



# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Newsletter

## Zagora Field Season 2013!

Australian participants of the 50-strong team conducting excavations and research at Zagora are trickling back home, bursting with tales of their adventures. All reports confirm that the season was a great success, and that the site still has much to offer in terms of our understanding of the Geometric period. The work was arduous but rewarding: new goals were met, friendships forged and some tricky logistical issues overcome—including the use of aerial kite photography on what is typically a very windy site!

Zagora is the only Greek town that remains essentially untouched since the Early Iron Age. As co-Director Professor Margaret Miller remarks, “archaeology so often only deals with royalty and the rich. Here we’re learning about ordinary folk, people like us, and how they lived... yet Zagora challenges our stereotypes of what an early town must be like”.

There are no kitchens in houses, industry isn’t confined to one area, a question-mark hangs over religion and a very important feature of the settlement appears to be the fortification wall. This year’s team has been the largest assembled at Zagora and all their hard work, coupled with the use of new technologies not available to the 1960s and 70s campaigns (such as geophysical survey, satellite imagery and 3D modelling), will help to make sense of the situation, as well as to answer hopefully the perplexing question of why Zagora—a bustling town on a major sea trading route—was abandoned c. 700 BC.

The Institute thanks its many individual donors without whose generosity our work would not be possible.

To learn more about Zagora and read the 2013 Zagora blog scan the QR code or visit: [www.powerhousemuseum.com/zagora/](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/zagora/)



## Athens Friends go to Santorini

by Anthoulla Vassiliades



In June, 30 of the Athens Friends of the AAIA were extremely fortunate to participate in a four day excursion to Santorini. An early morning departure from Piraeus ensured arrival at Santorini by lunch and an afternoon at leisure. The following day a visit to the Thera Archaeological Museum and a tour of the site of Ancient Thera were led by Dr Stavros Paspalas, followed by a trip to Oia for lunch and to the Santo Winery for wine tasting. The highlight of

the trip came the next day: a guided tour of the Prehistoric Museum of Thera and the site of Akrotiri, with its beautiful new canopy, by Professor Christos Doumas, the excavator of Akrotiri since 1974. His knowledge, love and pride of the site came through in every way and the group benefited enormously from his expertise and enthusiasm. A thoroughly successful and enjoyable trip!

## The AAIA’s Professorial Fellow for 2014

Professor Irene Lemos will be working from the Sydney offices of the AAIA from mid July to mid September as the 2014 Professorial Fellow. Professor Lemos will be joining us from Oxford, where she is the Reader in Classical Archaeology at the Ioannou Centre. Professor Lemos is Director of excavations at the famous site of Lefkandi-Xeropolis on Euboea, a site with important parallels to Zagora, and as such her work is of paramount interest to our Institute.



**Irene Lemos at the Zagora Conference**

## 2013 Visiting Professor

### Professor Angelos Chaniotis

*Professor of Ancient History & Classics,  
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.*



**Professor Chaniotis delivering a talk at Newington College, Sydney**

Professor Chaniotis' tour for the AAIA commenced at Sydney University on August 6 with a public lecture entitled 'Petrified Voices, Petrified Feelings', a fascinating discourse on the thousands of extant graffiti left on a variety of media in the ancient city of Aphrodisias.

In the ensuing days Professor Chaniotis gave a number of seminars at Sydney University and Macquarie University on such topics as Hellenistic Religion and Roman Crete. One highlight of the Sydney leg of his tour was the number of talks given to high schools. Newington College, Trinity Grammar, International Grammar, All Saints and St Spyridon all received the Professor warmly and large crowds of students were fascinated to hear his specially adapted lectures.

The final public lecture in Sydney was 'Hope Fear and Gratitude in Ancient Sanctuaries' which was delivered to a sold-out crowd at the AAIA. The lecture explored texts and images from ancient sanctuaries in Greece and Asia Minor that demonstrated the perception of disease as divine punishment.

Professor Chaniotis then departed for The University of New England, and continued for another month visiting Universities and Friends Societies in Newcastle, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide, after which he was treated to Fathers' Day lunch with Spiros Sarris and family and went on to enjoy a well-earned break on Kangaroo Island. Here he had the chance to observe some of Australia's unique indigenous wildlife. The lecture circuit continued with visits to Perth, Canberra and Brisbane.

We thank Professor Chaniotis for his wonderful talks and his enthusiasm, and all those involved with his tour for helping make it such a success.

