



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Newsletter

Central Archaeological Council approves Zagora Conservation Plan

The Greek Government, through its Ministry of Culture and Central Archaeological Council has recently given indicative approval for the conservation plan submitted by an AAIA team for essential conservation works to the site of Zagora.

Significant funding has already been committed by the AAIA to conservation, most of which has been raised by donations from supporters. This sum will fund a first year of conservation work, that will hopefully commence concurrently with the third and final Australian Research Council funded season on Andros.

Despite this significant commitment the complete conservation programme will require extensive additional funding to complete the proposed three year cycle of works. Undertaking conservation works was a precondition imposed by the Greek Government prior to reopening excavations at the site. Properly conserving the extant remains at Zagora for future generations is the responsible approach to take towards the site.

Zagora, while remote, remains open to the public. Early Iron Age (EIA) architectural remains project above the surface and could easily be damaged by visitors and local wildlife. The first Australian team at Zagora in the 60s and 70s took an innovative approach to conservation for that time and packed the EIA walls on either side and on top (in Greek Εγκλωβισμός) with local schist to protect them from the elements, visitors and wildlife. The new team hopes to use 21st century techniques that will ensure that the originally conserved portion of the site is stabilised and any newly excavated architectural remains protected. The proposed programme of conservation works has been designed by Dr Stephania Chlouveraki who was instrumental in designing the conservation plan at the site of Azoria on Crete. The Directors of this project were awarded the American Institute of Archaeology's "Best Practices in Site Preservation Award for 2012."



Detail of the Temple at Zagora: Example of conservation capping of a wall, undertaken in 1974

Image by Dr Stephania Chlouveraki

The new Patron in Chief

It is with very great pleasure that the Institute announces that it has a new Patron in Chief. His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia has generously agreed to accept the role of Patron in Chief of the AAIA. The Institute is deeply grateful to His Excellency and feels great pride in having received strong vice-regal support since its establishment in 1980.



The Institute's new Patron in Chief

Image courtesy of Government House, Canberra

Languages for Archaeologists

The Institute's inaugural professional development course "Modern Greek for Archaeologists" has proven to be a great success. This initiative was funded via an anonymous donation and was designed to help improve the Modern Greek Language skills of archaeologists who have cause to visit Greece for research. Taught by Eleni Eleftherias-Kostakidis and Professor Vrasidas Karalis from the Department of Modern Greek at University of Sydney, the course contained much information of use to professional archaeologists. The donation ensured that enrolled students were not charged to attend.

In second semester 2014 the AAIA, in collaboration with the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (NEAF) will be hosting its second language course "Colloquial Arabic for Archaeologists", which will be taught by the Institute's Librarian, Ms Ana Silkatcheva. NEAF's own excavations are at Pella in Jordan. Many archaeologists who work in Greece also work in the Near East, and the Hellenic world, of course, extends beyond the borders of contemporary Greece. Ana herself excavates, for example, at the Byzantine/Islamic site of Zoara near the Dead Sea with the Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies.

The Institute is pleased to announce that a commitment for funding has been received to continue with Modern Greek language training in Semester 1, 2015.

Scholarship

The Olwen Tudor Jones

*Scholarship for Undergraduate
Fieldwork in the Mediterranean*

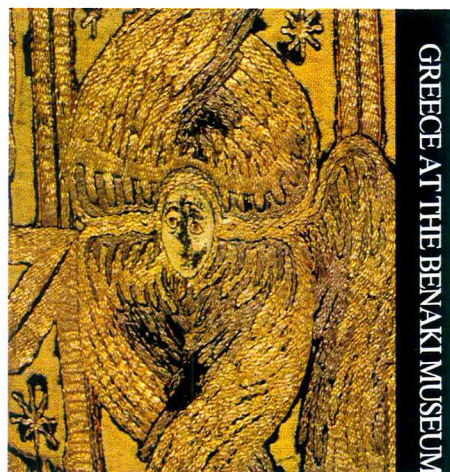


Hannah Morris

The 2014 Olwen Tudor Jones Scholarship has been awarded to Ms Hannah Morris. Hannah is a talented second year student within the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sydney. She attended the Institute's recent course "Modern Greek for Archaeologists" and will use the funds to attend the Zagora Excavations later this year.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to a University of Sydney undergraduate student of archaeology, in memory of Olwen Tudor Jones who supported the early careers of many young classical archaeologists.

