



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Newsletter

Professor James C. Wright

In August and September we had the great pleasure of welcoming to Australia, as the **AAIA 2017 Visiting Professor**, Professor James Wright and his colleague and wife Dr Mary Dabney. Professor Wright, until his recent retirement, had been Director of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and prior to taking up that post was for many years Professor of Classical Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, an institution which has produced a good number of America's foremost archaeologists. Throughout his Australian tour Professor Wright delivered enlightening lectures and seminars at the Institute's member universities and high schools on a range of subjects, focussing on the Greek Bronze Age. He brought to the fore the importance of new scientific techniques that allow insights in to the lives, practices and natural environment of the Mycenaeans that were hitherto unattainable to archaeologists. All who attended his presentations left much the richer having benefited from the knowledge of a leading researcher, and inspiring lecturer, on the Mycenaean world.



Professor James C. Wright, Em. Professor Alexander Cambitoglou (Director Emeritus, AAIA) and Dr Stavros Paspalas (Acting Director, AAIA) in CCANEASA, in front of the W. J. Woodhouse photograph showing a view over Athens from the Acropolis in the 1890s

Listen to the SBS Greek language interview by Themis Kallos with Professor Wright: www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/greek/el/article/2017/08/25/professor-james-c-wright-tours-australia?language=el



Professor Alexander Cambitoglou inducted into the University of Sydney Founders' Circle

The many efforts and generosity of Emeritus Professor Alexander Cambitoglou, the founder and Emeritus Director of the AAIA, were recognized in July by the University of Sydney when it admitted him into its prestigious Founders' Circle. The Founders' Circle was established to celebrate the tradition of philanthropy at the University of Sydney, to honour "donors of lasting influence; people who change the lives of others through substantial giving during their lifetime ... and play a critical role in the University's ability to contribute to the communities it serves both in Australia and the wider world."

Professor Cambitoglou, of course, is well-known for his scholarship, which has received international accolades, and for his managerial skills and foresight in establishing the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. His personal generosity is less widely recognized. As was noted by the Chairman of our Executive Board and Treasurer of the AAIA, Mr Peter Burrows AO, at the Executive Board meeting of March 8, 2017, Professor Cambitoglou has made a highly significant donation of funds to the AAIA over the nearly 40 years since its foundation, and more broadly to the University. It is principally this generosity that the University of Sydney acknowledged and celebrated by awarding Professor Cambitoglou such an eminent distinction. His name has joined those of a select few other individuals on the Founders' Circle honorary plaques in the Nicholson Museum vestibule of the Main Quadrangle.



Professor Alastair Blanshard

Introducing the 2018 Athens Fellows

Alastair Blanshard is the Paul Eliadis Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland. Whilst in Athens, he will be researching how the landscape, history, and ruins of Greece were understood by scholarly travellers prior to the advent of Romanticism. For 17th- and 18th-century travellers accustomed to the pleasures and comparative ease of Italy and the Grand Tour, Ottoman Greece came as a shock. Yet out of despair arose action. During this period, we see the full deployment of Enlightenment techniques to ‘rescue’ Greece. Scientific investigations were conducted in the geology, topography and natural history of regions. Buildings were assiduously measured and surveyed. It is no accident that the most detailed descriptions of the major buildings of Athens come from this period.

In conducting his research, Professor Blanshard intends to focus on the inscriptions preserved in travellers’ accounts of this period. During the Enlightenment, recording inscriptions became a craze amongst travellers to Greece. These records have never been properly studied. Historically, epigraphers have shown little interest in them as the quality of the readings is often (although not always) poor. Yet, the accounts often contain information extremely useful to the study of ancient inscriptions. For example, they contain rich information about their find spots and wider topographic context. This project aims to bring to life the world of this first generation of ‘inscription hunters’.