## Zagora Childrens Activities from the Powerhouse Museum

Powerhouse Museum Designer Kate Lamerton has used the architectural reconstructions from the site of Zagora, created by Dr James Coulton, as the basis for an interactive, educational model of the site, its buildings and its inhabitants for children. Dr Coulton created a series of artistic impressions of the fortification wall, buildings and people at Zagora, as he envisaged them, from research deriving from the excavations of the 1960s and 70s. Ms Lamerton has devised the layout and figures from her imagination but based on rigorous research to ensure authenticity. She investigated flora and fauna indigenous to the area and what changes there may have been since prehistoric times as well as consulting with archaeologists including Meg Miller, Lesley Beaumont, Paul Donnelly, Helen Nicholson, Kristen Mann and Rudy Alagich.

Once development of the model is complete, clear step-by-step instructions as well as the printable material to make the model will be available for free from the Powerhouse Museum's website.

Follow the QR code or visit: [www.powerhousemuseum.com/zagora/2013/09/13/design-of-a-geometric-settlement-model/](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/zagora/2013/09/13/design-of-a-geometric-settlement-model/) for more information. Ms Lamerton has already created two children's activities related to Zagora, "Zagora dominos" and "Zagora colouring in and storytelling" both of which are available from the Powerhouse Museum's Zagora website.



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## Report from the Queensland Friends, 2012–2013 by Chris Griffiths

In August 2012, Professor Catherine Morgan, Director of the British School at Athens and the AAIA Visiting Professor, spoke on the topic of "Why did early Greeks build temples?" We often take temples for granted as part of the cultural landscape; Prof. Morgan challenged this notion, taking the audience through the Early Iron Age as temples changed from open-air sanctuaries to buildings designed to house cult images. The lecture brought us new discoveries from the area of the Corinthian Gulf.

Dr David Pritchard spoke on the significance of Olympic victories at our October function, and the year finished with the "Con and Bob Show". As always the performance was a 'crowd pleaser' and a suitable prelude to the festive season.

Professor Bob Milns opened the 2013 programme with a lecture on 'Ancient Greek Science', an examination of some of the significant contributions in fields such as physics, engineering, biology, geography and medicine. The list is impressive, but still the lecture only touched the surface of Greek achievements in the field of science! Discussion continued well after the talk had finished and into lunch.

I look forward to coming events with confidence. The Visiting Professor scheme is always an opportunity to promote the Qld Friends to the University community. Our bursary winners are achieving academic success and the AAIA has re-opened excavations at Zagora, an exciting development that gives our group a new fund-raising incentive.

## Member Profile: *Dr Alastair Blanshard*

Many readers will be familiar with Dr Alastair Blanshard, senior lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney. After all he is a staunch supporter of the AAIA and a prolific presenter of public lectures, many of which have been for the various Friends of the AAIA across Australia.

It has recently been announced that Dr Blanshard has been appointed inaugural Paul Eliadis Chair in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland, the institution where he studied as an undergraduate. Dr Eliadis is a clinical Haematologist from Brisbane and a member of that city's Greek community who made the decision to endow a chair donation because he was convinced that understanding and appreciating art, ancient history and the classics formed key elements of a well-rounded education.

With his fine reputation for both scholarship and public outreach, Dr Blanshard well deserves his promotion to a full Professorship. Although his promotion is a loss to the University of Sydney, and the staff at the Headquarters of the Institute will miss his presence in the library at the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia, he will be a great asset to his new Department in Brisbane and also for our very active Society of Friends in that city.

He will take up the new position in February 2014.

Follow this QR link for more information about the Eliadis Chair

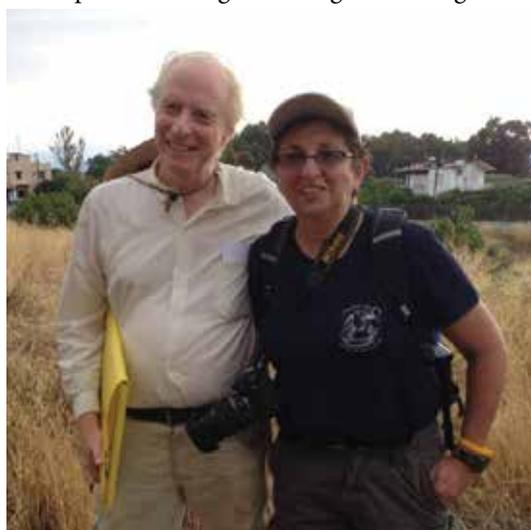


Alastair Blanshard

## University of Melbourne Archaeologists at Tiryns by Professor Louise Hitchcock

2013 saw the third workshop held between the archaeological teams from Tell es-Safi/Gath and Tiryns, sponsored by a grant from the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Development, held at the site of Tiryns and hosted by Professor Joseph Maran of Heidelberg University. The Australian Research Council facilitated participation by University of Melbourne members of the Tell es-Safi team: Louise Hitchcock, Jo Verduci and Brent Davis. It was an exciting and productive two days in which workshop participants heard presentations on a wide array of topics including animal exploitation and consumption, cooking technologies, Iron Age burial practices, new fresco finds at Tiryns, and weaving implements. Louise Hitchcock discussed common ritual practices of the Philistines and the Aegean, while Davis and Verduci presented a joint paper on jewellery inscribed with Minoan Linear A.