The AAIA Library New Acquisitions Highlight



Greece at the Benaki Museum is a catalogue of the permanent exhibition of the same name at the Benaki Museum. It describes the character of the Greek world from Prehistory to the 20th Century, illustrated by many sumptuous glossy photographs in full colour. The AAIA library is one of only two places in Australia that holds this important book.

Visit to Athens by Randwick Boys' High School by Dr Stavros Paspalas, Deputy Director

One of the pleasures of holding the position of Deputy Director in Athens is that I have the opportunity to introduce groups of visiting supporters to the city's many layers of history. One such occasion was the recent educational tour that brought a group of students and two of their from Randwick Boys' High School to Greece. I was very happy to spend a morning with them walking the parkland ridge to the west of the Acropolis that runs from Philopappos Hill to the Pnyx (the meeting site of the ancient democratic Assembly). This is an ideal vantage point to take in so much of Athens' ancient, mediaeval and modern history, and to underline the importance of the port of the Peiraieus to the city's classical-period strength. I believe we had a very rewarding morning underscored by the enthusiasm of the students themselves.



The Pnyx with the carved steps of the speaker's platform

Image: Wikimedia Commons
Cropped from a panorama on by Electro_n1k
License: CC by SA 3.0

Steve White: Programmer appointed to the Zagora Archaeological Project

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney has generously provided funding for Mr Stephen White to be employed as a consultant on the AAIA's Zagora Archaeological Project (ZAP).

Steve is an ex-Microsoft research software development engineer whose thirty years of experience has focussed on data management, visualisation and publication. At Microsoft, he developed some of the first e-learning systems and taught object programming to thousands of students.

After his time at Microsoft he became senior/core programmer and co-designer on version 3 of the "Heurist Knowledge Management System", which is the database used by both *Zagora 3* and the Zagora Archaeological Project.

One of the innovative techniques used by our team on Andros is the use of tablet computers to directly input data as it is excavated. Steve will be completing the design and implementation of digital forms and the integration of the data derived by the forms into the excavation database for the forthcoming field season. This technique means that the team does not have to engage in inefficient post-excavation data entry.



Steve White
Image by Wayne Mullen

New Australian Ambassador appointed to the Hellenic Republic

The new Australian Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, His Excellency Mr John Griffin, will take up his duties in Athens in July. His Excellency was previously Assistant Director on the European Desk within the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Institute staff had an opportunity to meet the Ambassador-designate at a briefing at the AAIA's offices recently.

The Institute has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Australian Embassy for many years. We wish the new Ambassador well in his new appointment.



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

Events and Professional Development

Public Lecture

Lefkandi in Euboea: past and recent archaeological research

by Professor Irene Lemos (Director, the Lefkandi Excavations)

The site of Lefkandi has offered much to the archaeology of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age in the Aegean. The amazing discoveries made by teams of archaeologists at the site have changed our perspectives of the period from 1200 to 700 BC. The history of Lefkandi started in the Early Bronze Age when the settlement was occupied for the first time and the site became an important node in the Aegean during the Middle Bronze Age. During the Mycenaean period Lefkandi was under the control of the powerful palace of Thebes, but after the collapse of the Mycenaean administration system the site became one of the key and most important settlements in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean. During the last stages of the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age the inhabitants exploited the beneficial location of the site in the Euboean Gulf and the natural resources of their region. Lefkandi developed into one of the most prosperous and affluent communities of its time. Was this an exceptional site whose wealth and complex social organisation was indeed unrivalled or is it because of the modern archaeological research that we can gain a glimpse of one of the less known periods in ancient Greece?

