



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Newsletter

AAIA 2018 Visiting Professor, Antonis Kotsonas

It is more than gratifying to note that 2018 was the 29th year that the AAIA has brought a Visiting Professor to Australia. This year we had the pleasure of hosting Professor Antonios Kotsonas from the University of Cincinnati. Professor Kotsonas specializes in the material culture, socio-cultural and economic history of the Early Iron Age and the Archaic period in Greece and the wider Mediterranean; approximately the eleventh through to the seventh century BC. He studied and held positions in Greece, the UK, and the Netherlands before moving to the United States. While in Australia, Professor Kotsonas had an opportunity to visit various antiquities collections and meet with curatorial staff; he is pictured (below, right) examining a vase in the Nicholson Museum, University of Sydney, store.

During his time in Australia, Professor Kotsonas delivered fascinating public lectures, including 'The Cretan Labyrinth: Monument and Memory' and, 'Greece and the Middle East in the First Millennium BCE', as well as seminars to staff and students of many universities. At various cities across the country, AAIA members and guests had an opportunity to meet and chat with our Visiting Professor over supper following the lectures. He was delightful company and shared his knowledge freely. Professor Kotsonas reached an even wider audience thanks to an interview with SBS's Themis Kallos for SBS Greek, and recorded a podcast with Society for Mediterranean Archaeology (University of Sydney) president, Candace Richards.

From Sydney, where Professor Kotsonas' tour started, he travelled the country delivering public lectures in Armidale, Newcastle, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. AAIA Friends and academic staff report that the lectures were highly engaging and delivered to packed houses.

Upon the conclusion of his time with us, Professor Kotsonas returned to the United States to take up a new post at the prestigious Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) at New York University. We are certain that Professor Kotsonas will accomplish great things at ISAW and we wish him the best of luck.

You can listen to Prof Kotsonas' interview with Themis Kallos at: <https://bit.ly/2DL7eUV>

The SoMA podcast can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2KdCso0>



Professor Antonis Kotsonas with AAIA Emeritus Director, Professor Alexander Cambitoglou.



Left: Prof Kotsonas with Mr Robert Clark, Hobart. Above: Prof Kotsonas with students at St Aloysius College, Adelaide. Right: On a visit to the Nicholson Museum.



Greek Vases at the Nicholson Museum: Myth and Meaning

AAIA Acting Director, Dr Stavros Paspalas, led two free tours of Greek vases in the Nicholson Museum on the 4th of August and the 1st of September. Dr Paspalas offered insights into the imagery and meaning of Greek mythological scenes depicted on Greek vases as well as the significance of myths in the Classical symposium and in other contexts. The tours were open to the public and were very well attended, with more than 40 people taking part in each of the two Saturday lunchtime tours. It is hoped that, through activities such as this, connections between the AAIA and the Nicholson Museum will be further strengthened, and the truly amazing collections of the museum will become known to a wider audience.



Dr Paspalas in the Nicholson Museum.

Mycenaean Cult of an Ancestral Wanax

On 24th October Dr Susan Lupack (Macquarie University) visited the AAIA to deliver an engaging public lecture, offering a fresh interpretation of Linear B tablets from Pylos, arguing for a Late Bronze Age cult centred around an ancestral Wanax (Lord). This argument was substantiated by impressive archaeological material from the burials in Grave Circle A at Mycenae and Tholos Tomb IV at Pylos by the ruling wanaktes of the Late Helladic III period— several hundred years after the initial interment of the elites who were buried in those tombs. Dr Lupack thus shed new light on the Mycenaeans and their society before a highly engaged audience.



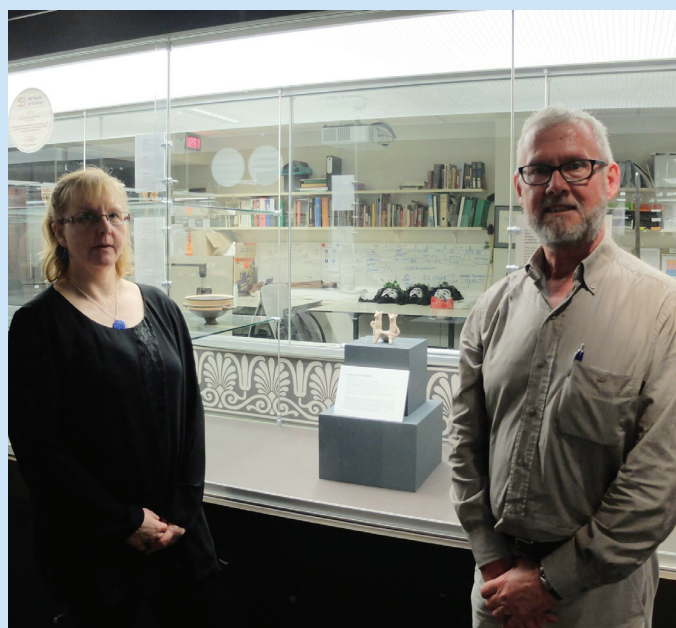
AAIA Acting Director Dr Stavros Paspalas with Dr Susan Lupack.