The highlight of the two-day meeting, however, were tours of the Mycenaean citadels at Midea and Tiryns led by Joseph Maran, which emphasized the experience of space within the citadel and palace, and the engineering and building ingenuity of the Mycenaean.



Joseph Maran and Louise Hitchcock.

## Scholarship News

- The Queensland Friends 'Greek language bursary' was this year awarded to Yannick Grams. Yannick plans to use the funds to attend the Macquarie University Ancient Languages School intensive Greek programme.
- The recipient of the SoMA (Sydney University Friends) 'Olwen Tudor Jones Scholarship' was Kate McAllen. Kate used the funds to help finance her participation in the 2013 Zagora Archaeological Project.
- The Trinity Grammar School 'AAIA Prize' was awarded to Dominic Weller (Year 11), who was presented with a \$500 book voucher.
- Although it is not an AAIA award, it is worth noting that the ANU Classics Endowment now offers a third prize alongside the 'ANU Classical Society Prize' and the 'Bryrefail Prize'. The additional award is named after Bill Fullager, a much admired reader of Greek and Latin. The Endowment has attracted an asset base of \$677,000 due to the generosity of the public..

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Any individual who donates more than \$50 in a year is acknowledged as a member of the AAIA. All donations are tax deductible. A form can be downloaded at:

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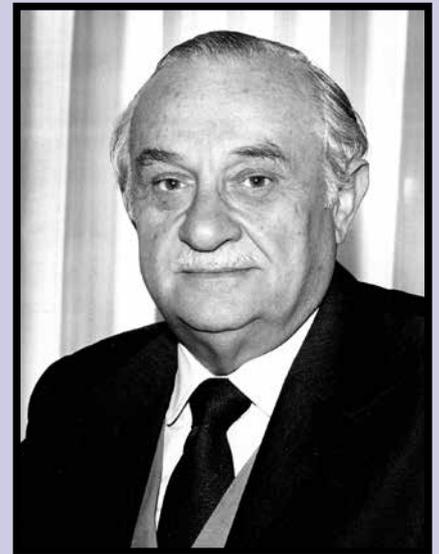
## Professor J Basil Hennessy: 1925 – 2013



The AAIA is sad to report the death of Emeritus Professor J Basil Hennessy, who was for many years the Edwin Cuthbert Hall Professor of Middle Eastern Archaeology at the University

of Sydney. Professor Hennessy was a noted scholar and popular teacher. Among his many achievements he will be particularly remembered for directing Australian excavations at Teleilat Ghassul and at Pella in Jordan (which is a project that continues up to the present). Professor Hennessy was instrumental in the establishment of the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation at this University.

A memorial service for Professor Hennessy is to be held at Sydney University.



## Vale, Sir Athur George: 1915 – 2013

The Institute sadly notes the recent passing of Sir Arthur George at the age of 98. Sir Arthur played an important role in the development of Classical Archaeology at the University of Sydney. He was President of the Association for Classical Archaeology (later the Foundation for Classical Archaeology) from its inception in 1967. It was through this organisation and its important “Nicholson Museum Concerts” that essential funds were raised for the Australian archaeological expeditions, first to Zagora on Andros and then to Torone in the Chalkidike.

In 1978 Sir Arthur endowed a University of Sydney Chair in Classical Archaeology which was named after both him and his wife, Renee George, who was a significant supporter of archaeology in her own right. Professor Margaret Miller is the third Arthur and Renee George Professor of Classical Archaeology and also co-Director of the Zagora Archaeological Project which has reopened the excavation at the site he supported ably for so many years. Sir Arthur remained a Governor of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens until his death.

## AAIA Fellowship

The AAIA Fellowship for Research in Greece (academic year 2013-2014) has been split between two awardees. The Committee had difficulty deciding between the top applicants and therefore decided to divide the award between Associate Professor Louise Hitchcock (University of Melbourne) and Mr Steve Vasilakis (University of Sydney).

Associate Professor Hitchcock (pictured overleaf) will use her time in Greece to investigate recently excavated Aegean buildings with the aim of critiquing their connections to the architecture of the Philistines and to Cyprus.

Mr Vasilakis, who is a member of the Zagora Archaeological Project and a doctoral candidate in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sydney, will use his half of the grant for the purpose of completing research for his dissertation, which investigates the role of the sea upon behaviour and identity in ancient Aegean coastal communities.