Wednesday, 30 July 2014

6:30pm at the AAIA

Level 4 Madsen Building, University of Sydney

RSVPs are essential. Please email arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au

FREE



Image: Terracotta Figurine of a Centaur. Lefkandi. Late Protogeometric Period, Archaeological Museum, Eretria (8620)

Book Launch

Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum

The second volume of the Nicholson Museum *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum* (CVA) authored by Mr Michael Turner and Professor Alexander Cambitoglou is now complete. The volume, which publishes the Campanian, Lucanian, Paestan and Sicilian vases in the Nicholson Collection will be launched by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, DK, CVO, Governor of New South Wales and State Patron and President of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

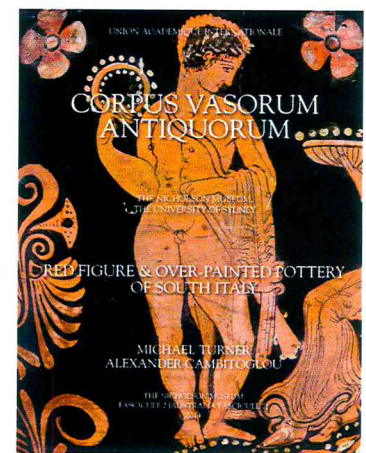
Wednesday 27 August

6:30pm, in the Nicholson Museum

Members and supporters of the Institute are welcome to attend

RSVPs are essential. Please email arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au

FREE



Professional Development Course

Colloquial Arabic for Archaeologists

We are offering in collaboration with the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (NEAF) a course in Colloquial Arabic. While most other Arabic courses focus on the formal and written variety of the language, which limits interaction in everyday situations, our course will teach students how to navigate everyday life in Colloquial Arabic, fostering more natural spoken communication. The course will be based on the Levantine dialect of Arabic, spoken in the Near East but also widely understood in Egypt, Iraq, and the Gulf/Peninsula. It will aim to teach the fundamentals of the language to beginners, and also to raise the existing communication skills of archaeologists at work in the Near (and Middle) East. Course content will include essential grammar and vocabulary, with an emphasis on the archaeological site, as well as conversational skills to deal with common contexts in-country. Students will also be encouraged to discuss and understand cultural issues.

Teacher: Ana Silkatcheva

Expressions of Interest are sought. Email arts.aaia@sydney.edu.au



Pella in Jordan

Image: Cropped from an original by Jordan Pickett CC BY-NC 2.0

Successful dinner showcasing Greek wines held at Alpha Restaurant

On June 11 an exclusive dinner was successfully hosted by the Sydney Friends of the Institute at Alpha Restaurant in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. An excellent menu was prepared by the restaurant's noted chef, Peter Conistis that was designed to match the range of Greek wines that were served to guests. Lambros Papadimitriou from **Kir Yianni Estate** and Leon Karatsalos from **Gaia Estate** were present to introduce each wine. A short and entertaining talk was given by Professor Vrasidas Karalis from the Department of Modern Greek at the University of Sydney. The event was sponsored by AAIA Corporate Member **Douglas Lamb Wines** and **Cremorne Cellars**.



New Corporate Member: Sydney University Greek Society (SUGS)

Since its foundation in 1974 SUGS has grown into one of the strongest student bodies at the University of Sydney, with over 300 members. Its Objectives are "To support financially, and in any other way...the Department of Modern Greek, University of Sydney and the Australian Archaeological Institute of Athens". SUGS has held true to this purpose. It started 2014 with a major fundraiser for the Modern Greek Department and ended the semester with a BBQ to raise funds for the AAIA. In gratitude for its efforts the AAIA has made the Society its most recent Corporate Member.