Queensland Friends News: Jewels and Chariots

Dr Janice Crowley spoke at the most recent Qld Friends' function, on 14th October, to an audience who had ventured out on a stormy day. Her talk entitled 'The Jewels That Speak To Us: The Seals and Signets of Bronze Age Crete and Greece' was very well received and prompted much discussion during the lunch afterwards.

The day was also an opportunity for the Qld Friends' members to see the chariot figurine selected by the committee and donated to the RD Milns Antiquities Museum. Thanks to Dr Janette McWilliam for opening the museum and presenting the artefact in such an effective manner. The gathered group agreed with the decision of the committee that the figurine was a captivating choice that would prompt further interest as its history is revealed through research. We all look forward to discovering more about the artefact.

While everyone was gathered in the museum, Ms Nile de Jonge was presented with a scholarship, which facilitated her participation in the recent Australian Paliochora Kythera Archaeological Survey. This was Nile's second season on Kythera and she seemed to enjoy it more than her first. We wish her success as she nears the end of her thesis.



Dr Janette McWilliam and Mr Chris Griffiths with the chariot figurine.

Vale Dr Alexis Pittas

It is with deep sadness that the Tasmanian Friends have advised us of the death, in Hobart, of Dr Alexis Pittas after a long illness. Dr Pittas was for many years the Honorary Consul for Greece in Tasmania and a staff member of the Department of Engineering at the University of Tasmania. He was a long-term supporter of the AAIA and a founding member of the Tasmanian Friends. All who knew him are in mourning and, for the Institute, it is a great loss. We extend our heart-felt condolences to his family and many friends.

David Levine Book Acquisition Fund

As we enter into the second half of 2018, we are excited to report a number of new purchases made possible through the David Levine Book Acquisition Fund.

The most significant acquisition was the essential reference volume, *Scavi del Palatino 2. Culti, architettura e decorazioni*, which presents the latest results of Patrizio Pensabene's excavations on the Palatine Hill. Studies in Italian archaeology are also represented by the purchase of *Cultural Memories in the Roman Empire* and *Pontecagnano II.7. La necropoli del Picentino*, an important publication that makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the early Iron Age in Campania.

The AAIA's holdings in landscape archaeology were also strengthened through the purchase of *People in the Mountains*, which maps human activity in mountainous regions across Europe, America, and Asia. Also purchased were *Settlement and Land Use on the Periphery: The Bouros-Kastri Peninsula, Southern Euboea*, *Cycladic Archaeology and Research: New Approaches and Discoveries* and *The Pylos Regional Archaeological Project: a Retrospective*.

The culinary arts are represented by *Feasting and Polis Institutions*, an analysis of the interplay between feasts and the religious and political institutions of Ancient Greece, and

Of Vines and Wines: The Production and Consumption of Wine in Anatolian Civilizations through the Ages.

Among other recent acquisitions are exhibition catalogues from Karlsruhe, *Zeit der Helden: Die "dunklen Jahrhunderte" Griechenlands 1200-700 v. Chr* and Florence, *Wells of Wonders: New Discoveries at Cetamura del Chianti*.

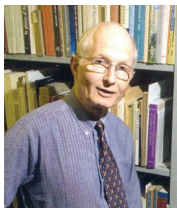
Two important volumes of conference proceedings were also purchased: *Thasos. Métropole et colonies: Actes du symposium international à la mémoire de Marina Sgourou, Thasos, 21-22 septembre 2006* and *Artistry in Bronze: The Greeks and Their Legacy XIXth International Congress on Ancient Bronzes*.



Recent Acquisitions on display in the AAIA Archaeological Library.

