



# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Newsletter

## “Zagora in Context”: A Successful Conference!

*The Institute's recent conference in Athens “Zagora in Context: Settlements and Intercommunal Links in the Geometric Period (900-700BC)” was a wonderful success! Twenty nine speakers gave papers before a large audience at the premises of the co-host of the event, the Archaeological Society at Athens.*

This event could not have taken place without the hard work of the Institute's Director, Professor Alexander Cambitoglou and AAIA staff members in Athens, Dr Stavros Paspalas and Ms Anthoulla Vassiliades. The Institute would like to thank all donors, members and sponsors who supported this fantastic initiative that highlighted the important place of the site of Zagora in archaeological scholarship.



(Above, left to right) Her Excellency Ms Jenny Bloomfield, Australian Ambassador to Greece, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales, Chancellor of the University of Sydney and President of the AAIA, and Professor Alexander Cambitoglou, AO, Director of the AAIA at the opening of the conference. (Right) The audience in the lecture hall of the Archaeological Society at Athens waiting for the keynote lecture by Professor Catherine Morgan.

Photos: Marie Mauzy

## Professor Catherine Morgan, OBE, the Institute's 2012 Visiting Professor

We recently received the wonderful news that Professor Catherine Morgan, Director of the British School at Athens and Professor of Classical Archaeology at Kings College London was made an Officer in the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for services to classical scholarship. Professor Morgan's research has focused on the history and archaeology of

Early Iron Age and Archaic Greece and notably the Corinthian Gulf and the Ionian Islands. Since 2002 she has co-directed the Stavros Valley Project on Ithaka, which aims to produce an archaeological atlas of northern Ithaka. Professor Morgan, who gave the keynote lecture at the Institute's conference in Greece this year will be undertaking an Australian lecture tour from 4 August as AAIA Visiting Professor. Her itinerary will take her to Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle, Armidale, Canberra, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth and during her tour she will be giving lectures and seminars at the Institute's member Universities and for our Societies of Friends.

*The Visiting Professorship Programme has run since 1987 and has annually brought an eminent scholar to Australia. Professor Morgan's lecture and seminar topics are listed on pages four and five of this Newsletter.*



The British School at Athens

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## Hostel News

***Rates Cut! Take this opportunity to travel to Greece and stay in the AAIA's wonderful apartment in Athens.***

*It's good news for students and cultural travellers now that the AAIA has cut its Hostel rates for summer.*

The new rates are now \$96 for a room or \$48 for a bed per person full price. Students rates are now only \$48 for a room or \$24 per night for a bed in a shared room. Students or academics associated with our Institutional members qualify for a further 10% off their total bill.

Regular guests will also be pleased to hear that as part of our programmed replacement of furniture a new couch in the living area is about to arrive!



**The apartment living area furniture is getting a small upgrade.**  
Photo: Wayne Mullen

## News from the Athens Friends of the AAIA

*by Anthoulla Vassiliades*

As in recent past years the Athens Friends organised a four day trip from 7 to 10 June, up to northern Greece, primarily to visit the sites of Vergina, Pella and Dion. Twenty eight members and their guests participated in what proved to be an exceptionally successful event. We travelled to Macedonia on the very comfortable inter-city train arriving at Platy where we made a transfer to Veria. This important Macedonian city was our base during the period of the excursion. Overlooking a very fertile plain towards the Aegean, Veria houses a very important archaeological museum and an equally important museum dedicated to Byzantine and post-Byzantine periods. It is also renowned for its medieval churches and well preserved

## Forthcoming Event: Greek Food and Wine Night

On October 15 the Sydney Friends of the AAIA, the Friends of the Nicholson Museum and David Tsirekas from Xanthi Bar and Grill will collaborate in another exciting Greek food and wine night.

Since 2008 the Institute has been running a range of food related events, including ancient Greek cooking classes, an introduction to Ancient Greek food and a wonderful Greek regional wine tasting matched with food by noted chef David Tsirekas and talks from archaeologists about the role food and wine played in the ancient world.



**Chef David Tsirekas hard at work in the kitchen during our last Greek food and wine night**

*Keep this date in your diary. You can prebook for the event on the Institute's online RSVP page at [www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/RSVP.html](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/RSVP.html)*

## The Scanning of film footage from Zagora

*by Wayne Mullen*

The excavations at Zagora were important, not only because of the nature of the archaeological site, but also because the project was the first Australian archaeological expedition in Greece. Extensive 16mm film footage was taken of the excavations and social side of the project from 1968 through to 1974. Despite being stored in less than ideal conditions for much of the last forty years, a recent assessment at the Powerhouse Museum proved that the films remain in pristine condition. The Institute has started the process of scanning the footage so that the originals can be stored in a climate controlled environment for posterity. The scanning project will also allow us to have the

films re-edited for viewing by our members! They include unique footage of the original team, many of whom went on to establish distinguished careers in archaeology. In addition the many recent trips of Zagora team members to the site means that the Institute is already building a significant archive of digital footage relating to Andros.