AAIA Visiting Professorship

Members and supporters will have already heard that the proposed 2014 Visiting Professor, Stephan G. Schmid, had to unfortunately cancel his trip to Australia. Luckily, however, we had several lecturers who generously offered to tour Australia and fill the gap in our annual programme:

Professor Irene Lemos (University of Oxford): Professor Lemos is Director of the Excavations at Lefkandi and the Institute's 2014 Professorial Fellow. Besides Sydney, Professor Lemos will visit Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane, speaking about Lefkandi, the Euboeans, and the crafts and arts of early Greece.

Professor W. Jeffrey Tatum (Victoria University of Wellington): Professor Tatum, with whom many will be familiar from his time at the University of Sydney, will visit Hobart, Adelaide and Perth, and speak on Suetonius, propaganda in Ancient Roman elections, and monumental public buildings in ancient Rome.

Dr Diana Burton (Victoria University of Wellington): Dr Burton's research interests lie in the iconography of mythological figures, and the interaction between art and cult, and between death and immortality. Dr Burton will also visit Hobart, Adelaide and Perth, speaking on the iconography and cult of Pheidias' Zeus, and the beneficence of Hades.

Professor Alastair Blanshard (University of Queensland): The newly appointed Foundation Paul Eliadis Chair at the University of Queensland, Professor Blanshard will visit Armidale and Newcastle. He has wide-ranging research interests that include the social and cultural history of ancient Athens, Greek gender and sexuality, epigraphy, and the classical tradition.

University of Sydney (Sydney)

Professor Irene Lemos: Wed, 30 July: *Lefkandi in Euboea: past and recent archaeological research*

University of Queensland (Brisbane)

Professor Irene Lemos: Thurs, 14 August, 6pm: *Crafts and Arts of Early Greece*

University of Tasmania (Hobart)

Dr Diana Burton: Mon, 25 August: *The iconography and cult of Pheidias' Zeus*

The South Australian Friends of the Institute (Adelaide)

Professor Jeff Tatum: Thurs, August 28, (evening): *Posters and other propaganda: winning elections in ancient Rome*

University of Adelaide (Adelaide)

Professor Jeff Tatum: Fri, August 29 (evening): *Concrete Power: the ideology of monumental public building in ancient Rome*

University of Western Australia (Perth)

Professor Jeff Tatum: Tues, Sept 2, 6pm: *Concrete Power: the ideology of monumental public building in ancient Rome*

Hellenic Club of Canberra, Aegean Room (Canberra)

Professor Irene Lemos: Thurs, Sept 4, 8pm: *Crafts and Arts of Early Greece*

University of Melbourne (with Classical Association of Victoria)

Professor Irene Lemos: Tues, Sept 9, 6.30pm: *Crafts and Arts of Early Greece*

Note that the programme is indicative only, excluding seminars and lectures by Professor Blanshard in Newcastle and Armidale. Please contact your local AAIA Friends and/or Department for more information including times, prices and venues.

Staff Profile: Brett Myers

Finance Officer and Adonis Project research assistant



Brett Myers
Image by Wayne Mullen

No matter what the role, every staff member of the Institute is a trained archaeologist. Mr Brett Myers is our Finance officer but also a postgraduate in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sydney and a research assistant to Professor Cambitoglou and on the Institute's "Adonis" project.

"I came to archaeology late. A career in music led me to Europe and my many trips to Italy helped me to develop a passion for the ruins of Classical Antiquity that I sought to foster by enrolling in a first degree as a mature age

student and then post graduate research.

Although I am currently Finance Officer, this is, in fact, my second period working at the Institute in that position. After a hiatus for family reasons, in 2013 I was luckily able to re-commence my old role and return to the AAIA. In addition to my current 'Finance Officer' duties I am also research assistant to the Director of the Institute, Professor Cambitoglou, assisting with the 'Adonis' project. This is a publication project that will produce a monograph that examines the iconography of the god Adonis on Greek South Italian Red-Figure Vases. Professor Cambitoglou became interested in this specific iconographic subject through a vase acquired by the Nicholson Museum. The text is nearly complete after nearly a decade of research by him.

I am also currently engaged in post-graduate research on South Italian (Lucanian) fortified centres, circa 400 B.C. – 100 B.C., primarily using Graphical Information Systems technologies to analyse their distribution".