Estelle Strazdins is an Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Associate Member of the Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Her main research interest focuses on the construction of identity and self-commemoration in the literature and material culture of the Greek-speaking, eastern Roman empire. She graduated from the University of Oxford in 2013 with a DPhil and recently completed a book manuscript, entitled *Controlling the Future*, based on her doctoral thesis. As one of the AAIA Fellows, Dr Strazdins will undertake research into a new project—“Pausanias’ Greece from Early Travellers to Current Scholarship”—that concurrently interrogates a) the impact of Pausanias’ second-century AD *Description of Greece* on the study of Greek antiquity from the early modern period to the present day, and b) how the intersection of text-based expectation and experiential reality with respect to the Greek landscape has in turn shaped scholarly reception of Pausanias’ text. By interrogating the foundations of classical scholarship in this way, the project hopes to open new pathways to original understandings of Greek antiquity, its cultural legacy, and ideological function in Western thought. Dr Strazdins will combine traditional textual analysis with the innovative application of digital-mapping techniques and 3D reconstruction to try to recapture the processes of scholarship and reception, and their subsequent cultural effects.



Dr Estelle Strazdins inside the walls of ancient Messene



The APKAS team with Australian Ambassador, H.E. Mr John Griffin (standing, 5th from right)

News from Kythera

The Australian Paliochora-Kythera Archaeological Survey (APKAS) had another successful season in the field during June–July 2017. The team, led by co-directors Dr Stavros Paspalas, Prof. Timothy Gregory, and Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, and comprised of a small number of student volunteers and specialist staff, conducted a pedestrian survey of targeted areas in the northern part of the island of Kythera. A total number of 71 Discovery Units were investigated during the field season, and 10 sites of varying periods from prehistory to the present were identified, with a predominance of finds from the Bronze Age, especially from the Early and Middle Helladic and Minoan periods.

Highlights of the season included a visit from the Australian Ambassador to Greece, H.E. Mr. John Griffin, who visited the APKAS headquarters at the Amiralis Research Centre in the village of Karavas.

The Directors gave a short presentation of the project’s current undertakings, after which there was a chance to chat informally with the ambassador and his partner, Pakapat Thipayapapai. We also enjoyed visits from Mr Nick Andriotakis (Secretary of the ANZACS of Greece and AAIA Executive Board member), Mr Jeff Battcher (Battcher Communications LLC), Dr Scott Nash (Mercer University, Georgia), stone tool specialist Dr Nick Kardulias (Wooster College, Ohio), and Minoan specialist Dr Emilia Banou (University of the Peloponnese). The team aims to return to Kythera in 2018 for a one last field season before final publication.

The 2017 Athens Artists-in-Residence

Melissa Deerson will be the next **AAIA Contemporary Creative Resident**, spending the month of December in the Athens hostel alongside the University of Wollongong Resident.

"I am a multidisciplinary artist who uses text, performance, drawing, video and props to explore different ways of negotiating history as a queer Western woman and an animal body. I create situations where the 'archive' (classical, medieval or contemporary) is translated through subjective or bodily experience, often in a humorous or idiosyncratic way.

While in Athens, I will focus on Karyatids, female figures who function as architectural pillars, carrying the weight of a system on their heads in both tangible and intangible ways. My project takes the (replica and original) figures of the Karyatid Porch of the Erechtheion as a starting point, acknowledging also the poetic space left by the 6th Karyatid which resides in London. The research will have wandering, diversionary elements: expanding to encompass, say, notes from overheard conversations of visitors to the figures, research into Karyæ or walnut trees, or even playful attempts to be a pillar myself. The residency will culminate in a performance lecture in which I will present my research."



*Melissa Deerson in "Five minutes with a moray eel"
(performance/video based on a medieval mosaic of Jonah
being swallowed by a whale) 2016/17*