**The films from the original seasons at Zagora are an irreplaceable resource**



**The old town of Veria in northern Greece.**  
Photo: Elizabeth Gandley

synagogue. The focus of our trip though was ancient Macedonia. We visited Dion at the foot of Mount Olympus, which was renowned in antiquity for

its great sanctuary of Zeus. Excavations have furthermore revealed sanctuaries to Demeter and Isis amongst others. The highlight of the trip for many was the visit to the royal tombs at Vergina, ancient Aigai the first Macedonian Capital. The fourth century tombs and their contents warrant all the attention they have received. We spent our third day at Pella, the Macedonian capital from the late fourth century BC. Here we were guided over the well-preserved city by Mr Alexandros Vouvoulis who has excavated at the site for years, and visited the exceptional museum.

*The next Athens Friends tour is scheduled for September.*

## Visiting Zagora



**Emeritus Professor Diana Wood Conroy (left), a member of the original Zagora team, walking out the site with Emeritus Professor Cambitoglou. Photo: Wayne Mullen**

The conference, “Zagora in Context” provided another opportunity for scholars, conference attendees, AAIA staff, donors and friends to return to the site of Zagora. The walk out to the promontory is not quick or easy, but it is particularly picturesque, and it was heartening to see so many people, particularly AAIA donors, make the effort to experience the site for themselves. It was also wonderful to have original Zagora team members Professors Emeritus Alexander Cambitoglou and Diana Wood Conroy visit the site. Their memories of Zagora are important, not only from the point of view of understanding the social history of the excavations; scholars currently undertaking research at Zagora found their memories and advice provided invaluable context to the site that would be hard to find in published journal articles or monographs.

## Fellowship Report

*from the AAIA Fellow in Athens,  
Kristen Mann*

As the 2012 Fellow, I have been conducting research in Athens related to my PhD thesis “Social Living: The Archaeology of Households and Settlement Organisation at Zagora on Andros.” My time here has been invaluable, and for this I am indebted to the AAIA Fellowship. Since arriving in December, I have undertaken research vital to my PhD, and become fully immersed in the vibrant academic community here in Athens, including attendance at four conferences relevant to my research. In particular, the AAIA’s Zagora conference in May was absolutely critical: I am fortunate indeed to have had this opportunity to meet and converse with leading scholars in Early Iron Age settlement archaeology. I have also participated in a short but crucial study season of the Zagora material at the Archaeological Museum of Andros, as part of the *Zagora 3* project,



**2012 AAIA Fellow for Research in Greece holder, Kristen Mann, at Olympia**

where I benefitted greatly from the deep knowledge of the material held by AAIA researchers Beatrice McLoughlin and Dr Stavros Paspalas. In addition, I cannot over-emphasise the value of being able to visit museums

## AAIA Library Catalogue Online

Due to the hard work of Ms Olivia Kelley the AAIA’s library catalogue for its Sydney collection has been placed online. Academic staff and students can now search the catalogue from home or their office via “EndNote Web Access”. Instructions to use the new online system can be found on the Institute’s website at [www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/Library.html](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/Library.html)

**Join today, and help a unique Australian Cultural organization!**

Membership of the AAIA is by donation. Any individual who gives more than \$50 in a year becomes a member. Donations are tax deductible. A donation/membership form can be downloaded at :

[www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/Membership.html](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/Membership.html)

## Why not find out more about the Institute on the Internet?

**Web:** [www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au)

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**Archaeological Events:** [aaiasydney.tumblr.com](http://aaiasydney.tumblr.com)

and events outside my research interests, study the Greek language, and witness first hand the generosity of the Greek people and the unfolding of contemporary Greek history.

I keenly anticipate my remaining time here in Athens, and participating the University of Sydney’s new Zagora Project later this year.

This would not have been possible without the AAIA’s Research Fellowship. I am very grateful for the Fellowship itself and for the constant support of the staff and researchers at the AAIA, both here in Athens and also back in Sydney.



## Antikythera Mechanism Lecture



**The main fragment of the Antikythera Mechanism**

The Kytherian Federation of Australia generously provided sponsorship for a recent lecture at the Institute about the fascinating Antikythera Mechanism. The lecturer, Professor John Seiradakis, is a physicist from the Aristotle University of Thessalonike and also a key member of the "Antikythera Mechanism Research Project". During his entertaining presentation he informed the audience about reconstructions of the mechanism that show it was a remarkable mechanical "computer" that could model the cycles of the solar system.