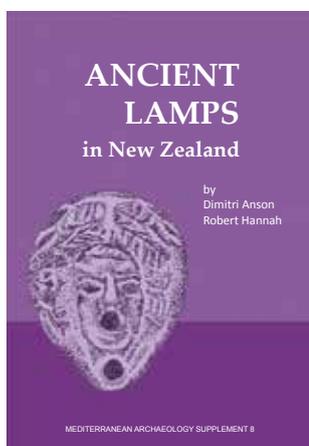


Steven Vasilakis at Zagora

## Ancient Lamps in New Zealand by Dimitri Anson and Robert Hannah Meditarch Supplement 8 (2013)

Meditarch is pleased to announce the release of its latest Supplement, a monograph by internationally renowned archaeologists Dr Dimitri Anson and Professor Robert Hannah on the 500+ ancient lamps kept in New Zealand's public collections. The lamps range in date from the late 2nd millennium BC to the early 2nd millennium AD, and have a wide variety of proveniences, from Greece and Italy to Cyprus, Palestine, Egypt and Libya, from Turkey and Syria to Iraq and Iran. They were acquired by various means,

but most of them were donated by businessmen, travellers, and members of the armed forces who served in the Mediterranean during the First or Second World Wars. Thanks to the great variety of types and decorative motifs represented by the New Zealand lamps, the catalogue is a truly enlightening volume for anyone studying the ancient Mediterranean.



**Purchase AAIA and Meditarch  
books on-line at:**

[sydney.edu.au/sup/archaeology](http://sydney.edu.au/sup/archaeology)



### AAIA Tour to Greece & Istanbul

The AAIA has partnered with travel agency Cruise Traveller to offer our supporters a rare opportunity. Departing in September 2014, we have created a unique itinerary, led by two experienced Australian archaeologists, which is designed to explore the rich cultural legacy of Greece and showcase the Institute's work.

The tour will start in Thessaloniki before moving on to the Chalkidike, Santorini, Athens, Andros and Istanbul. In addition to the usual visits to museums and sites guests will visit Torone, where the Institute held excavations between 1975 and 1995, Akrotiri to tour important Minoan remains and the AAIA's own premises in Athens, as well as those of other prestigious Foreign Schools. Participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Institute's current excavations at Zagora and meet the Australian field team. The tour ends with a flight to Istanbul to explore that city's bazaars and Byzantine past. Benefit from the specialist knowledge and contacts of the AAIA to sample fine food and wine and see archaeological treasures not normally included on your average tour.

Prices, a firm itinerary and other details will be advertised in due course.

Expressions of interest can currently be registered by emailing us at [arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au](mailto:arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au). Or follow the QR code to our Expressions of Interest page.



### Cruise Traveller throughout 2014

Cruise Traveller is also offering a range of great cruises with archaeological themes in 2014. Conducted by the up-market cruise company Voyages to Antiquity, you can have a great holiday, learn more about the ancient world and help the AAIA, all at the same time! \$400 from every AAIA supporter who chooses to cruise will be committed to the Institute's Visiting Professorship program that brings noted academics to Australia. The Voyages to Antiquity 2014 schedule is available at [www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/VTAMed.pdf](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/VTAMed.pdf). **Contact the AAIA to register your interest.** Our staff will help you take your first steps towards an experience you'll never forget.



### Wine event gives AAIA supporters a taste of Greece

Last April the AAIA, in collaboration with new corporate member and wine sponsor Douglas Lamb Wines, held the first of what we hope will be a series of premium wine tasting events. Guest speaker David Lamb gave a fascinating lecture to guests about Greek wine regions, taste and production methods. He also related about how ancient Greek grape varieties have been saved from extinction by a new generation of wine producers. The sold-out event allowed attendees to sample seven premium Greek wines. The event gave many a new appreciation of Greece's wine culture.

Douglas Lamb Wines now supplies all of the Institute's public events, giving our guests the chance to sample a range of Greek wines with which many of our supporters would not be familiar.

**SPECIAL OFFER!** Douglas Lamb Wines has put together a **Greek Christmas Dozen\*** for readers of this *Newsletter* that covers all your vinous needs this festive season. The box features Greece's shining stars of the wine world. Follow the QR code or visit [www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/AAIAWineOffer.pdf](http://www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/AAIAWineOffer.pdf) for notes on each wine and the order form.

\*Save over 12% on the mixed dozen or up to 20% on whole cases.



### A Christmas Gift from Xanthi Bar and Grill

AAIA Corporate Member David Tsirekas from noted Sydney restaurant Xanthi Bar and Grill has given our readers a generous offer for the Christmas and New Year period: make a booking at Xanthi and bring this *Newsletter* and you will receive a 20% discount off all dining between the period **Dec 1, 2013 to Jan 31, 2014.**

Follow the QR code for the menu or go to [www.xanthi.com.au/menu/](http://www.xanthi.com.au/menu/)





# The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

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