Robert Howe in his Illawarra studio

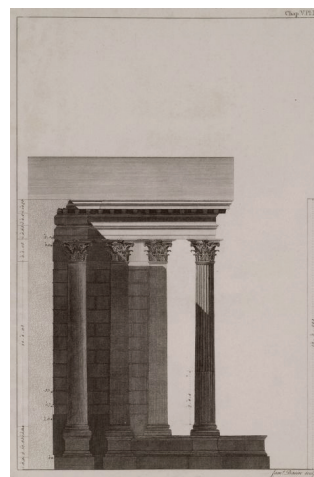
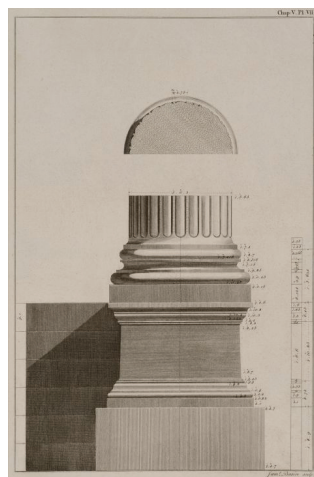
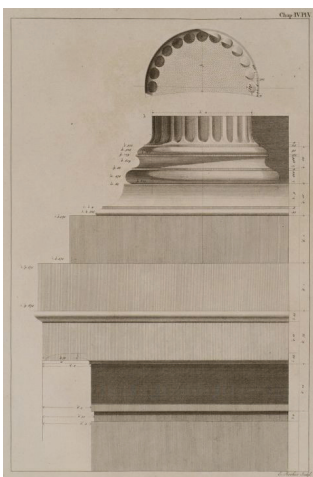
The University of Wollongong AAIA Artist-in-Residency has been awarded to painter **Robert Howe**.

"Recently my work has depicted the people, gardens and architecture of the quiet suburban streets of my local area (the Illawarra region, south of Sydney). When I work, I try not to concern myself so much with subject matter but rather pictorial relationships of marks and lines or colours and tones, and I try to adjust these qualities to the 'abstract' requirements of a drawing or painting as a whole. This is an attempt to be objective and dispassionate about how I am representing something, but of course I'll subconsciously respond in some way to the subject matter at hand. It's fun for me to watch how this plays out as a work develops, and I get a kick out of how others respond to my work as well.

In Athens, I intend go about making drawings and paintings in the same way; observationally based, looking at things I find, things that perhaps one would not normally want to make pictures about. I'll concern myself mainly with the relationship of lines and marks (in the case of drawing), or the relationship of colours and shapes (in the case of painting). In this instance, of course, I'll be immersing myself in an unfamiliar environment, a total contrast to my home town not only with regards to colour and light but also in its setting, one that is both modern and ancient. I'm excited to have the opportunity to test my range; I look forward to seeing the results!

I am also looking forward to spending a good amount of time in the galleries and museums of Athens. I am fascinated with the development of modernism in western painting, and I'll be keeping a close eye out for artworks by artists associated with the birth of modernism in Greece, in particular work from the time of the Greek impressionists of the 1920's onwards."

18th C architectural drawings of Lysicrates' Monument and Hadrian's Library by Stuart and Revett, now hanging in the AAIA Hostel



Art, Theatre and Archaeology in Nea Paphos in Cyprus

The University of Sydney's Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project has been excavating the ancient theatre and surround precinct of Nea Paphos in Cyprus under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities in Cyprus for over two decades. Now, the project is involved in two exciting new projects for the forthcoming excavation season.

Since the excavation's inception in 1995, Emeritus Professor Diana Wood Conroy of the University of Wollongong has overseen an artist-in-residence programme which has seen many visual arts and art students work on the excavations alongside the archaeological team, documenting the theatre and the process of excavation. This marriage of visual arts and archaeology culminates with the exhibition 'Travellers from Australia', an exhibition hosted in Cyprus as part of the Pafos2017 European Cultural Capital celebrations. The exhibition will run from 2–15 October and features visual documentation of finds and architecture, as well as imaginative photography, animation, drawing, painting, ceramics, bronze sculpture, tapestry and sound by Australian artists Angela Brennan, Brogan Bunt, Rowan Conroy, Amanda Dusting, Hannah Gee, Penny Harris, Guy Hazell, Stephen Ingham, Bob Miller, Jacky Redgate, Geoff Stennett, Lawrence Wallen and Diana Wood Conroy.

With AAIA support the project has also engaged LithodemosVR, a Melbourne-based company specialising in digital 3D reconstructions of ancient sites through immersive virtual reality experiences. Wearing a head mounted virtual reality device displaying stereoscopic 360 degree images, the viewer will be able to enter the theatre as it would have looked in the 2nd century AD under the Antonine rulers of Rome. The model will be unveiled as part of the 'Travellers from Australia' exhibition in October and will be viewable in Australia later in the year.