## Preparations for the Nea Paphos Excavations, 2012

The Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens (AAIA) sponsored excavations at Nea Paphos in Cyprus are commencing preparations for their 2012 season of fieldwork. The University of Sydney project has been working at the site of the ancient theatre of the Hellenistic-Roman capital of the island under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus since 1995. In this time the excavations have revealed different phases of a theatre that was used for over six centuries, a nymphaeum and now large stretches of a major Roman road. The team will be on site from 24 September until 26 October and you can follow their progress on their blog at [www.paphostheatre.com](http://www.paphostheatre.com)



**Another excavation season at Nea Paphos on Cyprus (pictured) will begin soon**

## AHEPA

**The Australian Hellenic Educational and Progressive Association** was an important player in the establishment of the Institute and key supporter of ours within the Greek Community for



**Theodora Gianniotis with members of the "Daughters of Penelope"**

many years. With the passing of many years, however, our contact with this important organization diminished. It was, therefore, a heart warming occasion when the Institute's Development Officer, Theodora Gianniotis went out to speak to AHEPA's committee "Daughters of Penelope" at a recent lunch. Ms Gianniotis reacquainted members of the committee to the Institute's mission and brought them up to date with the AAIA's activities and recent growth. It is wonderful to have renewed our relationship, with AHEPA becoming the Institute's newest Corporate Member.

## Lecture and Seminar Topics to be presented by Professor Catherine Morgan during her 2012 Lecture Tour

### *Byzantium and British Architects: Recording Thessalonike, 1890-1912*

From the late 19th century to the middle of the 20th, a team of British architects travelled across Greece, Turkey, Italy, the Near East, Egypt, and Cyprus to record Byzantine monuments. Their experiences helped to create a rich Neo-Byzantine movement in the architecture of Britain and its Empire. The resulting "Byzantine Research Fund Archive" is a unique collection of over 1,500 drawings and 1,000 photographs. Prof. Morgan draws on the largest part of the collection, which documents Thessalonike before the Great Fire of 1917 and explores the personalities and working methods of the architects and the results of their work.

### *From Odysseus to Augustus: the Work of the British School on Ithaca, 1930-2012*

In the decade before WW2, the British School at Athens mounted the first, large-scale exploration of Ithaca. The team excavated in some 12 locations and while its main goal, the palace of Odysseus, remains elusive, the expedition made rich discoveries of settlements, shrines and graves dating from the Neolithic period to early modern times. These were only partially published when the war halted activity. In 2002, a new project was established between the British School and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to complete the publication of this early fieldwork.

### *Nothing to do with Odysseus: Archaeology in the Central Ionian Islands*

The central Ionian Islands form a close group west of the Corinthian Gulf. Despite their physical proximity, their cultural and political histories, and the patterns of connection between them, are varied. They form an ideal test ground for many ideas about island life, considering also the impact of their physical geography and of the wider political contexts to which they belonged. Archaeological exploration of these islands has long focused on Homer and the quest for the palace of Odysseus. This lecture will use new results to explore aspects of the islands' history and distinctive culture from the Early Iron Age to the Late Roman and early modern periods.



**Zagora Project:  
Team Member Profile:  
Professor Margaret C. Miller**

Professor Margaret Miller is the Arthur and Renee George Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Sydney. She completed her Ph.D at Harvard and held teaching positions at McMaster University and at the University of Toronto in Canada before coming to Australia in 2005. One of her central research interests, upon which she has published widely, is the relationship of Greece with the East, and especially with Persia. Professor Miller's enthusiasm for archaeology shines through in any discussion about her chosen field...and she is particularly enthusiastic about the Zagora Project!

*"One of the glories of archaeology is its ability to offer glimpses into the lives of people of the past never recorded in literary texts. My especial interest lies in the social and cultural history of Greece in the first millennium BC.*

*I like to take a holistic approach and draw every available sort of evidence to address a research question. For Greek cultural history, both a small detail in pot painting and an unusual way of designing a building can offer great insight into ancient life and modes of thought. Zagora is an especially important site because it largely predates the earliest literary and documentary remains of Archaic Greece.*