Public Lecture Series: 'Pompeii Revisited: The Life and Death of a Roman Town.' Presented by Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres (9 Feb–2 Mar 2019)

The ancient city of Pompeii, on the Campanian coast of Italy, is more than a city frozen in time. Pompeii was a living, breathing city for centuries before the eruption of Vesuvius buried the city in AD 79. This engaging, four-week lecture series will chart the evolution of Pompeii from its earliest settlement, through its Hellenistic phase, to the Pompeian stand against Rome in the Social War, when Sulla laid siege to the city. We shall explore the transformation of the town from a Roman colony to an Imperial city. We survey the growth of Pompeii under the Empire and consider the possibility of decline following a serious earthquake in AD 62. We examine the evidence for the date of the eruption, and observe the impact of the city's modern discovery and long-term archaeological investigations. We will explore public and private architecture, the artistic and economic life of the city to gain an understanding of the cultural and archaeological treasure the city represents.



The series will be presented by Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres (left) who taught at the University of Sydney from 1973 to 1996, when he was appointed to the Chair of Classical Archaeology at the University of Geneva. Between 1976 and 1984, he led the Australian Expedition to Pompeii, and developed the Rediscovering Pompeii exhibition at the Australian Museum in 1994–95. He is the main author of the well-known volume *Pompeii Revisited: The Life and Death of a Roman Town*. Jean-Paul currently holds Honorary Professorships at the universities of Sydney and Geneva and is the editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Mediterranean Archaeology*. For full details and bookings via Eventbrite - visit: <https://bit.ly/2yZ3b3w>



Fresco scene from Villa of the Mysteries, Pompeii.

Athens Friends' tours in September and October



Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory leads the Athens Friends' tour of Tegea.

On Sunday 23rd September, a group of 30 participants led by Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory visited the award-nominated Archaeological Museum of Tegea, and the site of the Athena Alea Temple in the village of Alea in Arcadia. The group had lunch in a beautiful park next to the Byzantine church of the Panagia at the nearby village of Palaia Episkopi: the Hellenistic/Roman period centre of Tegea and seat of Byzantine Bishops. The weather was wonderful and everyone enjoyed the day in the Arcadian outdoors.

The second Athens Friends' tour of the season took place on Sunday 21st October at the archaeological site of Rhamnous in northeastern Attica, across from the island of Euboea. We were again blessed with beautiful autumn weather and everyone enjoyed the site and the scenery, including the ruins of the temples of Nemesis and Themis and the rugged hike to the Classical-period fortress. Lunch was by the seaside at Nea Makri with its many seafood restaurants, grills, and cafes.

2019 AAIA Archaeological Tour: The Greek Aegean



2017 Tour group enjoying an olive oil masterclass on Kythera.

There is nothing like travel to refresh the senses and the mind, and Greece has been a popular destination for travellers since the 1960s. Over the years, the AAIA has run boutique tours to Greece for small groups, each unique and accompanied by an archaeologist who understands the rich past and present waiting to be explored.

On the 2019 tour we will walk in the footsteps of the Knights of St John on Rhodes, visit the ancient healing centre on Kos and take in Venetian architecture in Chania and Heraklion. We will marvel at the Bronze Age town of Akrotiri on Santorini and enjoy watching the sunset from a boat in the caldera. We shall explore the Minoan palaces of Knossos and Phaistos as well as

the ancient site of Eleutherna and the Arkadi Monastery, all on Crete. We will visit the picturesque villages and Byzantine churches on the islands of Naxos and Paros, and the quarries famed in antiquity for their translucent white marble. On the island of Aegina we will visit the remarkable early 5th-century BCE temple of Aphaia, and spend a day exploring the island of Delos, an important religious sanctuary for the ancients, and a centre of the slave trade under the Romans.

Our tour leader, Helen Nicholson, has led over 30 successful and highly regarded overseas cultural tours, including six to Greece. She is a senior team member on the University's excavations at Paphos and has worked on excavations in Greece, Italy, Jordan, Uzbekistan and Cambodia. Helen currently works as an archaeologist in Sydney. She spent several years as a Producer at the Powerhouse Museum, managed the education programs at the Nicholson Museum in the mid 1990s, and has delivered numerous lectures, study days, courses and workshops for undergraduate, school, museum, professional and adult audiences.

