* investigates evidence for observing and interpreting, theorizing and calculating what we think of as natural phenomena in ancient Assyrian and Babylonian scholarship, and considers the place of cuneiform knowledge in relation to the history of science without recourse to later ideas of nature.

Exhibitions

The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World is pleased to announce its new gallery store. Located on the first floor, the store currently features our companion volume to *Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity* as well as a selection of past exhibition catalogues and books by ISAW faculty. In addition, gift items including mugs, tote bags, notecards, and postcards are on sale. Merchandise has been developed in-house by ISAW staff—in consultation with expert scholars and curators—and is designed to complement our current exhibition. Each purchase supports the scholarly and educational mission of ISAW. The store also provides information about upcoming events and friendship circles.

The catalogue explores through thematic essays and beautiful illustrations the practical as well as the artistic, ideological, and spiritual role of time technology and time imagery in the Mediterranean civilizations. Contributors include James Evans, Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum, Stephan Heilen, Alexander Jones, Daryn Lehoux, Karlheinz Schaldach, John Steele, and Bernhard Weissner.



ISAW's gallery store is now open!
Find unique gifts for the home and office.



Photograph © Bruce M. White, 2016

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity
Edited by Alexander R. Jones

Exhibition Event Series

Thursday January 26

Geographical Portable Sundials: Reliable Instruments or Roman Fashion Statements?

Richard Talbert, University of North Carolina

Monday February 27

Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Astrology

Stephan Heilen, University of Osnabrück

Thursday April 6

A Portable Cosmos: The Antikythera Mechanism

Alexander Jones, ISAW

Upcoming Exhibition

The Institute for the Study of the Ancient World has recently been invited to collaborate with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's new Social Practice Art initiative. Guggenheim Social Practice is a new program founded to explore how artists can initiate projects that involve community participation as a way to foster new forms of public engagement. Pittsburgh-based interdisciplinary artists Jon Rubin and Lenka Clayton have been commissioned to design a project that brings together six different communities here in New York, of which ISAW will be one. ...*circle through New York* will begin in March 2017

and feature a series of special short-term exhibitions, performances, and programming at ISAW, the Guggenheim Museum, and other venues around the city including a high school, pet shop, TV station, and church. ISAW will share its expertise on ancient Near Eastern music with these groups, helping them to interpret a Hurrian hymn in a way that relates to their communities. Please check our website for more details about this exciting initiative.

Public Events

JANUARY

January 26

*Exhibition Lecture: Geographical Portable Sundials: Reliable Instruments or Roman Fashion Statements? * †*

Richard Talbert, University of North Carolina

January 31

Brahmins, Monks and their Astral Lore: The Origin, Development and Transmission of Greco-Indian Astral Science in South Asia and Beyond †

Bill Mak, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

FEBRUARY

February 9

Economic Complexity in the 7th Century AD: From Small Assemblage to Big History

Sebastian Heath, ISAW

February 21

Fantastical Space and Heroic Journeys in Mesopotamian Literature †

Gina Konstantopoulos, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

February 27

*Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Astrology * †*

Stephan Heilen, University of Osnabrück

February 28

Reclaimed Spaces: Inscribing Multilingual Texts in Egyptian Temples of the Graeco-Roman Period †

Emily Cole, ISAW Visiting Assistant Professor

MARCH

March 9

Medicine and the Humanities from Ancient to Modern: The Varied Fortunes of Galen †

Claire Bubb, ISAW

March 20

Globalising the Mediterranean's Iron Age †

Tamar Hodos, University of Bristol

March 28

Anatolia Before Assyrians: New Perspectives on Urbanization and State Formation in Central Anatolia in the Light of Recently Excavated Early Bronze Age Monumental Structures at Kanesh

Fikri Kulakoglu, Ankara University

APRIL

April 6

*A Portable Cosmos: The Antikythera Mechanism * †*

Alexander Jones, ISAW

April 18

Landscapes of Death, Landscapes of Conflict?: Fortification and Boundary-making in the Late Second Millennium South Caucasus †

Alan Greene, ISAW Visiting Research Scholar

MAY

May 2

A Paradise in the Caucasus: An Achaemenid Residence in Azerbaijan

Florian Knauss, Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, München

The 8th Annual M.I. Rostovtzeff Lecture Series

Egyptian versus Greek in Late Antique Egypt: The Struggle of Coptic for an Official Status

Jean-Luc Fournet, Collège de France

March 22

Rostovtzeff Lecture I: *An Egyptian Exception? **

March 29

Rostovtzeff Lecture II: *Why Greek Was Preferred to Coptic? **

April 5

Rostovtzeff Lecture III: *The Rise of Legal Coptic and the Byzantine State **

April 12

Rostovtzeff Lecture IV: *The Role of the Church in the Growth of Legal Coptic * †*

All events are held in the ISAW Lecture Hall and begin at 6 pm unless otherwise noted.

Admission to lectures closes 10 minutes after scheduled start time. Please visit isaw.nyu.edu for event updates.

On a limited, first-come, first-served basis, ISAW is able to provide assistive listening devices at public events in our Lecture Hall. To ensure an optimal listening experience, we recommend that guests bring their own headphones (with a standard 1/8-inch audio jack) to connect to our devices.

Please direct questions, comments, or suggestions to isaw@nyu.edu.

* Registration is required at isaw.nyu.edu/rsvp or call 212.992.7800

† Reception to follow

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