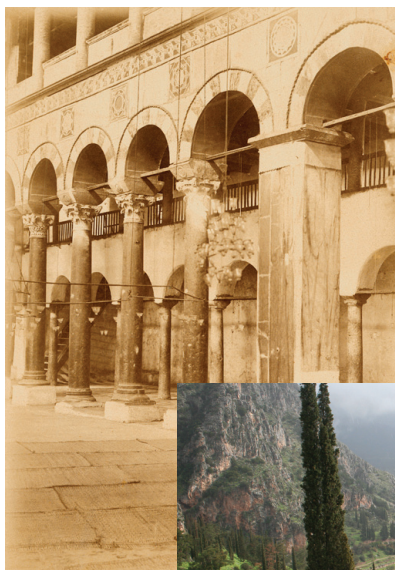
*The prospect of engaging in fieldwork at Zagora answers a life-long dream to excavate a Greek settlement that is undisturbed by the subsequent twenty-five hundred years of human activity (unlike previous sites at which I have worked where the Archaic Greek remains are much damaged by deep foundations for solid Roman structures: Naukratis, Corinth, Sardis, Mytilene). Zagora offers an ideal opportunity to try to reconstruct how people lived, worked and collaborated as a new world order was taking shape".*



**Professor Miller on site at Zagora**

**Why did Early Greeks Build Temples?**

Temples are often taken for granted as essential features of Greek sanctuaries. Yet following the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces, the nature and function of buildings at cult sites varied – and many sanctuaries were entirely open air. From the 8th century onwards, a marked increase in the number of buildings has led to discussion of how and why the idea of a temple arose and was widely adopted. Far from being a simple progression, the variety of Early Iron Age buildings found in recent years suggests a series of local decisions, which can only be understood in the context of previous cult practice. This lecture will draw on extensive new discoveries and studies over the past decade to explore how and why the notion of a temple widely emerged. Special attention will be paid to the area of the Corinthian Gulf.



to have commissioned epinikian poetry. Pindar's sole ode for a Corinthian victor (Olympian13) is examined in detail for the rich information it contains on the city, the role of elite families within it, and on attitudes to public displays of status and wealth.

**Professor Morgan will be in Australia during August and September 2012.**



**Delphi (left) will be discussed in a lecture designed by Professor Morgan (below) designed specifically for high school students**

**Seminar: Pindar and Corinth**

Despite its legendary wealth and advantageous location, the city of Corinth produces limited evidence for lavish displays of material wealth. Such

as we have tend to be found abroad: at home, expressions of status often focused on the consumption of perishables (notably in feasting) and on ritual performance. Corinthian patronage of the great poets of the later Archaic and Classical periods fits closely within these tendencies. Despite widespread participation in panhellenic festivals and a lively festival culture at home, only one Corinthian family is known

**(top) An image from Prof. Morgan's Lecture about "Recording Thessalonike"**





# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

## Donors

The conference “Zagora in Context” could not have taken place without significant sponsorships and donations. The Institute is deeply grateful for those organizations and donors whose support created a significant academic event.

### Lead Sponsor

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney

### Sponsor

The Athens Friends of the AAIA

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Mr Trevor Vlassis

The recent appeal for the “Zagora Project” has proved to be very successful, with many members and supporters coming forward to donate towards the pressing needs of the Zagora Project. Funds will be used for travel, to help with the excavations, for scanning and to purchase needed equipment.

#### \$5,000 and above

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Mr Milton Lalas, AAIA donor, on site at Zagora

## TRAVEL: Cruise: ‘...the Isles of Greece where Delos rose and Phoebus sprung...’

**Departs September 15, 2012. Fully escorted 14 day cruise-tour**

“Voyages to Antiquity” is offering, via agent “Cruise Traveller”, a 14 day cruise of the Greek Islands on the M.V. Aegean Odyssey with an itinerary that starts in Athens and ends in Istanbul, via Crete, Santorini, Delos and Mykonos. “Voyages to Antiquity combines the excitement of exploring classical civilisation with the comfort and service of boutique-style cruising. The Aegean Odyssey is a premium class ship that carries only 350 guests. The atmosphere on board is relaxed, with plenty of passenger space, generous accommodation and a choice of restaurants with open-seating dining. Accompanied by expert guest lecturers, this tour offers outstanding value. **The expert guest speaker program for this cruise will include Dr Monica Jackson (who is a Governor of the AAIA and member of its Executive Board) and a contribution from every ticket sold will help to fund the Institute’s Zagora project.**

**Cost:** From \$6195 per person, twin share, includes return airfares, pre-cruise stay in Athens, 9 nights cruising, shore excursion program, meals while on-ship, selected drinks, transfers and 2 nights post-cruise stay in Istanbul, fully escorted.

Contact Cruise Traveller for more information. Phone: 07 5575 8094, [www.cruisetraveller.com.au](http://www.cruisetraveller.com.au)