***"I can honestly say that I enjoyed every aspect of the tour"** — 2017 Tour participant.*

All enquiries should be directed to **Alumni Travel:**

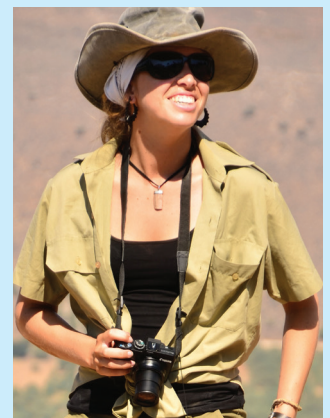
1300 799 887 (02) 9290 3856

<http://www.alumnitravel.com.au/portfolio/greek-aegean-odyssey/>

[Re]Introducing Kristen Mann, joining the Zagora 3 Publication Team

Thanks to a generous bequest by Zoe Kominatos, we are pleased to be able to announce that Kristen Mann will be joining the Zagora 3 Publication Project team in completing the final preparation of the publication, both print and online, of the Zagora Excavations 1971–1974. Kristen has just submitted her PhD on Zagora: *Household Behaviour and Settlement Organisation at Late Geometric Zagora*. Kristen has also recently returned from fieldwork in the Cyclades on the Keros-Naxos Seaways Project, a project of the British School at Athens co-directed by Professor Colin Refrew and Dr Michael Boyd of the McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge. Kristen brings with her a wealth of research and field experience, which will enhance the academic profile of the AAIA.

Kristen has a long association with the AAIA since she was awarded an Olwen Tudor Jones Scholarship in 2007. In 2012 she also held the AAIA fellowship in Athens, where she was working on her PhD, and she has worked closely with the Zagora 3 team in the course of that research.



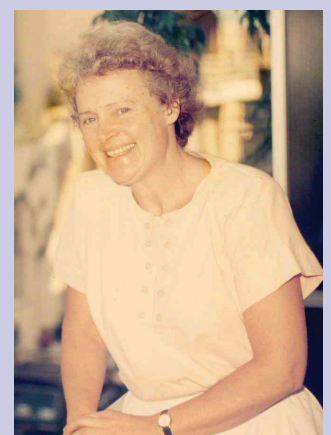
Kristen Mann during recent fieldwork.

Vale Jan Casson-Medhurst

It is with sadness that we note the death, after a period of illness, in Sydney of Jan Casson-Medhurst. Many of the readers of the AAIA's Newsletter will well remember Jan, who worked at the Athens office of the AAIA from 1990 to 2006.

Jan was so much more than our Institute's 'Administrative Assistant.' To a very great degree she kept the boat afloat, keeping a keen eye on the hostel as well as the workings of the office. She was also actively involved in guaranteeing the smooth operations of the Athens Friends, and welcomed—and introduced—scores of Australians to Athens.

Jan's love of Greece, particularly its people and its countryside, was contagious. She always shared her advice, based on her many experiences in Athens and beyond, with every visitor who asked, and they most definitely benefited from it. We are certain that all of you who knew Jan will join the AAIA in extending our sympathy to her family and other friends.



Jan Casson-Medhurst during her time with AAIA.



Professor Cambitoglou comes face to face with the amphora named in his honour.

The Unveiling of the Cambitoglou Amphora at Nicholson Museum

Mid-October saw a major event held at the Nicholson Museum which celebrated the many years of service of Professor Alexander Cambitoglou, Founding Director of the AAIA, as Honorary Curator of the Nicholson Museum. In recognition of Professor Cambitoglou's landmark contribution to the museum, the Senior Curator, Dr James Fraser, purchased with funds donated by the late Mary Tancred and Shirley Atkinson an Attic black-figure amphora from a long-established French private collection. The amphora dates to the late sixth century BC and is an important addition to the Nicholson's collection and will enhance its educational role. Dr Fraser presented the modern history of the amphora, the process of its acquisition, and

an outline of Professor Cambitoglou's contribution to the museum. Dr Stavros Paspalas presented the amphora and set its iconography—Ajax carrying the body of Achilles off the battle field at Troy, and a youthful horseman with companions—in its historical context. The evening was closed by the Provost and Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Professor Stephen Garton, who summed up Professor Cambitoglou's many contributions to the University and to the wider Australian academic community.



Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory at the Ministry of Culture Conference.