The next season of excavations at the theatre will take place from 8 October–5 November 2017. Follow the progress of the team via the excavation's website: www.paphostheatre.org



3D reconstructions of the ancient theatre of Paphos, by LithodemosVR

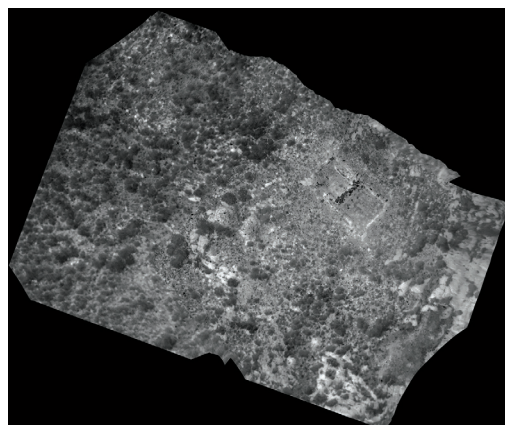
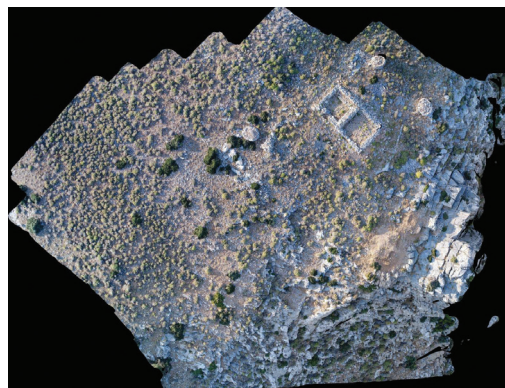
The Zagora Infrared Photogrammetry Project (ZIPP)

From May 15th to June 26 2017, a small team lead by Dr Hugh Thomas (University of Sydney) and funded by an Australian Government Endeavour Grant took to the environs of Zagora on Andros to conduct a programme of thermal imaging in the hope of identifying further archaeological features in and around the Geometric settlement site.

Thermal imaging is a photographic technique, nowadays often used in conjunction with aerial drone technology, which translates infrared radiation into a pictorial representation of heat. The principal behind this is that variables such as moisture, material and density effect the amount of sun a substance will absorb. The hotter an object, the more radiation it emits, allowing for the possibility of both exposed and subsurface features to be distinguished from the surrounding soil or deposits. Archaeologically speaking, via the detection of anomalies, thermal imaging facilitates the creation of a hypothetical 'map' of a site without the expense and time of excavation. In this case the ZIPP team also had recourse to the 2012 Geophysical Report produced by Dr Apostolos Sarri to help analyse their results.

'Regular' photography was conducted alongside the infrared photography, both to act as a control and as a means to produce highly detailed orthophotographs of the site and the surrounding hills. Orthophotographs are 'map-like' images (photographic mosaics with all distortion removed) produced as an output from photogrammetry software. The hope was that surface features such as roads or foliage marks would be visible.

In all, the team identified over 60 thermal anomalies thought to be caused by archaeological remains, including a number of possible farm houses on nearby headlands, and, within the site, a hitherto unknown wall of a width suggestive of a two-storey building. Investigation is on-going, with early results already providing strong direction for future Zagora Archaeological Project (ZAP) initiatives.



Area 10, in the south of the site. Above: orthophotograph; below: thermal image showing additional building and terrace walls(?)

The Zagora Archives of A. Professor Judy Birmingham FAHA AM

Associate Professor Judy Birmingham has generously donated to the AAIA her original reports, plans, and personal notes from her time as the field director of Zagora on Andros from 1967–1969. These records are providing invaluable insight into the early excavations at Zagora, and will be used for the publication of *Zagora 3*. They also offer a view into the birth of settlement archaeology as a discipline within Australia; in 1967 Judy was organising her first excavation at Irrawang, after which, in the early 1970s, she went on to set up the department of Historical Archaeology at the University of Sydney.

Judy recently shared details of her long and colourful career, beginning as a student at the Institute of Archaeology in London under Sir Max Mallowan, in conversation with Dr Craig Barker of the Nicholson Museum: sydney.edu.au/museums/research/lectures.shtml



Associate Professor Judy Birmingham (2nd left) with current Zagora team members at the AAIA, Sydney



Library of Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres

The AAIA was delighted and honoured to accept, in late 2015, the very generous and significant donation of Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres' extensive collection of academic books and journals. This collection, comprising over 1400 volumes, has been acquired over many decades and reflects Professor Descœudres' interests in the archaeology of Italy, with specialisations in Pre-Roman Italy, Roman art and archaeology (particularly wall painting), and Greek colonisation. The collection demonstrates a particular emphasis on Pompeii, a topic that had previously been represented only minimally across the AAIA library's shelves.