Athens Friends Tour of the Peloponnese

by Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Acting Deputy Director

This year's long weekend tour of the Athens Friends of the AAIA took place in the beautiful region of Lakonia, in the Peloponnese, between 30 May and 2 June. Professor Timothy Gregory from the Ohio State University, well-known to the Athens Friends from previous tours, led the group, and shared his knowledge and

expertise. The first stop on the itinerary was Sparta, where we visited the small but impressive Archaeological Museum, the Acropolis of ancient Sparta, and the well-presented displays at the Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil. Next stop on the itinerary was the imposing medieval ghost-town of Mystras, with its many churches and palace, set on a magnificent mountainside overlooking the lush plain of Sparta. The highlight of the trip was our visit to Monemvasia, an important Byzantine maritime settlement on a fortified, steep rock that dramatically protrudes out of the sea, connected to the mainland by a narrow land bridge. Finally, on our last day we walked up a steep ascent, on the slopes of Mt. Parnon, to the Menelaion (the site of a Mycenaean palace and a significant Archaic-Classical sanctuary dedicated to Menelaus and Helen), just outside of Sparta. Those of us who made it all the way to the top of the hill were rewarded by the amazing views of the ever-imposing Taygetos mountains and the vast Lakonian plain! Many thanks to the organizers of the trip, especially Elizabeth Gandley, and to everyone who participated and made it a very pleasant event!



The Athens Friends at Mystras
Image by Panayioti Diacopoulos

Hostel Summer Closure

The Hostel in Athens will be closed for renovations between 28 July and 17 August. During this period the hostel will undergo some much needed repainting; minor repairs will be carried out to doors and windows and other general maintenance work.

The Hostel will reopen on 18 August.

Membership

All donors who donate \$50 or more in a year are acknowledged as "Members" of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. Donations can be made by filling in a donation form that can be downloaded at www.aaia.chass.usyd.edu.au/member.html or by going online to <https://www.alumniandfriends.usyd.edu.au/UnauthMakeGift.asp> (on the resulting page select the option "Support our Researchers". AAIA will appear in the pulldown list).

The AAIA is deeply grateful to all its donors. Our programmes cannot continue without your assistance. The current priorities for AAIA fundraising are to help increase capital for our indispensable annual Visiting Professorship and to help offset the costs related to conserving the site of Zagora for future generations.

Donate today and help a unique Australian institution

Grant awarded to the Institute by the Aroney Trust

The AAIA has secured a generous grant of over AU\$20,000 from the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust that will be used to publish a monograph on the archaeology of Kythera co-authored by Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory and Professor Timothy Gregory. The book will be published through *Mediterranean Archaeology*. The Trust was established in memory of the late Nicholas Anthony Aroney to help preserve, promote and foster the island of Kythera, as well as Kytherian and Greek heritage, culture and history. The funds will be awarded upon completion of the publication, which is scheduled for early next year.



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

Thankyou

Without donations the Institute could not continue its work promoting Hellenic Studies in Australia. The staff, Board and Council of the AAIA would like to thank all of our members.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Donations in 2014

\$1,000 and over

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Anonymous
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Mr Geoffrey Cooke
Mr Michael S. Diamond AM, MBE
Mr Timothy and Mrs Pauling Harding
Mr Angelo Hatsatouris OAM
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Mr Gavin Roberts
Miss Frances Robson
Mr Darrel Roche
Mr Rehan Scharenguivel
Mr Harvey Stockwell
Ms Ivana Vetta
Ms Claire Vincent
Ms Sareeta Zaid

Jewellery at the Benaki

Dr Monica Jackson, who is a Board Member and Governor of the Institute has been invited by the Benaki Museum to publish the Hellenistic Jewellery in its collection. Dr Jackson has recently been in Athens commencing work on this prestigious project.

The eventual catalogue will be a co-publication between the Institute and the Benaki.



The portico of the Benaki Museum in Athens

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

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