Φιλό-Ξενη Αρχαιολογία: 'Foreign Archaeological Schools and Institutes in Greece' Conference (18–19 October 2018)

The AAIA, as one of the 18 foreign archaeological institutes and schools in Greece, participated in an important two-day conference organised by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports at the Acropolis Museum. The conference highlighted the significant work undertaken by these institutions in Greece, and their contributions not only to Greek archaeology, Classical studies and their associated academic fields, but also to the wider public both within Greece and in their respective home countries. As transmitters of Greek archaeology and Hellenic culture, foreign schools also play a most important role in ensuring the further development of all related disciplines as well as the promotion and protection of Greek heritage through their public outreach programmes and cultural events, involving an array of different interest groups within society at large.

The AAIA presented two papers: 'Bringing Greek archaeology and culture to the Antipodes and beyond: The contribution of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens in promoting the work of Australian scholars and Greek studies within Australia and Greece' by Dr. Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, and 'The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens: the Research Programme and the Promotion of Cultural Links between



One of the posters at the photographic exhibition that includes images of AAIA Activities.

Australia and Greece' by Acting Director, Dr Stavros Paspalas. The conference was a great opportunity for us to engage with our colleagues from other schools and the Ministry of Culture and Sports, and learn about their academic and public outreach programmes and the challenges we are all currently facing. We look forward to further discussions and collaborations in the future.

The conference also marked the opening of a photographic exhibition showcasing the major activities of the foreign schools, arranged in four broad themes:

- a. the founding and early history of the institutions
- b. the relationship between the foreign schools and the Greek Archaeological Service
- c. foreign schools and their relationship with society at large, and
- d. the contribution of foreign schools in innovation in archaeological research

We are delighted that the AAIA's activities are featured in many of the exhibition's photographs. The exhibition is held at the recently renovated Fatihe Tzami in the Roman Agora and is open to the public until the end of November.



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

Thank you for donating

August 2018–November 2018

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AAIA/CAH Visiting Professor at CCANESA

The AAIA and the Classics and Ancient History Department of the University of Sydney have come together to launch a new programme which brings to Sydney, for a week or so, a distinguished Classicist or ancient historian from another Australian university with the aim of further cementing ties between researchers of the Classical world in Australia. The inaugural Visiting Professor was Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin (Australian National University) who joined us in October. Professor Minchin's insightful research focuses on the Homeric epics as oral poetry, their composition and narrative techniques, as well as the reception of the Homeric epics through time. She is, furthermore, a prominent authority in the application of cognitive theory to the Homeric studies. During her time in Sydney, Professor Minchin delivered a public lecture: 'Odysseus, Emotional Intelligence and the Plot of the Odyssey', in which she explored what is referred to today as emotional intelligence, and how the author of the Odyssey endowed his hero with this capacity and the way it served as a motivating factor in his development of the plot. This attribute of Odysseus, along with his craftiness, is what makes this character—and ultimately this story—so engaging.

The lecture was very well attended despite dreadful rainy weather. Indeed, the lecture proved so popular that spaces were booked out well in advance. Professor Minchin, very generously agreed to her lecture being recorded as a podcast (<https://bit.ly/2yBBhtf>) so that those who were unable to attend, could hear her speak. Professor Minchin also delivered a seminar 'Visualising the Shield of Achilles: Approaching Landscape via Cognitive Paths,' an event which was similarly very well attended.



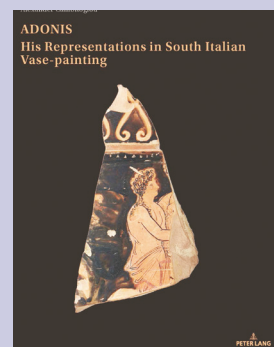
Professor Minchin (centre) with Dr Stavros Paspalas (left) and Associate Professor Julia Kindt (right).

Adonis. His Representations in South Italian Vase Painting by Professor Alexander Cambitoglou

Emeritus Professor Alexander Cambitoglou brings his unrivalled knowledge of ancient art, especially that of Magna Graecia, to the subject of Adonis in this new monograph. Given that vase-painting provides us with our greatest body of visual evidence from the fourth century BC, the material compiled and discussed in this volume by Professor Cambitoglou offers insights into the Adonis myth which was so foundational to the ancients' view of the afterlife and their hopes for a rebirth from the strictures of the Underworld.

Copies of Adonis. His Representations in South Italian Vase Painting will soon be available to order from
Sydney University Press and the
Nicholson Museum Bookshop

To order your copy, please visit:
<https://sup-estore.sydney.edu.au/jspcart/cart/>



Adonis. His Representations in South Italian Vase Painting (cover art)