Cataloguing of the collection proceeded in earnest throughout 2016 with the invaluable assistance of our volunteers, Charlotte Kowalski (pictured at front), Madeline Bowers and Meggan Walker, who have all gone on to undertake paid work for the AAIA on various projects. With cataloguing now finalised, we expect to complete the integration of the Descœudres Collection into the AAIA's main collection bays—a major physical and logistical undertaking—in coming weeks. The books and journals will then become accessible to all readers in CCANESA.

Professor Descœudres' illustrious career has spanned two continents, with academic positions held in both his native Switzerland and adoptive home of Sydney. Currently, he is Emeritus Professor at the University of Geneva and Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney. He continues also in the role of Chief Editor of *Mediterranean Archaeology*, the journal he founded in 1988 whilst in Sydney and maintained throughout his 22 years in Geneva, and, which since 2005, has been the Institute's official journal.



David Levine Book Acquisition Fund

In 2015, a generous endowment by the Hon. David Levine AO, RFD, QC allowed the AAIA to create the "David Levine Book Acquisition Fund" with the goal of substantially increasing our annual library acquisitions. Our major objective is to strengthen our collection's strategic holdings in archaeological subjects, across the entire Hellenic world from East to West, with site reports, collection guides, exhibition catalogues and analyses of material culture, including South Italian Red-Figure. In 2017, the AAIA made its first purchases through the Fund, bringing our readers a number of important and interesting new books.

Acquisitions include *Amphorae in the Eastern Mediterranean*, a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of amphorae found on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey; *Serial/Portable Classic: the Greek Canon and its Mutations* from the Fondazione Prada, a catalogue of related exhibitions in Milan and Venice in 2015 of classical sculptures; *Il mondo del vaso Chigi*, an in-depth analysis of the renowned Proto-Corinthian olpe, the Chigi Vase; *Contexts of Early Colonization*, the proceedings of the 2012 Rome conference on colonisation in the Mediterranean; and *Archaic and Classical Greek Sicily: A Social and Economic History*, an exploration of that island's societies and economies as shaped by Greeks and other migrants.

Among other significant purchases are three additions to the multi-volume *Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum*, the CVA Bonn 1, and, with an additional contribution from Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones, all volumes of *Der Neue Overbeck*. Finally, the Levine Fund has enabled the AAIA to contribute, in partnership with CCANESA, to the five-year renewal of the site license for the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, a critical resource for archaeologists, classicists and historians alike.



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

Thank you for donating

September 2016 - August 2017

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Stuart and Revett Prints gifted to the Athens Hostel



Sculpture panels from the frieze of Lysicrates' Monument showing episodes of Bacchus and the Tyrrhenian Pirates.

Eleni Mantheaki, a friend of the Institute in Athens, has donated 8 framed prints from James "Athenian" Stuart and Nicholas Revett's *Antiquities of Athens and Other Monuments of Greece*, the iconic 18th-century publication that played an inestimable role in establishing the neoclassical movement in western Europe. These prints, which portray some of Athens' best known landmarks, such as Lysicrates' Monument and the facade of the Roman Agora, now grace the walls of the Athens Hostel. We are very grateful to Eleni for her generosity and to Andrew Hazewinkel, the first awardee of our Contemporary Creative Residency in Athens, for hanging the prints on a recent visit.

See above for additional images.

Upcoming Sydney Lectures

Wednesday October 25, 6:30 pm

Professor Jean-Paul Descœudres

Excavations in the Adriatic: Orikos, a Euboian foundation in Albania, or a case of 'fake news' in Antiquity?

Thursday November 23, 6:30 pm

Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Professor Tim Gregory

Recent explorations on the island of Aphrodite: the APKAS Survey 2016-17

April 2018

Professor Jacques Perreault

Manufacturing and Selling in Ancient Greek cities: the evidence from Argilos

All lectures are held in CCANESA, are open to the public and free of charge